

**DATE:** September 23, 2016

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**Sounders FC & Special Olympics Washington Team up to Showcase Unified Soccer with LA Galaxy**

**Special Olympics Washington Match Sendoff Saturday @ SeaTac!**

The Sounders FC, Special Olympics Washington, LA Galaxy & Special Olympics Southern California are partnering for a one-of-a-kind Unified Soccer Match, Saturday immediately following the Sounders at Galaxy game.

As part of the MLS exchange game, Special Olympics Washington will be hosting a “send-off”, Saturday 7:30 a.m., SeaTac Airport at the Delta Airlines check-in (See details below).

Each team will be wearing their respective MLS clubs’ authentic uniforms. The teams will play a 5v5, small-sided match, consisting of two 15-minute halves.

This match is the second in a two-match series between these teams with one match hosted by each respective MLS club. In the first meeting, the Sounders FC Special Olympics Washington squad won 2-1.

**Sounders FC Special Olympics Washington Match Sendoff**

**Date:** Saturday, September 24, 2016

**Where:** SeaTac Airport

**Time:** 7:30 a.m.: Athletes & Families gather to send off the team at the Delta Airlines check-in area.

**Location:** Sea-Tac Airport

**Who:** Special Olympics Washington Sounders FC team & Unified Partners

**Details:** Athletes will be available for interviews prior to check in at 7:30 a.m.

**Match Details & Program Information**

Each team consists of Special Olympics athletes and Unified teammates (players without intellectual disabilities) who will be wearing their respective MLS clubs’ authentic uniforms.

The match will showcase the Special Olympics Unified Sports exchange program that is the cornerstone of an ongoing partnership between MLS and Special Olympics North America. Through the Unified Sports soccer exchange program, Unified soccer teams from MLS cities travel to other MLS markets to compete in exhibition matches with their Special Olympics counterparts. Unified matches are scheduled in conjunction with MLS club matches, providing MLS fans with an opportunity to witness first-hand, the talents and abilities of Special Olympics soccer players.

The partnership between Major League Soccer, Special Olympics North America and ESPN leverages the strength of MLS and the greater soccer community to promote awareness, respect and inclusion of Special Olympics athletes amongst MLS players, clubs, supporters and partners.

The partnership between the Sounders FC and Special Olympics Washington is in its fifth year.

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