

**Deaf Sports
&
Deaflympics**

**Presented
to
The International Olympic
Committee**

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THE DEAFLYMPICS

Introduction

The Deaflympics, under the patronage of the International Olympic committee (IOC), is the second oldest international multi-sport event in the world, having begun in 1924 (Olympic Games – 1896). In January 2005, the 20th Summer Deaflympics in Melbourne were completed with record athlete participation and increasing global interest and support.

This document provides a snapshot of the history of the Deaflympics, which is organized by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (CISS/ICSD), Deaf sports and its place in the world, facts and figures, organization structure, elite Deaf people in Deaf sports, relationships with the IOC, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and other organizations, critical periods and issues, and future aspirations.

History, Deaf sports and its' place in the world, and facts and figures about the ICSD

Deaf people, since time immemorial, have always found a way to find each other and share their commonality and, in particular, their need for visual communication through sign language. Since the first schools for the Deaf were established (Paris, 1755), Deaf people began congregating in more formal situations, primarily for social and cultural reasons. Most Deaf people were (and still are) born into hearing families. They have experienced difficulties with communication and especially the misunderstanding of how Deafness affects the ability to participate in society. This, in turn, has led to negative stereotypical attitudes towards them. A classic example is the term “Deaf and dumb” which describes Deaf people as “dumb”, “stupid” or “incompetent.” Societies everywhere have viewed Deaf people as intellectually inferior, linguistically impoverished and often have treated Deaf people as marginalized citizens.

Through the emergence of Deaf societies, church groups, reading clubs and so forth, Deaf sport clubs sprouted. In Europe, because of the proximity, between countries, local sporting clubs began to play ‘friendlies’ against teams from other countries. It took only a moment for Eugène Rubens-Alcais, himself Deaf and President of the French Deaf Sports Federation, to visualise the idea of an international sports event for Deaf people, following similar lines of the modern Olympic Games. Antoine Dresse, a young Deaf Belgian, was instrumental in helping him accomplish his dream.

The first Games, known as the International Silent Games, were held in Paris in 1924. The Silent Games were the first ever sports event for any group of people with disabilities. At the conclusion of the initial Paris Games, Deaf sporting leaders assembled at a nearby café and established an international governing body for Deaf sports.

This new organization, Le Comité International des Sports Silencieux (the International Committee of Silent Sports - CISS), was founded and was later renamed Le Comité International des Sports des Sourds (The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf).

The Games in 1924 included 124 athletes from nine countries and subsequent (summer) Games were held every four years with a break during World War II. The United States became the first non-European country to join ICSD in 1935. The Winter Games were first held in Austria in 1949 with 33 athletes from five countries.

In 1955, the IOC recognized ICSD as an “International Federation with Olympic standing.”

The Deaflympics are distinguished from other IOC sanctioned Games by the fact that they are organized and run exclusively by members of the community they serve. Only Deaf people are eligible to serve as voting delegates at the ICSD Congress and to serve on the ICSD board and executive bodies.

The first Games outside of Europe were the 1965 Summer Games held in Washington, DC, USA. In 1981, the Deaf World Games (as it was known then), in Cologne, Germany, was attended for the first time by an IOC President, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch. Anti-doping testing was also implemented that year.

The 75th anniversary of the organization was celebrated in 1999 and soon after, in 2001, the IOC officially recognized the new name of the Games as “Deaflympics.” (**Appendix A-Letter from IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch**)

Melbourne hosted the 2005 Summer Deaflympics, the second time it had been held in the southern hemisphere (New Zealand -1989). In providing a sense of the participation levels in these 2005 Games:

- 3,488 Athletes / team officials from 74 countries attended;
- 21 international media groups were present;
- Web streaming provided to over 4 million subscribers;
- 14,000+ attended opening ceremony;
- 65 interpreters (19 international sign, 35 Auslan, 10 Deaf relay interpreters);
- 1783 volunteers (266 Deaf / hard of hearing).

Athletes competed in fifteen (15) different sports competitions, including swimming, athletics, tennis, ten-pin bowling, basketball, indoor volleyball, beach volleyball, table tennis, handball, wrestling, cycling, football, orienteering, shooting and badminton. The Games used assistive visual devices in swimming, water polo, athletics, shooting and basketball. These devices were flashing lights that replaced the starter’s gun or referee’s whistle.

What was also exceptional with the Melbourne 2005 Games was first, the number of Deaflympics website hits from around the globe. During the Games over 5 million hits were tallied; and secondly, and importantly for the host city, the assessment in economic benefit to the City of Melbourne was estimated at over \$19 million.

Each edition of the Deaflympics are organised by the national Deaf Sport organization, after successfully bidding for the Games. The local Deaf Sports organization then forms a company/Board to specifically organise and manage the Deaflympics on their behalf. The company/Board is responsible for raising funds and seeking sponsorship support to ensure the Deaflympics are held at an elite level as required by ICSD regulations. In some instances governments, in partnership with the national organization, play a significant part in the operation of the Games. National and local sporting organizations are enlisted to assist with the running of the sport events. The involvement of hearing government and hearing sports officials necessitates a high level of sign language interpreting to assist them in their communication with Deaf officials and athletes.

Visual presentation of information during the Games for both athletes and visitors are a critical part of the Games infrastructure which includes the use of video screens, captioning and information boards. A visual environment is critical for communication with Deaf athletes, Deaf officials and Deaf spectators.

The 16th edition of Winter Deaflympics was held in 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and included 300 athletes from 20 countries. Chinese Taipei will host the next summer Games in 2009 and Slovakia will host the 2011 Winter Games.

As of 2008, the ICSD has 98 member countries. Among relative newcomers enjoying the benefits of this worldwide network of sports and social inclusion are such geographically disparate countries as Mongolia, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Estonia, Uruguay, Iceland and Swaziland. Sport continues to be a bonding force in the local and global Deaf community. The value of coming together for a celebration of Deaf sport, where culture and language are not barriers, was clearly demonstrated at the Melbourne 2005 Summer Deaflympics where the biggest ever contingency of countries and athletes / team officials attended.

Like the Olympics and International Sport Associations, athletes, Deaf or hearing, strive to achieve their best and aim to break records. World records in Deaf sports are recorded providing all the necessary competition requirements have been met.

