



EDSO Constitution

Official Version

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Preamble

The European Deaf Sports Organisation (EDSO) was founded on July 7, 1983, in Antibes, France, as a regional governing body for Deaf sports in Europe. It emerged from the need to provide a coordinated structure for Deaf athletes and National Deaf Sports Federations (NDSFs) across Europe, supporting the development and recognition of Deaf sports at the continental level.

EDSO builds on a rich heritage of Deaf sports, with roots dating back to the early 20th century, and shares a long-standing partnership with the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD), while functioning independently in accordance with European needs.

As a non-profit, democratic and inclusive organisation, EDSO works to promote equality, integrity and excellence in Deaf sports, safeguarding the rights and interests of Deaf athletes through the organisation of regional competitions, the encouragement of youth participation, and advocacy for Deaf culture and sign language in sports.

The motto of EDSO is *Unity in Sport*.

Principles

EDSO shall conduct its activities in accordance with the following principles:

- a) respect for the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
- b) promotion of fair play, integrity, mutual respect, and non-discrimination in all its actions and events;
- c) commitment to political neutrality and transparency in governance;
- d) solidarity and cooperation among its Members to develop Deaf sports across Europe.

Definitions and Abbreviations

Definitions

- **Associate Member:** an EDSF that has been granted membership of EDSO by the General Assembly. Only one EDSF per sport shall be admitted as an Associate Member.
- **General Assembly:** The supreme legislative body of EDSO, comprising delegates from member federations.
- **Deaf Athlete:** A sports person with a hearing loss of 55 dB or greater in the better ear.
- **Deaf Sport:** Any sport in which Deaf Persons participate.
- **European Championships:** Regional multi-sport or single-sport competitions for Deaf athletes organized or sanctioned by EDSO.

- **European Deaf Games and European Deaf Youth Games (EDYG):** Regional multi-sport events for adult and young Deaf athletes in Europe, organized or sanctioned by EDSO.
- **European Deaf Sports Federation:** European deaf federation with responsibility for one (1) sport.
- **Executive Board:** The executive body responsible for governance and day-to-day management of EDSO.
- **Full Member:** a NDSF that has been granted membership of EDSO by the General Assembly. Only one NDSF per country shall be admitted as a Full Member.
- **Good Standing:** A Member that has fulfilled all membership obligations, including financial contributions, and is not under suspension or expulsion.
- **Honorary Member:** An individual granted this status by EDSO General Assembly in recognition of outstanding service to Deaf sports.
- **National Deaf Sports Federation (NDSF):** A national federation that governs Deaf sports in its respective country, recognized by its national sports authorities.
- **Provisional Member:** a NDSF or EDSF that has been granted provisional membership by the Executive Board until full or associate membership is granted by the General Assembly.
- **Secretariat:** Executive Director, Sport Coordinator, Treasurer

Abbreviations

- **EDG:** European Deaf Games
- **EDSF:** European Deaf Sports Federation
- **EDSO:** European Deaf Sports Organisation
- **EDYG:** European Deaf Youth Games
- **ENGSO:** European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation
- **EOC:** European Olympic Committees
- **EPC:** European Paralympic Committees
- **EU:** European Union
- **EUD:** European Union of the Deaf
- **GA:** General Assembly
- **ICSD:** International Committee of Sports for the Deaf
- **IOC:** International Olympic Committee

- **NDSF:** National Deaf Sports Federation
- **TAFISA:** The Association For International Sport for All
- **WADA:** World Anti-Doping Agency

1. Legal Form, Name, Foundation and Judicial Status

1.1. The organisation shall be called “European Deaf Sport Organisation”, commonly referred to as EDSO.

1.2. The EDSO was founded in Antibes, France on 7th July 1983.

1.3. 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.

1.4. The EDSO is a body corporated by international law having judicial status and perpetual succession.

1.5. The seat of the EDSO is located in Brussels, Belgium. The seat can be transferred to any other location by sole decision of the General Assembly.

1.6. The EDSO is a non-profit organisation. The EDSO pursues a purpose of international public interest and shall not carry out any activities with a profit-making intention.

