

# AUDIOGRAM REGULATIONS



International Committee of Sport for the Deaf  
528 Trail Avenue  
Frederick, Maryland 21701 USA

Version 2.1  
Revised – 13 November 2009

v1.0 Released – 31 July 2001

**Copyright: © 2009 International Committee of Sports for the Deaf**

This document has been produced by and it is the property of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf. This document, either in whole or in part, must not be reproduced or disclosed to others without the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf's approval.

## Table of Contents

1. Preamble .....	2
2. Eligibility Regulations .....	2
3. Definition and Proof of Deafness .....	3
4. Submitting for Approval Procedure of Audiograms.....	3
5. At the Deaflympics (or other ICSD sanctioned Competitions).....	4
6. Responsibility .....	5
7. Discovery.....	5
8. Violations and Penalties.....	6
9. Keyword Symbols Used in Audiogram Database .....	6

### 1. PREAMBLE

The spirit of sport is the celebration of the human spirit, body and mind, and is characterized by the following values:

- Ethics, fair play and honesty
- Health
- Excellence in performance
- Character and education
- Fun and joy
- Teamwork
- Dedication and commitment
- Respect for rules and laws
- Respect for self and other participants
- Courage
- Community and solidarity

ICSD provides the essence of Olympism for the deaf population, with its own motto: *“Equal through sports”*.

Only deaf and hard of hearing athletes can compete in the Summer or Winter Deaflympics, World Championships, Regional Championships, and other ICSD-sanctioned competitions.

Also, all Full Members, Provisional Members, Regional Confederations, and Associate Members will follow these Audiogram Regulations during regional and international sport events.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

The Summer and Winter Deaflympics bring together deaf athletes of all affiliated National Deaf Sports Federations. Participants in the Deaflympics and ICSD sanctioned competitions must be:

- ***Deaf, defined as a hearing loss of at least 55dB per tone average (PTA) in the better ear (three-tone pure tone average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, air conduction, ISO 1969 Standard)***
- ***Members of an affiliated National Deaf Sports Federation and citizens of that country.***

It is strictly forbidden for a competitor to use any kind of hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts during the warm-up and competition within the restricted zone area. It is quite clear that using amplification in sports gives an advantage over those not using it. Therefore it is forbidden in the warm-up and competition. Each sport has their definition of “Restricted Zone Area”. Please refer to each sport technical regulations for details.

### 3. DEFINITION AND PROOF OF DEAFNESS

- 3.1. Deaf is defined as a hearing loss of at least 55dB PTA in the better ear (3-tone frequency average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, ISO 1969 Standard). Critical hearing levels between 55-65dB shall be carefully examined.
- 3.2. Every National Deaf Sport Federation is fully responsible to examine the hearing level of each of its athletes.
- 3.3. Each new athlete must use the official ICSD Audiogram form. The form can be downloaded from [www.deaflympics.com/forms/audiogram.pdf](http://www.deaflympics.com/forms/audiogram.pdf)
- 3.4. All four (4) types of audiogram testing below must be filled out entirely for **EACH** ear including:
  1. Air Conduction
  2. Bone Conduction
  3. Tympanograms (Tympanometry)
  4. Acoustic Reflexes (Reflexometry)

**International Committee of Sports for the Deaf**  
Recognized by the International Olympic Committee

**OFFICIAL AUDIOGRAM DATA SHEET**

628 Trail Avenue  
Friedrich, Maryland 21701  
UNITED STATES  
Fax: #1 301 422-2550  
Email: IHQ@icd.org

**Required Fields** PLEASE PRINT OR USE TYPEWRITER and send to your National Deaf Sports Federation for review

\*Name: Family Name (Last Name) Given Name (First Name) Other Names (Middle Name)  
\*Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Sport: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Date of Birth: (day / month / year) \_\_\_\_\_ \*Gender:  Male  Female

**AUDIOGRAM**

\*Audiometer: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Examiner Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Calibration:  ANSI 1969  ISO 1964 \_\_\_\_\_ \*Date of Examination: (day / month / year) \_\_\_\_\_

**AIR CONDUCTION & BONE CONDUCTION**  
FREQUENCY (in Hertz) 125 250 500 1000 2000 4000 8000

HEARING THRESHOLD LEVEL (in dB) 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120

**IMPEDANCE TYMPANOMETRY**

Ear	Cond.	Probe	Pass	Fail
RIGHT			<b>3</b>	
LEFT				

**REFLEXOMETRY**  
Size of Peak (Pure Tone)

RIGHT	500	1000	2000	4000
Cond.				
LEFT	500	1000	2000	4000
Cond.				

