



# EDSO Constitution

OCTOBER 2022 EDITION

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## **1. Name, Foundation and Judicial Status**

- 1.1. The organization shall be called “European Deaf Sport Organization”, commonly referred to as EDSO.
- 1.2. The EDSO was founded in Antibes, France on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1983.
- 1.3. The seat of the EDSO is located at the following address: 1040 Brussels Rue de la Loi 26/15. The seat can be transferred to any other location in Belgium by sole decision of the board.
- 1.4. The EDSO is registered with the “register of associations” at the country court Brussels. The EDSO operates under international law and is subjected to the law of the country where the EDSO is registered.
- 1.5. The EDSO is a body incorporated by international law having judicial status and perpetual succession.
- 1.6. The EDSO is a non-profit organization.

## **2. Objects**

- 2.1. To be the representative organization for European Deaf Sports, and to award, supervise and assist in the European Deaf Championships and European Deaf Youth Championships.
- 2.2. The EDSO shall share and promote the vision, mission and objectives of the International Committee of Sports for deaf.
- 2.3. The EDSO shall provide sports program for deaf athletes and in Europe in accordance with the needs and wishes of EDSO members.
- 2.4. To promote ethics and good governance in Deaf Sports, in accordance with the ICSD Code of Ethics, IOC’s and GAISF’s Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance, and WADA’s Anti-Doping Code, and ensure that the spirit of fair play prevails.
- 2.5. To promote participation from different countries or associations without discrimination for racial, religious, age, economic, gender, disability or sexual orientation reasons.

- 2.6.To assist and encourage development of sports programs for deaf people where needed, and particularly when such needs occur within European borders.
- 2.7.To contribute to the development and strengthening of friendly relations and enhance understanding among deaf sports participants in Europe.
- 2.8.To ratify and promote international and regional deaf sporting events.
- 2.9.To encourage and support initiatives that blend sport with deaf culture, identity and education.
- 2.10.To harmonize relations in Deaf Sports by sharing ideas and knowledge.
- 2.11.To protect clean athletes and the integrity of Deaf Sports by supporting the fight against doping.
- 2.12.To coordinate the calendar of international and regional deaf sporting events.
- 2.13.To plan and hold conferences and seminars on topics of common interests of its membership.
- 2.14.To liaise, in pursuance of these aims and objectives and principles, with European organisations and institutions such as, but not limited to:
  - a) The European Olympic Committee (EOC)
  - b) The European Paralympic Committee (EPC)
  - c) The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO)
  - d) The European Union (EU) institutions such as the European Council for its sports department (CDDS)

### **3. Relationship with International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD)**

- 3.1.EDSO shall be an independent Confederation recognized by International Committee of Sport for Deaf (ICSD).
- 3.2.EDSO shall, if necessary, define its relation and respective jurisdictions with ICSD by contract.

## **4. Relationship with Stakeholders in European Sports**

4.1.EDSO as the governing sports body for the deaf at European Level may recognize and involve in the consultant process in European Sports matter, groups representing the interests of the various stakeholder of European Sports, provided that they are:

- a) Organized in accordance with EDSO Statutes, regulations and values.
- b) Constituted in democratic, open and transparent manner.

## **5. Languages**

5.1.The language of EDSO shall be English.

5.2.The language of Congress shall communicate in International Sign Communication.

5.3.Official documents, financial and official records of EDSO shall be published in English. In events of any discrepancy, the English version shall be authoritative.

## **6. Legislative, Executive and Administrative Body of the EDSO**

6.1.The Congress shall be the legislative body.

6.2.The Executive Committee shall be the executive body.

6.3.The Secretary General shall be the administrative body.

## **7. Membership**

**7.1. only one NDSA from a country within the jurisdiction of Europe is allowed to be a member of the EDSO.**

7.2. Members shall have the right to:

- a) participate in all EDSO competitions, events, and activities.
- b) conduct EDSO sanctioned competitions and events.
- c) enter Deaf Athletes into competitions approved by EDSO.

**7.3.**The Executive Committee is in the position to admit new members provisionally. The membership must be confirmed at the next Congress.

**7.4.**Each National Deaf Sports Association should submit to the EDSO with their application for membership a copy of their constitution and regulations in the English language with recognition from its own Countries Government or its Government Sports Agency. Any modifications of these must be communicated to the EDSO.

**7.5.**National Deaf Sports Associations having their own sports structure, a board with a majority of deaf Members and complete independence and autonomy to manage deaf sports in its own country, shall be an Affiliated Member of the EDSO.

