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## **Athletes Selection Policy for Deaflympics 2017 (in Samsun)**

### **1) Statement of selection philosophy**

- a) The DEAFLYMPICS 2017 provide competition at highest level and are of importance and relevance in developing successful athletes. DSA is committed to selecting athletes whose current results and/or previous major international results indicate that the athlete is capable of being competitive at an elite level.

### **2) Objective selection criteria**

- a) Any athlete who achieved the qualifying standard during the qualifying period, from Apr 2016 to Mar 2017, will be automatically selected in the team.

**Or**

- b) The athlete who is ranked top ten (10) on the Deaflympics' rankings as of Dec 2016 will be awarded automatic selection to the team.

### **3) Subjective selection criteria**

- a) The DSA-SC will name the athletes who, in their opinion, have the best chance of achieving a medal result at the DEAFLYMPICS 2017.

**Or**

- b) The DSA-SC shall identify athletes for selection to the team based on ensuring a mixture of talent, with particular regard to an athlete's demonstrated ability for teamwork and team cohesion for the overall success of the team.

### **4) Combination of objective and subjective selection criteria**

- a) The athletes achieved the qualifying mark at the selection trial; having achieved the qualifying standard within the qualifying period will be automatically selected for the DEAFLYMPICS 2017. Any member may be added to the team at the discretion of the DSA-SC. This discretion is absolute and need not be exercised by the DSA-SC.

**Or**

- b) The first eligible athlete at the selection trial will be automatically selected provided that they attain the A qualifying<sup>1</sup> standard during the trial or has previously done so since Apr 2016.

Provided that the first-place-getter is also automatically selected, the second eligible athlete at the trial will also be an automatic selection provided they have attained the "A qualifying"<sup>1</sup> standard during the trial or have previously done so since Apr 2016.

Unfilled positions in individual events may be filled by the DSA-SC at their discretion from among all athletes who have attained at least the B qualifying<sup>1</sup> standard.

In any trial where an unqualified or B qualified<sup>2</sup> athlete defeats an A qualified<sup>1</sup> athlete then all selections for such events will also be at the discretion of the DSA-SC.

### **5) Factors to be taken into account in the exercise of discretion**

- a) In exercising their discretion, the DSA-SC may consider any factor, or combination of factors that is, in the opinion of the DSA-SC, relevant for consideration when

selecting an elite Singapore team. Without in any way limiting the discretion of the DSA-SC as set out in this clause, the DSA-SC may consider the following:

- i) performances in the selection trials;
- ii) performances in the previous regional championships and/or open invitational events;
- iii) overall consistency of performance at an international level;
- iv) individual strengths that may contribute to the performance of the team as a whole;
- v) willingness and ability to fill and/or complete a role that may enhance Singapore's medal potential;
- vi) the benefit of exposure to international competition to any athlete who, in the opinion of the DSA-SC, has the potential to represent Singapore at future Deaflympics.

**Or**

- b) In general, an athlete will only be considered for selection by discretion if they are considered by the DSA-SC to be on a rapid improvement curve and/or possess high potential in future international events and/or attain a performance that would place the athlete in the final of the DEAFLYMPICS 2017.

## **6) Pre-selection**

- a) Athletes may be eligible to be pre-selected at the discretion of the DSA-SC. To be eligible for pre-selection athletes must have:
  - i) attained the qualifying standard at any time between Apr 2016 and Mar 2017;
  - ii) have been an individual medallist at the previous regional championships; and
  - iii) complied with all requirements of this selection policy.

**Or**

- b) The DSA-SC may select an athlete or athletes early to the team based, in the opinion of the DSA-SC, on outstanding international performances in the previous 18 months.

## **7) Conditional selection**

The selection committee may make the discretionary selection of any particular athlete subject to the athlete meeting further conditions. Those further conditions may include achieving a particular result in a future race, completing a fitness trial to the satisfaction of the head coach or any other condition that, in the opinion of the selection committee, is reasonable in the circumstances of the particular athlete.

If a particular athlete's discretionary selection is made subject to the athlete meeting further conditions, those conditions will be communicated to the athlete in question prior to the team being announced. The fact that the athlete's selection is conditional will be mentioned at the team announcement and if considered appropriate by the selection committee, the additional conditions may also be announced.

## **8) Extenuating circumstances**

- a) Athletes (other than those exempted by the DSA-SC in advance) who fail to

- i) compete in the selection events because of illness, injury or family bereavement may still be selected provided that all other qualifying conditions have been met in advance of their non-participation. A medical certificate provided by a doctor nominated or authorised by DSA will be required in cases of illness or injury.