**PURE TONE AVERAGE (500-1000-2000 Hz)**

Ear	AT	Bone
RIGHT		
LEFT		

**KEY TO SYMBOLS**

Ear	Air	Air-coupled	Bone	Non-measured
RIGHT (Red)	O	△	<	
LEFT (Blue)	X	□	>	
			NR	

**TYPE OF HEARING LOSS**  
(Check one for each ear with an "X")

Ear	Sensorineural	Conductive	Mixed	Cochlear Implant
RIGHT				
LEFT				

**ICSD HOME OFFICE USE ONLY**

ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
Data Entered By: \_\_\_\_\_  
ICSD Audiologist: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Audiogram Form Revised 10/08  
www.deaflympics.com/forms/audiogram.pdf

**Failure to observe the requirements will result in delayed approval.**

- 3.5. All Audiogram forms should be authorized and belong to the athlete being tested, and the validity of the forms must be guaranteed by the National Deaf Sport Federation.

### 4. SUBMITTING FOR APPROVAL PROCEDURE OF AUDIOGRAMS

#### 4.1. Prior to Competitions:

- 4.1.1 Before submitting a new audiogram, please contact ICSD office for your country's latest audiogram list to check and see if your athlete is already in ICSD audiogram database. If the athlete's name is not on the list, this means ICSD office does not have their audiogram form on file.
- 4.1.2 Prior to any type of ICSD sanctioned events, including Summer/Winter Deaflympics, World Championships, and Regional Championships, all new audiogram forms must be submitted **three (3)** months before the event and that is not more than one (1) year old. The penalty fee for late or having no audiogram form for new athletes is USD \$20 per form.

- 4.1.3 All new audiograms will be sent directly to the ICSD office **by** National Deaf Sport Federation.
- 4.1.4 When received, the audiograms will be entered into ICSD database, with “N” (National) code to indicate they were “home tested”.
- 4.1.5 If the audiogram form is not filled out in its entirety as defined in 3.4, the audiogram will be entered as “INC” (Incomplete) until re-submitted with FULL information.
- 4.1.6 The audiograms will then be sent to the ICSD audiologist(s) for review.
- 4.1.7 The ICSD audiologist(s) will indicate which ones are approved and which ones are at risk/borderline.
- 4.1.8 The approved audiograms will then have the “N” changed to “C” (CISS).
- 4.1.9 For those athletes who are “At Risk” with “X” symbol, he/she will be retested by ICSD audiologist during the Games.
- 4.1.10 Any athlete that does not meet the 55dB PTA eligibility criteria will be declared ineligible with “DQ” symbol and cannot resubmit an audiogram for at least two (2) years from the date received.

**4.2. On Final Entry Forms:**

- 4.2.1 The Final Entry Form will have a column for “athlete ID number”.
- 4.2.2 If an athlete’s audiogram is already in the ICSD database, the federation will enter the athlete’s ID number in the appropriate column. These athletes do not need to submit another audiogram. *See example below:*

Family Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Athlete ID Number
DOE	John	31 Jan 1975	12345
MCKNIGHT	David	5 May 1978	
SHARP	Alfred	10 Dec 1977	22678

Above indicates that **DOE, John** and **SHARP, Alfred** have audiograms in the ICSD database while **MCKNIGHT David** does not have one in the ICSD database.

- 4.2.3 Participation will not be allowed if the audiogram database shows incomplete, indicated by “INC” or ineligible, indicated by “DQ”.
- 4.2.4 Accreditation badge will not be granted to those who have not submitted an audiogram.

**5. AT THE DEAFLYMPICS (OR OTHER ICSD SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS)**

- 5.1. If athlete’s audiogram form has not been submitted, a hearing test will be conducted at the site of the Games prior to receiving accreditation badge at the national deaf sports federation’s expense.
- 5.2. If the audiogram database indicates that the athlete was examined by national audiologist as indicated by “N”, then the athlete may be retested by ICSD audiologist during the Games.
- 5.3. Athletes who were tested and verified by ICSD audiologist, the symbol will be indicated by a letter “V”.