**7.6.**Suspended Associations are not allowed to vote at the Congress. Other affiliated Associated Associations are not allowed to carry out sports events with those who are suspended.

## **8. The Congress**

**8.1.**The Congress, the supreme body of the EDSO, shall be held every two years in connection with European Championships or other major events of Deaf Sport in Europe.

**8.2.**All applications and questions to be submitted to Congress by affiliated members must be sent to the Secretariat of the EDSO not later than four months before the month in which the Congress is to be held. Only those items included in the agenda may be discussed.

**8.3.**The agenda, reports, financial reports and applications must be sent to all affiliated members at least two months before the date of the Congress.

**8.4.**Associated members are entitled to have representation from a maximum of two delegates who would be entitled to

one vote each. Associations being represented by only one delegate are entitled to one vote.

**8.5.** Only delegates who are deaf and fluent in International Sign communication may represent associate members.

**8.6.** The names of the candidates for the Executive Committee of the EDSO can be submitted by either the Elections commission itself or affiliated member and must reach the Secretary General four months before the opening of the Congress. All candidates must be supported and approved by their native country before election takes place.

**8.7.** The affiliated members must be notified of the date and place of the Congress at least six months in advance.

**8.8.** Only the delegates present and entitled to vote shall decide any question put to the vote.

**8.9.** Vote by letter or proxy is not allowed.

**8.10.** Voting shall be done by show of hands unless the majority decides a written ballot can be taken.

**8.11.** All decisions shall be taken by simple majority.

**8.12.** The Agenda of the Ordinary Congress shall include the following items:

- a) Address by the President
- b) Appointment of the three scrutineers
- c) Confirmation of the minutes of the preceding Congress
- d) The report covering the period since the preceding Congress.
- e) Report on finances covering the period since the preceding Congress
- f) Vote on approval of the accounts
- g) Submission of financial estimate
- h) Consideration of applications for alteration of the Constitution and its Regulations
- i) Report on European Championships of the preceding years.

- j) Report from the organizer of the forthcoming European Championships
- k) Election of eight members of the Executive Committee
- l) Designation of place for the next European Championships

**8.13.**The EDSO Executive Committee may at any time call an Extraordinary Congress of the EDSO at written request of one-third of the associated members of the EDSO. The Executive Committee must convene an Extraordinary Congress within three months of such a request.

**8.14.**The affiliated National Deaf Sports Associations must be notified of the place, date and agenda of an Extraordinary Congress at least two months before it is due to take place.

**8.15.**The names of the delegates must be sent to the Secretary General one month before the opening of the Congress in order to establish if there will be a quorum.

**8.16.**Bi-annual Congress or Extraordinary Congress of the EDSO meetings can be cancelled by decision of the Executive Committee if it is expected that a quorum will not be achieved.

**8.17.**Only the Congress can alter the Constitution and Regulations of the EDSO.

## **9. Amendments of Constitution**

**9.1.**A proposed alteration of the Constitution may be put to the vote only if it has been submitted by a National Deaf Sports Association or by the Executive Committee.

**9.2.**Proposed alterations must be submitted to the Executive Committee 6 months before the date of the forthcoming congress.

**9.3.**In order to be able to obtain a decision on an alteration of the Constitution, a Congress must be attended by a quorum of at least half of the affiliated members.



**9.4.**To be adapted, the alteration must receive the approval of three-fourth of the votes given by the delegates present and entitled to vote.

**9.5.**The Constitution may be changed only at the Congress that takes place every two years.

## **10. Regulations**

**10.1.**Any alteration of the Regulations may be proposed by a National Deaf Sport Association or the Executive Committee. Alterations of the Regulations will be voted upon at Congress.

**10.2.**No quorum is necessary for a decision on an alteration of the Regulations. Applications shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes given by the delegates who are present and entitled to vote.

**10.3.**Other decisions, when voting is necessary, shall be taken by a show of hands. If this method of voting does not result in a definite majority in favor of an application, the vote shall be taken by written ballot.

**10.4.**The chairperson will put every motion to the vote, allowing time to discuss points for and against where necessary.

**10.5.**For the election of the members of the Executive Committee a majority of the votes present is necessary.

**10.6.**Other decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes recorded, with the exception of the following matters which require the approval of two-third of the votes recorded:

- a) Alterations or additions to the Constitution (see Article 8.17)
- b) Additions to the Agenda of Congress Dissolution of the EDSO
- c) The Secretary-General shall keep the minutes of the Congress

**10.7.**Decisions taken at a Congress shall become legally operative for the EDSO and affiliated members after the closing date of the Congress.

