



International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

e-News

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Message from the President

New Vision....New Horizons...New Records

For the past few months since the last eNews, ICSD has witnessed some new changes and encouraging progress.

In early September, DeafNation, ICSD media partner, traveled to Chinese Taipei for the Taipei 2009 Deaflympics Organizing Committee's 365-day kickoff. The 5 September kickoff was very inspirational and positive. Click [here](#) for a 4 minute video clip of the kickoff.

Mr. Joel Barish, CEO of DeafNation, also produced a total of 12 video clips on Taiwan, which give us a better understanding and appreciation of Taiwan's culture, people, and food. These video clips can be seen [here](#).

Another milestone for ICSD- Fifty-four countries sent delegates to attend ICSD's extraordinary Congress in Bratislava. The theme was "Deaf Sports Reform for Our Better Future". The delegates overwhelmingly voted in support for organizational structure changes. In this issue, you will see two power point presentations on [Deaf Sports Reform](#) and the [voting results](#). ICSD is gradually taking small but important steps forward and towards the spirit and principles of Olympism.

In mid-July, ICSD received notification from the State of Vaud in Switzerland that ICSD has met the requirements for the tax exemption and is eligible for a rent-free office paid by the State of Vaud and the City of Lausanne for the first 2 years. We are currently looking at a small office (nearly 20 m2) at the Maison du Sport International.

ICSD was truly pleased to see that Mr. Ronald Gough from the United States was invited by FILA to participate as a referee at the 2nd World Deaf Wrestling Championships in Yerevan, Armenia. He is indeed a unique person since he is the only deaf referee in the world who has an international FILA license. In this issue, there is an [article](#) on Ron Gough written by the 2nd World Deaf Wrestling Organizing Committee.

At the recent 1st World Deaf Athletics Championships in Izmir, Turkey, we saw a total of 23 world records and junior records. It is clearly evident that despite limited resources afforded to them, deaf athletes continue to be resolute in reaching newer and higher heights.

The 2009 Summer Deaflympics in Taipei will prove to be the largest and most spectacular ever-more than 80 countries have registered, an operating budget of USD \$30 million, 3 main venues provide new, state of the art facilities in downtown Taipei, with some of Taipei's leading tourist attractions only short distances away. During the site inspection in Taipei last month, ICSD conducted a draw, to determine groups for each [team sport](#). There will be many exciting competition games/matches to watch and follow.

On behalf of over ten million deaf athletes worldwide, thank you for your continued support!

Dr. Donalda K. Ammons
President

Inside ICSD

Report from Vice President

It is now less than 10 months before we convene for the 21st Taipei Deaflympics. Do not ignore this magic number of 10 months as it could be 4 months tomorrow as time flies so fast, in some ways, faster than 100 metres sprint! So start preparing now - do not wait till tomorrow!



West view of Taipei Municipal Stadium

The important preparations are as follows:

- Final selection of players and their names
- Training
- Visa preparations. Look for Taiwanese embassies or diplomatic consulars and their addresses. Do not wait till last minute. Every minute is costly! If you are not sure who is participating or not till last minute, just send all possibles and less possibles to visa applications at least 1-2 months before departure for Taipei. Check very carefully with your travel agencies whether to apply visas to Taipei and you may need visas at transit centres.
- **Audiological tests** - do not wait till last minute for those who have not sent to ICSD audiologist. You can send now all deaf players as it will not cost you a cent. It is better to send all now than to wait till last minute as you will cause overload of work and possible delays at the ICSD office in Frederick, United States. Better start now!

- Final registration for individual sports must be decided well in advance. Please check final closing date.

ICSD Executive Committee members and Technical Directors of all sports met in Taipei last week (4-10 October 2008) to check the sports venues.



East view of Taipei Municipal Stadium

Survey

In Bratislava, Slovakia in September 2008 the members from all over the world overwhelmingly voted for [Deaf Sports Reform](#). I was given a task to re-send a survey to all 96 member countries and I expect a higher number of responses this time. Shortly I will make a video in international sign language parallel to this survey to make sure that you understand this survey. It is very important to send the survey as it will help ICSD understand your "home" problems and seek ways to solve out. You will soon receive the survey.

Thank you for your time to read this message.

David Lanesman
ICSD Vice President

Report from Sports Director

From 3 to 10 October 2008, the fifteen Technical Directors (TD) for summer sports and I were in Taipei / Chinese Taipei for site visit.

This was a very good experience for everyone, especially for the TDs as they gained much better knowledge.

Athletics	Barbara Søndergaard (DEN)
Badminton	Martin Bogard (GBR)
Basketball	Yaakov Keren (ISR)
Beach Volleyball	John Knetzger (USA)
Bowling	*
Cycling Road	Bobby Skedsmo (USA)
Football	Christof Niklaus (GBR)
Handball	Mario Torcolini (ITA)
Judo	Antoine Damien (FRA)
Karate	**
Orienteering	Marek Mir-Mackiewicz (DEN)
Shooting	Mac Adam (AUS)
Swimming	Reed Gershwind (USA)
Table Tennis	Nyiro Zsolt (HUN)
Taekwondo	Jung-bae Park (KOR)
Tennis	Tobias Burz (GER)
Volleyball	John Knetzger (USA)
Water Polo	Reed Gershwind (USA)
Wrestling	Mehmet Bilgili (TUR)

* We didn't get any messages from Ulf Hanson! So Wayne Langbein took over and we must find a new TD for bowling.

