

BEING INCLUSIVE: HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

Hearing loss is the single biggest disability group across all disabilities, with an estimated 10 million people in the UK being deaf or hard of hearing.

Every person's ability to hear is different, with degrees of deafness in each ear varying.



10th

table tennis is the 10th most popular sport amongst deaf or hard of hearing people

1 in 5

people said communication is the main barrier that prevents them from taking part in sport

8 in 10

deaf people would rather participate in a mixed environment with hearing people

UK Deaf Sport

INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS IN YOUR SESSION

- Every person's ability to hear is different, always ask the individual what their preferred method of communication is.
- Try to reduce the noise level in the venue. Hearing aids are not selective in the sounds they amplify, so will amplify background noises just as much as your voice.
- Face the individual when speaking, speak clearly and do not cover your mouth.
- Where possible, demonstrate techniques or corrections, rather than replying on verbal explanations .
- Ask the individual to teach you sport-specific signs, this can assist with communication during training and matches.
- Write down keywords and new vocabulary and terminology if needed, new words are almost impossible to lip read.
- Use score boards or machines to visually show scores in games and matches
- To show praise, combine clapping with a double-handed wave. This is recognised within the deaf community.

For more support, contact UK Deaf Sport on participation@ukds.org.uk