



PLAY



deaf program guidebook

Purpose

The AFL and Deaf Sports Australia have developed a guidebook to support children who are deaf or hard of hearing participate in Auskick.

This document can be used to support when facilitating a standalone deaf NAB AFL Auskick program (just children who are deaf or hard of hearing), or an integrated program where you may have children integrated in a main session.

Deafness Explained

Deaf or hard of hearing participants will have varying hearing losses and communication modes. This could include a mild, moderate, severe, or profound hearing loss.

[Visit this link for more details on hearing loss](#)

Communication mode may vary between oral communication (speaking only), to using Auslan only (Australian Sign Language) or a combination of both.

Most deaf or hard of hearing participants attend a local school and are likely to use speech to communicate – others attend a school with a Deaf Facility / Unit or a Deaf School.

Always make sure you meet the deaf or hard of hearing participant and their parents before the program starts so that you can best assess the communication and support requirements.

Session Duration

Auskick programs are usually 60 minutes. If there are a number of deaf or hard of hearing participants involved, consider extending to a 75-minute session. Make sure there are breaks involved to keep the energy up should you extend.

The extra time allows for communication bridge between coaches / volunteers and deaf or hard of hearing participants, who may or may not be working with Auslan interpreters.



Community Deaf Auskick (Standalone)

If you are facilitating a standalone program only for Deaf or hard of hearing participants, here is some important advice that will lead to a successful program:

Setup

- » The program is delivered in partnership with the local deaf sporting body or advocacy group, to provide the community with confidence it has been set up to support their needs.
- » Have the local deaf sporting body or advocacy group deliver deaf sport awareness education for the coaches/volunteers.
- » Access marketing materials through the AFL to support with program promotion.
- » Aim to have a coach who is bilingual (both English and Auslan) and can communicate effectively with deaf and hearing community.
- » Ensure your coaching team includes people with a hearing loss who can support the program in various ways: (eg; be a role model to the younger kids; good communication models; can teach AFL skills, familiar with Auskick program, etc)
- » Ensure coaches / volunteers undertake a deaf sport awareness program.
- » Consider recruiting hearing children of deaf adults as well who have good communication skills and footy background.
- » Ask parents to fill out the '[Supporting Your Child's Participation at Footy](#)' form to help inform the coach of the suggested supports to assist with program delivery.
- » Check if any participants use Auslan, so that you can plan on booking an Auslan interpreter.
- » Develop your lesson plan leading up to the session and share with families at the start of the week, so parents can assist with activity awareness with their child.

Delivery

- » Ratio of 1 coach : 5 kids, per activity to maximise effective communication between coach / volunteers and participants
 - Note: some deaf and hard of hearing participants may have additional disabilities or difficulties – having extra volunteers to assist manage a participant's communication and participation needs is important
- » Involve the parents to support with program delivery. This is no different to any Auskick program.
- » White board your lesson plan to assist with following the session.
- » Ensure visual access space is open to manage communication / information sharing. For a deaf and hard of hearing participant to see the coaches / instructors, presenters or Auslan interpreters, they need a clear line of sight to see.
- » Physically demonstrate the activity to assist with visual learning. Walking the kids through the activity will show them what it entails and will help bridge communication should there be a communication challenge.
- » Build in additional time in between activities. You will need extra time to gain the groups attention before moving onto the next task.

Post session

- » Regularly check in with families and the kids to see if they are enjoying your sessions. Be sure to ask, 'what can I do make the session more enjoyable?', so you can modify your approach if needed.

Community Auskick (Integrated)

Deaf or hard of hearing participants don't require much adaptation when it comes to most sport programs, including AFL.

Two critical areas need to be understood and learning to assist achieving a successful program that includes deaf or hard of hearing participants.

1. **Awareness of deafness and communication requirements**
 - » Try and meet with the deaf or hard of hearing participant and their parents before the program starts so that you can best assess the communication and support requirements.
2. **Knowledge of inclusion practices in sport programs**
 - » [Visit AllPlay Footy resources on play.au](#)
 - » [AllPlay Footy Disability Inclusion Coaching Course on learn.afl](#)

Additional Resources ✨

- » [AllPlay Footy Resources for Coaches and Coordinators](#)
- » [Communication Tips](#)
- » [Communication modes](#)
- » [Auskick Activities](#)

Covering Costs of an Auslan Interpreters

The AFL has developed a reimbursement scheme directly with each AFL State and Territory Body towards a standalone Deaf Auskick program. Please contact your governing body to talk through the approach.



contact

Should you require any support towards your program please contact:
The AFL on 1800 7529 235 or aflauskick@afl.com.au
Deaf Sports Australia – info@deafsports.org.au