1.7. The EDSO properties are:

- a) the EDSO name
- b) the EDSO logo
- c) the EDSO symbol
- d) the EDSO flag
- e) the EDSO motto
- f) EDSO identifications
- g) EDSO emblems

1.8. These and other intellectual property of EDSO are the exclusive property of EDSO. Their use shall be subject to the conditions set forth in the Bylaws.

2. Vision, Mission and Objects

2.1. Vision

To be the leading organisation in Europe that inspires and empowers Deaf athletes to achieve excellence, inclusion and enjoyment in sports, while promoting Deaf culture and sign language.

2.2. Mission

As the recognized regional governing body for Deaf sports in Europe, EDSO's mission is to develop, support and promote Deaf sports and athletes, ensuring fair opportunities, ethical conduct and strong partnerships with European and International sports institutions.

To ensure the growth and strength of Deaf sports in Europe through the development and support of National Deaf Sports Federations (NDSFs) in all European countries, thereby reinforcing the Deaflympic Movement at the regional level.

2.3. Objects

- 2.3.1** To be the representative organisation for European Deaf Sports, and to award, supervise and assist in the European Deaf Championships and European Deaf Youth Championships.
- 2.3.2** The EDSO shall share and promote the vision, mission and objectives of the International Committee of Sports for Deaf.
- 2.3.3** The EDSO shall provide sports program for deaf athletes and in Europe in accordance with the needs and wishes of EDSO members.
- 2.3.4** To promote ethics, fair play and good governance in Deaf Sports, in accordance with the Olympic Charter, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), the IOC's Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance, the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions, the EOC Code of Ethics and WADA's Anti-Doping Code, and to ensure that the spirit of fair play prevails.
- 2.3.5** To promote participation from different countries or federations without discrimination for racial, religious, economic, gender, disability or sexual orientation reasons.
- 2.3.6** To assist and encourage development of sports programs for deaf people where needed, and particularly when such needs occur within European borders.
- 2.3.7** To contribute to the development and strengthening of friendly relations and enhance understanding among deaf sports participants in Europe.
- 2.3.8** To ratify and promote international and regional deaf sporting events.
- 2.3.9** To encourage and support initiatives that blend sport with deaf culture, identity and education.
- 2.3.10** To harmonize relations in Deaf Sports by sharing ideas and knowledge.
- 2.3.11** To protect clean athletes and the integrity of Deaf Sports by supporting the fight against doping.
- 2.3.12** To coordinate the calendar of international and regional deaf sporting events.

2.3.13 To plan and hold conferences and seminars on topics of common interests of its membership.

2.3.14 To liaise, in pursuance of these aims and objectives and principles, with European and international organisations and institutions such as, but not limited to:

- a) The European Olympic Committees (EOC)
- b) The European Paralympic Committee (EPC)
- c) The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO) and its European Sport Platform initiatives
- d) The European Union (EU) institutions such as the European Council for its sports department (CDDS), the EU Sport Forum and related bodies
- e) TAFISA (The Association for International Sport for All)

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 Constitution, regulations and values.
- b) Constituted in democratic, open and transparent manner.

5. Languages

5.1. The official written language of EDSO is English.

5.2. International Sign is the primary means of communication in meetings and events.

5.3. Official documents, financial statements and records is published in English. In case of discrepancies, the English version shall prevail.

5.4. Any translation into other spoken or written languages or interpretation into other sign languages by Members or delegates shall be at their own responsibility and cost.

6. Full, Associate and Provisional Members

There shall be three (3) categories of Members of EDSO:

6.1. Full Members;

6.1.1 EDSO members are national deaf sports federations from European countries located within the geographical, cultural, and political boundaries of Europe.

6.1.2 This includes the Member States of the European Union as well as the regions commonly referred to as the 'wider Europe'. EDSO limits membership to sports federations from these countries, regardless of their EU membership status

6.1.3 A Full Member shall consist of one National Deaf Sports Federations (NDSF) per country, that meets the criteria set forth by EDSO.

