

Baskin,

A Special Kind of Game

Probably you know about basketball but what about "Baskin"? This is something fairly new for Lucca. In fact it arrived in 2015 thanks to the initiative of Immacolata Gentile (an ex-basketball player of the club *Le Mura di Lucca*), which led to the creation of a Baskin team within *Anffas Lucca*.

This sport is based on basketball but with some differences in the regulations, so that people with physical or mental disabilities can play on the same team with able-bodied people.

Baskin has gained lots of success and more and more events have been organized in recent years. One of the most important is surely the tournament among Middle Schools which takes place in Lucca each year in November (this year on the 27th).

Yes, schools are involved in the activity, and teachers are very much in favor because this is not only an opportunity for boys and girls with disabilities, but also for the others who have to coordinate the team, which means showing responsibility and respect towards their teammates.

Andrea Puccinelli is an able-bodied player who played for the San Leonardo in Treponzio school team that won the 2017 tournament. When I asked him about the experience, he said: *What it gives me is the awareness that disabled kids are no different from me; they want to run and jump just like me and they want to win, probably even more than me!*

As you can see, in terms of awareness it works very well. So make sure you find the time to come and enjoy the next tournament!

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