** Francois Khalef resigned-because of occupational reasons; Josef Willmerdinger assumed the role during site visit



Summer Technical Directors

Tiffany and I attended the 1st visit and Site Inspection of 2009 Taipei Summer Deaflympics during April 2007. We got promises that we would be very satisfied. We demanded urgently that until the next Site Inspection in October 2008 as many facilities as possible would be completed, so that we could see and check if everything was alright.

We are all inquisitive and curious what the Site Inspection of Taipei 2009 had to offer. Of course we hoped the best, and that all sport facilities would have been completely arranged. We only have 10 more months until the 2009 Summer Deaflympics start in September 2009. We wished the Taipei Organizing Committee good luck and best of success. When we started the inspection of the sport facilities, we unfortunately had to discover disappointing news that many of those were not completed and even not up to par with international standards.

Some examples are as follows: There were no Beach Volleyball courts, Tennis courts and Football pitches were not well-maintained. Orienteering, Swimming and Water Polo venues were very far away from the city center.

Some public facilities would be finished very late: for example the Athletics stadium should be finished by April 2009, Football – April to July 2009, Basketball – January 2009, Badminton – January 2009, Shooting – December 2008 to January 2009, and Tennis – April 2009. That is why we are not completely content with the development of these sports facilities. The time from now until the Summer Deaflympics in September 2009, is very short. The Taipei Organizing Committee now has an enormous work to do, but also for our TDs, there is plenty of work. We are of course concerned and

disappointed with the development of these sports facilities.

All TDs and I will continue to work very hard to achieve a successful 2009 Summer Deaflympics in Taipei. We try to do our best by working together with the Taipei Organizing Committee. The draw of basketball, football, handball, volleyball and water polo took place on Friday 10 October 2008 in Taipei Arena. (see website - www.2009deaflympics.org/en/press/event/20081010_a.htm)

No World Deaf Championships, No Deaflympics

In former times there were just World Games for the Deaf. In 2001, the name of our quadrennial event changed to Deaflympics. Therefore, we must organize world deaf championships. Before 2001, we had a few World Deaf Championships, for example Golf, Karate, Taekwondo, and Judo.

After the 2005 Summer Deaflympics in Melbourne, ICSD organized many World Deaf Championships in many various sports.

The [World Deaf Championships](#) that were held after 2005 are:

- **2006:** Cycling, Golf, and Orienteering
- **2007:** Basketball, Swimming, Badminton, Dresse and Maere Tennis Cup, and Futsal
- **2008:** Judo, Karate, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Football, Volleyball, Athletics, Golf, and Wrestling

We see that there is a growing need and interest for more international competitions, in addition to the Deaflympics. We want to prove to the world that we can hold a very good competitive sporting event. That's why we want to construct a clear structure in future. The greatest aim of all athletes is Deaflympics, after that follows the World Deaf Championships, after that follows the

Regional Confederations Championships. All kinds of sports have to show that they belong rightfully to the Deaflympics. That means that every kind of sport has to have a World Deaf Championship before athletes can participate in the Deaflympics.

Now let's work together in organizing more World Deaf Championships!!!

For your information - Deaflympics shall only carry out the sports same as in the Olympics. There are three (3) exceptions in the Summer Deaflympics, as follows: Bowling, Karate, and Orienteering.

Sportingly yours,

Josef WILLMERDINGER
ICSD Sports Director

The 2007 Salt Lake City Winter Deaflympics- Final Wrap-Up

On 13 May 2008, the 2007 Salt Lake City Winter Deaflympics Organizing Committee CEO and Secretary General, Dwight Benedict and Ed Ingham respectively and Dr. Larry Fleischer, President of USA Deaf Sports Federation invited Dr. Donalda Ammons, President of ICSD to come for the final wrap-up meeting. It was when ICSD was presented with a check of USD \$42,000. That was part of the Memorandum of Understanding between ICSD and the organizing committee to split 50-50% for any surplus money.

In addition, the 2007 SLC Organizing Committee donated the original torch and a shadow box frame of pins, a set of medals, mini-flags, and philatelic stamps. ICSD is deeply appreciative of the 2007 Winter Deaflympics Organizing Committee's hard

work and dedication to the success of the Winter Games.



Dwight Benedict, Dr. Donalda Ammons, Dr. Larry Fleischer, and Ed Ingham

It is the second time ICSD has received the surplus from an organizing committee- both times were from the United States- 1985 and 2007. Hand waves to USA!

Message from Technical Director

Athletics

World Championships

The first World Championships in Athletics finally took place 22 to 28 September 2008 in Izmir, Turkey. It was a great pleasure that these World Championships at last become a reality.

It was with great courage the Turkish Deaf Sports Federation took the task to organise this great event with such short notice after my site inspection in December 2007. They have outdone the great expectations and with a few exceptions everything was accomplished as expected.

No less than 36 countries with 372 athletes had been pre-registered for these Championships which may be a (World) record for an ICSD World Championship. However, 4 countries did not show up why the total number of participants was 32 countries and 318 athletes.

The competitions took place in the large "Atatürk Stadium", which has an IAAF "A" classification.

Opening Ceremony

Immediately after the first technical meeting the opening ceremony took place at the stadium. After the parade of all participating countries, the Turkish Deaf Sports Federation welcomed everyone. After a welcome speech by the ICSD President, Ms. Donald Ammons, the World Championships was officially declared opened. Then a deaf dance group in national costumes entertained and finally sensational fireworks ended the opening ceremony.

The Competitions

The World Championships were held for 5 days. It was a hard programme without one

day break in between. Despite a few problems the competitions were carried out as planned. However, the absence of four countries that had entered a large number of athletes caused some problems for the organisation of a few events.