## **11. The Executive Committee**

**11.1.**The Executive Committee of the EDSO consists of eight members:

- a) 1 President
- b) 1 Vice-President
- c) Secretary General
- d) Treasurer
- e) Four (4) Members at Large

**11.2.**The members shall have regard to the following matters when electing the executive committee, namely their expertise, skill level and equality representation.

**11.3.** For all the Executive Committee members, key skills and qualifications are required, such as:

- a) an excellent understanding of the basic universal principles of good governance in sport.
- b) empathy for international deaf sports.
- c) excellent organizational and communication skills.
- d) ability to effectively lead and manage groups of people. and to foster the EDSO vision, mission, objectives, and goals.

**11.4.**All members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by affiliated members entitled to vote at the Congress.

**11.5.**All members of the Executive Committee must be deaf, with good code of conduct and behavior able to use International Sign communication and be a member of their National Deaf Sports Association.

**11.6.**Elected members of the Executive committee may not serve as Executive members of any international deaf sports bodies at the European Level.

**11.7.**Members of the Executive Committee are representatives of the EDSO. They must not follow instructions from governments or from any organization or individual, which in

any way would bind them or interfere with the independence of their vote.

**11.8.**Two members of the same National Deaf Sports Association are not allowed to be members of the Executive Committee.

**11.9.**The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for four years.

**11.10.**The office for the members of the Executive Committee begins and expires at the end of the Congress at which the election has taken place.

**11.11.** Nominations:

- a) Each National Deaf Sports Association is allowed to nominate a maximum of one person to be considered for election onto the Executive Committee.
- b) Nominations must be sent in writing to the Secretary General four months prior to the forthcoming congress, using the appropriate nominations form.
- c) A list of nominees will be sent out to all National Deaf Sports Associations by the Secretary General two months prior to congress. (8.06)
- d) Votes will be taken at congress to elect a:
  - 1) President
  - 2) Vice president
  - 3) Secretary General
  - 4) Treasurer
  - 5) 4 Members at large
- e) If certain roles on the Executive Committee do not receive nominations, resulting in a vacancy, the members of the Executive Committee can agree to co-opt.

**11.12.**If any other member of the Executive Committee ceases to fulfil his duties, the Executive Committee can refer to the list of unsuccessful nominee's from the previous Congress elections and co-opt.

- 11.13.**The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the administration of the EDSO and shall have complete power to make appropriate decisions.
- 11.14.**The Executive Committee may impose penalties as laid down in Article 20.00 of the present Constitution.
- 11.15.**At request of three members of the Executive Committee, the President must convene an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 11.16.**Members of the Executive Committee must leave a meeting when a dispute concerning their person is discussed and a decision is taken.
- 11.17.**The Executive Committee shall appoint Chairpersons and members of sub- committees. The Secretary General or their representative may officially attend each Committee meeting.
- 11.18.**The Secretary General must seek the approval of the executive committee before the engagement of the permanent staff of the Secretariat.
- 11.19.**The Treasurer must seek the approval of the executive committee before the engagement of permanent staff of the Treasury.
- 11.20.**In the case of a representative from the EDSO attending a European Championship, the travel and accommodation costs shall be paid by the host country (for the President and the Secretary General or a nominated Official/s; maximum two members of the Executive Committee of the EDSO).
- 11.21.**The Executive Committee may establish any of the following Commissions, which shall be responsible to the Congress:
- a) Election Commission
  - b) Athletes Commission
  - c) Ethics Commission
  - d) Appeals Commission
  - e) Legal Commission
  - f) Anti-Doping Commission
  - g) Sports Commission

- h) Recognition Commission
- i) Youth Commission
- j) Women Commission
- k) Such additional commissions as the Executive Committee may deem necessary.

**11.22.** The Executive Committee shall appoint members for all Commissions after an open call, with an exception for the Athletes Commission.

**11.23.** The Commission members and the Chairperson of this Commission shall be elected for a four (4) year term.

**11.24.** Vacancies on the Commission members occurring for any reason may be filled by an ad interim member appointed by the Election Commission until the next election.

**11.25.** The Executive Committee shall ensure that the majority of the members of each Commission shall be deaf and that there is an appropriate gender balance.

**11.26.** Members of the Executive Committee may at the same time be member of the any Commission, with an exception for the Ethics Commission, Appeals Commission, or the Legal Commission.

