

Deaf Football Development Program

Goals and Objectives of Deaf Football Development Program

- Youth Football development
- Consolidation efforts with ICSD and FIFA
- Creation and involvement of National football associations
- United Deaf Football system
- Deaf Football development in Africa
- Refereeing and inspection system of Deaf Football matches
- DIFA' website creation

Dear friends and colleagues,

The history of development of the Deaflympic movement of the recent years demonstrates its dramatically increased popularity and uniqueness. This fact became particularly evident after the successfully held Deaflympics 2009 in Taipei (Taiwan) and Deaflympics 2013 in Sofia (Bulgaria). After these Games the public response all over the world was high. The world community is interested in deaf sports; therefore it is important to continue to move forward after such a spectacular success. An essential role of the ICSD in successful holding of the Deaflympics must be noted.

The main objectives of DIFA:

- Stimulation of deaf football development on a constant basis, support of the unifying, educational, cultural and humanistic values of football, in particular, by means of carrying out programs for the youth and developing programs;
- Organization of national and international competitions in cooperation with other associations;
- Compilation of standard rules and regulations, ensuring of their accomplishment;
- Interests protection of DIFA members;
- Preventing the development of methods and practices that could call in question the probity of competitions;
- Control and supervision of all preliminary football matches;
- Management of international sports relations regarding football within Association in any form;
- To be the manager of competitions on international and other levels.

The program draft was developed to achieve all the above objectives.

1. Goals and Objectives of Deaf Football Development Program

Nowadays, we cannot be satisfied with the development level of deaf football. There are still a number of complicated issues: championships organization and determination of organization structure, method of selection, clear system of qualified refereeing providing, and financial self-sufficiency of the teams.

There is a shortage of the qualified players during teams completing with the main problem in an ineffective and undeveloped functioning of programs purposed to train and educate football reserves. It will be complicated to raise qualified football players without improvement of the educational system.

Therefore, the draft of the deaf football development program will provide for the following aspects and steps:

1.1. Youth Football Development

The DIFA is aimed to popularize deaf youth football. It is an important aspect of the current Program, since the future of Deaf football depends directly on how we educate, train and support young athletes right now. The logo of DIFA: "Youth is Our Future."

We intend to support any initiatives in youth deaf sport. Youth World Cups in three age categories – U-18, U-19 and U-21 for men and women teams, as well as different international tournaments will be held.

Competent youth football development today is a guarantee of popularity and success of deaf football tomorrow.

1.2. Consolidation efforts with the ICSD and FIFA

Cooperation with the ICSD and DIFA is significantly important for the further development of Deaf football. Collaboration is carried out as follows: ICSD authorizes DIFA to hold different international Deaf football events; DIFA as the member of the ICSD, reports to the Committee and undertakes that only ICSD member associations can be included in the structure. Besides ICSD membership, our organization intends to achieve FIFA membership, with the aim of mutually beneficial cooperation and representing interests of deaf football. In particular, FIFA has opportunity to assist in holding workshops for referees, coaches and top-priority functional team players, to help with sport equipment and implements, as well as engage highly-qualified referees in Deaf football matches.

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1.3. Creation and involvement of national football associations

Establishment of national football federations (with the permission of the ICSD) for successful implementation of all Program items is the most important question at the moment.

Further, all national football associations will get the status of DIFA members, rights and responsibilities prescribed in the DIFA Statutes (Article 12, 13):

- All DIFA members will possess the following rights:
- To take part in the Congress

- To make proposals for inclusion in the Congress Agenda
- To nominate candidates to be elected into all governing bodies of the DIFA
- To be informed of DIFA affairs through the authorities
- To take part in DIFA competitions and/or other sport events
- To perform rights due to the Statutes and Regulations

DIFA members have to perform the following duties:

- To observe Statutes provisions, regulations, directives, FIFA and DIFA solutions, to guarantee observance of the above members Regulations
- To provide the election of decision-making bodies
- To take part in DIFA competitions and/or other sport events
- To pay membership fees
- To respect the Games Rules set up by IFAB and to provide for, that above mentioned Rules are also observed by all members under the corresponding regulation
- To inform DIFA on all Statutes and Regulations amendments; amendments in the Officials list and list of persons with signature right and rights of agreement's conclusion with third parts
- To conclude agreements with thirds parts
- Not to network with entities that are not recognized by DIFA or with suspended or expelled members
- To observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and fair play under the present Regulation
- To fulfil the conditions specified by article 10 paragraph 3 during their DIFA affiliation period
- To administer and to update the register
- To fulfil liabilities arising from FIFA and DIFA Statutes and Regulations

DIFA will secure the presence of ICSD and FIFA members at each Congress meeting in order to provide "transparency" of the activity.

