



WomenSport  
International

**FINAL REPORT**  
**DEAF/HARD OF HEARING**  
**GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORT**  
**SURVEY**

**Submitted to WomenSport International**

**June 2015**

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## **WSI Deaf and Hard of Hearing Girls and Women In Sport Task Force Final Report**

### **Executive summary**

In January 2013, WomenSport International (WSI) officially created a new task force to focus on **Deaf/Hard of Hearing Girls and Women in Sport**. Furthermore the Task Force is pleased to receive endorsement from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD).

The current members of the Task Force were:

[Donalda K. Ammons](#), Ed.D. - USA (Co-Chair)

[Becky Clark](#), Ph.D., LCSW-R, CC-AASP - USA (Co-Chair)

[Dawn Jani Birley](#), B.A. - Canada/Finland

[Anne Bremner](#), M.A. - Australia

[Petra Kurkova](#), Ph.D. - Czech Republic

[Johanna Mesch](#), Ph.D. - Sweden

[Mimi Ho](#), MSc. - United Kingdom/Hong Kong

The purpose of this Task Force was to determine and assess the needs of deaf and hard of hearing girls and women in sport and advocate on their behalf. Following WSI's mission, we sought "to encourage increased opportunities and positive changes" for deaf and hard of hearing girls and women at all levels of sport involvement. One of the major goals for the 2014 year was to conduct a survey and gather data in the context of our mission. This was accomplished in June 2014.

The Task Force produced a first written preliminary report detailing results of initial findings from the survey and made recommendations at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Working Group (IWG) World Conference on Women and Sport in Helsinki, Finland 12–15<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

In order to fulfill our mission, we invited a total of 104 national deaf sports federations as members of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to take part in the survey. The survey asked about sport participation among the deaf/hard of hearing girls and women in their Deaf Sports Federation. The survey was made available in both written English via email, online survey through Survey Monkey and in International Sign (IS). Participation in this study was *entirely optional*. Participants in the survey were assured that the Task Force members working on the project were the only individuals having access to the data results and data would be kept strictly confidential. At the end of the survey period, a total of 28 responses were received (27% response rate).

One of the questions asked was related to the possible reasons for no deaf/hard of hearing females in the national deaf sports federation.

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The responses are daunting:

- Negative stigma towards Deafness or Hearing loss by the community is indescribable
- Lack of financial support from local, regional and national governments for assistance in arranging training and workshops
- Lack of documented facts on the target group's real situation
- Lack of national policy and legislations in sport by organizers and decision makers at all levels for athletes with hearing loss

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

As we know, research shows there are slightly more men than women by **1 percent** in the world's total population.

From the survey, we gather some very interesting data:

- There are about 30% Deaf and Hard of Hearing girls and women participate in either recreational or competitive sports.
- Nearly 55% of the respondents indicate the level of funding for to be between 0-20%, followed with 20% at 21-40%. 2 out of 4 regions per ICSD's membership structure (Africa and America) report 100% in the 0-20% category, whereas Asia/Pacific registered at 63% in the 0-20%. European respondents spread evenly among 3 categories- 0-20%, 21-40% and 41-60%
- What's distressing is that the national deaf sports federations under the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf reported 0% for the 15-20 age range for their female participants. It means young Deaf and Hard of Hearing girls are not served at all!
- The percentage of annual financial support given to female athletes is at 54.2% in the 0-20%

### **Positive Outcomes:**

Because of the WSI's initiative with the Task Force, ICSD as the supreme body of deaf sports has become more cognizant of the greater needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing girls and women in the sports world.

As a result, ICSD:

- Partner of the 6<sup>th</sup> IWG World Conference on Women in Sport
- Sent 3 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Female representatives to the 6<sup>th</sup> IWG World Conference on Women in Sport in Helsinki, Finland
- Endorsed the Brighton Declaration on Women and Sport
- Established Women in Sport Commission to gauge the needs and services of deaf girls/women in a more efficient manner.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ICSD Women in Sport Commission should develop goals and guidelines to increase women's representation in leadership and participation.
- ICSD should increase representation of women in leadership positions to 20% .
- ICSD should increase women representation in each of its four global regions.
- National Deaf Sports organizations should appoint woman representatives.
- IWG and WSI should adopt a budget (and policy/procedures) for reasonable accommodations/accessibility for members (and participants) who are deaf or hard of hearing at board meetings and future conferences.

