

# UK Deaf Sport

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## Our purpose

UK Deaf Sport (UKDS) is a National Disability Sports Organisation and recognised strategic lead for deaf sport across the UK. Our mission is to build a world leading system to enable more deaf people to participate and reach their full potential in sport.

## Who we represent

As the strategic lead for deaf sport we represent 9 million people who are deaf or hard of hearing in the UK. We believe that deaf people should have the chance to enjoy a life in sport. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on the lives of deaf people, improving a person's health, confidence and increasing their social interaction.

Many deaf people do not consider themselves as disabled. Some of the main barriers to inclusion in sport and physical activity for deaf and hard of hearing people are:

- Concerns about lack of fitness
- Concerns about communication problems
- Lack of confidence about taking part or making contact with groups

(UKDS Participation Survey, 2015)



## Deaf and hard of hearing people

One in seven people in the UK (9 million) are deaf or hard of hearing, this includes approximately 3.5 million people of working age (16-65 years) and 45,000 young people. 160,000 people of working age are severely or profoundly deaf. In the UK 55,000 people are registered deaf and 159,000 are registered as hard of hearing (as reported by AoHL).

Sports participation is lowest among people who are deaf or hard of hearing - only 9.9% take part in sport once a week, compared with 39.4% of non-disabled adults (Sport England, APS8, 2014).

## Our support

UK Deaf Sport offer support to a range of national, regional and local organisations and groups, in order to develop participation opportunities for deaf people, coaching and talent identification, and competition pathways for deaf sport.

DEAFinitely Inclusive is UK Deaf Sport's community programme that creates opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing people of all ages to play, coach and volunteer in sport at a local level. It brings local, regional and national sport organisations, sport and leisure providers and deaf community groups together to raise awareness and improve access to sport and physical activity for deaf and hard of hearing people.



UK Deaf Sport supports a network of over 40 Deaf Sports Organisations to develop their governance and infrastructure to increase the number of people participating in deaf sport and identifying those with sporting talent.

UK Deaf Sport is committed to improving the ability of sports coaches to communicate with deaf and hard of hearing people. We work with partners to provide Deaf Awareness and British Sign Language training, and in partnership with sports coach UK we are running a number of 'Effective Communication - Coaching Deaf People in Sport' workshops around the country. UK Deaf Sport are also working with National Governing Bodies of sport (NGBs) to increase the number of deaf coaches in sport, by providing more coaching courses with communication support.

At UK Deaf Sport we are committed to developing talent and enabling deaf people to reach their full potential through sport. We work to ensure that those with sporting talent are not hindered or discriminated against because of their impairment. We support Deaf Sports Organisations and NGBs to create clear pathways for deaf sport people to develop their skills and compete at a regional, national, European, World, Olympic and Deaflympic level.

## Participation pathways for impairment group

Deaf sports have a structure of competition opportunities on a national, European, World, Olympic and Deaflympic level. UK Deaf Sport is the recognised body for the registration and authorisation of UK, GB and home nation entries into international competition. We work with a variety of sports partners to increase the awareness of deaf elite sport and bring more world class deaf competitive events to the UK. UK Deaf Sport is also a member of the International Committee of Sport for the Deaf (ICSD) and the European Deaf Sport Federation (EDSF).