**Or**

b)

- i) In considering the performances of athletes at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under these criteria, the respective national selection committees may, at their discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances.
- ii) For the purposes of clause (a) above, extenuating circumstances means an inability to compete, attend training camps or perform at an optimum level arising from:
  - (1) injury or illness
  - (2) travel delays
  - (3) equipment failure
  - (4) bereavement or personal misfortune, and/or
  - (5) any other factors reasonably considered by DSA-AM to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- iii) Athletes unable to compete at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under these criteria must advise the DSA-AM in writing of this fact and the reasons thereof as soon as practicable after the extenuating circumstances arise.
- iv) In the case of injury or illness, athletes will be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctors nominated by DSA-AM.
- v) A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the respective national selection committee on an individual basis.

## **9) Eligibility criteria**

Only athletes qualified according to the terms of this section will be eligible for selection in the team.

a) DSA general eligibility criteria:

- i) Complete and sign the application and declaration form and return it to DSA no later than 15 May 2017.
- ii) Complete and sign the Athlete Agreement.
- iii) At all times abide by DSA's code of conduct and act in a manner that does not bring their respective sports or the national team into disrepute.
- iv) All members of the team may be required to sign an Anti-doping Authority drug testing form within 14 days of announcement of their selection in the team or put within 10 days announcement in the team. (if applicable)

b) DSA specific eligibility criteria:

- i) have achieved the qualifying standard within the qualifying period, or
- ii) have been a member of last year's world championship team, or
- iii) have placed first, second or third in last year's national open championship.

- c) ICSD/Deaflympic general eligibility criteria:
  - i) Satisfy the ICSD rules regarding nationality and citizenship, which are based on the conditions laid down in the charter of the Deaflympics - Regulations. In summary, athletes must:
    - (1) be a Singapore Citizen
    - (2) be a current DSA member
    - (3) not have represented another country in the last three (3) years.

## 10) Requirements after selection

- a) Following selection of the team as set out in this policy, all members of the team will be required to comply with the following additional requirements:
  - i) All members of the team are expected to meet minimum standards of behaviour for team members while assembled, travelling or training as part of the team. Any team member who does not meet that minimum standard of behaviour in the assessment of the head coach will be dismissed from the team.
  - ii) All team members must immediately inform the head coach of any illness or injury that could reasonably impact on the athlete's ability to perform at the level expected of the athlete at the DEAFLYMPICS 2017.
  - iii) All team members will be required to submit to a medical examination conducted by the medical director or his nominee not less than three weeks prior to the DEAFLYMPICS 2017.
  - iv) If at any time prior to departure for the DEAFLYMPICS 2017 any team member is assessed as injured, ill or unfit, that team member may be withdrawn from the team at the discretion of the head coach.
  - v) Team members may be required to attend a pre-trip camp at such *venue to be affirmed* prior to the DEAFLYMPICS 2017.

Or

- b) During the period between the announcement of the team and the date of departure, athletes must demonstrate that they are physically fit, performing well and likely to compete at a level appropriate to the competition/s for which they have been selected.
- c) During the period between the announcement of the team and the date of departure, assessment shall be made from time to time as to the selected athletes' standard of fitness, their progress in training and their preparedness for the event in which they have been selected. Such assessment shall be directed and be under the control of the head coach. If, as a result of such assessment, it is considered by the manager, after consultation with the other team officials, that by reason of ill health, injury or some other matter, a selected athlete has not maintained their fitness or standard of performance so as to be able to represent Singapore at a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection, the manager shall immediately notify the head coach, who shall have the power to withdraw that athlete from the team.

## 11) Appeals

### a) Right of appeal

- i) An eligible athlete who fails to be selected for the team pursuant to the process and criteria set out in this policy may appeal against omission from the team as set out in this section.

- ii) The sole grounds of any appeal are that:
  - (1) the athlete's omission from the team was as a result of a failure by the selection committee to properly apply the selection criteria set out in this policy, or
  - (2) there was no material on which the selection decision could reasonably be based.
- iii) Any appeal under this clause will proceed in accordance with the procedure set out below.

**b) Notice of appeal**

- i) Any eligible athlete wishing to appeal against their omission from the team must lodge a notice of appeal in writing in the form set out at Appendix 1 to this policy to be received by the DSA-SC by 5.00pm on the second business day following the announcement of the decision the subject of the appeal. The notice of appeal must set out the grounds on which the appeal is made.
- ii) After lodging the notice of appeal as set out in sub-clause b(i) above, the appellant (the athlete making the appeal) must file a summary of all the arguments and/or submissions that the athlete wishes to be considered in support of their appeal together with an outline of all the evidence that will be relied on in support of those arguments and/or submissions. This document must be received by the DSA-SC by 5.00pm on the fifth clear day following the announcement of the decision the subject of the appeal.
- iii) The summary of arguments and submissions in support of the athlete's appeal must be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$100.00 (in Singapore dollars). If the appeal fee is not filed at the same time, and received by the DSA-SC as required by this section, the athlete will be presumed to have withdrawn their appeal.
- iv) The appellant can withdraw an appeal at any time.
- v) The time limits for lodging the notice of appeal, summary of arguments and submissions and the appeal fee are mandatory. Failure to comply with these time limits will, at the absolute discretion of the appeals tribunal, result in the appeal being dismissed without consideration on the merits.