World championships in several Deaf sports are held, usually prior to the Deaflympics. There are also some sports not included in the Deaflympics, such as lawn bowls, golf, and martial arts which have world championship events. Championships in various sports within regions (such as European, Asia-Pacific, African and Pan-American) are held regularly, particularly when elimination matches between countries are required if nominations for entry into a Deaflympics team sport is greater than allowed.

WIDEX, makers of hearing aids, sponsors an award for Deaf Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year. Nominations of male and female athletes are made yearly by national Deaf sports federations. The ICSD Executive Committee serves as the electors in the selection of a male and female athlete who has performed exceptionally well in either Deaf sports or other international sport events. Additionally, during the Summer Deaflympics, WIDEX honors an athlete with a "Fair Play" award

The ICSD organization, structure and elite Deaf people in Deaf sports

The ICSD Executive Committee is unique because it is run only by Deaf members. There are six (6) voting members who have been elected by the Congress and four (4) non-voting members who automatically have a seat on the board as regional representatives. Members of the Executive Committee come from all parts of the world and communicate in different sign languages. Therefore meetings are conducted in international signs. The Congress of all Full members meets every two years, during the summer and winter Deaflympics, and is represented by two delegates from each country. Due to funding and support constraints, some member countries are not able to send delegates to the Congress meetings and rely on attending regional meetings.

An Extraordinary Congress of the ICSD of all Full Members is requisitioned either by the President of the ICSD or upon request of at least one-third of Full Members from at least two Regional Confederations. All members of the Executive Committee must be a Deaf person fluent in international signs. The officers include President, Vice-President, Sport Director, three members-at-large; and the President or his appointee from each Regional Confederation in a non-voting capacity.

Included in the objectives of the ICSD are:

- To be the international representative organization for Deaf Sports.
- To develop and to promote sports training and competition in the Deaf international sporting community.
- To develop new training programs and expand existing opportunities for Deaf persons to participate in sports at international standards.
- To promote the organization and development of Deaf sports in developing countries.
- To liaise with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and General Association of International Sport Federations (GAISF) in pursuance of these objectives.
- To liaise with the various international sports federations (FIFA, FIBA, etc) in providing continued guidance and resources for Deaf athletes and Deaf sports programs.

The evolution of any organization always includes people who have been pivotal to its initial and on-going development. Within the ICSD organization there have been many Deaf individuals who have played an integral role in its establishment as well as the increasing force it is today. These people include *Eugene Rubens-Alcais (France)*, an auto mechanic by profession and a competitive cyclist who came to be known as the Deaf version of Baron de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympics. Rubens-Alcais developed his vision of international games for the Deaf, after establishing a Deaf sports organization in France and witnessing the 1924 Olympic Games held in Paris. *Antoine Dresse (France)* was the founding Secretary-General of ICSD and he held this post for 43 years until he retired in 1967. *Knud Søndergaard (Denmark)* was Secretary-General from 1973-97. *Jerald Jordan (USA)* was the ICSD President between 1971- 95, and received the Olympic Order from the IOC in 1995.

While there have been elite Deaf sport administrators, as mentioned, there are an increasing number of elite Deaf sports people. These individuals have not only excelled in international Deaf sport events, but also elite international sport events competing against hearing people. Many of these Deaf athletes achieve this elite level through competition in Deaf sports, where they were able to develop skills and gain confidence to move on to greater achievements.

Such people include:

Jeff FLOAT (USA) – 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games (Swimming-Gold Medalist)

Cindy-Lu FITZPATRICK (Australia) – 1982 Brisbane & 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games (Swimming)

Dean Barton SMITH (Australia) – 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games and 1990 Auckland & 1994 Victoria Commonwealth Games (Decathlon)

Terrence PARKIN (South Africa) – 2000 Sydney Olympic Games (Swimming –Silver Medalist)

Frank BARTOLILLO (Australia) – 2004 Athens Olympic Games (Fencing)

Tony ALLY (Great Britain) -2004 Athens Olympic Games (Diving)

Jueri JAANSON (Estonia) - 2004 Athens Olympic Games (Rowing, Single Sculls- Silver Medalist) & 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (Rowing, Double Sculls- Silver Medalist)

Hugo PASSOS (Portugal) - 2004 Athens Olympic Games (Wrestling)

Tamika CATCHINGS (USA) - 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (Basketball-Gold Medalist)

Chris COLWILL (USA) - 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (3m springboard Diving)

Maria Belen DUTTO (Argentina)-2008 Beijing Olympic Games (BMX cycling)

Norbert KALUCZA (Hungary) - 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (Boxing)

Fausto QUINDE (Ecuador) - 2008 Beijing Olympic Games (50m Race walking)



The logo for Deaflympics, designed in 2003 by a Deaf graphic design artist who was also a cycling silver medalist, is a positive and powerful symbol of the international Deaf sports community. It ties together strong elements: Sign language, Deaf and international cultures, unity and continuity.

The hand shapes, "ok", "good", and "great" that overlap each other in a circle, represent the original sign for "Olympics". With two hands together, the hand shapes represent the sign for "united".

The center of the logo represents the iris of the eye, which defines Deaf people as visual people, using their eyes to communicate.

The logo incorporates the four colors of the national flags of the world. The red, blue, yellow and green represent the four regional confederations – the Asia Pacific Deaf Sports Federation, the European Deaf Sports Organization, the Pan American Deaf Sports Federation and the Confederation of African Deaf Sports.

Relationships – IOC, IPC and other organizations

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

One of the primary objects of the ICSD as a member in good standing is to liaise with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and General Association of International Sport Federations (GAISF). We are proud of, and value this association. The ICSD's relationship with the IOC is a critically important one and continues to be fostered through regular meetings. The ICSD was admitted into the IOC, as an International Federation with Olympic Standing in 1955. In 1966, the organization was awarded the Olympic Cup by the IOC for its services to sports. In 1981, the IOC President, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch attended the Deaflympics in Cologne, Germany and again for the 1997 Deaflympics in Copenhagen, Denmark. The flag of the IOC has flown next to that of the ICSD since 1985.