Marathon

The Marathon was held on the last day. Everything was ready: Police on motorcycles, supporting cars, ambulance and in front a car with timing during the run. In short, everything was perfect from the start – but unfortunately at the finish line assistance given to the athletes was rather slow. However, one thing was missing: Too few runners – for such large organisation! For the first time the marathon were run on a straight out and home route. 7 men and 5 women finished the marathon event.

Farewell Party

After the closing ceremony on the stadium everyone went to the Farewell Party. The party was held in a large hall with tables, chairs and a large buffet. Youths as well as older people were dancing on the floor. It was a cheerful evening with good atmosphere and spirits. After the dinner a large number of speeches were held and many accomplished the Turkish organisers for a successful arrangement, despite some snafus. With this party the 1st World Championships in athletics found a positive ending.

Many New World Records and Junior World Records

There may be something magnetic at the Atatürk Stadium! No less than 23 World Records were made, 10 by seniors and 13 by juniors. It was a great pleasure to not only the athletes in question but also the judges,

referees and the organisers. I was told that it was the first time World Records were made at this stadium.

Technical Assistance

I am very grateful that Mr. Wayne Langbein, ICSD staff member, took the initiative to edit the WC 2008 homepage updating the information, daily results, photos and a lot of other information so everybody could follow the World Championships closely. In addition he was a good coordinator for the organising committee. This was very important to get the daily work running smoothly.

Photos

It was not only myself but also many others that were very happy to have our photographer, Anton Schneid, walking around and take a photo of almost everything that happened during the week. He took many beautiful shots resulting in clear and sharp pictures. I was told that he took around 3000 photos! This work was done on a voluntary basis which was very generous by him. I do not really know how we shall thank him! I hope to see him the next time in Taipei!

Thanks

At the end of this report I want to thank the ICSD President, Donalda Ammons for her valuable assistance during the Championships and thanks also to the Turkey Organising Committee members for excellent cooperation during the championships. It was a pleasure to work together with especially the chief referee, Mr. Müslüm.

Results

The full results from the World Deaf Athletics Championships and a large number of photos can be found on this website - www.2008athletics.org. A list of all medal winners can be found [here](#).

Future World Championships

At the 2nd Technical Meeting in Izmir questions were raised about interest for having World Championships for indoor athletics and cross country. There was a large interest and it was agreed to try to have the World Championships as follow: Cross Country 2010, Indoor 2011 and Outdoor 2012.

New World Records

A large number of World records, including junior records, have been made during 2008, not only during the World Championships in Izmir but also through the year. In total 49 World Records, hereof 30 Junior World Records have been set during the year 2008 until the end of October. It is expected that a few more records will be ratified during the last two months of 2008. A list of all approved World Records will be posted in the next E-News edition.

Barbara C. SØNDERGAARD
ICSD Technical Director - Athletics

Cycling

The venue inspection and program for cycling were well orchestrated during my stay in Taipei. People were friendly and wonderful. I was very much impressed so I am looking forward to working with those people next year.

All venues for cycling were excellent. We made some very minor changes. Only one thing left for me to do is to find out if UCI international license is required or not. I have already inquired UCI. UCI international license costs \$125 per year.

I requested that starting time for individual time trial and road race be changed from 9:00 to 10:00 in the morning because driving time takes longer from the city of Taipei to the Coast Highway in the north where the competitions will take place. It should not be

a problem for the riders because cool and warm weather remain predictable at the coast. Starting times for 1000m sprint and 50km points race will remain at 9:00 because the venue will take place at Taipei City Hall.

I have inserted graphic cycling elevation in PowerPoint presentation on the web at www.international-deaf-cycling.info/taipei2009-cycling.ppt I will also insert cycling venues pictures on the web this December.

I will work with the Taipei Organizing Committee on how the sprints event bracket and scoreboard for points race will look like. This will be easier for the spectators and coaches to see the results during the Summer Deaflympics cycling competition.

I will install ooVoo program on my computer so that I can use sign language over the video with Deaf representative of technical committee and the others. I will share my screen name with you when it becomes available at www.international-deaf-cycling.info

Cycling yours,

Bobby SKEDSMO
ICSD Technical Director - Athletics

Football

During the first week in October, I joined the other ICSD Technical Directors (TDs) for our site inspection visit in Taipei. It was good to see several new faces and we all had several excellent workshops throughout the week in preparation for next year Summer Deaflympics.

For me personally, the main success was the new draft handbook for Technical Directors

designed by our indispensable Wayne Langbein that will help new and existing TDs in preparation for future Summer Deaflympics and World Deaf Championships.

My main concern is linked to the incomplete football pitches and facilities at YingFeng Sport Park where there will be four football pitches for the group stages and the initial knockout stages. The Mayor of Taipei promised us that all the venues will be completed by April/May 2009 and I have complete confidence in the Taipei Summer Deaflympics Organising Committee (TDOC) to achieve this.

The Taipei Municipal Stadium, where both the women and men finals will be held, was approaching completion and I was impressed by the size of it during our tour of the stadium.

I have made it clear to the TDOC of the specifications required for a good quality grass surface for both YingFeng Sport Park and Taipei Municipal Stadium and they will update me with a progress report each month. I will give an updated report in each eNews as we approach September 2009.

The TDOC are aware of my request for FIFA certificated officials for the Summer Deaflympics Football Competition. I have requested for three groups of officials, all to be FIFA certificated – international, Taipei national and deaf referees. A total of 36 officials will be recruited for the duration of the Summer Deaflympics Football Competition.

The Summer Deaflympics Football Technical Regulations will be finalised by the end of this month (30th October 2008) and updated on the Deaflympics website accordingly. I will also add the name of the official match ball to be used for the duration of the

Summer Deaflympics Football Competition by the end of November 2008.

