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For immediate release

Media release Basketball team on the right path in LA



The New Zealand basketball team took to the court at the University of Southern California's Galen Center today. This multipurpose indoor arena saw all the teams competing using the Swiss Ladder System to determine the divisions for the main basketball competition. In this system, the teams are randomly selected for their first game. At this point the winners of each game are put into one pool and the other teams into a separate group. These teams then play each other in a series of rapid fire games. From here the teams are divided for the main competition.

The New Zealand basketball team performed very well on the court in an intense battle with Great Britain coming out victorious at the final bell winning 10-8. They then fought hard against Saudi Arabia being narrowly defeated by 9 to 5. They won their games against Italy 15-0 and Hungary 6-5 but Trinidad and Tobago were too strong coming out on top 9-3. The New Zealand team has a rest day tomorrow.

"It was wonderful to see our team in action today. I was very impressed to see how the Swiss Ladder System was run. It may be something that we could look at in New Zealand for our divisioning at the National Games. It is an amazing spectacle and while intensive, the athletes loved it, said Special Olympics New Zealand CEO Kathy Gibson.

"We are always looking at ways to improve our sports delivery model and I am picking up a lot of new ideas at the World Games. There is no doubt that this event in world class and the size and scale of the Games gives a lot of opportunity for innovation", Mrs Gibson said.

The basketball teams are looking forward to getting into their competition games from Tuesday 28th July 2015.

Ends

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