

Coaches' Pocket Guide for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Athletes

Use signals and visual timers to aid the D/HH athlete in keeping up with game play.



Signals can be created with the athlete and should be taught to and used by everyone on the team.

Consider assigning a “hearing buddy” in close proximity who can alert the athlete to changes in play or communication from coaches/referees.



Give performance feedback in a quiet setting.



Consider providing the game plan information in writing in advance.



Avoid discussing game play in noisy locations, like gyms or buses.

? Questions to Ask ?

1. What degree of hearing loss does the child have?
2. Does the child use assistive listening technology?
3. Does the child need an ASL interpreter?

Lip Reading

Deaf and Hard of Hearing people often rely heavily on lip reading to fill in gaps when they cannot hear.



Make sure you are facing the child and get their attention before speaking.



When outdoors, face the sun when talking so that your face can be seen clearly.

Avoid giving instructions while doing an action, such as while running and bouncing a ball. Explain what you will do first and then show the movement.



Thank you for taking the time to review this resource to help level the playing field for your D/HH athlete!

If a D/HH athlete doesn't appear to be following directions or executing a skill correctly after instruction, check for a communication breakdown first before assuming lower skill level.

Please do not say "nevermind" when a D/HH child communicates that they did not hear you. Please do not allow this behavior from other teammates.



Establish a private signal that your D/HH athlete can give you to let you know they missed a direction or need additional information.



All About

Hearing Technology