The 2009 Summer Deaflympics Football Competition draw was carried out on 10th October 2008 in front of other TDs and the Taipei volunteers.

The women competition, at present has seven countries with the deadline for final registration for additional teams to enter still open up to 1st June 2009. Team 8 will be allocated to the first team that enters before the deadline. United States, as the 2005 Summer Deaflympics Women Champions, was placed in Group A as the first team in the group.

Official Women Football Competition Draw:

Group A	Group B
United States	OPEN
Germany	Russian Federation
Denmark	Great Britain
South Africa	Japan

Most of the men countries qualified through their own regional confederation qualifiers while a few others made it through the reserve list. Other countries did not submitted a preliminary registration form before the 1 March 2007 deadline which is why some countries are in the Summer Deaflympics Men Football Competition while others are not. It is really important that each deaf sport federations complete their preliminary registration forms before the allocated deadline. Please read Deaflympics Regulations - **DG12.1** under TEAM SPORTS for details.

The men competition is now full after the confederation qualifiers. In Group D, the 'Asia-Pacific Team' will be confirmed as soon as the Asia Pacific Deaf Sports

Confederation confirms the fourth country for their confederation. Great Britain, as the 2005 Summer Deaflympics Men Champions, was placed in Group A as the first team in the group.

Official Men Football Competition Draw:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Great Britain	Germany	France	Denmark
Ireland	Spain	Russian Federation	Ukraine
Japan	Iran	Korea	Asia-Pacific
Canada	Nigeria	South Africa	Argentina

I would like to thank the Taipei Summer Deaflympics Organising Committee for their hospitality and hard work for my first visit to Taipei. Taipei is going to be something special for the Deaflympians next year.

Roll on Taipei.

Yours in football,

Christof NIKLAUS
ICSD Technical Director - Football

Ice Hockey

We are five (5) months away from the opening face-off of our 1st World Deaf Ice Hockey Championships in Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada.

Please check out their wonderful detailed website at www.worlddeafhockeycurling2009.com for more exciting information.

Please also notice in the website that the Opening Day for the Ice Hockey World Championships has been moved up 1 day to 10 April instead of 11 April to accommodate all of our games in a timely fashion.

Game schedule will be posted in our next eNews edition.

A total of six (6) countries (Canada, Finland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, and United States) will participate in the games. I wish you the best in your training/preparations and we all look forward seeing you in Winnipeg in April 2009.

Happy Holidays and wish you all the best in 2009!

Best Regards,

S. Chris Bradley
ICSD Technical Director – Ice Hockey

Karate (Interim)

Unfortunately our ICSD Technical Director for karate, Francois Khalef has to resign for professional reasons. It is a loss for ICSD because he is a great sportsman who has a huge knowledge about Karate.

It is our job now to find an equal replacement for him. It will be very difficult. If someone is interested to become Technical Director for Karate, I urgently ask for a fast agreement with the ICSD office. We appreciate your support and willingness.

In light of Mr. Khalef's resignation, I was his replacement during the Taipei Site Inspection 2009. It was generally passed with satisfactory status. We can now get ready for 2009 Summer Deaflympics.

Keep in mind, starting on 1 January 2009, there are two (2) revised rules for Karate - Age Eligibility and Competition Weight Categories.

The age eligibility applies to Karate athletes who are at least 18 years old in 2009 (born in 1991 or before) with black belt (1st Dan or more) standing.

For new competition weight categories, please visit [Karate Technical Regulations](#) for details.

Josef WILLMERDINGER
ICSD Sports Director

Orienteering

I was with ICSD Technical Directors and the ICSD Executive Committee in Taipei. We held meetings and site inspection of the Summer Deaflympics. The 2009 Taipei Organizing Committee showed me the site for orientation competition. I did not accept what T2009 OC had to offer with only two grounds for competition and one ground for training. Since, we must have four terrains to compete on and three terrains for training, we therefore must follow the rules of the IOF. T2009 must find us more terrains for competitions.

I am working with the Chinese Taipei Orienteering federation, for the preparations before the Summer Deaflympics. I also explained that the Taipei Organizing Committee that we follow the rules of the IOF. This means that we need 4 different terrain for competitions: sprint, middle distance, long distance and relay. I hope that it will be ready in a few months.

2010 World Deaf Orienteering Championships

I have corresponded with the United States Orienteering federation and they are interested in hosting WDOC in the United States, but it has not yet been approved. They must take care to find grounds,

accommodation and so on. I hope to hear a formal approval from ICSD.

Best regards,

Marek MIR-MACKIEWICZ
ICSD Technical Director - Orienteering

Shooting

All of the ICSD Technical Directors and representatives flew to Taipei to attend series of meetings from 4 to 11 October, to support the Taipei 2009 Summer Deaflympics Organizing Committee.

I visited the Gong Si Rifle Range about 40 minutes

away from the city and the Rifle Range was certified by ISSF which is



main important thing for Summer Deaflympics Shooting competition.

The staff and volunteers there were very helpful and showed us around the Rifle Range and they assured us that the Gong Si Rifle Range would be ready before Summer Deaflympics start on or before 5th September 2009. They would also do some painting work in certain areas before we all meet again for the BIG event next year!

