



READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and answer the questions below.

DEAF FOOTBALL FLOURISHING

UEFA has established partnerships with several organizations, as part of its Football for All Abilities portfolio, which promotes the inclusion of players of all abilities, as well as marginalized or excluded groups. The European Deaf Sport Organization (EDSO) is one of these partners, and it does excellent work in this area.

The EDSO is a sports organization catering for Europe's deaf community. It was established in 1983 and spans 27 different sports, with football and futsal being the main team sports. "Our eighth men's and women's European football championships will take place in Hanover, Germany, in June 2015, and the fourth European futsal championship will be held in Bulgaria in November this year," says the EDSO's football director, Andrew Scolding, who oversees both championships and acts in an advisory role for the organization's 42 member countries.

There are also world championships for deaf football and futsal, as well as a football competition in the Deaflympics – the deaf Olympics. Some countries have their own domestic championships, while the EDSO also supports an elite club competition for the best European teams – the Deaf Champions League.

The EDSO's technical regulations for football and futsal stipulate a minimum level of deafness. Players are eligible to play if they have hearing loss of at least 55 decibels in their better ear. Most communication is through International Sign, while coaches also explain things using practical demonstrations and provide advice through sign language interpreters. Referees wave a small flag to indicate that they are stopping the game, with the same kind of flag being used by assistant referees.

The EDSO has its own dedicated football committee. "We have video conferences and talk in International Sign, with the help of software," Scolding says. "Technology is becoming better and more beneficial for deaf people. Email is another option for communication."

The organization is deeply committed to promoting friendship and inclusion. "Football is a universal language, regardless of disability, ethnicity, gender or religious differences.

And with the deaf community, friendships are great because they transcend borders and politics,” Scolding says.

How is the EDSO using the resources provided by UEFA? “Mostly to improve the standard of competitions, as well as for recruitment and specialist training for referees and coaches,” he explains. “The EDSO is also working with national football bodies to find ways to assist deaf players in their own countries. UEFA’s help is very important, especially in terms of technical advice and getting information across to the public.”

QUESTIONS

- 1. The European Deaf Sport Organisation promotes...**
 - a) just football
 - b) only football and futsal
 - c) **several sports**

- 2. The EDSO organises among its 42 member countries...**
 - a) only European championships
 - b) **world, European and domestic championships in some countries**
 - c) just European and world championships

- 3. For players, the minimum level of deafness refers to a hearing loss of at least 55 decibels...**
 - a) **in their least disabled ear**
 - b) in both ears
 - c) in the most disabled ear

- 4. The EDSO football committee communicates with players through...**
 - a) International Sign and practical demonstrations
 - b) International Sign, e-mail and phone calls
 - c) **International Sign in video calls and e-mail**

- 5. The EDSO uses the resources from UEFA...**
 - a) **to improve the quality of the competition and provide specialist training for coaches and referees**
 - b) to promote friendship and new technologies
 - c) to be able to employ sign language interpreters