



South African Deaf Sports Federation

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URGENT CIRCULAR

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To All Provincial Deaf Sports Federations and Schools for the Deaf

Dear Friends

Changes to the National Deaf Development Games – Nelspruit

In support of the National Sport and Recreation Plan (NSRP) as adopted at the National Sport Indaba organized by Sport and Recreation SA (SRSA) late in 2011, South African Deaf Sports has seriously reconsidered the participation criteria for the forthcoming National Deaf Development Games to be held in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga from 8 to 12 August 2012.

By making these changes, we are challenging you all to assist us in identifying new talent for development purposes. We are saying bring us young athletes to the games, athletes who are determined to improve South Africa's chances of succeeding at international level in future. We are saying the games should be seen as a platform to unleash potential of young athletes, athletes whose talent and potential we have never seen before.

As a result, criteria for selection should be as follows:

1. **All athletes selected must be under the age of 25.** **No** athletes over the age of 25 should be in the team for Mpumalanga in August;
2. Any athlete who is as young as 16 years old should not be overlooked, if such athlete is indeed very good. We are saying do not overlook athletes simply because they are very young, but look at the athlete's skill, potential and ability to be one of the future South African champions;
3. If you have already selected a team and it includes athletes over the age of 25 years old, replace these immediately in line with our challenge to you to bring in young athletes.

South Africa faces the risk of slipping further down the packing order in the International ranking because we are unable to identify new athletes to challenge for medals at Deaflympics and World Games. In 2005, we were ranked 3rd and in 2009, we slipped down to 8th in the medal standings at the Deaflympics. We risk further slipping down at the 2013 Deaflympic Games in Sofia, Bulgaria if we do not take these drastic steps to improve our talent identification and development prowess. Mpumalanga will give us the opportunity to do this and we are challenging you to support us by ensuring that you meet the criteria we have set out above.

Kindly submit your team list to us by no later than 13 July 2012 with all the information about the athletes selected such as full names, ID number/date of birth.

There will be opportunities for adults in 2013 when we host the National Deaf Games for adults in Durban. For now, let us give young athletes a chance to showcase their talent. We are under very pressure to identify young athletes and we count on your support to make this happen.

I look forward to your kind cooperation in this regard.

Kind regards

Julius Maxajwe

President

(Electronically transmitted without signature)