



Japanese Deaf Sports Federation (JDSF)
S.K. Building 130 Yamabuki-cho Shinjuku-ku Tokyo 162-0801, Japan
Tel: +81-3-3268-8847 Fax: +81-3-3267-3445
E-mail: jdsc@jfd.or.jp URL: <https://www.jfd.or.jp/>

To: Richard Douglas Ewald, Organizing Committee CEO,
Gustavo de Araujo Perazzolo, ICSD President,

May 11, 2022

Dear Richard Douglas Ewald, Organizing Committee CEO,
Gustavo de Araujo Perazzolo, ICSD President,

As of 10 May, COVID-19 infected persons in the Japanese delegation were as follows.

1. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
2. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
3. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
4. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
5. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
6. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
7. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
8. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
9. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
10. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)
11. xxxxxxxx (xxxxxx)

In order to avoid cause COVID-19 infection spread to Brazilian citizens and to athletes from other Deaflympics participating countries, as well as within the Japanese delegation, those infected persons and their closed contacts are also being isolated in their own rooms. This is not for Japan, but for all participants and citizens.

JDSF request and protest as follows:

1. JDSF protests that the ICSD and the Organising Committee failed to fulfil their responsibilities to implement COVID-19 measures at the 24th Summer Deaflympics. At the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and international sporting events, the Organising Committee issues guidelines on COVID-19 infection prevention and all national athletes act accordingly.

However, no guidelines have been issued for the Deaflympics in Brazil. Also, in the Deaflympics Square and at the various competition venues, athletes have not been masked and the necessary disinfection has not been carried out. In particular, swimming and badminton venues tend to be closed spaces, but no COVID-19 measures have been taken.

The prevalence of COVID-19 is evident from the fact that abstentions have occurred not only in Japan but also among athletes from other countries.

The ICSD has a responsibility to instruct the Organising Committee on COVID-19 measures, which it is not being done so. JDSF also protest that the Organising Committee did not taking any action.

2. JDSF protests that the ICSD and the Organising Committee do not carry out PCR tests on participants.

At the Beijing Winter Olympics, PCR testing was conducted on athletes upon arrival at the country and daily during the Games as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 infection.

At the Deaflympics in Brazil, the chef de mission (CDM) explained that PCR testing would be carried out on arrival at Porto Alegre airport for everyone, but in fact it was not. In addition, daily PCR tests were not given to the athletes. If an athlete is suspected of being infected, he or she must be tested at his or her own expense in the square.

JDSF protest that the ICSD and the Organising Committee failed to fulfil their responsibility to protect the lives of athletes.

3. The Japanese team has decided to abstain from all competitions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection. JDSF requests that the fine exemption for Japanese team.

COVID-19 spreads further to athletes and teams by forcing them to compete, from the fear that they will be fined if they abstain, fear of discrimination against COVID-19 infection, and not being able to take the PCR test because they do not have enough money. This will make the Deaflympics in Brazil not a great Games, but a pandemic, a Games to be remembered as a Games of fear.

In order to protect the lives of the participating athletes and citizens and to maintain pride in the Deaflympics, the Japanese team has decided to abstain from all competitions from 11 May onwards.

Here are the results of the PCR test of the Japanese team and the medical certificate.

JDSF requests that the Japanese team be exempted from fines for abstaining from all competitions.

4. JDSF demands ICSD shall instruct its members not to discriminate or exclude anyone on the grounds of COVID-19.

When the Japanese men's volleyball team participated on May 10, 2022, they were suddenly asked by their opponents, Italy, to provide negative proof. Japan will be quarantined at the point of suspicion of COVID-19 infection, at which point they will not be allowed to participate and the PCR test will be performed. If the results are positive, they are submitted to the ICSD with a medical certificate and reported. Japan act and work in a fair and honest manner.

It is problematic and discriminatory to ask for submission of a negative proof or asking only for the Japanese team. If submission of negative proof is required, it should be required of all teams. Italy apologised to Japan and Japan accepted it.

Various exclusions and discriminations on the grounds of "racism" and "politics" should not be allowed in sports field.

JDSF call on ICSD to urgently issue a statement to Deaflympics participants and national deaf sports committees to refrain from discrimination and exclusion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yasunori Shimamoto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yasunori SHIMAMOTO
Head of the Japanese delegation,
General Secretary of Japanese Deaf Sports Federation