

Unit 5 – SCORE WHAT What’s the score?

Activity 5.1

Creating a research topic

Use the following information on Deaf sports to make up some questions for the students to research.

Team sports bring Deaf people together and provide opportunities for them to converse and compete on an equal level.

The New Zealand Deaf Games (NZDG) takes place each Labour Weekend.

The National Deaf Rugby Championships are held every Easter weekend. The national rugby team is called the Deaf All Blacks.

The Deaf community or Deaf clubs organise competitions for sports such as interclub indoor netball, lawn bowls, tenpin bowling, eight-ball pool, and netball.

Players may be asked for proof their deafness as participation in Deaf sports is restricted to those who have a hearing loss of at least 55dB in the better ear (NZDG Bylaws, 2008). They must remove hearing aids and cochlear implant receivers when playing in a national or an international event.

The Deaflympics, based on the Olympics, is held every four years. New Zealand athletes compete in events such as badminton, basketball, karate, and athletics. In 1989, Christchurch hosted the first Deaf Games to be held in the southern hemisphere.

Because each country has its own sign language, when Deaf people gather for international sporting events, they communicate using International Sign. This is not a complete language in its own right, but Deaf people can use it to discuss common concepts. It helps that many signs relating to sports look like the action they are referring to.

The circular huddle, a feature of many Deaf sports, is where all the players face inwards in a tight circle. It was invented by the American football quarterback Paul Hubbard in 1892. When Hubbard realised that players in the opposing team could read his hand signals, he had his team form a tight circle so that he could use sign language out of their opponents' sight.