I also attended the meeting with the Organizing Committee to sort out what needed to be set up before we all go home and the agreement would be as follows:

- The Judges would be from Chinese Taipei Shooting Association

- The Juries would be from Chinese Taipei Shooting Association
- Sports Liaison Officer (Representative from Chinese Taipei Shooting Association) would be the representative from Organizing Committee
- Deaf Representative to Technical and Protest Committees would be negotiated soon
- There would be at least 50 volunteers from Chinese Taipei Shooting Association which would be involved in all shooting events
- Deaf Visual Signal Devices for the shooting competitions will be set up
- Prepare in advance the paperwork for permit to bring rifles and pistols into Taipei and picking them up by Chinese Taipei Shooting Association to take them into armory at Gong Si Rifle range for safe keeping and vice versa - more information will be shared with the participants.

I had forwarded the proposed seven days shooting program but the



overall program was too tight and further consideration needs to be discussed further.

We all need to find extra time and days for training before the competitions commences and hopefully it would ready and posted on 2009 Summer Deaflympics [website](#) soon.

Please feel free to [contact](#) me at any time.

Mac ADAM
ICSD Technical Director - Shooting

Snowboard

The search for the origins of modern snowboarding takes us exactly to the surfers and skateboarders of the American West Coast.

Motivated by the surfing and skateboarding in the summer, athletes who loved the feeling of movement on water/street wanted to continue "surf" in the winter.

An American, Sherman Poppen wanted to continue the "surf-feeling" movement in the winter; to be able to surf also on "frozen waves", designed a "Snurfer". A "Snurfer" was a water ski with bent upward shovel to which a line was fastened for steering. Although hardly controllable, without bond and reinforced edges, the Snurfer developed to be one of the best selling products. Eventually, annual championships were organized.



Snurfer Boards

To be continued in the next eNews edition.

Marco GALMARINI
ICSD Technical Director - Snowboard

Swimming & Water Polo

Most of us, Technical Directors, just returned from Taiwan after a busy and productive week of meetings and inspections. As various sport reports show, some sporting venues were disappointing. Although much work needs to be done, I look forward to the 2009 Taipei Summer Deaflympics in September.

Hsinchu County Swimming Plaza is the official pool for both Swimming and Water Polo events. Unfortunately, the construction of the new pool in Taipei is delayed due to local courts.

The Hsinchu pool is far, 80km and a 75-minute bus ride from Taipei Grand Hotel. However, the Plaza is clean and modern, indoors with a 10-lane 50m competition pool and an 8-lane 25m training pool. The Plaza has large common resting rooms and there are local restaurants within walking distance. You can see pictures of the facility via www.hcswim.com.tw

Swimming

T2009 – 47 countries have sent their preliminary entries for Swimming events. This is over 40% increase from M2005 with 33 countries. There are also a balanced number of female and male swimmers entered. The future of swimming looks bright with many new and young swimmers. T2009 [Swimming Regulations](#), [Qualification Times](#), and the Schedule of Events have been updated and will post on the web site soon.

Congratulations to Natalia Deeva of Belarus who won the ICSD 2007 Sportswoman of the Year honor. Two other female swimmers, Anna Polivanchuk of Sweden and Ganna Lytvynenko of Ukraine finished in the top ten rankings. Volodymyr Natalchuk of Ukraine

finished second in the 2007 Sportsman rankings. Well done swimmers.

Future Swimming Competitions

- 2010 EDSO Swimming Championships – EST
- 2011 World Deaf Swimming Championships - POR
- 2012 open for any international competition
- 2013 Summer Deaflympics - GRE

Water Polo

T2009 - Five teams are officially entered for Water Polo. The teams are Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, and United States. Thanks goes to Hungary for re-entering and saving the sport from cancellation. T2009 [Water Polo Regulations](#) have been updated and will post on the web site soon. The draw of teams and Schedule of Matches can be found [via www.2009deaflympics.org/en/press/event/20081010_a.htm](#)

With the small number of teams, Water Polo as a sport is in jeopardy. We must encourage growth and promote the sport in new countries. ICSD strongly encourages a country to host a World Deaf Water Polo Championship within the next few years. The future of Water Polo is in our hands. Let's please work together and aim for more teams for the 2013 Summer Deaflympics.

Number of Water Polo teams in past Summer Deaflympics

1949	Denmark	2 teams
1957	Italy	3 teams
1961	Finland	5 teams
1977	Romania	5 teams
1981	Germany	5 teams
1985	United States	7 teams
1989	New Zealand	4 teams (CANCELLED)
1993	Bulgaria	5 teams
1997	Denmark	5 teams
2001	Italy	6 teams
2005	Australia	5 teams
2009	Taiwan	5 teams

Future Water Polo Competitions

- 2010 EDSO Water Polo Championships, Ireland
- 2011 World Deaf Water Polo Championships, where? – ICSD is still requesting nations to bid and host this event.
- 2012 Open for any international competition
- 2013 Summer Deaflympics, Greece? – depend on number of teams and World Championships

We all meet again in 11 months. Train hard and well. Show your best in Taiwan!

Aquatically yours,

Reed GERSHWIND
ICSD Technical Director - Swimming & Water Polo

Table Tennis

Dear Sportfriends!

With the participation of 15 Technical Directors the actual inspection was carried recently in Taipei this past October.

I am overjoyed at the fact that in spite of my worries the table tennis venue of the forthcoming Summer Deaflympics will be in perfect harmony with the regulations and expectations.



Taipei Arena - Taraflex flooring

The huge grandstand of the Taipei Arena is capable to host fifteen thousand fans. Information on the brand of tables and the other implements will shortly be

released. The Taipei Organizing Committee is given a deadline of the 30 November to identify the official ball brand. As soon as the information is available, every Federation will be notified via e-mail either by the T2009 or myself.

The picture shows clearly the place where the tournament will take place - the Terraflex flooring meets the ITTF list of approval.

