

## Press release

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# Minister Byrne encourages public's support for Team Ireland at the Special Olympics

From [Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media](#)

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Published on 16 June 2023

Last updated on 29 June 2023

The Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education, Thomas Byrne, will today (Friday 16 June) travel to Berlin to support the Irish Special Olympics team and attend the Opening Ceremony of the 2023 Special Olympics World Games. The Games are taking place in Germany for the first time, from 17-25 June 2023.

Minister Byrne said:

“Sport must be for all and I believe that it is really important for us all to applaud and acknowledge the achievements of our athletes at these Games. I urge everyone in Ireland to get behind our 73 Team Ireland athletes. Team Ireland will be competing in 12 different competitions and they will be well supported by a 36-strong coaching and management team in Berlin. I am certain that our athletes will distinguish themselves, their families and friends. So let’s keep track of their progress and show our support for them and for inclusive sport generally.

"It is important to recognise the fundamental role that inclusion has as a part of Ireland's national sports policy. These World Games represent the world's largest inclusive sports event, involving thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities, competing in 26 different sports. It is an incredible privilege for me to have the opportunity to support Team Ireland at the World Games and cheer on our brilliant athletes."

Minister Byrne added:

"During my visit, I also look forward to visiting Setanta Berlin GAA. It is really encouraging to see so many people of all ages, nationalities and backgrounds, active in GAA clubs across Europe"

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