6.1.4 A NDSF may apply for full membership if it:

6.1.4.1 is a registered or recognised self-governing organisation of Deaf Sports in its country;

6.1.4.2 has a deaf president and a majority of deaf members holding executive positions;

6.1.4.3 is recognised by the respective national sports council or similar highest sports authorities as the sole representative of the Deaf Sport Movement in that country;

6.2. Associate Members

6.2.1 An Associate Member shall consist of an European Deaf Sports Federation (EDSF) responsible one (1) sport, acting in pursuance with the objectives and the relevant principles of Olympism and shall be recognised as an International sports body with aims, objectives and purposes consistent with the EDSO Constitution.

6.2.2 An EDSF may apply for associate membership if it:

6.2.2.1 is a registered or recognised self-governing Deaf Sports federation;

6.2.2.2 has a deaf president and a majority of deaf members holding executive positions;

6.2.2.3 incorporated or has a constitution with appropriate aims, objectives and purposes consistent with the intent and spirit of the EDSO Constitution, which shall be reviewed each time changes are made, following the EDSO's recommendation.

6.2.3 The application procedure for associate membership is provided for in the Bylaws.

6.3. Provisional Members.

6.3.1 EDSO may provisionally admit an NDSF that has applied for membership but does not yet meet all the requirements. Such membership must be confirmed by the GA.

6.3.2 In order to help with their evolution and development, provisional membership may be granted to national or European Deaf Sport federations, if they fulfill certain criteria as evidenced by their application for membership, in particular:

6.3.2.1 to pursue non-profit status with bylaws acceptable to EDSO;

6.3.2.2 to have a deaf president and a majority of deaf members holding executive positions and

6.3.2.3 to maintain active participation and collaboration within the EDSO, and also demonstrate continuous active participation in their own country as a representative NDSF.

6.3.3 Provisional Members may be recognised with full rights within a five years period.

7. Rights and Obligations of Members

7.1 Full 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;
- d) exercise voting rights at the GA and nominate candidates for the Executive Board;
- e) receive all official information and communications from EDSO;
- f) are urged to actively support the principles of gender equality and inclusion when nominating candidates and participating in the activities of the EDSO.

7.2 Full Members shall maintain their rights only if they are in Good Standing.

7.3 Associate Members shall have the right to:

7.3.1 conduct their own EDSO approved competitions whilst aligning to the EDSO sports calendar, which takes precedence;

7.3.2 participate in all EDSO events, and activities.

7.4 Provisional Members shall have the right to:

7.4.1 enter their national Deaf Athletes into competitions approved by EDSO;

7.4.2 participate in all EDSO competitions, events, and activities.

7.5 Full, Associate and Provisional Members shall be entitled to exercise all the other rights arising for them from the EDSO Constitution or other EDSO regulations.

7.6 Full, Associate and Provisional Members shall only be permitted to exercise their rights under the EDSO Constitution (and/or other EDSO regulations) if they are in Good Standing and all outstanding fees, levies, and debts due to EDSO have been paid in full.

8. A Good Standing of Members

- 8.1. A Member is considered to be in Good Standing when it has fulfilled all its obligations under this Constitution and any applicable EDSO Regulations, including but not limited to the timely payment of annual membership fees and any other debts owed to EDSO and other EDSO members.
- 8.2. Only Members in Good Standing shall be entitled to exercise voting rights at the GA, participate in EDSO events and activities, and enjoy any other membership rights provided under this Constitution.
- 8.3. The Secretariat shall maintain and regularly update a list of Members indicating their standing status. Members not in Good Standing shall be notified accordingly.

9. Membership

- 9.1. The Executive Board is in the position to admit new members provisionally. The membership must be confirmed at the next GA.
- 9.2. Each National Deaf Sports Federation 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.

10. Suspension of membership and expulsion

- 10.1. A Member may be expelled by the GA, solely on the request of the Executive Board. For cause includes, but is not limited to:
 - 10.1.1. breach of the terms of the EDSO Constitution and/or the EDSO regulations;
 - 10.1.2. non-payment of the annual membership fee or any other levy (despite a reminder); or
 - 10.1.3. dishonorable conduct or bringing Deaf Sports into disrepute.
- 10.2. Notwithstanding with Article 10.1, the Executive Board may, without a vote of the GA, temporarily suspend with immediate effect a Member that seriously violates its obligations.
- 10.3. An expulsion of a Member by the GA requires a two-third (2/3) majority of the Members present and eligible to vote and requires the presence at the GA of an absolute majority (more than 50 %) of the Members eligible to vote in order to be valid.
- 10.4. A Member who fails to pay annual membership fee dues by the day of the month in which they become due shall lose their Good Standing. Upon failure to pay dues for two consecutive years, the Member shall be suspended until repayment.