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**SURVEY QUESTIONS**  
**And**  
**RESULTS**



## **DEAF/HARD OF HEARING GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORT SURVEY**

National Deaf Sports Federation

Email:

Date:

Dear Administrator/President,

In January 2013, WomenSport International (WSI) officially created a new task force to focus on **Deaf/Hard of Hearing Girls and Women in Sport**

[http://www.sportsbiz.bz/womensportinternational/taskforces/deaf\\_hard\\_of\\_hearing.htm](http://www.sportsbiz.bz/womensportinternational/taskforces/deaf_hard_of_hearing.htm)) Further more, the Task Force is pleased to receive endorsement from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD).

The current members of the Task Force are:

[Donalda K. Ammons](#), Ed.D. - USA (Co-Chair)

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The purpose of this Task Force is to determine and assess the needs of deaf and hard of hearing girls and women in sport and advocate on their behalf. Following WSI's mission, we seek "to encourage increased opportunities and positive changes" for deaf and hard of hearing girls and women at all levels of sport involvement. One of the major goals for the 2014 year is to conduct a survey and gather data in the context of our mission.

By 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014, we will produce a first written report detailing results of initial findings from the survey and make recommendations at the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> International Working Group (IWG) World Conference on Women and Sport in Helsinki, Finland 12–15<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

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In order to fulfill our mission, we would like to invite you to take part in the survey which will take approximately 15–20 minutes to complete. The survey will ask you about sport participation among the deaf/hard of hearing girls and women in your Deaf Sports Federation. Your participation in this study is *entirely your choice*. You can drop-out of the project at any time without any negative consequences. Although it will help us if all questions are answered, you do not have to answer any question that you do not want to. We will not show your answers to anyone else other than the Task Force members working on the project. Please rest assured that all data will be kept strictly confidential.

The survey is available in written English via email (attached), online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WSIDHHSURVEY>, and in International Sign (IS) at <http://youtu.be/9QOwhYlirh8> (cover letter) and [http://youtu.be/tD\\_OpdyGaBA](http://youtu.be/tD_OpdyGaBA) (survey).

Upon completion of the written English version via email, please send it to [WSI.DHH@gmail.com](mailto:WSI.DHH@gmail.com). For the online survey, you can submit it online by following the instructions. If you opt to take the IS version, please upload your answers via your YouTube account or via email and send to [WSI.DHH@gmail.com](mailto:WSI.DHH@gmail.com).

The deadline for submitting the survey is **15<sup>th</sup> April 2014**.

We thank you in advance for your willingness and cooperation in completing the survey. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this project further, please feel free to contact us at [WSI.DHH@gmail.com](mailto:WSI.DHH@gmail.com).

Yours sincerely,

WSI Task Force on Deaf/Hard of Hearing Girls and Women in Sport



**WSI Task Force on Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Girls and Women in Sport Survey**

Name of your Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How many deaf/hard of hearing **athletes** does your *Deaf Sports Federation (DSF)* have in your **country**?

Females \_\_\_\_\_

Males \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many **sports** does your *DSF* offer for deaf/hard of hearing female **athletes**?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which sports are offered by your *DSF* for your deaf/hard of hearing female athletes?

Tick  $\checkmark$

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Alpine Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Athletics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Badminton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beach Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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4. What is the percentage of deaf/hard of hearing female athletes participate primarily for each category?

**In competition:**

0-20%     21-40%     41-60%     61-80%     81-100%

**In fitness/recreation:**

0-20%     21-40%     41-60%     61-80%     81-100%

5. What is the percentage of the total deaf/hard of hearing female athletes participate at *national/international level*?

0-20%     21-40%     41-60%     61-80%     81-100%

6. What is the **average age range** of deaf/hard of hearing female athletes in your DSF?

15-20     21-25     26-30     31-35     over 35

7. How many deaf/hard of hearing females serve on your **DSF**:

Executive Board? \_\_\_\_\_

Sub-Committees? \_\_\_\_\_

Staff positions? \_\_\_\_\_

Unpaid Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_

8. How many deaf/hard of hearing female **referees/umpires** are there in your **DSF**?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. How many deaf/hard of hearing female **coaches/trainers** are there in your **DSF**?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the percentage of your DSF's **annual financial support** given to female athletes?

0-20%     21-40%     41-60%     61-80%     81-100%

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11. If there are no deaf/hard of hearing females in your DSF, please list the possible reasons for this.