International Paralympic Committee (IPC)

A brief description of Disability sport shows that it is divided into three broad disability groups: Deaf people; people with physical disabilities; and people with intellectual disabilities. Each group has its own history, organization and approach. Some of the organized sports are based on existing sports and adapted to meet the needs of the people playing. Furthermore, many sports played by disabled people are not adapted but variants of able-bodied sports.

While the ICSD and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) have collaborated over the years, the ICSD organization questioned the merit of a move towards the incorporation of the Deaflympics into the Paralympics. In the 1990s, some national Deaf sport governing bodies felt that hosting the Deaflympics were becoming increasingly more expensive, as was the cost of participating in them. Government and public money was not easy to obtain and the idea of joining with the IPC might not only reduce these costs, but take advantage of the high public profile the Paralympic Games enjoyed (Stewart & Ammons, 1994). The IOC was also keen for this partnership.

However, in recognition of the unique communication requirements of Deaf athletes, the prohibitive costs to the IPC of providing sign language interpreters, and the inability for the Paralympic Games to accommodate the growing numbers of Deaf competitors, the ICSD had no other recourse but to withdraw its membership with the IPC. Members of the ICSD Congress could not support eliminating the number of sporting events that would be offered for Deaf athletes if they were to compete at each Paralympic Games. The IPC made it clear that they could not afford to be the umbrella organization for the existing Deaf Games without a serious reduction in the number of events and given the number of sign language interpreters that would be required.

Additionally, the ICSD organization had been (and continues to be) a role model for the national and local Deaf sporting organizations around the world. Since 1924 the ICSD had been organized and administered BY Deaf people, experiencing self governance and self regulation. Without an equitable merger of the ICSD and the IPC, the outcome of

any agreement with the IPC would result in ICSD and their Games being organized and administered FOR Deaf people. This is an important concept for any organization which is self-governed – the organization BY its constituents as opposed to being managed BY an outside group on their behalf. Because of the ICSD’s philosophy of leadership BY Deaf people, this also became the model for local and national Deaf sports organizations, enabling Deaf people from all over the world to enjoy empowerment and self-governance in the arena of Deaf sports. The IOC has respected this decision and has continued to provide recognition and support.

In November 2004, officials from the ICSD and the IPC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in the hope of creating a collaborative landscape in international competition and a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities as separate organizations. There was further understanding that Deaf athletes with additional disabilities would be able to participate in various IPC events, and conversely, multi-disabled Paralympic athletes with at least 55 dB hearing loss in the better ear could compete in the ICSD and the Deaf World Championships. The agreement was developed with the intention that it would provide the National Olympic Committees and the National Paralympic Committees with better awareness and understanding of ICSD and Paralympics as two separate organizations that manage their own quadrennial event – Deaflympics and Paralympic Games respectively.

Other stipulations of the MOU include:

- To mutually recognize and respect the autonomy of their organizations
- To cooperate in informing sports authorities of the international structures of both organizations.
- To cooperate in addressing conflicts between the affiliated organization.

International Sports Federations:

The ICSD has worked diligently with various International Sports Federations, especially over the past 10 years. We have arranged for Deaf referees and umpires to obtain training from various sports federations. These referees are then qualified and available to officiate events at the Deaflympics, World Championships and local competitions, including high school and college competitions throughout the world. One example of this is FILA referee, Ron Gough, who is Deaf and has FILA Category III certification.

In 2007, FIBA International licensed trainers, Oscar Lefwert and Asa Johansson, provided a seminar on officiating to 10 Deaf participants: Jerzy Bednarczuk and Roland Soverzo, from Germany; Chara Grammatoglou and Toni Koutsoumaris from Greece; Fabio Scarpa, Italy; Per Pilstrom, Sweden; Hsin-dar Lee, Taiwan; Marsha Wetzel (female) and Chris Miller, USA; and Yuri Strelets, Ukraine are now certified basketball referees.

Critical periods and issues

Global recognition and support

There is no doubt that having a major international Deaf sport event has an enormous social and awareness impact on the local community wherever the event is held. Hauland, a Deaf social anthropologist, illustrates a common example shared by many who attended ICSD events over the years: "...the signing people gradually become more visible in Rome. As more and more spectators arrived, they also increasingly left their mark on Rome. There were Deaf people at the trams, at piazzas, in the streets, in all the different city partsThe city did not only get a different visible feature, the density of Deaf people could soon be noticed in the way the servants and the waiters treated their guests. The first few days, most waiters just looked somewhat confused and puzzled in their attempts to communicate with their Deaf clients or guests ... but within days many servants had improved their visual communicating skills noticeably (Breivik, 2002. p. 20)."

The recent 2005 Melbourne Games saw record international and national media interest in the Deaflympics. And for the first time, access to the internet allowed those around the globe who were not physically present feel part of the event through downloading video highlights of each day's events as well as receiving results.

The ICSD organization is continually working towards enabling more Deaf people from those countries who have difficulty participating in sport by liaising with governments to encourage the creation of programs that enable participation by Deaf people in the local, national and international sporting community. Increasingly, the Deaflympics also serve as a bridge between athletes brought up in the traditional schools for Deaf children and the growing number of Deaf athletes from mainstream educational institutions. Deaf children today are increasingly being educated in general education schools along with their non-Deaf peers. This trend has been occurring in the United States and Canada for the past twenty years and is also evident in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany, and other countries in Western Europe. Those students enrolled in mainstreaming programs often do not have any access to sports programs. As a result, Deaf students attending these schools do not always get the exposure to sports necessary to help them develop into an elite athlete.

Audio testing / Cochlear Implants / Drug testing

The ICSD has included audio testing since 1970's, where all athletes are required to provide evidence that they have a hearing loss of greater than 55dB in their better ear. If satisfactory evidence is not received, or concerns are raised about the level of an athlete's hearing, the ICSD organization has staff personnel that provide audiological testing. In the past, some athletes have been caught either pretending they have a hearing loss or in wearing a hearing aid during competition. Since these offenses are clearly in violation of ICSD regulations, athletes who violate the regulations were banned from competition.

More and more Deaf athletes wear a cochlear implant and the only stipulation is that, like with hearing aids, they are not allowed to be worn during competition periods.