- 10.5. After four (4) years of continuous suspension due to the non-payment of the annual membership fee, a Member is automatically subject to expulsion by the GA.
- 10.6. Expelled Members and Members under suspension lose immediately all rights and privileges of their membership.
- 10.7. The Executive Director shall remove the suspended or expelled Member from the register of Members after the vote of GA, upon a review by the Executive Board. The suspended Member shall be registered again as soon as its suspension is lifted.
- 10.8. A suspended Member may be re-admitted by decision of the Executive Board, when the reason(s) for its suspension has been resolved satisfactorily, by applying for re-admission to the Executive Director.
- 10.9. A Member shall be given the opportunity to be heard, either in person or in writing, before a suspension or an expulsion.
- 10.10. NDSFs in membership with the EDSO must recognize one another's suspensions and expulsions from membership without questioning the reasons for them.
- 10.11. The EDSO, therefore, as representative of all the NDSFs, is bound mainly by this Article regarding the appointment of members to its committees and Sport Directors.
- 10.12. The GA and the Executive Board shall have the authority to impose sanctions on Members or individuals for breaches of this Constitution or the Regulations, in accordance with the Bylaws.

11. Resignation of Membership

- 11.1. A Full Member may resign from EDSO by notifying the Executive Director at least three (3) months before the end of the calendar year. The resignation shall only be valid upon fulfilment of all outstanding obligations towards EDSO.

12. Honorary Members

- 12.1. Honorary Membership may be granted by the GA to individuals or institutions in recognition of outstanding services to Deaf Sports with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Members.
- 12.2. Honorary Members shall have the right to attend GA meetings without voting rights and are not eligible for any office.
- 12.3. The Honorary Member shall be nominated by the Executive Board.
- 12.4. A Honorary Member may be suspended or expelled by the GA in application of Suspension of membership and expulsion. The Honorary member may resign in application of Article 11.1 by analogy.

13. Legislative, Executive and Administrative Body of the EDSO

13.1. Structure of EDSO

The bodies of EDSO are:

- a) the GA;
- b) the Executive Board;
- c) the Secretariat;
- d) the standing and ad-hoc Commissions

14. The General Assembly (GA)

14.1. The GA is the supreme governing body of EDSO. A GA may be an Ordinary or an Extraordinary GA. A GA may be held in person or by videoconference if necessary.

14.1.1. The GA shall be held every year

14.1.2. The full members must be notified of the date and place of the GA at least four months in advance.

14.1.3. All applications and questions to be submitted to GA by full and associate members must be sent to the Secretariat of the EDSO not later than three months before the month in which the GA is to be held. Only those items included in the agenda may be discussed.

14.1.4. The agenda, reports, financial reports and applications must be sent to all full members at least one month before the date of the GA.

14.1.5. Full and associate members are entitled to have representation from a maximum of two delegates.

14.1.6. Provisional Members in attendance at the GA may be represented by one (1) delegate.

14.1.7. Delegates must be at least 18 years old, shall belong to the Member of their legal residence they represent, and be appointed by the appropriate body of that Member.

Delegates shall have sufficient ability to communicate in International Sign to participate effectively in meetings.

14.2. Extraordinary GA of the EDSO

14.2.1. An Extraordinary GA may be convened at any time by either the Executive Board or if an one-third (1/3) of the Members eligible to vote make such a request in writing.

14.2.2. A request for an Extraordinary GA shall state the reasons for such request, the agenda of the proposed Extraordinary GA and be signed by the EDSO President or all the Members making the request for the Extraordinary GA, as the case requires.

- 14.2.3. Provided that the above requirements are met, the proposed Extraordinary GA shall be held within 30 days after the receipt of the request.
- 14.2.4. Members shall be notified by the Secretariat in writing of the place, date and agenda not less than 15 days before the date of the Extraordinary GA.

