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## Track Record – Example 3

### “Children as Staff” – Youth Leadership in Inclusive Badminton Events

In the last few years, Badminton Club Sertini Doboј has developed a simple but powerful model: children are not only players on the court, but also part of the event staff. During local and regional tournaments – especially the inclusive “No Difference” events – children with and without disabilities take on visible staff roles under the guidance of coaches and adult volunteers.

The idea behind this model is to give young people real responsibility in a safe and supportive environment. By helping to organise tournaments, children learn that badminton is not only about winning matches, but also about teamwork, service and care for others.

**Typical staff roles for children include:**

- welcoming players and guests at the entrance desk;
- helping with registrations and handing out accreditations;
- preparing courts, collecting shuttles and checking equipment;
- supporting medal ceremonies and photo sessions;
- taking photos or short videos for club social media posts.

Children with developmental difficulties are invited to choose roles that match their interests and abilities – for example, handing out medals, giving small gifts, or helping on one specific court with a known coach. Peers without disabilities often act as “staff buddies”, working side by side with them and providing support when needed.

Before each event, the club organises a short briefing where staff children receive simple instructions, name tags and identical T-shirts. This creates a sense of belonging and pride: they are not “just helping”, they are officially part of the tournament team. Throughout the day, coaches and volunteers closely supervise all activities to ensure that tasks remain safe, age-appropriate and enjoyable.

The impact of this model is visible on many levels. Children with developmental difficulties gain self-confidence, practice communication skills and experience the joy of being useful to others. Their peers learn empathy, leadership and practical organisational skills. Parents report that their children talk proudly about “working at the tournament” and feel more connected to the club. For Badminton Club Sertini Doboј, the “children as staff” model has become a concrete way to show that inclusion means participation in all aspects of sport – on and off the court.

## Children as Staff – Roles on and off the Court



Children with developmental difficulties and their peers from the “Strongest Kids of Doboј” group after supporting the inclusive “No Difference” tournament as staff and players.



Mixed organising team of young volunteers and club members planning match schedules and registrations for the inclusive badminton



Two “No Difference” staff members proudly wearing their badges and T-shirts after helping to welcome players and guests to the tournament.



Two young volunteers from the “No Difference” tournament proudly wearing their staff badges and club T-shirts after a full day of helping on court.



Staff member with developmental difficulties proudly takes part in the prize-giving ceremony, handing out gifts to players at the inclusive “No Difference” tournament.



Young volunteer from Badminton Club Sertini Doboј prepares gift bags for participants, working side by side with coaches during the inclusive event.



Young staff members lead a simple warm-up routine, with children and adults following their movements on both sides of the net.



Children from the "Strongest Kids of Dobojo" group lead the warm-up, and all players join in together on court.



Players act as assistant coaches, feeding shuttles and guiding practice so that every participant can join the rally.



At the end of the session, children and staff gather at the net to celebrate small shared successes and thank each other for the day.



## Testimonials and social media posts – “Children as staff”



Tanja, staff member of the “No Difference” inclusive badminton programme, invites children and families to join the club and try badminton together.



Tiho, volunteer and player of Badminton Club Sertini Doboj, shares why he enjoys badminton and invites others to join this inclusive badminton community.

<https://www.tiktok.com/@badminton.freestyler.md/video/7573071637982055691>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DR7prQdCK60/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DRprmx4COiK/>

[https://www.instagram.com/p/DRF-X\\_8CPOh/](https://www.instagram.com/p/DRF-X_8CPOh/)

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DQht44kFAYV/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DH9LV13sNLU/>

[https://www.instagram.com/p/DAqjAtkNUBP/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DAqjAtkNUBP/?img_index=1)

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C0pc8i7gwx5/>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1149832295664015>

<https://badminton-sertini.com/en/sertini-open-3-no-difference-tournament-held/>

<https://badminton-sertini.com/en/the-strongest-children-of-doboj-3-2/>

<https://badminton-sertini.com/en/the-strongest-children-of-doboj-4/>