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**Thank You for Your Participation!**

-----END of Survey-----

**Send this form to:**

WomenSport International Task Force on Deaf/Hard of Hearing Girls and Women in Sport at [WSI.DHH@gmail.com](mailto:WSI.DHH@gmail.com)

OR if you opt to take the IS version, please upload your answers via your YouTube account or via email and send to [WSI.DHH@gmail.com](mailto:WSI.DHH@gmail.com).

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## WSI DHH Girls and Women in Sport Survey Results (2014)

**Q1: How many deaf/hard of hearing athletes does your Deaf Sports Federation (DSF) have in your country?**

### A. Females

Mean = 541.62  
Standard Deviation = 822.83  
Range = 4 (Seychelles) – 2885 (US)  
Total Number = 14, 108

### B. Males

Mean = 1136.00  
Standard Deviation = 1616.74  
Range = 4 (Seychelles) - 5894 (US)  
Total Number = 29, 536

**Q2: How many sports does your DCS offer for deaf/hard of hearing female athletes?**

Mean = 12.58  
Standard Deviation = 8.04  
Range = 1 (Seychelles) – 35 (Norway)

**Q3: Which sports are offered by your DSF for your deaf/hard of hearing female athletes?**

	YES	NO
Alpine Skiing	9	19
Arm Wrestling	1	27
Athletics	21	7
Badminton	19	9
Baseball	2	26
Basketball	18	10
Beach Volleyball	16	12
Boccia	1	27
Bowling (Classic)	1	27
Bowling (Bohle)	1	27
Bowling (Scicors)	1	27
Bowling	21	7
Checkers	2	26

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	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Chess	13	15
Cricket	3	25
Cross Country	1	27
Cross Country Skiing	9	19
Curling	9	19
Cycling (Road)	9	19
Cycling (Track)	4	24
Darts	4	24
Diving	2	26
Draughts	1	27
Fencing	1	27
Football	12	16
Futsal	11	17
Golf	10	18
Gymnastics	4	24
Handball	3	25
Ice Hockey	2	26
Judo	8	20
Karate	11	17
Lawn Bowling	3	25
Motorsports	1	27
Mountain Biking	7	21
Netball	5	23
Novuss	1	27
Orienteering	11	17
Petanque	1	27
Rugby	3	25
Shooting	9	19
Snowboarding	9	19
Softball	2	26
Squash	6	22
Swimming	18	10
Table Tennis	21	7
Taekwondo	10	18
Tennis	12	18
Volleyball	14	14
Wrestling (Free Style)	3	25
Wrestling (Greco-Roman)	3	25

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**Q4: What is the percentage of deaf/hard of hearing female athletes who participate primarily for each category?**

**In competition:**

	#	%
0 – 20%	9	34.6%
21 – 40%	12	46.2%
41 – 60%	4	15.4%
61 – 80%	1	3.8%
81 – 100%	0	0.0%

**In fitness/recreation:**

	#	%
0 – 20%	6	21.4%
21 – 40%	10	35.7%
41 – 60%	6	21.4%
61 – 80%	3	10.7%
81 – 100%	0	0.0%

**Q5: What is the percentage of the total deaf/hard of hearing female athletes who participate at national/international level?**

	#	%
0 – 20%	11	42.3%
21 – 40%	11	42.3%
41 – 60%	4	14.3%
61 – 80%	0	0.0%
81 – 100%	0	0.0%

**Q6: What is the average age range of deaf/hard of hearing female athletes in your DSF?**

	#	%
15 – 20	0	0.0%
21 – 25	10	38.5%
26 – 30	10	38.5%
31 – 35	2	7.7%
Over 35	4	14.3%

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**Q7: How many deaf/hard of hearing female serve on your DSF:**

Executive Board Mean = 1.89, Range = 0 – 7  
Sub-Committees Mean = 1.81, Range = 0 – 6  
Staff Positions Mean = 1.25, Range = 0 – 6  
Unpaid Volunteers Mean = 19.54, Range = 0 – 300

**Q8: How many deaf/hard of hearing female referees/umpires are there in your DSF?**

Mean = 1.11, Range = 0 – 10

**Q9: How many deaf/hard of hearing female coaches/trainers are there in your DSF?**

Mean = 3.22, Range = 0 – 20

**Q10: What is the percentage of your DSF's annual financial support given to female athletes?**

	#	%
0 – 20%	13	54.2%
21 – 40%	5	20.8%
41 – 60%	4	16.7%
61 – 80%	1	4.2%
81 – 100%	1	4.2%

**Q11: If there are no deaf/hard of hearing females in your DSF, please list the possible reasons:**

- Most deaf/hard of hearing females do not participate in the sports activities when there is competing. They are very active in the schools during annual inter-competitions.
- Poverty which hinder deaf/hard of hearing female to prioritize sport as potential in life.
- The data does not exist. In our conditions, most women participate in individual competitions, but unfortunately not present in team sports.
- We have a very small Executive Board at present. We are hoping to expand this.