Once again, may I remind you that the candidates to organize the 2nd World Deaf Table Tennis Championships in 2012 are still welcome to bid. Applications are accepted until 31 January 2009!

I wish the OC a successful preparation and we have less than a year to go and see each other again in Taipei.

All the best,

Zsolt NYIRO
ICSD Technical Director - Table Tennis

Tennis

During the week in Taipei I met the whole ICSD Executive Committee and the Technical Directors representing other summer sports.

It has been worthwhile for me to work together with them. During different workshops I have gotten much information about all topics referring to ICSD and the Summer Deaflympics.

I am excited about the warm atmosphere and the good visit in Taipei arranged by the 2009 Taipei Organizing Committee.

The Organizing Committee for the 2009 Summer Deaflympics had proposed the Tennis venue with 12 outdoor tennis courts along with the other Tennis venue with 6 indoor courts, which will be used in case of rain.

I had visited the outdoor courts and felt that the venue was in a very terrible order. It is located immediately near by the river. There is no possibility to reach the venue by public traffic for spectators. In case of rain the courts can be flooded by the river.

Although the Taipei Organizing Committee had planned to repave the tennis courts with the new surface like the US Open, to build up one of the courts as center court with spectator seats, mobile rooms, containers with showers and toilets. I decided to decline this tennis venue and went to search for an alternative tennis venue.

The result: I have found it!



National Taiwan University Sports Center

The new tennis venue is located at the National Taiwan University Sports Center (Address: No.1, Sec 4, Roosevelt Road, Da-an District), near by the volleyball venue. I have decided to choose this tennis venue as the place for tennis tournament during the 2009 Summer Deaflympics. It has 8 hard clay courts and 4 red clay courts. These

courts will get about the same surface such as at US Open.

I will monitor the progress of renovating and repaving the outdoor and indoor courts regularly with photos which will be sent per email to me every month by the Taipei Organizing Committee.

Important notice for all participating nations: The standard level of this tennis facilities (rest rooms, toilets, showers, etc.) is not necessarily modern.

I hope the Taipei Organizing Committee can hold its promise to finish the tennis venues in the end of May 2009.

In the beginning of December 2008 I will inform you about the ball brand and the name of the tennis court surface.

Best regards,

Tobias BURZ
ICSD Technical Director - Tennis

Volleyball

Ukraine Continues Gold Medal Streak at 2008 Volleyball World Championships

Defending 2005 Summer Deaflympics gold medalist Ukraine repeated its successful feat by winning both men's and women's competitions at the first deaf volleyball world championships last August. The Ukrainian men and women defeated Russia and Japan in the finals, respectively.

Japan beat Germany for the men's bronze, and the United States women claimed a bronze medal victory over Russia. During the women's preliminary phase, the United States took both Ukraine and Japan to a five-set battle before losing both matches.

Argentina's deaf sports organization, CADES, had done an excellent job stepping forward and putting together a tournament in less than two years - a challenging and complex task. The event included opening and closing ceremonies and awards presentation. Statistics using FIVB's standards were compiled for the first time in ICSD's volleyball history. Live scoring on the Internet was a success. Hands waving to President **Horacio Aleva**, tournament director **Daniel Laurence** and their dedicated staff for their hard work!

Many teams that competed in Buenos Aires will meet again at the 2009 Summer Deaflympics in Taipei next September. The competition is going to be interesting - will the results remain the same or not?

The official results and final report are still being compiled and verified and should be completed by the end of November 2008.

2009 Taipei Site Inspection Visit

I visited Taipei during the week of 6-10 October to inspect beach volleyball and volleyball venues, meet with ICSD Executive Committee and T2009 Organizing Committee and technical directors of other sports. It was a productive visit.

I found both volleyball venues to be in excellent shape and ready. However, the beach volleyball venue is a different matter. The venue did not meet international standards for a good quality playing field that could accommodate 35 men's and 25 women's teams along with many spectators. The organizing committee and I are working on an alternate site. An ICSD representative will visit Taipei again in May/June 2009 for final inspections of all sites.

Taipei is a large metropolis with a lot to offer for athletes and spectators. The organizing committee has done a marvelous job promoting the Summer Deaflympics and has

been a gracious and wonderful host during my site inspection visit.

Drawing of Lots – Volleyball

The Drawing of Lots for volleyball and other team sports was held at Taipei Arena B1 on Friday, 10 October 2008. Please visit www.2009deaflympics.org/en/press/event/20081010_a.htm. A video of the drawing will be shown during the Technical Directors meeting in Taipei next September. One slot in Pool B for both men and women is still available. If your team is still interested, please send an email to the ICSD home office at tech@ciss.org as soon as possible and ask for registration paperwork.

Please watch for future eNews articles on major FIVB rule changes and 2009 Summer Deaflympics registration requirements.

John KNETZGER
ICSD Technical Director - Volleyball

Deaf Sports In Brief

Deaf Women in Sports Leadership Seminar

From 25-27 September, ICSD sponsored a Deaf Women in Sports Leadership training seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as a follow up from the first successful seminar that was held in Europe in November of 2007.



Brainstorming session during a group activity

A total of 17 women from 9 countries attended the seminar. Representatives nominated by their National Deaf Sports Federation were from Australia, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Philippines. ICSD thanks them for nominating those bright and energetic women who were full of great ideas and contributed fully during the weekend.