14.3. Quorum & decisions

- 14.3.1. The quorum to hold a GA is met when a simple majority (50 % +1) of the Members in Good Standing and entitled to vote.
- 14.3.2. Decision of the GA shall be adopted by a simple majority of Full, Associate Members present and voting, except if explicitly stated otherwise in the EDSO Constitution.

14.4. Right to participate to the discussions and to vote

- 14.4.1. Full, Associate and Provisional Members, as well as Honorary Members, have the right to participate in discussions at the GA at which they are present.
 - 14.4.2. Only Full Members can vote, submit proposals and nominate candidates for the Executive Board and Commissions. Full Members shall be granted one (1) vote each. They are entitled to cast their votes only if they are in Good Standing and present at the GA. Any voting by proxy is not allowed.
 - 14.4.3. Associate Members cannot nominate their own candidates for the Executive Board and the Commission but are eligible to submit proposals and can vote for nominate candidates. Associate Members shall be granted one (1) vote each. They are entitled to cast their votes only if they are in Good Standing and present at the GA.
 - 14.4.4. Provisional Members and Honorary Members cannot vote, nor submit proposals, nor nominate their own candidates.
- 14.5. The procedure of voting, including the appointment and duties of scrutineers, shall be governed by the Bylaws.

14.6. The responsibilities and powers of GA include namely:

- 14.6.1. to act as the supreme governing body of the EDSO;
- 14.6.2. to determine the direction for the development of European Deaf Sports;
- 14.6.3. to elect the members of the Executive Board;
- 14.6.4. to consider and approve proposals from the Members, the Commissions, and the Executive Board;
- 14.6.5. to decide on the admission, suspension or exclusion of Members;
- 14.6.6. to approve a chairperson and the agenda;
- 14.6.7. to review and ratify the minutes of the previous GA;

- 14.6.8. to consider and approve the certified independent auditor's financial reports;
 - 14.6.9. to consider and approve the rules of procedure for the election of the office bearers;
 - 14.6.10. to consider and approve the annual membership fees;
 - 14.6.11. to decide on the dissolution of the EDSO;
 - 14.6.12. to consider and approve the Executive Board's report;
 - 14.6.13. to amend the Constitution;
 - 14.6.14. to remove Executive Board Members;
 - 14.6.15. to exercise any other incidental powers necessary for the GA to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to the EDSO Constitution.
- 14.7. The names of the delegates must be sent to the Executive Director two month before the opening of the GA in order to establish if there will be a quorum.
- 14.8. GA or Extraordinary GA can be cancelled by decision of the Executive Board if it is expected that a quorum will not be achieved.

15. The Executive Board

- 15.1. The Executive Board of the EDSO consists of five members:
- 15.1.1. President
 - 15.1.2. Vice-President
 - 15.1.3. Three (3) Members
- 15.2. The Executive Director, Treasurer and Sport Coordinator shall be appointed by the Executive Board. They are responsible for the daily administration and finances of EDSO, respectively, but shall not form part of the Executive Board.
- 15.3. The members shall have regard to the following matters when electing the Executive Board, namely their expertise, skill level and equality representation.
- 15.4. For all the Executive Board members, key skills and qualifications are required, such as:
- 15.4.1. An excellent understanding of the basic universal principles of good governance in sport;
 - 15.4.2. Empathy for international deaf sports;
 - 15.4.3. Excellent organisational and communication skills;
 - 15.4.4. Ability to effectively lead and manage groups of people and to foster the EDSO vision, mission, objectives, and goals.
- 15.5. All members of the Executive Board shall be elected by full members entitled to vote at the GA.
- 15.6. All members of the Executive Board must be deaf, with good code of conduct and behaviour able to use International Sign communication and be a member of their NDSF.

