



Guidelines for the Organisation of the

European Deaf Youth Games

Summer and Winter Competitions

1. Preamble

The European Deaf Youth Games (EDYG) are an official international sports event for deaf youth aged 14 to 18. They were created to promote physical activity among young people with hearing loss, strengthen social participation, and enable international encounters across Europe. The EDYG provide a safe and supportive environment where young athletes can grow, compete, and learn from one another.

A key goal of the EDYG is to offer a structured and motivating path into adult-level competitive sports. The games serve as a stepping stone to higher-level competitions such as the Deaflympics and the planned European Deaf Games for adults, which are to be held every four years.

2. Organizer

The European Deaf Sports Organization (EDSO) is the official organizer of the European Deaf Youth Games. Only national deaf sports federations that are full members of EDSO are eligible to participate. Great Britain competes as a unified team under the abbreviation GBR, which includes the four regions of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Separate participation of these regions is not permitted.

3. Hosting and Schedule

The EDYG are held every two years in even-numbered years (e.g., 2026, 2028, 2030), featuring both summer and winter competitions. The summer and winter events do not need to take place at the same location or time. They may be hosted independently, as long as both take place within the same calendar year. Deviations from the regular cycle are possible, especially in winter sports due to weather or facility availability.

4. Eligibility

Athletes are eligible to compete if they have a documented hearing loss of at least 55 decibels (dB) in the better ear, as defined by the statutes of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD). Hearing aids and cochlear implants (CI) are not permitted during competitions. All athletes must be nominated by their national deaf sports federation and must have a valid ICSD ID number.

Age groups are assigned based on birth year only—not on the exact birth date—to ensure clear and fair classification.

5. Age Categories

Age groups are flexible and depend on the number of registrations, the sport discipline, and the structure of participants. Possible groupings include:

- U15 to U19 (combined)
- U15, U16, U17, U18, U19 (separate)
- Combinations such as U17/U19, U16/U19, U15/U17/U19 or U16/U18/U19

Final grouping decisions are made during the technical planning process by the organizing committee, in consultation with the EDSO board and/or the Sports Director.

In exceptional cases, age-related exemptions may be granted, depending on the sport, competition format, or number of participants. These must be reviewed and approved by the EDSO Executive Board or the Sports Director.

6. Sports Disciplines

Summer Competitions (alphabetical):

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball 3x3
- Beach volleyball
- Futsal
- Judo
- Karate
- Orienteering
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Taekwondo
- Tennis

Winter Competitions (alphabetical):

- Alpine Skiing
- Snowboarding

Additional sports may be included if there are enough athletes registered from different countries.

7. Competition Requirements

To be officially recognized, the following minimum participation requirements must be met:

- Team and relay events: At least four (4) participating teams
- Individual events: At least four (4) athletes from at least two (2) different European countries

If these criteria are not met, the event may be cancelled or held as a demonstration sport.

8. Technical Regulations

For each sport, a set of technical regulations will be created and published before the event. These regulations follow the international standards set by the ICSD and also adapt the rules of international sports federations such as FIBA, IAAF, UEFA etc. Adjustments are made based on the age structure, accessibility, and number of participants.

9. Language and Communication

The official language of the European Deaf Youth Games is International Sign Language (ISL). English is used as the spoken language. All official information, meetings, and ceremonies are conducted in International Sign Language or English. Interpreters will be available for international communication.

10. Sustainability and Inclusion

The EDYG are committed to environmentally conscious, inclusive, and accessible event planning. All venues should aim to be carbon neutral and accessible by public transport. Accommodations, sports facilities, and transportation must be barrier-free to ensure full participation for everyone, regardless of additional needs.