

# *Multilingual Deaf – Hearing Meetings*

## WDR GUIDELINE ON INTERPRETER REQUIREMENTS & USE

### **Context**

The *Membership of World Deaf Rugby* spans diverse languages and communication modes, with a wide representation of both national spoken languages (*Portuguese, English, Japanese, Spanish, Chinese & Italian*) & national sign languages (*Japanese Sign Language, Auslan, SA Sign Language, Spanish Sign Language, NZ Sign Language, Italian Sign Language, Chinese Sign Language, British Sign Language, Portuguese Sign Language*).

This *Guideline* is intended to assist *Meeting Convenors* understand the consequent interpreting requirements of Meetings based on the communication needs/modes of the people who are participating, and how the interpreting process will operate.

### **Definitions**

**Sign Language Interpreters:** Interpret between *Sign Languages* and *Spoken Languages*

***National Sign Language Interpreter:*** Interprets between the *National Sign Language* and the *National Spoken Language*.

***Multilingual Sign Language Interpreter:*** Is able to interpret between the *National Sign Language* and two or more *Spoken Languages* (*obviously not at the same time*)

**International Sign Interpreters:** Interpret between *International Sign* and *Spoken Languages* and/or *International Sign* and *Sign Languages* (***can be Hearing or Deaf***)

**Hearing International Sign Interpreter:** Interprets between *International Sign* and the *National Spoken Language*

**Multilingual Hearing International Sign Interpreter:** Is able to interpret between *International Sign* and two or more *Spoken Languages* (*obviously not at the same time*)

**Deaf International Sign Interpreter:** Interprets between *International Sign* and the *National Sign Language* or live written text. A *Deaf International Sign Interpreter* can only interpret spoken language from a visual input – *i.e via a National Sign Language Interpreter who provides a relay in their common National Sign Language or directly via live written text*

**Spoken Language Interpreters:** Interpret between two different *National Spoken Languages* (***are Hearing***)

**Multilingual Captions:** Are useful for all Meeting participants, particularly those who are *Deaf or Hard of Hearing*, and those whose national language is not English. They are readily available on *Zoom Meetings* by the host subscribing to ***Zoom Multilingual Captions***.

## World Deaf Rugby Meeting Participants

**English is the official spoken and written language of all internal and external World Deaf Rugby Meetings and other WDR communications.**

World Deaf Rugby Meetings currently typically involve:

- **Hearing** Trustees and/or Members - *at present, the Official Spoken Language of all Hearing Trustees and Members is English*)
- **Deaf** Trustees and/or Members who use different *National Sign Languages*
- **Deaf** Trustees who are familiar and comfortable with *International Sign*
- **Deaf** Members who may not be familiar with *International Sign*, and so for online/face-to-face Meetings, may also choose to organise at their own expense
  - A local *National Sign Language Interpreter* if their *National Spoken Language* is English; **OR**
  - A local *National Sign Language Interpreter* plus a local *National Spoken Language Interpreter* if their *National Spoken Language* is not English; **OR**
  - A local *Multilingual Sign Language Interpreter* if their *National Spoken Language* is not English and they have access to a sign language interpreter who speaks both English and their *National Spoken Language*
- External **Hearing** Parties (*e.g. WR*) who predominantly speak *English*
- External **Deaf** Parties (*e.g. ICSD*) who are comfortable with *International Sign*

## World Deaf Rugby Meeting Interpreter Requirements

***Sign Language Interpreters* are required for all WDR Meetings that involve both *Deaf* and *Hearing* participants.**

Whilst the ideal for each *Deaf* participant would be his/her own *National Sign Language Interpreter*, the costs of having multiple different *National Sign Language Interpreters* would be prohibitive, particularly as longer and more-complex meetings generally require two interpreters to be employed for the duration of the meeting.

Hence for meetings involving *Deaf* participants from different countries, it is much more cost-effective to use *International Sign Interpreters* provided the participants are familiar and comfortable with ***International Sign***.

Interpreting requirements for Meetings with different mixes of *Deaf* and *Hearing* participants are summarised below.

**A: Meetings involving English-speaking *Hearing* participants and *Deaf* participants from one country:**

- One (1) or two (2)\* **National Sign Language Interpreters** to interpret between *spoken English* and the *Deaf participant's National Sign Language*
- Multilingual Captions

**B: Meetings involving English-speaking *Hearing* participants and *Deaf* participants from more than one country**

- One (1) or two (2)\* **Hearing International Sign Interpreters** to interpret between *spoken English* and *International Sign*;  
OR
- One (1) or two (2)\* **Deaf International Sign Interpreters** to interpret between his country's *National Sign Language* and *International Sign PLUS* one (1) or two (2)\* **National Sign Language Interpreters** to interpret between the *National Sign Language* used by the *Deaf International Sign Interpreter*, and *spoken English*
- Multilingual Captions

**C: Meetings involving English-speaking and non-English speaking *Hearing* participants, as well as *Deaf* participants from more than one country**

- **Spoken Language Interpreters** to interpret between the *non-English speaking* participants' *spoken Languages* and *spoken English*
- One (1) or two (2)\* **Hearing International Sign Interpreters** to interpret between *spoken English* and *International Sign*
- Multilingual Captions

**\*NOTE:** Whether one (1) or two (2) interpreters are required will depend on the overall interpreting workload of the meeting. This is related to/impacted by:

- the duration of the meeting;
- the complexity of the subject matter being discussed at the meeting; and
- the number and diversity of Deaf participants at the meeting.