**c) Constitution of appeals tribunal**

- i) The appeals tribunal shall be constituted by any three persons available to hear the appeal, which must include the following:
  - (1) a person with a thorough knowledge of the sport and who preferably has had recent international competition experience in the sport
  - (2) another person of experience and skills suitable to the function of the appeals tribunal
  - (3) a barrister or solicitor who will chair the appeals tribunal.
- ii) No member of the appeals tribunal may be a party to or directly interested in the matter under consideration.

**d) Functions of the appeals tribunal**

The appeals tribunal has no power of selection or re-selection. The appeals tribunal may review the matter/s set out in the appeal and may (as appropriate) refer the matter back to the selection committee for consideration. The decision of the appeals

tribunal will be binding on the parties and neither party may institute or maintain proceedings in any court or tribunal other than the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

**e) Hearing of the appeal**

- i) The appeals tribunal shall, as soon as practical after receiving the appeal documents, investigate and consider the matter and determine whether:
  - (1) the matter should be dismissed because, in the opinion of the appeals tribunal, there is no credible evidence, submission or argument on which the appeals tribunal could be satisfied that a ground of the appeal can be made out, or
  - (2) the appeal should be the subject of a hearing as set below.
- ii) If the appeals tribunal determines the matter should be dismissed under clause e(i)(1) above that decision is final and the appeal has failed. If the appeals tribunal determines that the appeal should be dismissed without a hearing, the appellant's appeal fee of \$100 is forfeited to DSA as the costs of the appeal. If the appeals tribunal determines the matter warrants a hearing, the appeals tribunal will advise the appellant and set the date for such a hearing as soon as practicable and necessary having regard to the timing of selection and the proximity of relevant events.
- iii) The appeals tribunal must conduct any appeal hearing in accordance with clause e(ii) as follows:
  - (1) it must observe the principles of natural justice
  - (2) it is not bound by the rules of evidence and may inform itself as to any matter in such manner as it thinks fit
  - (3) it will conduct its hearings with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matter permits
  - (4) hearings may occur in such manner as the chair decides, including telephone or video conferencing
  - (5) the appellant must establish one or more grounds of appeal to the reasonable satisfaction of the appeals tribunal having regard to the importance and gravity of the issue
  - (6) the parties to an appeal may be represented at a hearing.
- iv) following consideration of all information that the appeals tribunal considers relevant, the appeals tribunal shall arrive at a finding. A decision of the appeals tribunal may be by a majority decision:
  - (1) the appeals tribunal shall notify the DSA-SC Chairman of its finding as soon as practicable
  - (2) if the appeals tribunal considers the ground/s alleged by the appellant to be made out, it shall recommend that selection committee reconsider the selection of the relevant team position
  - (3) where the appeals tribunal considers that a ground of appeal has been made out, it may stipulate that all or part of the appeal fee be refunded to the appellant
  - (4) The selection committee shall comply with any direction of the appeals tribunal to reconsider the selection of the relevant team position

- (5) any further selection decision of the selection committee under the direction of the appeals tribunal shall be final and binding, and no other further appeal shall be available to the appellant in respect of that selection.

## 12) Power to amend

This policy can be amended at any time by DSA if DSA is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary as a result of any change in the ICSD/Deaflympics guidelines, to give effect to the policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight or for any other reason determined to be in the best interests of DSA by DSA. DSA shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

- END -

*(Updated as of 10 April 2017)*



DEAF SPORTS ASSOCIATION  
SINGAPORE

### Acronyms

APDG	Asia Pacific Deaf Games
DSA	Deaf Sports Association (Singapore)
DSA-SC	DSA-Selection Committee
DSA-AM	DSA-Athlete Management
ICSD	International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

### Footnote:

- <sup>1</sup> This is an elite grouping qualifying standard stated by either DSA-SC or the championship event prerequisites.  
<sup>2</sup> This is the minimum qualifying standard stated by either DSA-SC or the championship event prerequisites.



**APPENDIX 1**

**SELECTION APPEAL FORM**

**Part I: Particulars of Applicant**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_  
Address : \_\_\_\_\_ NRIC : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code : \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel/Mobile : \_\_\_\_\_ Email : \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II: Appeal Details** ( Please ✓ where applicable)

Against a decision       Athlete's unavailability       Qualification  
 Age Group       Rules & regulation       Others

**Part III: Grounds of Appeal** ( Please attach pages if space is not sufficient)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

**Part IV: Committee's Decision**

**ACCEPTED / REJECTED**

Remarks:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorised Signature

**For Official Use**

Appeal Fee : \$ 100.00

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash ( Please ✓ where applicable)

Cheque No: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt No: \_\_\_\_\_