- 15.7. Elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as Executive members of any international deaf sports bodies at the European Level.
- 15.8. Members of the Executive Board are representatives of the EDSO. They must not follow instructions from governments or from any organisation or individual, which in any way would bind them or interfere with the independence of their vote.
- 15.9. The NDSF can run with single nomination for the Executive Board with a candidate from its own country.
- 15.10. The members of the Executive Board shall be elected for four years and that there is an appropriate gender balance.
- 15.11. The office for the members of the Executive Board begins and expires at the end of the GA at which the election has taken place.
- 15.12. The Executive Board shall meet at least three (3) times per year, in person or by electronic means.
- 15.13. The Executive Committee shall adopt and amend the Bylaws of EDSO, which regulate the implementation of this Constitution and other procedural matters.
- 15.14. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the administration of the EDSO and shall have complete power to make appropriate decisions.
- 15.15. At request of three members of the Executive Board, the President must convene an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Board.
- 15.16. The Executive Board members shall:
 - 15.16.1. Support and report to the EDSO President, and in their absence or upon designation, preside over meetings and represent the EDSO;
 - 15.16.2. Provide impartial advice to the Executive Board;
 - 15.16.3. Chair of any Commissions as agreed by the Executive Board, with an exception for Ethics and Athletes Commission.
 - 15.16.4. The members of the Executive Board, without specific roles, will undertake duties as seen fit by the Executive Board, to support EDSO in achieving their objectives.
- 15.17. The Executive Director must seek the approval of the Executive Board before the engagement of the permanent staff of the Secretariat.
- 15.18. The Treasurer must seek the approval of the Executive Board before the engagement of permanent staff of the Treasury.

15.19. The Executive Board approves any relocation of EDSO Secretariat in Europe.

16. The President

- 16.1. Represent EDSO towards stakeholders and partners;
- 16.2. Lead EDSO, coordinate and support all office bearers and Commissions;
- 16.3. Chair the GA and the meetings of the Executive Board and – unless provided elsewhere otherwise – sit on Commissions and committees concerned with the functions of EDSO, with an exception for Ethics Commission and Legal Commission;
- 16.4. Provide direction to the activities of the Executive Director;
- 16.5. Act as the primary liaison between EDSO members, Executive Board and the Executive Director. The President is a member of the Executive Board of the ICSD as representative of the Regional Deaf Sports Confederation;
- 16.6. If the President is unable to perform these duties, their place shall be taken by the Vice-President.

17. The Executive Director

- 17.1. The Executive Director shall be the head of the Secretariat of the EDSO.
- 17.2. The Executive Director and Secretariat shall strive to achieve the EDSO vision, mission, objectives, and goals and shall act in a professional and ethical manner at all times.
- 17.3. The Secretariat shall support the Executive Board and keep them informed of all issues that may impact EDSO.
- 17.4. The Executive Director shall report to and take direction from the EDSO President
- 17.5. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the drawing up of the minutes of the GA and the meetings of the Executive Board. The Executive Director shall conduct the correspondence of the EDSO.
- 17.6. The Executive Director shall liaise with the EDSO Treasurer in relation to financial matters regarding GA, Executive Board meetings and EDSO events.
- 17.7. The Executive Director shall act as intermediary between the EDSO, the NDSF and the Organizing Committee of the European Championships of the Deaf.
- 17.8. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Executive Board for his administration and the appointment and work of the staff of the Secretariat.

18. Sport Coordinator and Sport Directors of the EDSO

18.1. Sport Coordinator coordinate the Sports Director in the operational planning and organization of competitions, events, and development programs;

18.1.1. Maintains contact with Sport Directors;

18.1.2. Reports to the Executive Director and Executive Board.

18.2. 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.

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

18.4. 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 Board* - of the European Championships.

18.5. Copies of all official correspondence regarding European Championships must be sent to the Executive Director and nominated Official.

18.6. The Sport Directors are under the supervision of the Executive Board and liaise with the member designed by the Executive Board and to work honourably.

18.7. The NDSF is responsible for reimbursing any expenses incurred by the Sport Directors and the responsible EDSO nominated Official in relation to organizing the European Championships.

19. Commissions of the EDSO

19.1. The Executive Board may establish any of the following Commissions, which shall be written report to the GA:

19.1.1. Athletes Commission

19.1.2. Ethics Commission

19.1.3. Legal Commission

19.1.4. Anti-Doping Commission

19.1.5. Youth Commission

19.1.6. Women Commission

19.1.7. Such additional commissions as the Executive Board may deem necessary.

19.2. The Executive Board can appoint members for all Commissions after an open call, with an exception for the Athletes Commission.

