



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF SPORTS FOR THE DEAF

30 January 2026

Official Confirmation of Deaflympics Qualification System and Status

Dear ICSD Member Federations,

This letter is issued by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to confirm formally the official qualification system and status of the Deaflympics. It may be used for submission to national authorities, ministries of sport, Olympic and Paralympic committees, and other relevant public institutions.

1. Official status of the Deaflympics

The Deaflympics are the highest-level international multi-sport event for Deaf athletes and are organised under the authority of the ICSD.

Within the international Deaf sport movement, the Deaflympics represent the equivalent top-level competition to the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games in their respective movements.

2. Qualification framework and regulatory basis

The ICSD maintains an official qualification framework for participation in the Deaflympics, defined in the ICSD Deaflympics Regulations and the sport-specific technical regulations.

Following each ICSD Congress, the qualification framework may be reviewed and updated. Any amendments become applicable only once they are formally adopted and officially published by ICSD.

Until such publication, the existing regulations remain fully valid and applicable.

3. Four-year qualification cycle

The Deaflympics qualification system operates in four-year cycles:

- **Summer Deaflympics:** Qualification cycle starts after the conclusion of the previous Summer Deaflympics TOKYO 2025
- **Winter Deaflympics:** Qualification cycle starts after the conclusion of the previous Winter Deaflympics INNSBRUCK 2027

Within each four-year cycle, the general structure is as follows:

Year 1

- Qualification competitions for the World Deaf Championships (where required)

Year 2

- World Deaf Championships
- Qualification competitions for Regional Deaf Championships (where required)

Year 3

- Regional Deaf Championships and/or Regional Games

Year 4

- Deaflympics



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The detailed plan is provided in the annex “**ICSD - 4 Year Cycle**”.

4. General qualification principles (team sports)

For team sports, qualification is based on a structured system combining:

- World-level competitions
- Regional-level competitions
- The official ICSD World Ranking in their sports

The exact quota (number of teams) is defined individually for each sport in the sport’s technical regulations.

5. Qualification pathways for team sports

a) World Deaf Championships

- The World Champion qualifies directly for the Deaflympics.
- All teams achieving an official final placing earn ranking points for the ICSD World Ranking.

b) Regional Deaf Championships (EDSO, CADS, APDSC, PANAMDES)

- Teams reaching the final match of each officially recognised Regional Deaf Championship qualify for the Deaflympics, subject to the sport’s quota.
- All teams achieving an official final placing earn ranking points for the ICSD World Ranking.

c) ICSD World Ranking

- Following the completion of the World Deaf Championships and the Regional Deaf Championships, teams are ranked in the official ICSD World Ranking.
- Remaining quota places for the Deaflympics are allocated to the highest-ranked eligible teams, in accordance with the total quota defined for the sport and the applicable technical regulations.

d) Unused quota places

If any qualification places remain unused (for example, due to overlapping qualifications or the absence of a Regional Deaf Championship in a specific sport), such places are allocated via the ICSD World Ranking in accordance with the sport’s technical regulations.

6. Qualification pathways for individual sports

For individual sports, athlete eligibility and qualification are determined through:

- participation and results in recognised Deaf international competitions (World Deaf Championships and/or Regional Deaf Championships), and
- where applicable, official ranking systems,

as defined in the respective sport’s technical regulations.

Athletes without participation in recognised Deaf international competitions, and therefore without an applicable qualification or ranking record, may not be eligible to participate in the Deaflympics, subject to the sport’s regulations.



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7. Official regulatory sources and upcoming updates

The official ICSD regulations are published at:

- **World Deaf Championships Regulations**

<https://www.ciss.org/icsd/deaf-world-championships-regulations>

- **Deaflympics Regulations**

<https://www.deaflympics.com/icsd/deaflympics-regulations>

Sport-specific technical regulations are published on the Deaflympics website as updates are issued.

ICSD further informs that a comprehensive review and update of the relevant regulations is currently underway following the latest ICSD Congress.

All approved amendments will be officially published in the coming months and formally communicated to all ICSD Member Federations by circular mail.

In case of any inconsistency, the officially published ICSD regulations and sport technical regulations shall prevail.

ICSD encourages all Member Federations to use this letter as official confirmation of the Deaflympics qualification framework and competitive status when communicating with governmental authorities and funding institutions.

Should you require any further clarification or an individual confirmation letter for national authorities, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely Yours,

Yutaka Osugi
ICSD Vice President

Jürgen Endress
ICSD International Sports Director

Attachments:

Annex 1 – ICSD - 4 Year Cycle