



🕒 02 February 2021, 09:19 (CET)

# THE INVICTUS GAMES THE HAGUE POSTPONED

**London and The Hague – The Invictus Games The Hague 2020, presented by Jaguar Land Rover, was due to take place this year from May 29 to June 5, 2021, and has now been postponed. The Invictus Games Foundation and the Organising Committee, after consultation with the teams, partners and stakeholders, intend to move the event to the Spring of 2022. This move is to avoid current social distancing measures that would otherwise negatively impact the recovery journey of its competitors.**

**"WITHOUT AN AUDIENCE WOULD NOT FEEL LIKE AN INVICTUS GAMES TO ME"**

The Organising Committee are conducting plans to reschedule the Invictus Games to Spring 2022, and a date will soon be confirmed. Options to deliver a Games this year, including digitally or later in 2021, were not taken forward by the respective boards of the Organising Committee or the Invictus Games Foundation on the basis of identifying the best opportunity to deliver a physical Games in The Hague which would bring the Invictus community together. The competitor recovery journey and the wish to provide them with as much certainty as possible lay at the heart of the decision-making.

**Wouter Bakker, Captain of the Dutch Invictus Games team said,** *“Given the current Corona situation, the news comes as no surprise. A digital variant or organising the event without an audience would not feel like an Invictus Games to me and does not do justice to the spirit of the Games. I, as well as my teammates, think that moving the event to the Spring of 2022 is the best decision. This will end the uncertainty that all participants are in and we can properly prepare and focus on next year.”*

The Invictus Games Foundation and the Organising Committee in The Hague will be working in close collaboration with the international teams to ensure there are continued sport recovery opportunities throughout this year, and intend to mark the period of 29 May -5 June 2021 with a series of activities to keep the Invictus Community together and demonstrate its continued resilience. More will be announced in due course.

## "WE ARE INVICTUS"

This decision to postpone the Games has been taken in close consultation with the teams of the participating countries and in collaboration with local and national authorities, the Founding Partners and sponsors. The organisations are grateful for the continued support of all parties involved in delivering the Invictus Games The Hague, including the participants and their friends and families, the volunteers, partners, sponsors and suppliers.

## JOINT STATEMENT

In a joint message, the organisers made clear that this necessary change does not mean that support for the Invictus community will go dark in the meantime: *“We are Invictus: from the communities that host and cherish the Games, and the competitors who display unshakeable resilience and commitment as they prepare for and participate in the Games, to the families and network of supporters who support these men and women on their journey to competition.*

*For so many around the world, the Invictus community included, COVID-19 has changed our expectations, hopes, and plans. But our unwavering mission is one bound by resilience and community—and that mission will continue to shine through between now and Spring 2022, when we hope to see everybody in person again in The Hague. For now, we are planning programming, opportunities to connect safely during the foreseeable future, and ways to infuse the spirit of Invictus in your own communities over the coming year. We’re excited to share more soon.”*

Signed by:

*The Duke of Sussex, Patron of the Invictus Games Foundation*

*Mart de Kruif, Chair of the Invictus Games The Hague 2020*

**“ WE ARE INVICTUS: FROM THE COMMUNITIES THAT HOST AND CHERISH THE GAMES, AND THE COMPETITORS WHO DISPLAY UNSHAKEABLE RESILIENCE AND COMMITMENT AS THEY PREPARE FOR AND PARTICIPATE IN THE GAMES, TO THE FAMILIES AND NETWORK OF SUPPORTERS WHO SUPPORT THESE MEN AND WOMEN ON THEIR JOURNEY TO COMPETITION. FOR SO MANY AROUND THE WORLD, THE INVICTUS COMMUNITY INCLUDED, COVID-19 HAS CHANGED OUR EXPECTATIONS, HOPES, AND PLANS. BUT OUR UNWAVERING MISSION IS ONE BOUND BY RESILIENCE AND COMMUNITY—AND THAT MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO SHINE THROUGH BETWEEN NOW AND SPRING 2022, WHEN WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYBODY IN PERSON AGAIN IN THE HAGUE. FOR NOW, WE ARE PLANNING PROGRAMMING, OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT SAFELY DURING THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, AND WAYS TO INFUSE THE SPIRIT OF INVICTUS IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITIES OVER THE COMING YEAR. WE’RE EXCITED TO SHARE MORE SOON. ”**



Mart de Kruif,  
Chair of the  
Invictus Games The Hague 2020



The Duke of Sussex,  
Patron of the  
Invictus Games Foundation



Sir Keith Mills,  
Chair of the  
Invictus Games Foundation

#### ABOUT INVICTUS GAMES THE HAGUE 2020

De Invictus Games is een internationaal sportevenement voor fysiek en/of mentaal gewonde militairen. De Invictus Games gebruikt de kracht van sport om herstel te stimuleren, revalidatie te ondersteunen en breder begrip en respect te genereren voor hen die hun land dienen of gediend hebben.

'Invictus' staat voor 'onoverwonnen'. Het symboliseert de vechtlustige geest, van fysiek en/of mentaal gewonde militairen. Het laat zien wat je, ondanks je verwondingen, kunt bereiken.

Aan de Invictus Games, die van 9 tot 16 mei 2020 in Den Haag worden gehouden, doen 500 deelnemers mee, uit 19 verschillende landen. Zij zullen actief zijn in tien verschillende sporten.

Alle deelnemers mogen, op uitnodiging en kosten van de organisatie, twee vrienden of familieleden die hebben geholpen tijdens het revalidatieproces meenemen naar het evenement.

Iedere deelnemer aan de Invictus Games heeft zijn eigen verhaal, maar allen hebben ze de innerlijke kracht gevonden om door te gaan en zichzelf op te richten. Alleen, met hulp van familie en vrienden, maar altijd mede dankzij de kracht van sport.

---

The Invictus Games is an international adaptive sporting event for Wounded, Injured and Sick Servicemen and women, both serving and veteran. The Games use the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect of all those who serve their country.

The word 'Invictus' means 'unconquered'. It embodies the fighting spirit of wounded, injured and sick Service personnel and personifies what these tenacious men and women can achieve post injury.

The Invictus Games is about much more than just sport – it captures hearts, challenges minds and changes lives.

The Invictus Games 2020 will be held in The Hague from 9 to 16 May and invites 500 competitors, from 19 different countries. They will participate in 10 different sports.

All competitors may bring two friends or family members who have helped during the rehabilitation process, at the invitation and expense of the organization.

The participants all have their own story of physical and/or psychological injury or illness. But all of them have found the inner strength to go on and reinvent themselves. Sometimes alone, often with the help of family and friends, but always through the power of sport. The Invictus Games The Hague 2020 is *the* platform to share their stories and add another chapter to their book of life.



Invictus Games The Hague 2020