- 5.4. ICSD audiologist reserves the right to test any previously approved athlete any time.
- 5.5. ICSD officials and Technical Directors can request an audiogram test during competition. The athlete can be tested just after the last competition of the day or the next day.
- 5.6. If an athlete's hearing eligibility is in question, ICSD will first check the athlete's audiogram database for the following information:
  - 5.6.1 If the athlete has a symbol indicated with a letter "V", ICSD audiologist do not need to do any further testing on this athlete as he/she has already been ICSD tested.
  - 5.6.2 If the athlete has a symbol indicated either with a letter "C", "N", or "X", ICSD audiologist do need to test this athlete as he/she never had been ICSD tested.
- 5.7. The audiologic testing shall not interrupt or change the daily game schedule.
- 5.8. It will be the responsibility of the team leader to reserve a time for the testing of athletes under his/her care.
- 5.9. The athlete's team leader shall meet with the ICSD audiologist at the designated time, with the athlete to be tested. Both the athlete and the accompanying person must bring their own passports or identity cards.
- 5.10. A fee will be imposed for missed appointments.
- 5.11. Athletes who leave at the end of the competitions without having been tested in accordance with Audiogram Regulations will be declared disqualified.

## 6. RESPONSIBILITY

- 6.1. The individual competitor solely carries the full responsibility to ensure he/she is not wearing any hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts during the warm-up and competition within the restricted zone area.
- 6.2. All athletes will not be allowed to wear any hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts upon entering any contest or competition venues. All athletes must remove hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts during the last training prior to competitions.

## 7. DISCOVERY

### 7.1. Using Hearing Device(s)

If a competitor is discovered to be wearing hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts during the warm-up and competition within the restricted zone area, this discovery must immediately be reported to the Technical Director (TD) for the sport in question and to the protest committee. Only accredited team leaders and trainers in the contest concerned have the right to file an official protest form against the wearing of hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts. Along the protest form, additional evidence must be made by video which includes the date and time stamped on the film. The other evidence cannot be made by hearsay.

### 7.2. Audiologic Testing During Accreditation Period

If a competitor is discovered not meeting the 55dB PTA by ICSD audiologist, this athlete shall not receive accreditation badge. Athlete shall not receive any type of accreditation badge such as changing their role as "official".

### **7.3. Audiologic Testing Due to Protest or Selected by ICSD Officials/Technical Director**

If a competitor is discovered not meeting the 55dB PTA by ICSD audiologist, the athlete's accreditation badge shall be taken away. Also, his/her performance shall be disqualified for all competitions he/she competed in. If the competitor is in a team sport, the previous matches he/she competed in shall be forfeited and the forfeit score shall be according to ISF's rules.

## **8. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

### **8.1. Violations:**

- 8.1.1** If a competitor in an individual sport wears a hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts he/she will be taken out of competition immediately. If he/she competes in different events in this and other sports he/she will be disqualified only in the event the violation was done.

*Example A: Track and field: The athlete is entered for 100m, 200m and 400m. He/she is found wearing a hearing aid/amplification during 200m. The athlete will be declared disqualified for 200m and this will have no effect on his/her performance in 100m or 400m. If the violation was done in the relay the whole team will be disqualified from that race.*

*Example B: Badminton: The athlete is entered for singles, doubles and mixed. He/she is found wearing a hearing aid/amplification in doubles. The athlete will be declared disqualified for doubles only and this will have no effect on his/her performance in singles or mixed. If the violation was done in team contest the whole team will be disqualified from that event.*

- 8.1.2** If a competitor in team sports wears hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts during play his/her team may lose the game by forfeit according to each sport's regulations concerning a forfeit. The player is free to participate in the next game. However, losing a game with a fixed set of figures may sometimes be beneficiary to the team. This must be taken into account and a team must never gain from losing by forfeit.
- 8.1.3** If the competitor repeats the violation, he/she and the team will be taken out of competition immediately, reported to ICSD and disqualified for a fixed time set forth by The Executive Committee.

### **8.2. Penalties:**

- 8.2.1** In case of violations of these regulations, TDs and ICSD Officials will report all violations to ICSD office and all given prizes, awards, medals and diplomas of the disqualified competitor and/or his/her team shall be cancelled. In addition, a fine may be levied.
- 8.2.2** If a National Deaf Sport Federation repeats a violation of Section 3.1, 3.2, or 3.5 of these Audiogram Regulations more than once ICSD Executive Committee may suspend it from 2 to 4 years for the sport in question.
- 8.2.3** During the ineligibility period the National Deaf Sport Federation and its teams cannot participate in ICSD sanctioned sport events.

## **9. KEYWORD SYMBOLS USED IN AUDIOGRAM DATABASE**

- V** – Athlete tested and verified by ICSD audiologist  
**C** – Audiogram form reviewed and approved by ICSD audiologist  
**N** – Approved by national audiologist “home tested”  
**X** – At risk/borderline  
**DQ** – Disqualify, does not meet 55dB PTA eligibility criteria  
**INC** – Incomplete, audiogram form not completed. See **3.4** for details