## **12. The President**

**12.1.** The President shall preside at Congresses and meetings of the Executive Committee and Committee for which she/he is elected the Chairperson.

**12.2.** The President shall be a member of the Executive Committee of the ICSD as representative of the regional Deaf Sports Confederation.

**12.3.** In the event of EDSO being involved in a court case, the executive committee will appoint a legal representative to liaise with the president.

**12.4.** The President is allowed to take certain initiatives or decisions, but these must be submitted for ratification by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

12.5.If the President is unable to perform these duties, their place shall be taken by the Vice-President.

### **13. The Secretary General**

13.1.The Secretary General shall be the head of the Secretariat of the EDSO.

13.2.The Secretary General shall be responsible for the drawing up of the minutes of the Congress and the meetings of the Executive Committee and she/he shall conduct the correspondence of the EDSO.

13.3.The Secretary General shall liaise with the EDSO Treasurer in relation to financial matters regarding congress, executive committee meetings and EDSO events.

13.4. The Secretary General shall act as intermediary between the EDSO, the National Deaf Sports Association and the Organizing Committee of the European Championships of the Deaf.

13.5.The Secretary General shall be responsible to the Executive committee for his administration and the appointment and work of the staff of the Secretariat.

### **14. The Members at large**

14.1.The remaining four members of the Executive Committee, without specific roles, will undertake duties as seen fit by the Executive Committee, to support EDSO in achieving their objectives.

### **15. Finance Participation fee for European Championships**

15.1.The financial period of the EDSO shall be from 1 January to 31 December of each year.

15.2.Power of Attorney: President, Vice President and Secretary General can have two of three together give power of attorney for Bank Finance.

- 15.3.**The Executive Committee determines a chartered accountant company in order to audit and confirm the balances. The report of the chartered accountant will be presented to the Executive Committee and Congress.
- 15.4.**The annual contribution fee of each National Deaf Sports Association shall predominately be determined by the Executive Committee. However, this can be brought to congress through application to the Secretary General (see 9.02).
- 15.5.**A penalty of 10% has to be paid for six month the membership fee has not been paid. However, National Deaf Sports association can apply to have the penalty waived if they believe they have good reasons. The outcome shall be the determined by the Executive Committee of EDSO.
- 15.6.**An association which has not paid its fee by 1st April at the latest shall have its membership rights withdrawn.
- 15.7.**The participation fees for European Championships (including qualifying rounds) shall predominantly be determined by the executive committee. However, this can be brought to congress through application to the Secretary-General. (8.02).
- 15.8.**Each country participating in a European Championship has to pay fees to EDSO according to schedule of fees/general and technical regulations.
- 15.9.**An Association which has entered their athletes in European Championships but then fail to participate must pay penalty. The penalty fees will be referred to schedule of fees.
- 15.10.**On reduction of athletes and officials after the final registration for the participation in European Championships, the fivefold of the participation fee has to be paid. This is also valid in the case of not starting in each discipline. The penalty is also valid for teams.

**15.11.**An Association which has not paid the participation fee, still has to pay this as well as a penalty of 10% for each month the duty has not been fulfilled.

## **16. Sport Directors of the EDSO**

**16.1.**The Sport Directors shall be responsible for ensuring appropriate and sufficient sporting equipment and facilities are in place for the European Championships to run smoothly.

**16.2.**The Sport Directors shall be approved and appointed by the Executive Committee for each sport for 4 years during the respective European Championship until the end of the next European Championships.

**16.3.**The Sport Directors shall be authorized to control the rules of the European Championships and shall be assisted by the Organizing Commission (Established by the hosting country of the European Championships with support from the Executive Committee) of the European Championships.

**16.4.**The Sport Directors are entitled to be a member of the Sports Commission (see 11.21e) and a consulting member of the Appeal Commission (see 11.21b).

**16.5.**Copies of all official correspondence regarding European Championships must be sent to the Secretary-General and nominated Official.

**16.6.**The Sport Directors are under the supervision of the Executive Committee and liaise with the member at large designed by the Executive Committee and to work honorably.

**16.7.**The National Deaf Sport Association is responsible for reimbursing any expenses incurred by the Sport directors and the responsible EDSO nominated Official in relation to organizing the European Championships.



## **17. Honorary President and Honorary Members**

**17.1.**The Congress may grant a title of Honorary President and Honorary Member to persons for meritorious service rendered to the EDSO.

