

INCLUSION TIPS:

Communicating with people with a Hearing Impairment

Including someone who is deaf or has a hearing impairment as a bowler, administrator, or coach in your bowling centre is not difficult. Tenpin Bowling Australia with the assistance of Deaf Sports Australia (DSA), supports and actively encourages equal participation in all aspects of bowling by people with a hearing impairment. Ensuring effective communication is an important step toward making your centre more inclusive.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK

Ask the person how they would like to communicate and don't just assume. There are a variety of ways to communicate and the person will tell you what works best for them. To get things started try communicating through basic gestures or use a pen and notepad.

FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

Communication with a person who is deaf will be enhanced if you ensure that you are standing where they can clearly see your face. Speak clearly without shouting and with normal inflection and timing.

USE TOUCH TO GAIN ATTENTION

Attract the persons attention before speaking to them as they may not realise you are talking to them. A tap on the shoulder or a wave is acceptable.

DISPLAY INFORMATION VISIBLY

Display information visibly wherever possible, such as whiteboards, written notes, electronic signs, use of laptops and so on.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIGHT

Always try and maintain a well-lighted environment and use lights (flash on and off) to gain the persons attention, particularly when communicating with a large group or audience.

CONFIRM THAT YOUR MESSAGE IS UNDERSTOOD

If a person who is deaf does not reply or seems to have difficulty in understanding, rephrase what you said before moving on. A deaf person will usually confirm they understand what you are saying by a nod of the head and conversely you should do the same.



MORE INFORMATION:

Deaf Sports Australia has produced informative factsheets about including people with a hearing impairment in sport opportunities. For these fact sheets and other information about sport for people with a hearing impairment including classification eligibility please contact Deaf Sports Australia.

Deaf Sports Australia

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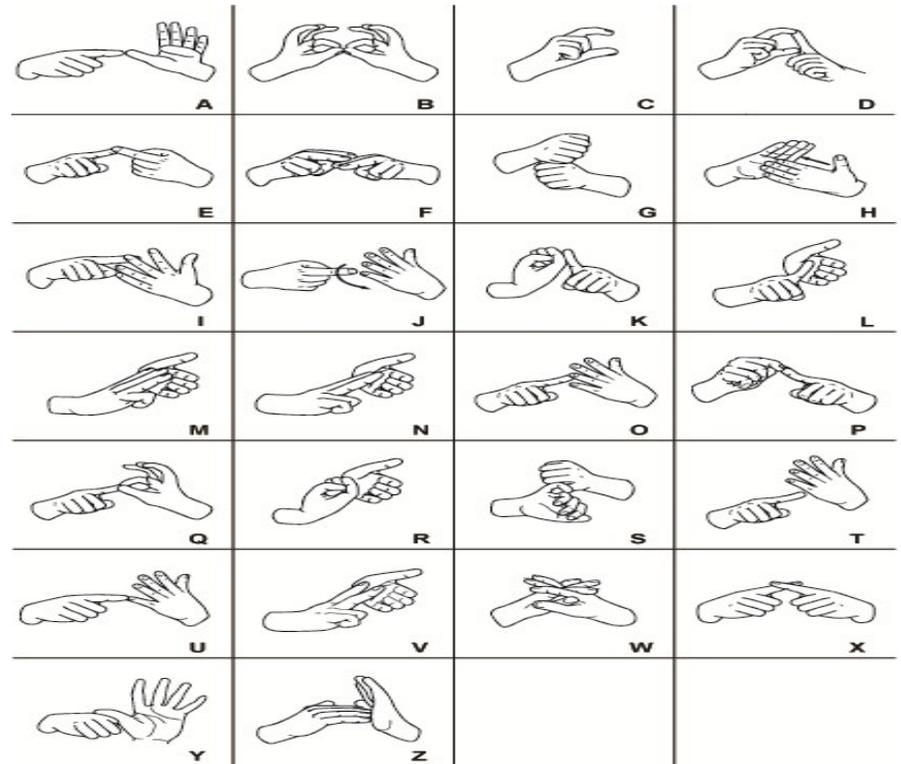
Scan the QR Code with your 3G smart phone or tablet to keep up to date with everything bowling.

QR readers are available for free on the iTunes and Android markets.



Vicdeaf is an organisation that works closely with the deaf and hard of hearing community. Vicdeaf have developed several resources that can be used to assist the inclusion of deaf and hard of hearing participants into your centre, league or training group.

Please visit vicdeaf.com.au for more information and advice on how best to include bowlers who are deaf and hearing impaired.



The Queensland Tenpin Bowling Association with the assistance of the Queensland Government and Deaf Sports & Recreation Queensland have developed a wonderful resource for coaching bowlers that are deaf or hard of hearing. To order a copy of Tenpin Teens, please contact the TBAQ on (07) 3876 5400 or send an email to tbaq@tbaq.org.au