19.3. The Commission members and the Chairperson of this Commission shall be appointed for a four (4) year term.

19.4. The Ethics and Athletes Commission members appoint the Chairperson of this Commission between these members.

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

20. Finances

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

20.2. The funds of the EDSO consist of:

20.2.1. Annual membership fees of Members and any levies;

20.2.2. Such contributions, donations, sponsorships, government grants and other income as may be received for use by or in connection with the EDSO.

20.3. Subject to any resolution of the GA, the funds are to be used in pursuing the EDSO vision, mission, objectives and goals in such manner as the Executive Board determines.

20.4. No portion of the funds is to be distributed directly or indirectly to any person except as a bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the EDSO.

20.5. Power of Attorney: President, Vice President and Executive Director can have two of three together give power of attorney for Bank Finance.

20.6. The EDSO accounts and financial reports shall be submitted to the EDSO Executive Board annually and, at its request, at any time.

20.7. The EDSO projected budget shall be submitted to the Executive Board on an annual basis.

- 20.8. The Executive Board may appoint a chartered accountant or audit company to examine and certify the financial statements, if required by law or deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
- 20.9. The audit or review report shall be presented to the Executive Board.
- 20.10. Members are not personally liable for the debts or obligations of the EDSO.

21. Dispute Resolution

- 21.1. Any dispute arising under this Constitution or any other EDSO regulations and/or from decisions of EDSO (or its bodies) shall be submitted to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).
- 21.2. The provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall apply. CAS shall primarily apply the EDSO Constitution and Regulations, and additionally the applicable law.
- 21.3. Appeals against final decisions of EDSO shall be lodged with CAS within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the decision.

22. Dissolution of the EDSO

- 22.1. EDSO shall be dissolved if that a proposal to this effect is passed by a seventy-five percent - 75% - majority vote of Full Members present and entitled to vote at the GA.
- 22.2. Upon dissolution, the assets and all profits, if any, after payment of all expenses and liabilities shall be conveyed to the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) or any other Organisation having similar vision, mission, and objectives (and benefiting from a tax exemption on account of their public utility or public service purpose), chosen by a simple majority vote of the Members present and entitled to vote at the GA. The EUD or any other organisation must keep the documents for 10 years. The assets of EDSO may not be returned to the Members, their successors, assignees or to members of the Executive Board.

23. Amendments of Constitution

- 23.1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by Full Members or by the Board. Such proposals must be submitted to the Board at least sixty (60) days before the date of the forthcoming GA or Extraordinary GA.
- 23.2. The Legal Commission shall consider the amendments to the EDSO Constitution and make recommendations to the Executive Board.
- 23.3. The Executive Board shall consider the recommendations from the Legal Commission and shall add their own recommendations for consideration and approval at the GA.

23.4. Amendments to this Constitution shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Full Members present and entitled to vote at the GA or Extraordinary GA and requires the presence at the GA of an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the Members in Good Standing eligible to vote to be valid.

Historical modifications of the EDSO Constitution from 1983 – 2025

Agreed: At the Founding in Antibes (FRA) on 7 July 1983

Modified: At the 4th EDSO in Trier (GER) on 23/24 June 1988

Modified: At the 6th EDSO in Sierra Chevalier (FRA) on 14/15 March 1992

Modified: At the 7th EDSO in Merano (ITA) on 19/20 May 1994

Modified: At the 9th EDSO in Vilnius (LTU) on 20/21 June 1998

Modified: At the 11th EDSO in Amsterdam (NED) on 21/22 June 2002

Modified: At the 12th EDSO in Ljubljana (SLO) on 17/18 June 2004

Modified: At the 13th EDSO in Baden (AUT) on 24/25 August 2006

Modified: At the 14th EDSO in Bratislava (SVK) on 10/12 September 2008.

Modified: At the 17th EDSO in Antalya (TUR) on 19/20 September 2014.

Modified: At the 18th EDSO in Yerevan (ARM) on 7/8 July 2016.

Modified: At the 21st EDSO in Mechelen (BEL) on 27/28 October 2022.

Modified: At the 22nd EDSO in Paris (FRA) on 1/2 October 2024

Modified: At the 23rd EDSO Extraordinary in Hannover (GER) on 15 August 2025

President:

Iosif Stavrakakis

Executive Director:

Anton Petrič