In July 2004 the ICSD organization became a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), which was a significant development. Previously there was no official anti-doping regulation in place apart from agreements between host cities facilitating international Deaf sporting events and the ICSD.

Conclusion

Unlike other games for athletes with disabilities, which are all directed by non-disabled officials, the ICSD is run by Deaf people for Deaf athletes. It is a requirement of the ICSD movements that this objective permeate all levels of Deaf sport (national and local).

It is not only the enjoyment of playing sport, but the importance of the social connection, central to how Deaf communities thrive and survive in today's world. As described by Ammons, "an important part of all international competition is the opportunity to meet and develop friendships with people all over the world. Deaf athletes are not so much rivals fiercely competing for a prize, as they are friends competing alongside and against one another.....no matter what sign language we use or what country we are from, the urge to socialize with one another will always be there because we are Deaf first and athletes second (Stewart, 1991)." Ammons is backed up by Olympic and World championship swimmer Terrence Parkin, who won 10 Gold medals in Melbourne 2005 ICSD and broke seven (7) Deaf world records. Parkin exemplifies the original objectives envisioned by the founding fathers, when he by-passed important international swimming championships to attend the Deaflympics, because being in Rome (2001) was "like being with family (Breivik, 2002. p. 29)."

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Problems from Disabled Sports and Others:

Given this comprehensive history and given our positive interactions with IOC and IPC we continue to have serious problems in educating disabled sports leaders and organizations throughout the world. (**Appendix B**)

For context, this is the IPC's stated categories of disabled athletes:

http://www.paralympic.org/release/Main_Sections_Menu/Classification/

.....athletes who belong to six different disability groups in the Paralympic Movement are amputee, cerebral palsy, visual impairment, spinal cord injuries, intellectual disability and a group which includes all those that do not fit into the aforementioned groups (les Autres).

The following section consists of examples of difficulties the ICSD is experiencing:

1. Dr. Hossam Eldin Mostafa, Secretary General of African Sports Confederation of Disabled, sent a letter to Mr. Peter Kalae, President of Confederation of African Deaf Sports (CADS), stating that African Sports Confederation of Disabled (ASCOD) is the *only* continental sports organization responsible about all disabilities *including Deaf*, and was recognized by Supreme Council of Sports in Africa (SCSA) and Union of African Sports Confederations (UCSA) and Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOCA).
2. The French Ministry of Sport, in 2007, during its major overhaul of sports programming, made a unilateral decision that the Federation Sportive des Sourds des France (FSSF) shall cease its independence and that Deaf sports shall be under the direction of the Federation Francaise Handisports (FFH). This decision was made against the wishes of FSSF, and regardless of the attempted diplomatic intervention of ICSD. As a result, France is no longer a member of ICSD. It is important to note that the Federation Sportive des Sourds des France (FSSF) was one of the charter members of ICSD in 1924.
3. In late 2007, the UAE Paralympic Committee informed ICSD of its jurisdiction over all disabled sports including Deaf sports. It stressed that having an official registration with the International Paralympic Committee, it is the *ONLY* representative of the UAE Deaf Sports. ICSD immediately responded to affirm ICSD's role and responsibilities as the international governing body for Deaf sports, with copy to IPC and IOC. No response was received from the UAE Paralympic Committee. As a result, no Deaf athletes from UAE are participating in the 2009 Summer Deaflympics in Taipei.
4. The Paralympics Association of Botswana (PASSOBO) communicated to ICSD that it is the Sports Body responsible for co-coordinating the development of sports and recreation for People with Disabilities in Botswana, with a specific action plan which depends on the registration of Associations and Organizations which promote and develop Disability

Sports for all Disabilities (Spinal cord injuries-Polio-Amputees and Les Autres-Cerebral Palsy-Mental Handicap-Blind and Visually Impaired-Deaf) at all levels. Therefore, it requested for membership application in ICSD. In pursuance to ICSD constitution (4.1.2.1) for membership admission, an applicant must first be a registered or recognised self-governing organisation of Deaf sports in its country having a Deaf president and a majority of Deaf members holding executive positions.

5. Recently, the British Deaf athletes find themselves fighting for the chance to participate and compete in the Taipei Summer Deaflympics in September 2009, mainly because the British Government has withdrawn funding from the Great Britain Deaflympic team. Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe MP, Minister for Sport, in his letter to UK Deaf Sport on the 29th February 2008 stated that the “difficult decision taken by UK Sport has come from their need to focus on a programme of support for their elite Olympic and Paralympic athletes in the lead up to Beijing 2008 and London 2012”.

National Governments and National Olympic Committees

The above stated problems, and many other problems we face, arise because there is no clear distinction in many governments and NOCs regarding disabled sports. To take it one step further, these problems exist because there is no clear recognition of ICSD/Deaflympics as a separate, equal and independent body within the IOC family.

The national governments and national Olympic committees recognize the IOC and IPC as the international governing body of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games respectively. With ICSD being the international governing body for Deaf sports throughout the world, there is presently no international governing body exclusively for the Summer and Winter Deaflympics.

When national Deaf sports federations go to their governments seeking support, the government officials or NOC officials are perplexed that something called CISS, or ICSD, is responsible for the Deaflympics. It is left to the Deaf sports federations to persistently explain to their national governments and national Olympic committees that despite the fact there is no governing body solely for Deaflympics, the national Deaf sports federation within that country is actually responsible for their national team's participation in the Deaflympics.

One of two things can transpire at this point. It may be that the government or NOC refuses to recognize the authority of the unknown entity of the CISS/ICSD and insists that the IPC control Deaf sports, as we see in the examples above. This direction has not only caused difficulties for many of our national sports federations, but is also not acceptable to our organization. This posture will lead to the extinction of Deaf sports.

On the other hand, the government or NOC insists that a national Deaflympic committee be established to oversee their national Deaflympic team's representation to the

Deaflympics. They also recognize the national Deaf sports federation in their country as the governing body for Deaf sports for local, national, regional and world championships.

When the IOC restricts the use of the name Deaflympics, we have found that the governments do not give equal recognition, respect and funding for their Deaf sports federations. We are now witnessing a decline in the number of Deaf athletes participating in the Deaflympics, primarily because of limited funds from their national governments. We have had to cancel some events due to insufficient number of athletes and/ or teams. This is a serious dilemma that warrants immediate attention and action from IOC.