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**Q11: If there are no deaf/hard of hearing females in your DSF, please list the possible reasons: (continued)**

- In year of 2013, Latvian Deaf Sports Federation organized 14 different sports in Latvian national level, in this competitions was attended by some 294 participants, of which 91 members were women.
- Lack of dynamic group leadership and coaches skills in all sport listed.
- They are inviting but it seems they have no interest and only few of them have done but are not seen on the ground. Another reason the females are not encouraged to partaking in the sports event.
- Negative attitude in the community about the target group developing sports.
- There is no strategy in place to develop sports for the female deaf in the country and also no women has empowered in the sports.
- Lack of skills in resources mobilization, communication and marketing.
- No sponsorship from government and non-governmental organization to DFS when requesting for assistances for training workshop.
- Recently, beach volleyball and handball has implemented this year with few numbers of players but has been registered yet.
- Unimplemented national policy and legislations in sport by the planners and decision makers at all levels.
- Lack of researched facts country wide to determine the target group their situation in sport.
- Lack of awareness in sport by the target group and their stakeholders.
- Low education and illiteracy among the target group in undertaking the role of developing sport by themselves.

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## WSI DHH Girls and Women in Sport Survey (2014) Results by Region

**Total # of Female Participants**      N = 14, 108

### By Region

	Number	% of Total
Africa	611	4.3%
America	2910	20.6%
Asia/Pacific	1398	9.9%
Europe	9189	65.2%

### Funding (Total)

	#	%
0 – 20%	13	54.2%
21 – 40%	5	20.8%
41 – 60%	4	16.7%
61 – 80%	1	4.2%
81 – 100%	1	4.25

### Funding (By Region)

#### Africa

	#	%
0 – 20%	3	100.0%
21 – 40%	0	
41 – 60%	0	
61 – 80%	0	
81 – 100%	0	

#### America

	#	%
0 – 20%	2	100.0%
21 – 40%	0	
41 – 60%	0	
61 – 80%	0	
81 – 100%	0	

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**Asia/Pacific**

	#	%
0 – 20%	5	62.5%
21 – 40%	1	12.5%
41 – 60%	1	12.5%
61 – 80%	0	0.0%
81 – 100%	1	12.5%

**Europe**

	#	%
0 – 20%	3	27.3%
21 – 40%	4	36.4%
41 – 60%	3	27.3%
61 – 80%	1	9.1%
81 – 100%	0	

**Age Range (Total)**

	#	%
15 – 20	0	0.0%
21 – 25	10	38.5%
26 – 30	10	38.5%
31 – 35	2	7.7%
Over 35	4	14.3%

**Age Range (By Region)****Africa**

	#	%
15 – 20	0	0.0%
21 – 25	2	67.7%
26 – 30	1	33.3%
31 – 35	0	0.0%
Over 35	0	0.0%

**America**

	#	%
15 – 20	0	0.0%
21 – 25	1	50.0%
26 – 30	1	50.0%
31 – 35	0	0.0%
Over 35	0	0.0%

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**Asia/Pacific**

	#	%
15 – 20	0	0.0%
21 – 25	3	37.5%
26 – 30	4	50.0%
31 – 35	0	0.0%
Over 35	1	12.5%

**Europe**

	#	%
15 – 20	0	0.0%
21 – 25	4	30.8%
26 – 30	4	30.8%
31 – 35	2	15.4%
Over 35	3	23.1%

**Total # of Females that serve in DSFs**

Sum = 795

Mean = 29.44

Range = 2 – 302

**By Region:****Africa**

Sum = 44

Mean = 11.00

Range = 1 – 22

**America**

Sum = 36

Mean = 18.0

Range = 16 – 20

**Asia/Pacific**

Sum = 162

Mean = 20.25

Range = 2 – 4

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## Europe

Sum = 553

Mean = 42.54

Range = 3 – 302

### Percentage of Females (# of Females divided by Total Number of Athletes)

**Total:** 30.1%

Africa 33.9%

Americas 27.2%

Asia/Pacific 28.5%

Europe 31.5%

