



July 10, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USA Deaf Soccer Set to Compete in World Deaf Football Championships

The USA Deaf Soccer Association is sending a Men's and Women's National Team to compete in the World Deaf Football Championships, held in Ankara, Turkey between July 16 and 28, 2012. The tournament's website is www.deaffootball2012.com. This is the second edition of the World Deaf Football Championships; the inaugural tournament was in Patras, Greece in 2008. At that tournament, the USA Deaf Men finished 4th, its best ever finish at a major international tournament. There, the Men defeated Holland and China in the group stages, and defeated Italy in the quarterfinals before falling to Turkey in the semifinals on penalties.

The men's field comprises 16 countries from around the world, the countries are divided into four groups. The USA Deaf Men will face off against South Korea, Germany, and Turkey in Group A. The top two teams from each group advance to the quarterfinals.

The women's field consists of five countries: USA, Russia, Germany, Japan, and Poland. The teams will play against each other once, with the top two teams advancing to a championship match. The Women have won the gold medal at the past two Deaflympics: Tapiei 2009 and Melbourne 2005.

A complete schedule is attached. Team USA is as follows, arranged by uniform number:

Men's Team

1	Chris Jones	Sykesville, MD
2	Matthew Eby	Gap, PA
3	John Swope	Harrisburg, PA
4	Mark Sorokin	Kensington, MD
5	Will Frentz	Louisville, KY
6	Trip Neil	Dallas, TX
7	Brandon Lemus	San Francisco, CA

8	Maksim Kleimenov	Austin, TX
9	Julian Moiwai	Clearwater, FL
10	Angel Ortiz	New York, NY
11	Jeanpierre Kanashiro	Washington, DC
12	David Reinhart	Ledyard Center, CT
13	James Rummo	Butler, NJ
14	Yosef Osheyack	Norwich, VT
15	Gabriel Carino	Bronx, NY
16	Michael West	Marble, NC
17	Bertalan Horvath	Canyon Country, CA
18	Eric Setzer	Middletown, MD
19	Luis Reyes	Oxnard, CA
20	Barry Wilkins	Indianapolis, IN

Head Coach Dave Kunitz, Dallas, TX
Assistant Coach Ken Noll, Edwardsville, IL
Trainer Charlie Weir, St. Louis, MO

Women's Team

1	Megan Maiwald	San Jose, CA
2	Kate Ward	Atlanta, GA
3	Stacy Messner	Uniontown, OH
4	Becca Dowling-Fitzpatrick	Columbus, OH
5	Nixo Lanning	Albuquerque, NM
7	Reagan Anders	Riverside, CA
8	Katie Romano	Huntley, IL
9	Sydney Nelson	Marietta, GA
10	Liza Offreda	Washington, DC
11	Sydney Andrews	Wichita, KS
12	Heather Kennedy	Colorado Springs, CO
13	Allison Galoob	Denver, CO
14	Laura Carlson	Twin Lakes, MI
16	Kelly O'Steen	Dunkirk, MD
18	Rebecca Toler	Greensboro, NC
19	Madison Taylor	Orlando, FL
21	Felicia Schroeder	Cincinnati, OH
22	Julia Nelson	Marietta, GA
23	Anna Smither	Raleigh, NC

Head Coach Yon Struble, Pittsburgh, PA
Assistant Coach Brian Speck, Buffalo, NY
Trainer Robyn Gust, Minot, SD

Interpreter Mike Hansen, Bloomington, IL

For this trip, each player was required to fundraise \$5,000. The \$5,000 budget comprises roundtrip airfare between the player's hometown to Ankara, Turkey, accommodations, and equipment.

We thank Cocos~Pure (www.cocospure.com) for their generous sponsorship, and US Soccer (www.ussoccer.com), Nike Soccer (www.nikesoccer.com), and Pele Sports (www.pele-sports.com) for donated apparel and equipment.

About USA Deaf Soccer

International organized deaf sports dates back to The Comite International des Sports des Sourds (CISS), founded in Paris, France on August, 1924. Later, CISS changed its name to the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD). In the United States, the American Athletic Union of the deaf was formed in 1945, with the name being changed to the USA Deaf Sports Federation in 1997.

In 1965, the United States first entered a men's team in the Deaf Olympics, hosted by the United States, The USA team was 10th out of 10th teams. The United States has entered teams in most international deaf sports events since. The Deaf Olympics is now called the Deaflympics. Divided between Summer and Winter Games, the Deaflympics is held every two years, the most recent being the Summer Deaflympics in Taipei, Taiwan in 2009. The 2011 Winter Games was canceled by the host country, Slovakia, due to a lack of funding.

In addition to the Deaflympic games, each sport holds its own world championship. The World Deaf Football Championships is relatively new; the 2012 World Championships is only the second edition. In 2008, Germany and Russia won the first Men's and Women's World Deaf Football Championship in Patras, Greece.

Deafness is a hidden 'disability'. In sports such as soccer, players face certain hidden disadvantages, such as not being able to hear their coach's instructions during a game, a referee's decision or the roar of the crowd. Because deaf soccer players compete regularly against their hearing peers, these aspects of the game taken for granted, can make a difference during the course of a match.

Under international criteria, to be eligible to compete in deaf soccer competitions, players must have an average hearing loss of 55 Decibels or more in the best ear. All players competing in deaf matches must remove all hearing aids before playing which creates another obstacle to overcome, balance - another important advantage for a hearing player.

USA Deaf Soccer Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is entirely dependent upon cash and in-kind contributions from its sponsors.

Visit us at www.usdeafsoccer.com or on twitter: @usadeafsoccer. Questions about this press release may be directed to President Ken Noll at ken_noll24@hotmail.com or Vice President Mark Sorokin at sorokin.mark@gmail.com.

TEAM USA GAME SCHEDULE

2012 World Deaf Football Championships
July 16-28, 2012
Ankara, Turkey

Date	Time	Stage	Country		Country	Stadium
7/17	9:30 a.m.	Men Group A	Korea	v	USA	
7/18	9:30 a.m.	Women Group	Russia	v	USA	
7/19	10:30 a.m.	Men Group A	Germany	v	USA	
7/20	9:30 a.m.	Women Group	USA	v	Japan	
7/21	9:30 a.m.	Men Group A	USA	v	Turkey	
7/22	9:30 a.m.	Women Group	USA	v	Germany	
7/23	TBD	Men Playoff	TBD	v	TBD	
7/24	9:30 a.m.	Women Group	BYE	v	USA	
7/25	TBD	Men Playoff	TBD	v	TBD	
7/26	9:30 a.m.	Women Group	Poland	v	USA	
7/27	5:00 p.m.	Men 3rd Place Game	TBD	v	TBD	
7/27	TBD	Women Playoff	TBD	v	TBD	
7/28	10:30 a.m.	Women Final	TBD	v	TBD	
7/28	3:00 p.m.	Men Final	TBD	v	TBD	