



2005 Australian Deaflympic Team

20th Deaflympic Games - Melbourne 2005

Water Polo 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 WATER POLO PROGRAM

Melbourne will signify the first time Australia has participated in the Water Polo competition at the Deaflympics. It is expected that the team will be inexperienced, however the opportunity to represent Australia will encourage a fighting spirit to be competitive against the strong European countries.

3. COMPETITION VENUE

The Water Polo competition will take place at the "Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre" (MSAC). MSAC is situated within the beautiful parklands of Albert Park, only a 10 minutes tram ride from the heart of Melbourne's CBD. The centre will host eight of the sports participating at the Games.

For Water Polo, MSAC has an indoor International 50 metre x 10 lane heated pool, plus a 10 lane 25 metre warm-up pool. The main competition pool will have a seating capacity of 2000 people. A second International 50 metre x 10 lane heated pool is being constructed and maybe available at Games time.

4. TRAINING VENUES

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

5. EQUIPMENT & REGULATIONS

All equipment and competition regulations will comply with the FINA Rules. Locker rooms, showers and first aid services will be available at the pool.

6. EVENTS

The 20th Deaflympic Games competition will consist of a Men's Team tournament.

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 in one group 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 Water Polo Nomination Criteria.

8.2. Team Size:

Australia may enter a maximum of thirteen (13) players.

8.3. EOI, Nomination and Selection:

8.3.1. Expression of Interest (EOI): Anyone who is interested in being selected in the Water Polo 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 Aquatics Australia (DAA) will invite selected athletes to participate in its selection programs. DAA will then nominate a Shadow Squad from which the Australian Water Polo 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.