The lecturers at the seminar were Tiffany Granfors, ICSD Executive Director, Therese Rollven, from Swedish Deaf Sports Federation, and Jane Lim from Singapore. Topics included but not limited to:

- History on ICSD and relationship between IOC and IPC
- History on APDSC
- History on the Equality Project in Sweden
- Lecture on "Knowledge is Power"
- Lecture on "Networking"

- Information sharing between each National Deaf Sports Federation
- Activities on identifying "Characters of a Good Leader" and discussing key words
- Discussed future plans for promoting Deaf women leaders

I want to send a big thanks to Therese Rollven and Jane Lim for dedicating their time in coordinating this seminar for ICSD. I also want to thank Swedish Deaf Sports Federation (SDI) for giving Therese some time off to help us with this project. I also want to give big thanks to Malaysia Deaf Sports Federation (MSFD) for their support in hosting this seminar! Another round of thanks goes to Siv Fosshaug, ICSD Member at large and to APDSC for supporting this project.



Deaf Women in Sports Leadership Seminar

The next step is organizing this type of seminar in Pan Am region sometimes in 2009.

Tiffany Granfors

African Union Conference of Ministers of Sports

On 10-14 October I was invited to attend the African Union Conference of Ministers of

Sport at the Accra International Conference Center in Accra, Ghana. Mr. John Yusuf, Secretary General of Confederation of African Deaf Sports was asked to join me at this conference. This was a great opportunity for both of us to attend this conference because the sports program in Africa was going through a restructure period where the Supreme Council of Sports of Africa (SCSA) would no longer be the supreme governing body of sports in Africa. Instead, it would be shifted over to the African Union in their Sports Department. This structural change will impact all stakeholders including persons with disabilities. Deaf athletes fall in this category.



Tiffany Granfors and Commissioner Gawanas

I was invited to speak at the conference about our deaf athletes in Africa, where I gave a brief history of ICSD, a broad view of our structure and where we belong in the bigger picture, in terms of our relationship with IOC and IPC. I went on to explain ICSD as the supreme governing body of deaf sports and that since 2004 there is a formal Memorandum of Understanding between ICSD and the IPC, where both bodies agree to fully recognize their respective autonomy. The current structure in Africa shows that the African Paralympics Committee, known as ASCOD, is responsible for the African Deaf Athletes, whereas the Confederation of African Deaf Sports as the regional confederation under

ICSD is responsible for deaf sports in Africa. This has for a long time created a major confusion among the sport ministers and government officials.

After listening to my presentation, the members then decided to accept ICSD's proposal that CADS shall be the governing body of African Deaf Sports according to the ICSD/IPC Memorandum of Understanding and that it be included as a clause in the sports policy.

ICSD believes that when the AU moves in the right direction there shall be a significant growth in programs and services, specifically in equality and consistency in degree and levels of services, and funding for African deaf athletes. This movement will also shift the African deaf athletes away from the African Sports Confederation of the Disabled (ASCOD), a regional confederation of the IPC. Funding from the AU for the CADS' programs and services will then be closely monitored and supervised by the ICSD.



Tiffany meets with leaders of Ghana Deaf Sport Federation

The participants at the conference included 53 African member states and Minister of Sports as well as government officials. I had the opportunity to be interviewed by Ghana TV to talk briefly about deaf sports in Africa. During my free time on the last day I had the opportunity to visit the Ghana Deaf Sports Federation and Ghana National Association

of the Deaf. I want to thank Jonathan Amuah and his team for a nice visit.

ICSD looks forward to positive results for all deaf athletes in Africa.

Tiffany Granfors

Ronald Gough - Deaf FILA Referee



ONE OF A KIND

Wrestling is one of the most complicated sports to umpire. Too much depends on the referee's experience and qualification. The organizing committee of the 2nd World Deaf Wrestling Championships has done its best to assemble a great refereeing. Apart from the best Armenian referees the tournament will be umpired by several FILA licensed referees from other countries. Among them is Ronald Gough from the United States: a unique person, he is the only deaf referee in the world who has an international FILA license. We just could not miss the possibility to interview him.

Good morning, Ron! Do you like it here in Armenia? Could you share your impressions with us?

I came late last night so I didn't get the chance to see the city. I took a little walk this morning, though, I saw all those old houses, archways and courtyards. I really liked them. I feel this city's unique aura. When I came here, to the Palace of culture and sport, I ran into Mehmet Bilgili. He is the ICSD Technical Director for wrestling and also my friend. We were really happy to see each other. I must

say that the atmosphere at this championship is great, very friendly and cordial.

That's because you are in Armenia. Now, let's talk about you. You are a unique person, the only deaf referee in the world to have an international FILA license. Tell me, how did you manage to get such a high rank?

I umpire wrestling duels all my life. I have gotten a referee's license in USA about twenty years ago and I have umpired all kinds of contests back home. I communicate with my colleagues using notes. At start many of them were prejudiced against me but then they saw my expertise and came to trust me. This is how I got the international FILA license. I have refereed many different competitions including world championships. Unfortunately, I didn't have the chance to work at Olympics but it's only the very best who go there.



Ron explains how he got his FILA license

You are certainly the deaf referee number one. Tell me, what is special in umpiring competitions of the deaf? Do you think it's easier for a deaf referee to work with deaf sportsmen or not?

Of course there is a difference. For example, whistles are replaced by tactile contact at deaf competitions. A deaf referee will adjust to that psychologically much more easily. There are many nuances that a deaf referee will get with less effort.

We all know that refereeing a sore subject for wrestling. Both coaches and athletes always have multiple complaints, some of them quite fair. Do you think there is a

way to improve international deaf competition refereeing?

Firstly, referees should come from as many different countries as possible. Your organizing team has done really well: half of the referees are from Armenia and half comes from different parts the world. This will surely make refereeing more unbiased. Secondly, we need to train as many deaf referees as possible. I try to do that back home. I help several bright guys but none of them has got higher than the third category yet. By the way, Internet helps a lot. There was a time when I could only explain something when seeing the person face to face and now I gladly advise via a webcam.

