

Deaf Sports

History

- 1895: Interstate deaf sports began in Australia in with a friendly cricket match between South Australia and Victoria. This soon expanded to include other sports in what were then called sporting 'carnivals'.
- 1945: All states were participating in these ad hoc sports carnivals
- 1954: The Australian Deaf Sports Federation (ADSF) was established and became affiliated with the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD).
- 1964: The Australian Deaf Sports Carnival, held in Sydney, became the forerunner to what is known now as the Australian Deaf Games. These games are now held every four years in different states of Australia.
- 1965: Australia was represented at the World Summer Games for the Deaf
- 1975: Australia was represented at the World Winter Games for the Deaf.
- 2001: The term 'Deaflympics' was coined to replace 'Games for the Deaf'.
- 1999: Australia Deaf Sports Federation began trading as Deaf Sports Australia
- 2005: Australia hosted the Deaflympics in Melbourne.



Did you know?
The Deaflympics is one of the oldest international sporting events in the world?

Why have Deaf Sports?

Deaf athletes are distinguished from all others in their particular communication needs on the sports field, as well as in the social interaction that is an equally vital part of sport.

Although many deaf athletes compete and train in mainstream sports, Deaf sports provides a setting where the athletes' language and culture are reflected and valued.

Historically, Deaf sports also served as a bridge between athletes brought up in the traditional schools for deaf children and the increasing number of children educated in mainstream settings. Deaf sports remains one of the most important values of Deaf culture.



ICSD — International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

- International peak body for deaf sport
- 104 affiliated national deaf sports federations
- Promotes sport opportunities and competitions, from grass-roots to elite level, for Deaf athletes
- Supervises the organisation of the Summer and Winter Deaflympics

DSA — Deaf Sports Australia

- To facilitate and support the participation of deaf Australians in all levels of sport. Peak body for Deaf sport in Australia
- Affiliated state organisations, Vic, WA, QLD, ACT, SA
- Advocate, educate and support mainstream organisations to be inclusive of deaf people
- Facilitates Australian Deaf Games

DSRQ — Deaf Sport and Recreation Queensland

- DSRQ provides opportunities for Deaf people to be introduced to sports through fun social events like “Deaf Sports Day”, which can lead to participation at more formal levels and eventually to elite levels in their chosen sport. DSRQ supports athletes’ participation in deaf specific sporting events or mainstream sporting events.

