Sign Languages and Information Accessibility

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https://www.apdeafsports.org/

http://www.tsukuba-tech.ac.jp/english/index.html
Who are Deaf Athletes?

https://www.ac-illust.com/
Deaf Athletes at Sports Events

- Deaf athletes do not know when they are called.
- Deaf athletes do not follow the starting signal.
- Deaf athletes do not understand the signals and instructions of the hearing referee.
- Deaf athletes cannot respond to interviews.
- Deaf athletes have difficulty interacting with non-Deaf athletes.
Well-known Facts in the Deaf Communities

• Deaf athletes tend to achieve their best records in sporting competitions in which only Deaf athletes compete.

• Communication primarily through Sign Language.
• Visual information accessibility
• Deaf cultural environment
Deaf Athletes at Sports Events

• Deaf athletes will know when they are called.
• Deaf athletes will follow the starting signal.
• Deaf athletes will understand the signals and instructions of the hearing referee.
• Deaf athletes will respond to interviews.
• Deaf athletes have no difficulty interacting with non-Deaf athletes.
OPTICAL STARTING SYSTEM

NMS472 Optical Starting System Full Set
Made by Order

* Starting blocks are available separately.

* Appearance and specifications may change.

On Your Marks

Set

Bang!

Red lamp lights up when starter presses grip button once.

Second grip

Yellow lamp lights up when starter presses grip button twice.

Interlocked with pistol signal

White lamp lights up, interlocked with pistol signal.

https://www.nishi.com/english/
What the Governments should do to Ensure a Stress-free Environment for Deaf Athletes

- Legal recognition of national sign languages as the natural language of Deaf persons
- Promoting education and training in national sign languages of the ESCAP region
- Development of the Sign Language Interpreting System
- Enactment of legislation to improve information accessibility

Recommendations for governments in the ESCAP region
# Sign Language Acts in the ESCAP Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>New Zealand Sign Language Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Korean Sign Language Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Filipino Sign Language Act</td>
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</table>
New Zealand Sign Language Act

1. NZSL becomes an official language of New Zealand

2. Right to use NZSL in legal proceedings ("where the person’s first or preferred language is NZSL")

3. Principles to guide government departments to be accessible in NZSL and to consult with the Deaf community on matters relating to NZSL

4. Review the Act after 3 years

5. A power to make regulations for competency standards for interpreters or any other matter necessary to give effect to the Act
While the NZSL Act itself has limited powers, activity following legal recognition has raised societal awareness of NZSL, opened formal dialogue between policymakers and the NZSL community, and created a basis for more strategic language policy and planning.

from “Sign Language - What Is It?: A Guide for Legal Recognition of Sign Languages in Asia and the Pacific”

ESCAP publication ~ in progress, to be launched at the ESCAP HLIGM, October 2022