Thank you very much for your time, Ron!

Source:

http://armenia2008.armenica.info/eng_gough.htm

Rajeev Bagga Dominates Once Again



At the recent 2008 European Senior Championships in Punta Umbria, Spain, Rajeev BAGGA (GBR) won first place for 40+ men's singles. In this same tournament, he also won 1st place for 40+ men's doubles pairing with Dave WOOD (GBR).

Men's Singles [Results](#)
Men's Doubles [Results](#)
[Articles](#) and [Photos](#)

Congratulations, Rajeev!

World Deaf Martial Arts Championships Report

The 13th World Deaf Martial Arts Championships took place in Toulouse, France from 23 to 25 May. We knew the big success and saw more than 180 athletes coming from Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Australia, etc. Originally, 26 countries registered but only 21 countries participated.



Menant (FRA) in action against Barletta (ITA)

The competition was carried out in the best condition under the supervision of the ICSD Technical Director: Antoine DAMIEN (France) for Judo; Jung Bae PARK (Korea) for Taekwondo and François KHALEF (France) for Karate. Also, without forgetting: David LANESMAN, ICSD Vice President and Josef WILLMERDINGER, ICSD Sport Director and Isabelle MALAURIE, EDSO President came to assist. Contributions from Mr. Eduardo DOMINGUEZ (Argentina), the IMAFD Honorary President and Mr Francesco FARAONE (Italy) were also appreciated.

The President of French Karate Federation, Francis DIDIER, was present at this World Deaf Martial Arts Championships. The venue

"Maison du Judo" was full, with nearly 500 fans! Really, this World Championships was the best ever. The Organizing Committee worked very hard for the success. Thank you to Miss Marie DAVID, Mr. Guy SORIANO, Mr. Henri FRUTOS, Mrs. Anne GOUDENOVE, Ms. Claire POUDEROUX, Ms. Alexandra CORDON, Mr. Radouane SHASHA, Mr. Abdellah KADDOUR, Mr. Vincent CASTEL and some others for their hard work.



Miyazaki (JPN) executed the kata, Bassai-Dai

The World Deaf Martial Arts Championships was very positive as it helped athletes to be better prepared for the upcoming 2009 Summer Deaflympics in Taipei and in the near future, we would like to see an increase in the number of athletes. The next World Deaf Martial Arts Championships "may" take place in Korea in 2011.

Results and Photos

Therefore, au revoir (goodbye) Toulouse and Ni hao (Hello) Taipei!

François KHALEF

Deaf Sports Federations Update

Malaysia

Effective on 27 August 2008, Malaysia Sports Federation of the Deaf had reformed their Board members as follows:

PRESIDENT	Kamarzaman Harun
VICE PRESIDENT	Pong Chang Khim
SECRETARY GENERAL	Lim Anuar
TREASURER	Tan Kim Huat
MEMBER	Murshid Alaidin
MEMBER	Tengku Arman Harris Tengku
MEMBER	Hisham Khailani
MEMBER	Chong Yin Seong
MEMBER	Suryakala Letchumanan

Spain

Effective on 08 October 2008, Federación Española de Deportes Para Sordos had reformed their Board members as follows:

PRESIDENT	Emilio Basconillos Fernández
1st VICE PRESIDENT	Antonio Pérez Jiménez
2nd VICE PRESIDENT	Santiago Poveda García
GENERAL SECRETARY	Marta Muñoz Sigüenza
TREASURER	José Javier Campillo
TECHNICAL SPORTS	Félix Virtus Muriel
NATIONAL COMPETITION	Alberto Carbó
MEMBER	Josu Gómez
MEMBER	Juan Carlos Basilio

IOC In Brief

Innsbruck and Kuopio finalists for election to host the first Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012

IOC Press Release - 03 November 2008

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) today revealed the names of the finalist Candidate Cities from which the host city for the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012 will be elected. Innsbruck and Kuopio were selected by the IOC Executive Board last week, and will now be submitted to a postal vote by the IOC members. The host city will be announced by IOC President Jacques Rogge in a live web cast on www.olympic.org, provisionally scheduled for 12 December 2008.

The EB's decision on the two finalists was based on an IOC Evaluation Commission report, which is now available on www.olympic.org. Chaired by Pernilla Wiberg, the Commission assessed the projects of the four shortlisted Candidate Cities - Harbin (China), Innsbruck (Austria), Kuopio (Finland) and Lillehammer (Norway). The report focused on the risks associated with the organisation of the Games within the timeframe of only three years to plan and prepare to host the first edition of this new event.

The vote will take place over the coming weeks, with all IOC members, except those from Innsbruck and Kuopio, entitled to vote. An independent and certified notary based in Lausanne, Switzerland, will oversee the process to guarantee confidentiality. The city with the highest number of votes will be elected as the host city of the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012, marking the conclusion of a candidature process that started in March 2008. In the event of a tie, the IOC President will consult the EB members entitled to vote and will make the final decision based on this consultation.

About the Youth Olympic Games

The Youth Olympic Games aim to bring together talented athletes – age group 14 to 18 - from around the world to participate in high-level competitions but also to run, alongside the sports element of the event, educational programmes on the Olympic values, the benefits of sport for a healthy lifestyle, the social values sport can deliver and the dangers of doping and of training to excess and/or of inactivity.

The first Winter Youth Olympic Games will bring together approximately 1,000 athletes and 500 team officials. The sports programme will encompass all sports on the programme of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, with a limited number of disciplines and events.