**17.2.**They shall be nominated by the Executive Committee.

**17.3.**An Honorary President or Honorary Member shall be permitted to attend Congresses with the right to join in discussions, but no right to vote.

**17.4.**An Honorary President or Honorary Member can be invited to attend the European Championships as guest of the EDSO and the Organizing Committee which shall bear the accommodation expenses, while travel expenses may be borne by the National Deaf Sport Association.

## **18. Penalties**

**18.1.**Disciplinary measures may be imposed on National Deaf Sports Association which have violated the Constitution or Regulations, or which have failed to perform their duties to the EDSO.

**18.2.**The disciplinary measures of the EDSO which may be enforced are:

- a) Caution
- b) Final Warning
- c) Fine
- d) Suspension
- e) Cancellation of the membership

**18.3.**The Congress shall have authority to impose fines not exceeding €500, the Executive Committee fines not exceeding €250.

**18.4.**The Executive Committee will decide which disciplinary measures will be imposed and this decision will be enforced immediately. Decisions made will be reported at the next congress.

**18.5.**Associations under suspension shall not vote at the Congress or have sports relations with other members.

## **19. Individual Suspensions and Expulsions**

**19.1.**National Deaf Sports Associations in membership with the EDSO must recognize one another's suspensions and expulsions from membership without questioning the reasons for them.

**19.2.**The EDSO, therefore, as representative of all the Associations, is bound mainly by this Article regarding the appointment of members to its committees and Technical Directors.

**19.3.**Suspensions and expulsions may be imposed by the Executive Committee for:

- a) Ethical reasons
- b) Disciplinary reasons
- c) Violations of audiological tests
- d) Violations of drug tests

**19.4.**Disciplinary suspensions and expulsions may as rule follow guidelines from the ICSD or the International Sports Federations concerned.

## **20. Loss of Membership**

**20.1.A** National Deaf Sport Association may lose its membership with the EDSO for the following reasons:

- a) Non-payment of dues and other debts to the EDSO
- b) Violation of the Constitution or Regulations or dishonorable conduct

**20.2.**The expulsion of a National Deaf Sport Association for any of the above- mentioned reasons can only be decreed by the Congress. In case of clause 20.03 a), with the exception of an automatic expulsion for non-payment of subscription, the resolution shall require a simple majority of those Associations present and entitled to vote, but for clause 20.03 b) and 20.03 c) at least 50% of the affiliated member.

Association should be present and the resolution must receive the approval of three-fourths of the valid ballots.

## **21. Dissolution of the EDSO**

**21.1.**The EDSO can only be dissolved by a special convened extraordinary meeting of members. The only item on the Agenda must be the dissolution of the EDSO.

**21.2.**An extraordinary meeting can only be called on:

- a) a majority decision of the Executive Committee
- b) a written demand signed by two-thirds of the Affiliated Members.

**21.3.**The quorum for such an extraordinary meeting shall be half the number of the Affiliated Members.

**21.4.**A two-third majority vote of those present shall be necessary to decide the dissolution.

**21.5.**Should the EDSO be dissolved, all assets of the EDSO shall be given to the ICSD. The ICSD must keep the documents for 10 years.

## Historical modifications of the EDSO Constitution from 1983 – 2022

- Agreed: At the Founding Congress in Antibes (FRA) on 7 July 1983
- Modified: At the 4th EDSO Congress in Trier (GER) on 23/24 June 1988
- Modified: At the 6th EDSO Congress in Sierra Chevalier (FRA) on 14/15 March 1992
- Modified: At the 7th EDSO Congress in Merano (ITA) on 19/20 May 1994
- Modified: At the 9th EDSO Congress in Vilnius (LTU) on 20/21 June 1998
- Modified: At the 11th EDSO Congress in Amsterdam (NED) on 21/22 June 2002
- Modified: At the 12th EDSO Congress in Ljubljana (SLO) on 17/18 June 2004
- Modified: At the 13th EDSO Congress in Baden (AUT) on 24/25 August 2006
- Modified: At the 14th EDSO Congress in Bratislava (SVK) on 10/12 September 2008.
- Modified: At the 17th EDSO Congress in Antalya (TUR) on 19/20 September 2014.
- Modified: At the 18th EDSO Congress in Yerevan (ARM) on 7/8 July 2016.
- Modified: At the EDSO Extraordinary Congress in Bucharest (ROM) on 9 April 2022.
- Modified: At the 21st EDSO Congress in Mechelen (BEL) on 27/28 October 2022.

President:

Iosif Stavrakakis

Secretary General:

Anton Petrič