Since 2005 we have witnessed a new dilemma when a country hosts a Summer or Winter Deaflympics. When the candidate city wins the bid to host the Games, the national government expects to deal directly with a national Deaflympic committee, not a national Deaf sports federation. We faced this in Australia in 2005, when the Australian Olympic Committee threatened their non-support. It was an intervention by Kevan Gospar, IOC member, which allowed the use of the name of Deaflympics in Australia.

In 2003, the Slovak Association of Deaf Sports (SADS), as a full member of ICSD, was awarded the hosting of the 2011 Winter Deaflympics. The Slovak government understandably expected to do business with the Slovak Deaflympic Committee in its preparation for the Winter Deaflympics. The Slovak government was appalled to learn that there was no national Deaflympic committee in Slovakia and that IOC would not allow it. The Slovak government issued an ultimatum that either a Slovak Deaflympic Committee be established or they would ask the Slovak Paralympic Committee (SPC) to oversee the 2011 Winter Deaflympics. Both the Slovak Association of Deaf Sports and ICSD found the management of the Deaflympics by the SPC totally unacceptable. After long deliberations, the Slovak government and Slovak Olympic Committee issued a mandate for the establishment of the Slovak Deaflympic committee to oversee its national Deaflympic program and the 2011 Winter Deaflympics.

To ensure continued financial support for their national Deaflympic teams' participation, there are approximately five or six countries that have been mandated to establish national Deaflympic committees in order to receive full support from their national governments and NOCs. On the other hand, in countries where there is no national Deaflympic committee, other Deaf sports federations are barely surviving.

As a symbol of self-determination, the ownership of the word Deaflympics is an important consideration of the organization. As you have seen above, it is mandated in some countries. Where Deaf sports federations are excluded and the national Paralympic organization takes over, it is leading to the death of national Deaf sports. Those countries which use the title "national Deaflympic committee" are enjoying equitable support, full participation in the international Deaflympics, and are producing elite Deaf athletes with appropriate training and coaching. In countries where the national Paralympic committee tries to control Deaf sports, there is limited money for training, uniforms, travel to local, regional or world championship events, or participation in the Deaflympics.

The CISS/ICS D has no control of the use of the term Deaflympics by national governments or NOCs. In adhering to the IOC'S basic universal principles for good governance, and adhering to the advice of President Rogge, given in August 2006, who told us that we could not interfere in each country's affairs, it would be inappropriate to do so.

Deaflympics trademark

Given the possibility of widespread use of the trademark of Deaflympics, it is important that the brand become protected. This will prevent groups or individuals from exploiting it for their own personal profit, to the detriment of the ICS D. The attempt by ICS D with assistance from IOC to secure trademark rights is being vigorously pursued. The ICS D has experienced difficulties with unauthorized persons using web sites and/or email addresses which attempt to represent the ICS D and/or Deaflympics. In one case we were able to negotiate with the owner of one such website to buy the rights to the name, Deaflympics; but there are other examples where website owners refuse to give up their rights and continue to misrepresent. Some of these websites or addresses can also misrepresent or demean the Olympic ideals. Since the ICS D has no control of these sites or addresses, we can only hope the issue of trademark will be shortly resolved.

(Appendix C)

ICS D desires to accentuate the importance of retaining and safeguarding the name of Deaflympics.

Mission and Role of IOC

The mission of the IOC is to promote *Olympism* throughout the world and to lead the Olympic Movement.

The IOC's role is to:

1. Encourage and support the promotion of ethics in sport as well as education of youth through sport and to dedicate its efforts to ensuring that, in sport, the spirit of fair play prevails and violence is banned;
2. Encourage and support the organisation, development and coordination of sport and sports competitions;
3. Ensure the regular celebration of the Olympic Games;
4. Cooperate with the competent public or private organizations and authorities in the endeavour to place sport at the service of humanity and thereby to promote peace;
5. ***Take action in order to strengthen the unity and to protect the independence of the Olympic Movement;***
6. ***Act against any form of discrimination affecting the Olympic Movement;***
7. Encourage and support the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures with a view to implementing the principle of equality of men and women;

8. Lead the fight against doping in sport;
9. Encourage and support measures protecting the health of athletes;
10. Oppose any political or commercial abuse of sport and athletes;
11. Encourage and support the efforts of sports organisations and public authorities to provide for the social and professional future of athletes;
- 12. Encourage and support the development of sport for all;**
13. Encourage and support a responsible concern for environmental issues, to promote sustainable development in sport and to require that the Olympic Games are held accordingly;
14. Promote a positive legacy from the Olympic Games to the host cities and host countries;
15. Encourage and support initiatives blending sport with culture and education;
16. Encourage and support the activities of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) and other institutions which dedicate themselves to Olympic education.

IOC Marketing

The IOC contributes Olympic marketing revenue to the programmes of various recognised international sports organisations, including the International Paralympic Committee, the Paralympic Organising Committee, and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

IOC-Resolutions of the Second Seminar on the Autonomy of the Olympic and Sports Movement

1. To welcome this Second Seminar for the breadth and depth of the contributions made by the entire Olympic and Sports Movement, thus demonstrating our abiding interest in this subject and our commitment and unity in addressing it as a priority.
2. To re-iterate that the Autonomy of the Olympic and Sports Movement is essential for the development of sport and the promotion of its values, for the benefit of all athletes.
- 3. To express the will of the Olympic Sports Movement to cooperate and work together with Governments and international institutions within a framework of mutual respect, to make sport and its benefits available to all citizens of the world.**
- 4. To evaluate the evolution of the Autonomy of sports organisations during the last 18 months, recognising the significant contribution made by all members of the Olympic Movement, while acknowledging a number of specific cases of serious interference which prove that this principle is not yet universally accepted.**
- 5. To emphasize Good Governance as the fundamental basis to secure the Autonomy of Olympic and Sports organisations and to ensure that this Autonomy is respected by our stakeholders.**
6. To provide in principle support for the draft document entitled 'Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement', which was presented to the Seminar, and to include the recommendations and modifications expressed during the Seminar prior to presentation at the 2009 Olympic Congress.
7. To immediately create the Olympic and Sports Network tasked to preserve our Autonomy and to ensure that this Network facilitates the exchange of information and provides a global analysis, which will be used as a basis for future decisions and actions where necessary.

