

# AUDIOGRAM REGULATIONS



International Committee of Sport for the Deaf

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### 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:

***PER LUDOS AEQUALITAS “Equal through sport”***

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

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/Winter Deaflympics, World Deaf Championships, Regional Championships, and other ICSD-sanctioned competitions 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 pure 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. While "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. If the athlete has Cochlear Implant in one ear, they do not need to be tested in that ear but the audiologist must clearly states on which ear the Cochlear Implant is on the Audiogram form. The athlete will still need to be tested on the non-Cochlear Implant ear.
- 3.3. Every National Deaf Sport Federation is fully responsible to check and examine the hearing level of each of its athletes and the audiogram of each respective athlete for accuracy and genuineness.
- 3.4. Each new athlete must use the official ICSD Audiogram form. The **on-line form** can be downloaded from <http://www.deaflympics.com/audiogramform.php>
- 3.5. All four (4) types of audiogram testing below must be filled out entirely for **EACH** ear including:
  1. Air Conduction
    - \* 250 Hz – 8 kHz
  2. Bone Conduction
    - \* 500Hz, 1 kHz, 2 kHz and 4 kHz
  3. Tympanograms (Tympometry)
    - \* Volume
    - \* Pressure
    - \* Compliance
  4. Acoustic Reflexes (Reflexometry)
    - \* Ipsilateral
    - \* Contralateral

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

- 3.6. 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 the ICSD Secretariat ([office@ciss.org](mailto:office@ciss.org)) for your country's latest audiogram list to check and see if your athlete is already in the ICSD audiogram database. If the athlete's name is not on the list, this means ICSD Secretariat does not have their audiogram form on file.
- 4.1.2 Prior to any type of ICSD-sanctioned events, including Summer/Winter Deaflympics, World Deaf Championships and Regional Championships, all new audiogram forms must be submitted **three (3) months before** the event and the audiogram **must not be more than one (1) year old**.
- 4.1.3 The penalty fee for late audiogram forms for new athletes is **USD \$40 per form/athlete** (less than 3 months before an event) and **USD \$100 per form/athlete** (less than 1 month before an event) from the **date received**.
- 4.1.4 New athletes without an audiogram form on the starting day of the event **will not be permitted to participate** in the competition.
- 4.1.5 All new audiograms shall be sent directly to the ICSD Secretariat **by the National Deaf Sport Federation only**.
- 4.1.6 When received, the audiograms will be entered onto ICSD database, with "N" (National) code to indicate they were "home tested".
- 4.1.7 If the audiogram form is not filled out in its entirety as defined in 3.5, the audiogram will be entered as "INC" (Incomplete) until re-submitted with FULL information, if less than 3 months, still liable for late submittance fee: **US \$40 / \$100**.
- 4.1.8 The audiograms will then be sent to the ICSD audiologist for further review.
- 4.1.9 The ICSD audiologist will indicate which ones are approved and which ones are at risk/borderline.
- 4.1.10 The approved audiograms will then have the "N" changed to "C" (CISS) by the ICSD audiologist only.
- 4.1.11 For those athletes who are "At Risk" with "X" symbol or home tested with "N" symbol, he/she will be retested by ICSD audiologist during the Summer/Winter Deaflympics, World Deaf Championships, Regional Championships, and other ICSD-sanctioned competitions.
- 4.1.12 Any athlete who 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. 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 National Deaf Sports 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
SMITH	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 **SMITH, 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** An accreditation badge will not be granted to those who have not submitted an audiogram.

## 5. AT THE DEAFLYMPICS AND OTHER ICSD SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS

**5.1.** If the audiogram database indicates that the athlete was tested by an audiologist in their home country as indicated by "N", then the athlete may be retested by ICSD audiologist during the Summer/Winter Deaflympics, World Deaf Championships, Regional Championships, and other ICSD-sanctioned competitions.

**5.2.** Preliminary audiological testing of the newly registered athletes (status "N") can be done during all competitions, qualifications, regional and world, done by the ICSD. ICSD can send official ICSD audiologist to all competitions. Preliminary audiological testing should be done before athletes come to the games. ICSD will select one or two official audiologist for Deaflympics and at some Regional / World Deaf Championships.

