



Greetings from DSA!

I am pleased to confirm that the “Australian Deaf Games: A template and overview for future Games” is now available on our [website](#).

This summary report as well as documents (including 2008 and 2012 ADG comparison study, past ADG sport participation, etc) is based on the full report provided by the ADG Reference Group and provides a series of recommendations, pathways and tasks for the DSA Board to undertake to ensure the future of the Australian Deaf Games remains strong and continues to grow. If you would like a copy of the comprehensive Final Report, please contact the DSA office.

The DSA Board sincerely thanks the Reference Group for their work in developing and guiding the process which help to ensure future ADG's are well managed and enjoyable events.

Since our last newsletter a number of actions, processes and events have occurred:

1. Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) **updated policies** are now uploaded onto the DSA website;
2. A revised DSA Constitution has been forwarded to DSA Members for their comments and voting at the upcoming Annual General Meeting;
3. The **DSA Strategic Plan** is functional and driving the day to day operations of the business;
4. The DSA website has now a number of new resources that can be viewed and /or downloaded;
5. The National Athletics Championships and National Beach Volleyball Championships were held in Brisbane;
6. DSA new Deaf Starting System (DSS) manufactured in conjunction with Swiss Timing has now been successfully used at this years Deaflympic Games, at the National Deaf Athletics Championships and the Queensland Primary and Secondary Schools Athletic Championships. The system was successfully utilised at the recent Deaflympics . The positive report from these events will be used in developing a comprehensive presentation to the IAAF and the ICSD. This presentation will seek endorsement of the lighting system on the world stage;
7. Development of a working relationship with Latrobe University;
8. The development of the “Five Strategic Goals for the participation of deaf Australians in all levels of Sport” continues to be seen as a guiding light in working with the various levels of Government;
9. A number of Memorandum of Understandings with Tennis, Cycling, and Swimming are either signed off or are nearing completion. DSA are now represented on Cricket Australia’s “All Abilities Working Group” that aims to develop an all abilities cricket community strategy which will include programs and enablers;
10. A number of Active Deaf Kids activities have occurred or are planned over the next 2 months including Bluearth Foundation.

The DSA Annual General Meeting, workshop and Awards Function will be held on Saturday 23rd November 2013 in Sydney. Final paperwork will be forwarded out in early November with the following topics for the workshop being set as:

1. New Membership Structure
2. Strategic Plan
3. Membership Benefits
4. Australian Deaf Games

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Active Hands!

cheers,

Garry West-Bail, DSA General Manager

Sekou Breaks 21 Year Record!

SEKOU Kanneh never heard the crack of the starting pistol on his way to breaking a 21-year-old record at the Queensland Secondary Schools State Championships.

In a world first, the 13-year-old deaf sprinter's scorching 100m at the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre was released by the flash of a hi-tech starting system that frees him to compete against, and beat, able-bodied athletes.

The Indooroopilly State High School student's time of 11.36secs in Thursday's semi-final shaved .08sec from the previous mark and qualified him for the national championships to be held in Townsville in December.

To read more, click [here](#).



Monique Wins Young Achiever Award!



The Variety Young Sports Achiever Award is presented each year to a special young person who has overcome adversity to achieve an outstanding level of success in the sporting arena. This year Variety proudly presented the Young Sports Achiever Award to swimmer Monique Beckwith.

Monique Beckwith who has profoundly deaf hearing loss, was inspired to take up swimming competitively at the age of 8 years old after watching the 2005 Deaflympics held in Melbourne.

Monique Beckwith, fifteen years old, had a horrendous run of incidents and injuries in the 12 months lead up to the Deaflympics.

- Her cochlear implant was damaged whilst at a school camp and spent a few months without a functioning implant. A surgery for cochlear replacement took place during the Summer school holidays so she spent a few weeks out of the pool.

- She fractured her leg in February during a school PE class and spent 6 weeks out of the pool and another 6 weeks of rehabilitation.

- Upon her return to the pool, Monique then acquired a severe shoulder injury around May thus impacted her ability to train and race properly over the next two months.

She held her head high with dignity to soldier on with a steely determination to fulfil her dream to swim at the Deaflympics.

A few days later, Monique was brave to tackle the 800m Freestyle with a severe shoulder injury and was so excited to make her first Deaflympics final where she finished 7th overall and ranked 1 for U18.

Monique received a \$250.00 Rebel Sport gift voucher, kindly donated by Rebel Sport.

Congratulations from all your friends at Variety!

Deaf Sports Australia warmly congratulates Monique on her achievements!

Article and photo credit - Variety. Monique is presented the award by Nicholas Hum who was last year's winner.

DSA Sports Awards Nominees Announced!

Deaf Sports Australia is pleased to announce the nominees for the 2013 Sports Awards:

Male Athlete of the Year

Glen Flindell (Tennis)
Jack McLeod (Golf)
Michael Anderson (Swimming)

Female Athlete of the Year

Jamie-Lee Lewis (Water Polo)
Amy-Lea Mills (Athletics)
Melinda Vernon (Athletics)

Coach of the Year

George McCready
John Davies
Mel Klamt

Organisation of the Year

Swimming Queensland
Deaf ACT

Volunteer of the Year

David Brady
Gavin Balharrie

Media Award

Central Western Daily
Blayney Chronicle
Llewellyn Communications
Australian Hearing

The winners of each category will be announced at the DSA Sports Awards event on Saturday 23 November at Parramatta RSL, in Sydney.

Deaf Sports Australia also would like to announce the new **Rising Young Star Winners:**

Julia Algie (Swimming)
Monique Beckwith (Swimming)
Sekou Kanneh (Athletics)

The new Rising Young Star Awards will be presented at the DSA Sports Awards event.

We congratulate the nominees as well as the winners of the Rising Young Stars Awards!

This event is a great opportunity to recognise the achievements and contributions made by athletes,

officials and volunteers to deaf sports programs and events.

For further information about the DSA Sports Awards event and on how to order tickets, please click [here](#).

ICSD Seeking for Technical Directors

ICSD is looking for technical directors and assistant technical directors, to help lead deaf sport until the next Deaflympics. ICSD is deeply grateful to all TDs for their hard work.

ICSD's Technical directors do a very important job of developing their sports: the work includes helping to organise deaf world championships. The TDs also help organise the competitions for each sport at the Deaflympics. They help identify hosts for competitions, liaise with international sports federations that govern each sport and ensure that each sport is played by as many deaf people around the world as possible, to the highest level possible. The positions are voluntary and are often filled by former athletes looking to give something back to their sport. All expenses when making trips on behalf of ICSD will be covered.



For more information on these positions as well as how to apply, click [here](#).

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