United Nations Treaty

Article 30.5 under United Nations Treaty on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

After five years of negotiations, at the United Nations (UN) a new treaty to advance and protect the rights of persons with a disability was agreed to by delegates of all 192 UN Member Nations.

For the first time it is recognized that persons with a disability should have the right to participate in sporting activities with a choice between mainstream and disability-specific programmes; have equal access to sporting activities in the school system; and have access to sporting and recreational venues whether as a participant or as a spectator. Around 650 million people worldwide live with a disability.

The adoption of Article 30.5 holds a very important significance for Deaf and hard of hearing persons, who will at last comprehend the motto of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD)-“Per Ludos Aequalitias (Equality through sport)”.

The impact of this breakthrough which is both historic and legally binding, will go a long way in expanding Deaf and hard of hearing athletes’ abilities and protecting their rights to play and compete on an equal playing field.

The ICSD is committed to working closely with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in informing the competent sports authorities of the international structures of both organizations and addressing the inequalities or discrepancies that may arise at national level between the affiliated organizations.

With the adoption of Article 30.5 shall ensure that these athletes with disabilities have a global stage to display their sporting spirit and dedication by participating in the Deaflympics. More and better athletes will now be allowed to reach the pinnacle of disability-specific competition, and establish higher benchmarks.

Even better, the adoption of this specific article-30.5 will ensure more and significant level of respect and recognition that is due for Deaf and hard of hearing athletes who want to compete in the Deaflympics. We welcome the challenge to work with national governments, NGOs, international and national sport organizations in understanding that Deaf and hard of hearing athletes shall be treated with the same respect and dignity, as accorded to athletes with other disabilities.

An appeal to IOC:

The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD), the international governing body for Summer and Winter Deaflympics, admires and strives to emulate the

quadrennial Olympic Games, and aspires for their Deaflympics to be operated in the same professional manner of the recent Olympic Games. We are proud of the fact that we hold the Olympic Ideals and the spirit of Olympism strong in our organization.

We are committed to ensuring that our Summer and Winter Deaflympics receive greater acknowledgement and recognition at both national and international levels. We work to develop a world stage where our elite Deaf sports men and women can demonstrate their top performances and move into the highest field of the Olympic Games. We admire and applaud with pride, the feats of our Deaf athletes who compete in Deaflympics and in the Olympic Games.

However, given the events which have been discussed in various conversations at the IOC level over the past 3 years, and the above mentioned difficulties with various organizations and federations, we need your assistance to resolve these problems. At the present moment, we are facing interference, oppression and coercion by National Sports Federations to administer and manage sports FOR Deaf people. This is not acceptable.

It is imperative that international federations, national Olympic committees, and national governments recognize and respect the autonomy, independence and parity of ICSD. Apparently the MOU between ICSD and IPC has not been well distributed or well respected. As we asked President Rogge in our July 2006 meeting, and in several meetings with the IOC Sports Department and IOC Legal Affairs, we need the assistance of the IOC to make this distinction clearly understood through your member nations. Without this recognition, the Deaf sports movement is in danger of being eradicated.

According to the IOC's mission statement, Item 5 (unity), Item 6 (non discrimination) and Item 12 (sport for all), and the IOC resolutions for the Autonomy of the Olympic and Sports Movement, Item 3 (mutual respect), Item 4 (autonomy/serious interference), and Item 5 (autonomy) from above, these are some of the values that the IOC holds as important. The ICSD holds these values as important as well and asks that the IOC arbitrate on our behalf.

We ask that the IOC genuinely believe in us and to expressly commit themselves and their resources in keeping us a viable member of the IOC family. As we support the IOC in all that we do, we ask only the same in return. We appreciate the past discussions on inclusion in the Olympic Museum and in the IOC magazine, and to have an IOC representative visible at our summer and winter Deaflympics in order to make our organization more visible. But at the present moment, a bigger issue hangs over us. We need your immediate help.

Thank you.

Appendix A: Letter from IOC President- May 2001- Deaflympics



CITIUS · ALTIUS · FORTIUS

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

John M. LOVETT
President
International Committee of Sports of
the Deaf
814 Thayer Ave. Suite #350
US - Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA

Lausanne, 17 May 2001
Ref. no 10342/2001/GMF/cma

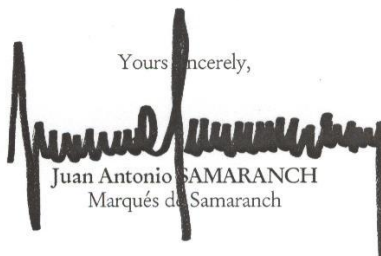
Re : Change of name

Dear Mr. Lovett,

Thank you for your letter dated 9th Mach 2001, the content of which has been duly noted.

It is my pleasure to inform you that, during its meeting held on 16th May 2001 in Lausanne, the IOC Executive Board decided to accept that the name of the CISS major event be changed from "Deaf World Games" to "Deaflympics".

Yours sincerely,



Juan Antonio SAMARANCH
Marqués de Samaranch

Appendix B: Disabled Sports intervention

1. African Sports Confederation of the Disabled (ASCOD)

2 February 2006

To: Phil Craven, IPC President
Gilbert Felli, IOC Olympic Games Director
Kelly Fairweather, IOC Sports Director

From: Donalda K. Ammons, President

RE: Intervention by African Sports Confederation of Disabled
Towards Deaf Sports in the African Continent

Attached you will find the letter that Dr. Hossam Eldin Mostafa, Secretary General of African Sports Confederation of Disabled sent to Mr. Peter Kalae, President of Confederation of African Deaf Sports (CADS). I find his letter disturbing.

Dr. Mostafa stated in his letter that African Sports Confederation of Disabled (ASCOD) is the *only* continental sports organization responsible about all disabilities *including Deaf* & recognized by Supreme Council of Sports in Africa (SCSA) and Union of African Sports Confederations (UCSA) and Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOCA).