**5.3.** In any case there is an unofficial audiologist at the ICSD-sanctioned events, the audiologist will comply the ICSD Audiogram Regulations during testing. The audiologist cannot change the athlete's audiogram status from "N" to "C". The athlete may also be sent to an institution that will subject the athletes to testing using the latest (newest) audio technology (portable test device). ICSD Executive Board representative can decide on spot who of the newly registered athletes (status N) can be tested if there are any doubts of the athlete's hearing level. If there are any irregularities or doubts during testing, the athlete will be sent to the hospital for further examination in audiological center and costs will be covered by athlete's National Deaf Sports Federation.

**5.4.** Athletes who are considered "borderline" who have been tested on site and do not meet the eligibility criteria but are found to have PTA's within 5dB of the required eligibility criteria are eligible for retesting once and only once by the ICSD audiologist on a different day prior to accreditation.

**5.5.** Athletes who were tested and verified by the official ICSD audiologist, will be indicated by the letter "V".

**5.6.** The ICSD reserves the right to test or retest any previously approved athlete any time.

**5.7.** If an athlete's hearing eligibility is in question, ICSD will first check the athlete's audiogram database for the following information:

**5.7.1.** If the athlete has a symbol indicated with a letter "V", the audiologist on site does not need to do any further testing on this athlete as he/she has already been ICSD tested.

**5.7.2.** If the athlete has a symbol indicated either with a letter "C", "N", or "X", the audiologist does need to test this athlete as he/she has never had been ICSD tested.

5.8. The audiologic testing shall not interrupt or change the daily event schedule.

5.9. It will be the responsibility of the team leader to reserve a time for the testing of athletes under his/her care.

5.10. The athlete's team leader shall meet with the appointed ICSD audiologist at the designated time, with the athlete to be tested. Both the athlete and the accompanying person must bring their own passports.

5.11. A fee will be imposed for missed appointments.

5.12. Athletes who leave at the end of the competitions without having been tested in accordance with Audiogram Regulations will be declared disqualified.

## 6. RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL COMPETITORS

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 competition concerned have the right to file an official protest form against the wearing of hearing aid(s)/amplification or external cochlear implant parts.

Along with the protest form, additional evidence must be made by video that 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 criteria by the ICSD audiologist at Deaflympics or Regional / World Deaf Championships or by an appointed audiologist for the event, this athlete shall not receive an accreditation badge. The athlete shall not receive any other type of accreditation badge such as changing their role as "official".

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

If a competitor is discovered not meeting the 55dB PTA by the 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 same competitor repeats the violation, he/she and the team will be taken out of competition immediately, reported to ICSD Chief Executive Officer and disqualified for a fixed time set forth by the ICSD Executive Board.

### 8.2. Penalties:

- 8.2.1 In case of violations of these regulations, TDs and ICSD Officials will report all violations to the ICSD Chief Executive Officer and all given prizes, awards, medals and diplomas of the disqualified competitor and/or his/her team shall be cancelled and returned. In addition, a **\$ 1000 USD** fine will be levied based on the decision of the ICSD Executive Board.
- 8.2.2 If a National Deaf Sport Federation repeats a violation of Section 3.1, 3.2, or 3.6 of these Audiogram Regulations more than once, the ICSD Executive Board may suspend that specific National Deaf Sport Federation two (2) years for the all sanctioned sport events.
- 8.2.3 During the ineligibility period the National Deaf Sport Federation and its teams cannot participate in ICSD sanctioned sport events.

## 9. CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES

Data and the personal identities of athletes must be kept confidential. There should be careful supervision of staff to make sure that they, too, are adhering to the best practices in protecting the confidentiality of all athlete data. Some reasonable precautions to protect and respect the confidentiality of participants include:

- disseminating research findings without disclosing personal identifying information;
- storing research records securely and limiting access to authorized personnel only;
- removing, disguising, or coding personal identifying information.

All providers in the ICSD, including ICSD Executive Board, ICSD Secretariat staff, Regional Deaf Sports Confederation, National Deaf Sports Federations and International Deaf Sports Federations are required to maintain the confidentiality of their athlete medical records. All medical records of athlete receiving National Deaf Sports Federations remain confidential and will not be released without the written consent of the recipient, unless the information is de-identified and used for statistical or summary data purposes.

## 10. KEYWORD SYMBOLS USED IN AUDIOGRAM DATABASE

- PTA** – Pure Tone Average
- dB** – Decibel
- V** – Athlete tested and verified by the ICSD audiologist
- C** – Audiogram form reviewed and approved by the ICSD audiologist
- R** – Approved by Regional audiologist “regional tested”
- 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 **3.5** for details
- TD** – Technical Directors
- ICSD** – International Committee of Deaf Sports

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