



2005 Australian Deaflympic Team

20th Deaflympic Games - Melbourne 2005

Soccer Fact Sheet

1. MELBOURNE 2005 DEAFLYMPIC GAMES

The Deaflympic Games, under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee, is the second oldest multi sport and cultural festival on earth with a long and proud history since the Inaugural Games in Paris in 1924. Held every four years, the Deaflympics are recognised as the major sporting and cultural event within the worldwide deaf community.

Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) will host the 20th Deaflympic Games in Melbourne. To be held between 5th and 16th January 2005, arrival and lighting of the Official Deaflympic torch will set the scene for 12 days of elite sports and cultural events.

2. DSA SOCCER PROGRAM

Australia last qualified for the Deaflympic Games in Christchurch 1989, where the men's team finished ninth. Despite this low finish, the DSA Soccer Program prides itself on being better than competitive at Deaflympic Games. Backed by a strong High Performance program and regular training camps, the Australian Soccer Teams are both aiming for a top 5 placing at Melbourne 2005.

3. COMPETITION VENUE

The Soccer competition will take place at a number of premier venues around Melbourne.

The finals will be held at "Olympic Park", which is situated within the Sports & Entertainment precinct of Melbourne, only a 10 minutes walk from the heart of the CBD.

4. TRAINING VENUES

The training venues are the same as the competition venue. Other stadiums may also be available for training.

5. EQUIPMENT & REGULATIONS

All equipment and competition regulations will comply with the FIFA Rules.

6. EVENTS

The 20th Deaflympic Games competition will consist of two Team tournament competitions, one for Men and one for Women.

7. SCHEDULE

The preliminary competition schedule is based on the number of teams in the previous Deaflympic Games. The final competition schedule is subject to change according to the number of entered teams. The schedule will consist of all teams split into four groups playing preliminary matches and finals in

a round-robin format. The exact size of the draw will depend on final entries. Information will be given at the technical meeting prior to the competition start.

8. SELECTION

8.1. Eligibility:

All athletes at the Deaflympic Games that represent Australia are required to (i) Be an Australian citizen, and, (ii) have a hearing loss of a minimum of 55 dB in the best ear, and, (iii) have meet the requirements as stated in the Handball Nomination Criteria.

8.2. Team Size:

Australia may enter a maximum of twenty-two (22) men and twenty-two women.

8.3. EOI, Nomination and Selection:

8.3.1. Expression of Interest (EOI): Anyone who is interested in being selected in the Soccer team are advised to make an initial Expressions of Interest (EOI) on a form that can be obtained from the DSA Office and/or website. EOIs made by prospective athletes to DSA can be made up until approximately 12 months prior to the date of the Games' opening.

8.3.2. Nomination: Deaf Soccer Australia (DS) will invite selected athletes to participate in its selection programs. DS will then nominate a Shadow Squad from which the Australian Soccer Team will be selected. Athletes can be removed and added from the Squad at anytime due to performance or due to any other reasonable circumstance.

8.3.3. Selection: Final selection will be made at the sole and absolute discretion of DSA. Selection will depend on whether the athlete has met all eligibility points for selection.