It is clearly evident that ASCOD has not taken into consideration the Memorandum of Understanding that we signed with IPC on 30 November 2004 and also the IOC memorandum, which were sent to all National Olympic Committees in 2002, which were to provide the National Olympic Committees and the National Paralympic Committees with better awareness and understanding of ICSD and Paralympics as two separate organizations that manage their own quadrennial event – ICSD and Paralympics respectively.

Additionally, other stipulations of the MOU include: 1) to mutually recognize and respect the autonomy of Paralympics and Deaf sports & ICSD; 2) to cooperate in informing sports authorities of the international structures of both organizations; and 3) to cooperate in addressing conflicts between the affiliated organizations.

I respectfully request a response from IPC and IOC regarding this serious matter.

From IPC

International Committee of Sports for the Deaf
Ms. Donalda K Ammons

President
528 Trail Avenue
Frederick, Maryland 21701
USA
Via E-mail: ammons@ciss.org & ammons@Deaflympics.com

Bonn, 30 May 2006 UH/IPC

African Sports Confederation of Disabled (ASCOD)

Dear Ms. Ammons,

In response to your letter addressed to IPC President Sir Philip Craven dated 9 April 2006 regarding the African Sports Confederation of Disabled (ASCOC) and its intervention in state affairs of Deaf sports in Africa, I would like to emphasize that in accordance with our MOU, the IPC has already:

1. recognized the ICSD (International Committee of Sports for the Deaf) as an autonomous organization responsible for Deaf sports
2. when requested, informed the appropriate sports authorities of our structure and in particular ensured that in all our corporate communications it is clear that sports for the Deaf is not under our governance.
3. when requested, co-operated in addressing any conflict between affiliated organizations.

In relation to this particular case, we have informed ASCOD, as with all our members, of the role of ICSD versus the IPC. However, as I indicated in my previous letter, ASCOD is an independent organization recognized by the IPC as the Regional member for Africa.

ASCOD has not used its affiliation to the IPC to claim the responsibility over Deaf sports in Africa. Furthermore, ASCOD did not mention the IPC affiliation or recognition in their letter to Peter Kalae.

We believe that in the first instance this is an issue to be resolved between ICSD and ASCOD. The IPC will continue to advise and when required clarify to all its members that affiliation to the IPC does not grant any rights to Deaf sports.

Yours sincerely,
Xavier Gonzalez
Chief Executive Officer
International Paralympic Committee

2. *France- Federation Handisports of France (FFH)*

2 May 2007

Mr. Gerard Masson
Federation Francaise Handisports
42, rue Louis Lumiere
75020 Paris
FRANCE
E-mail: g.masson@handisport.org

Dear Mr. Masson:

As President of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf that oversees both Summer and Winter Deaflympics, it is with pleasure I write to you. This is in regard to the imminent inclusion of French Deaf sports under the umbrella of Federation Francaise Handisports (FFH). I understand that the FFH will hold a special assembly this Saturday, 5 May. Undoubtedly, this will be recorded as one of the milestones for Deaf sports of France.

I would like to begin with two quotes by two distinguished individuals who have been directly involved in the Olympics and ICSD.

“I was inspired by the special sense of camaraderie amongst the athletes, officials and spectators, united together in a sea of moving hands...I could easily see that these Games held a special meaning and purpose for all those involved, just like the Olympic Games.” **Juan Antonio Samaranch, Past President of IOC**

“What sets Deaf sports apart from other forms of disabled sports? The common misconception among the non-Deaf community is that Deafness is simply another form of disability....Deafness is a communication disability in a hearing society...Deaf athlete views the non-Deaf disabled athlete as being a hearing person first and disabled second. When athletes congregate at the Paralympics, or at any event, the hearing people, regardless of physical limitations, are able to converse freely with each other as long as they have a common language. The Deaf athlete, however, is always excluded from the group.” **Jerald M. Jordan, Past President of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf**

Founded in 1924 in Paris by the French Deaf Sports Federation (FSSF), the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf is the body that controls the sporting events of the Deaf around the world. Our quadrennial event- Deaflympics were founded in the same year- 1924 in Paris and has been celebrated ever since. This confirms that we are the oldest among the disabled sports organizations and we have been recognized by the International Olympic Committee since 1955. In 1966, we received such a great honor from IOC with the Coubertin Cup in recognition of our strict adherence to the Olympic ideal and service to international sports.

We, the Deaf, maintain our right to self-determination and the full control of our sport organizations. This right shall not be compromised nor relinquished in the interest of funding support for our various levels of sports. I would like to reiterate that this does not mean we are rejecting help from other organizations- we welcome them if the support given is positive and allows us the Deaf to manage in our own way.

In compliance to the ICSD constitution, I respectfully ask that the French Deaf Sport Commission under the FFH represent themselves as a full member of ICSD. The constitution states that only Deaf people can be recognized as representatives or delegates at the ICSD Congress or any other meetings.

With the newly proposed structure for sport integration in France, I plead to all sport federations in their respective sports to accept total responsibility for providing programs, services and opportunities in the least restrictive environment. Deaf athletes shall have equal and fair participation in sports that are afforded to hearing athletes.

Let us work together in maintaining the spirit of true Olympic ideals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donalda K. Ammons", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Donalda K. Ammons
President

3. UAE Paralympic Committee



اللجنة البارالمبية الإماراتية UAE PARALYMPIC'S COMMITTEE

Date: 25/12/2007
Ref: 395

التاريخ :
القيود :

Mrs. Donalda Ammons
President
International Committee of Sports for Deaf

Dear President,

Subject: "Current Information About UAE Paralympic Committee"

We would like to inform you that the "UAE Paralympic Committee" is the official who is responsible of ALL sports of people with disabled.

The contacts of our Committee is as follows:

Tel : 00971 65561222
Fax: 00971 5 5561212
P. O. Box : 38483 Sharjah. UAE
Email: uaedsf@emirates.net.ae
Website: UAEparalympic.com

Chairman is Sheikh Mohammad Bin Saqr Al Qasimi

Mr. Mohammad Juma Bin Hindi General Secretary
Mr. Abdul Razzaq Al rashidi Financial Manager
Dr. Marwan Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Technical Manager

So , you are kindly requested to contact us through the above mentioned contact details, regarding any Deaf sports activities, invitations, updating of new rules, or anything concerning Deaf sports.