1.4. United deaf football system

This thesis means consolidation efforts of all international deaf football participants to organize the united deaf football system. Deaf football competition system of the international level has to correspond to the adopted competition system of hearing athletes. We must put all our efforts to achieve FIFA level.

The system specified the holding of the following sports event: Deaf football and futsal World Cup for men and women without age restrictions, preliminary matches, Deaflympics football tournament (with the ICSD permission), and international club tournament.

It is essential to establish continental football federations for ensuring the effective activity of the above-mentioned system. 4 confederations - Europe, Asia, South and North America, Africa - will be responsible for football popularization and development at the local level.

Many national teams do not have sufficient funds for the simultaneous participation in preliminary matches, World Championships and the Deaflympics. The one possible solution is to select national teams for World Championships based on their continental results and the previously determined quotes. Team's selections for the further Deaflympics participation have to pass on results of World Championships. Clear and well-structured system of sport events will appear, contributing to the efficiently management of national team budgets.

Optimization of expenses will increase the number of participating teams, the competition level, as well as entertainment for fans. Moreover, all football and futsal tournaments have to comply with rules specified by FIFA.

For achievement of all the above-mentioned aims it is necessary to deal with the following issues:

- To create a full annual calendar of football events organized by the DIFA
- To create and to improve the regulations and rules of deaf sport events
- To create the united disciplinary code of terms and penalties of players and officials
- To remove negative occurrences (fixed matches, racism and nationalism, performance-enhancing drugs)
- To promote the "Fair-Play" concept in football

1.5. Deaf Football Development in Africa

African continent is one of the most problematic regions in football development. We intend to improve the competitive ability and football level in Africa. With these aim workshops for coaches, functionaries and judges will be held for African Deaf sports federation, and all necessary methodical literature will be provided.

Africans are well known as athletes with natural physical talents. Deaf football development in Africa and participation of African teams in the World Championships will enrich and diversify the deaf football world.

1.6. Refereeing and inspection system of deaf football matches

Judges requirements are considerably increased in conditions of football development. The qualified refereeing bring salutary influence on athletes, promotes manifestation of their best qualities.

Situation analysis in deaf football represents the existence of serious problems in refereeing development, absent accurate system of search, training, selection, professional development and promotion of judges.

In order to improve the quality of refereeing system, the DIFA intends to initiate the following:

- Effective system of referees management and inspection

- Activities on searching, tutoring, selecting and upgrading referees and their controllers for improving the quality of the competitions
- FIFA Educational programs, workshops, lectures and classes for judges training and conversion
- Development of distance learning system for young referees by means of modern educational programs and on-line books
- Information support of the referees committee activities
 - Release of educational and methodical literature concerning refereeing
 - DVD release with instructions for referees
- Involving of qualified FIFA recommended referees in deaf football matches

1.7. DIFA' website creation

The continuous increase of interest towards football as the most enthralling sport provokes the similar continuous growth of requirement of accessible information concerning its various aspects. Actually the information about the most matters of user's interest is dosed and its scope is rather limited. The most complete and accessible information concerning all aspects of football (social, sports, medical, methodical, informative etc.), can be supplied simultaneously to the most users only by the electronic information storage method, namely by electronic means of media.

Hereby all deaf football information can be aggregated on the same website of DIFA.

The users will be permitted to have the most complete information either regarding all world deaf football history or its particular periods. In addition it's possible to offer information about particular football issues: refereeing, procedures, contest rules and regulation etc.

The environment can be useful to DIFA experts, young athletes and fans that obtain admittance to a great amount of information concerning a favorite team, player and so on inaccessible previously. Active football players and trainers that are permitted to analyze videos of matches either recent or of past years are interested in it. In addition the environment has to inspire a serious scientific work in the matter of football theory and practice.

The creation and an intensive use of the website will permit to it to become a foundation stone of the modern base for the development of world deaf football and to meet the challenge to publish football information on the front page of media.

In addition DIFA plan provides for extensive media coverage of contests. In particular it provides for TV broadcasting (or online internet video broadcasting) of contests.