

UK Deaf Athletics Constitution

Document information	Details
Document owner	UK Deaf Athletics Committee
Approved by	UK Deaf Athletics Committee
Approval date	23rd September 2026
Version	1.1 - October 2026
Next review date	October 2027
Contact	UKDA Committee via the website contact form

This constitution sets out the purpose, governance and operating principles of UK Deaf Athletics.

1. Name

The name of the group is **UK Deaf Athletics**.

UK Deaf Athletics is a not-for-profit unincorporated association.

2. Mission Statement & Aims

UK Deaf Athletics' mission is to enable deaf people to participate in and enjoy athletics in friendly, deaf-aware spaces. It also aspires to guide and mentor deaf athletes from beginner level to elite competition, including the Deaflympics.

To expand, our aims are to:

- create inclusive and deaf-aware opportunities in athletics
- support deaf athletes, coaches, families and volunteers
- build confidence, community and participation
- work in alignment with UK Deaf Sport and other partners
- promote wellbeing, fairness and safe participation
- raise awareness of deaf inclusion in sport
- promote participation pathways from grassroots engagement through to Deaflympic competition, encompassing local, regional, national, and international opportunities.

3. Powers

To achieve these aims, the group may:

- raise funds, apply for grants and receive donations
- organise activities, events and training
- recruit and support volunteers
- work with other organisations

- open and operate a bank account
- create policies and procedures when needed

4. Committee & Membership

The group is led by three officers:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The committee will include the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Voting members may elect additional committee members when needed.

The quorum for committee meetings is three committee members, including at least two officers.

4.1 Membership

Membership is open to anyone who supports the aims of UK Deaf Athletics and agrees to follow its constitution and policies.

A member may resign by telling the Secretary in writing.

The committee may end a membership where this is in the best interests of UK Deaf Athletics. The member must be told the reason and given a fair opportunity to respond before a final decision is made.

4.2 Eligibility for Deaf Athlete Competition

Members who wish to compete as deaf athletes must have an audiogram completed and provide a copy to UKDA for classification. For Deaflympic eligibility, an athlete must have a hearing loss of at least 55 dB Pure Tone Average in the better ear, measured at 500 Hz, 1000 Hz and 2000 Hz.

4.3 Appointment of the Committee

The officers and any additional committee members will be elected by voting members. Committee members will normally serve for three years and may stand for re-election.

5. Responsibilities

The committee is responsible for:

- managing finances
- making decisions in the best interests of the group
- supporting volunteers
- ensuring safeguarding and inclusion

supporting accessible communication and inclusion

5.1 Conflicts of Interest

Committee members must declare any personal or financial interest in a matter being discussed. They must not vote on that matter and will not count towards the quorum for that decision.

6. Committee Meetings

The committee will meet at least four times each year. Meetings may take place in person or by an accessible electronic method.

The Secretary, or another nominated committee member, will keep a record of decisions and agreed actions.

Decisions will be made by a simple majority. If a vote is tied, the Chair has the deciding vote.

7. Finance

- All money will be used to support the aims of the group.
- The Treasurer will keep clear and accurate records.
- Payments will need approval from two committee members.
- A simple annual financial summary will be shared with the committee.
- The group may fundraise, apply for grants and accept donations.
- The committee will maintain appropriate insurance where reasonably practical.

8. Safeguarding

The group is committed to safeguarding and will maintain a separate Safeguarding Policy in line with UK Deaf Sport.

9. Language, Communication and Inclusion

UK Deaf Athletics welcomes people who use different languages and ways to communicate. These include British Sign Language (BSL), International Sign (IS), written or spoken English, lipreading and speech-to-text.

We will take reasonable steps to make our meetings, events and information accessible. Support may include interpreters, captions, speech-to-text, clear written information and BSL content.

Members can tell us about their communication needs. We will respect each person's preferred language and way of communicating. We will treat people fairly. No one will be excluded or treated unfairly because they are Deaf, hard of hearing, or use a particular language or way of communicating.

10. Changes to the Constitution

This constitution may be changed by a two-thirds majority of voting members present at a general meeting. Members must receive at least 14 clear days' notice of the proposed change.