Please note "UAE Paralympic Committee" having an official registration with the International Paralympic Committee, and it the ONLY representative of the United Arab Emirates Deaf Sports besides others disabilities.

For more information do not hesitate to call us.

Sheikh Mohammad Bin Saqr Al Qasimi
Chairman
UAE Paralympic Committee



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Tel:+97165561222.Fax:+97165561212.P.O.BOX:38483.Sharjah-U.A.E

E-mail:uaedsf@emirates.net.ae

PARALYMPIC ASSOCIATION OF BOTSWANA

P.O.BOX 3369
GABORONE
BOTSWANA
(Southern Africa)

(PASSOBO)

Tel: (+00267) 3901305
Fax: (+00267) 3901352
Email: passobo@bnsc.co.bw

17th February-2007

The Secretary
International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Application for Membership

Paralympics Association of Botswana (PASSOBO) is a Sports Body responsible for co-ordinating the development of sports and recreation for People with Disabilities in Botswana.

PASSOBO activities are based on the principles of the International Physical Education of Sports Charter, adopted by UNESCO in 1978. The organization of Sports activities and competitions for all disabilities is a fundamental part of PASSOBO's aims. The plane of action depends on registration in the different Associations and Organizations which promote and develop the Disability Sports for all Disabilities (Spinal cord injuries-Polio-Amputees and Les Autres-Cerebral Palsy-Mental Handicap-Blind and Visually Impaired-Deaf) at all levels.

Disability sports needs a collaboration of all stakeholders including but not limited to NGO's especially those in disability frontline, Professionals and Government Agencies. That is why it is imperative for PASSOBO to be a member of **International Committee of Sports for the Deaf**

Sports in both an excise and therapy for the disabled athlete, it is also social integration tool and can easily break down communication barriers.

By this letter, therefore, we kindly request your good office to consider Paralympic Association of Botswana as a potential partner and consider our application for membership.

Thank you for supporting Disability Sports.

Yours truly,

K. Motlamme
Vice President (Sports Development)

5. *United Kingdom Sport (UK Sport)*

PRESS RELEASE-
9 June 2008



“THE END OF DEAF ATHLETES’ DREAMS?”

British Deaf athletes are fighting for the chance to participate and compete in the Taipei Deaflympic Summer Games in September 2009, mainly because the British Government has withdrawn funding from the Great Britain Deaflympic team.

Both the Great Britain Olympic and Paralympic Associations receive funding from UK Sport on an annual basis; however, athletes and volunteers from the Great Britain Deaflympic team have to secure their own financial support. Deaflympic athletes cannot join the Paralympic Games because there are no other Deaf teams or athletes to compete against in those Games.

Deaf Sports is a part of Great Britain

Established in 1924, the Deaflympics is the second oldest multi-sport and cultural event on earth and is one of the world’s fastest growing sport events. More than 3,200 Deaf athletes and officials from 67 countries participated in the previous 20th Deaflympic Games in Melbourne, Australia (2005).

The Great Britain Deaflympic Team contributed towards one of the most successful Great Britain efforts at any Deaflympic Summer Games. The 100-strong Great Britain Team, comprising of 80 athletes competing in eight different disciplines, secured a total of 16 medals – five gold, five silver and six bronze medals. This established Great Britain 10th in the overall Medal Table, ahead of many countries with bigger teams including the hosts Australia, and was seen as an outstanding achievement by the former Minister for Sport, Mr. Richard Caborn MP.

Gerry Sutcliffe MP, Minister for Sport, in his letter to UK Deaf Sport on the 29th February 2008 stated that the “difficult decision taken by UK Sport has come from their need to focus on a programme of support for their elite Olympic and Paralympic athletes in the lead up to Beijing 2008 and London 2012”.

Equality for Deaf athletes?

For decades, the Government have been promoting and encouraging ‘equality’ in the whole of Great Britain, yet they have turned a Deaf ear to Deaf athletes with the disparity in quadrennial and annual Deaflympic preparation funding. The cost of winning a medal during the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympic Games stood at £1,400 of the Government exchequer’s money per athlete and this is in stark contrast to the £1.6million per medal the British Government contributed to the British Olympic athletes during the Athens Olympic Games in 2004. Winning a Deaflympic medal is only a tiny fraction of the Government’s funding compared to the costs for the Great Britain Olympic team.

The end of Deaf athletes' dreams?

Dreams, blood, sweat and tears may come to nothing for Deaf athletes and the Great Britain Deaflympic squad will have to consider pulling out of the Taipei Deaflympic Games if there is no financial support from the Government within the next few months. Lack of funding from the Government may cause negative psychological and emotional repercussions for Deaf athletes and the Deaf community.

“The Great Britain Deaflympic team is in a dire situation, and UK Deaf Sports has exhausted every avenue in trying to seek funding for our Deaf athletes. I fear our dreams of participating in the Games will be shattered” says Philip Gerrard, Great Britain Deaflympics Organising Committee Chair.

Appendix C: Trademark infringements



Source: <http://www.mninter.net/~blkeagle/cubpack1.htm>



Source: www.arkansaspoliceolympics.org

Milwaukee Airport- June 2007



The poster features a rainbow-colored horizontal bar at the top and bottom. The text "SUMMER OLYMPICS" is written in a blue, serif font, slanted upwards from left to right. Below it, the year "2007" is written in a larger, blue, serif font. A stylized yellow graphic of a winged figure or a flame is positioned below the year. Underneath the graphic, the text "TEAM MILWAUKEE" is written in a blue, serif font. Below this text are the five Olympic rings, with the central ring replaced by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security seal. At the bottom of the poster, a white box contains the text "TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES" followed by a list of activities.

SUMMER OLYMPICS
2007

TEAM MILWAUKEE

TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES

- **Unscheduled Call-offs**
- **OLC Completion**
- **TIPS**
- **Jeopardy**
- **ADASP Training Completed**
- **Baggage IED Training Completed**
- **IED Checkpoint Drills**
- **Volunteerism**
- **June & July Pot Luck Competitions**

Qualtrics Perimeter Logo is a trademark of The Milwaukee Art Museum