



October 25, 2023

RE: Update on the 2024 Winter Deaflympics Participation

Dear USDSSA Supporters and Community Members,

With heavy hearts, we announce that the United States Deaf Ski and Snowboard team **will not** participate in the 2024 Winter Deaflympics in Turkey, scheduled for March 2 to March 12, 2024.

This decision was not taken lightly. We were dismayed to learn that the upcoming Winter Deaflympics would not include numerous ski and snowboard events. The limited details provided on short notice by the organizing committee have left us with many unanswered questions and elevated the burden. Considering the current geopolitical climate, many within our community, including our athletes and their families, have voiced concerns. The safety and welfare of everyone involved remain our top priorities.

To prepare optimally, we need a span of four to eight years to strategize our fundraising efforts and amass the necessary resources to support our team. It's crucial to note that winter events only occur a quarter of the time each year. Therefore, our athletes deserve ample time to train and participate in local events, further enhancing their readiness for competition. We kindly request the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) and future hosts to offer detailed information well in advance of upcoming competitions. Clear and timely communication benefits everyone involved.

We thank you for your invaluable support, and we eagerly anticipate your continued encouragement as we set our sights on new challenges and events. Stay tuned for some exciting developments!

The slopes await,

USDSSA Board Members

board@usdssa.org

www.usdssa.org