



August 9, 2018

Dear Valued Athletes, Coaches, Directors, and Affiliated Members,

I am honored to share this letter with you as the new Executive Director of the USA Deaf Sports Federation (USADSF). It is a privilege to be able to join such a respected organization with talented and dedicated athletes, coaches, and directors. Throughout its history, USADSF has shown that deafness does not stand in the way of sporting excellence and that sports has the power to foster personal growth, bridge communities, and transform society. USADSF has been a lasting pillar of the deaf and hard of hearing sports community for the last 73 years, and today I am deeply humbled to serve this incredible community.

Since I joined USADSF in the beginning of May, I have been inspired by the tireless energy and the resolve of our dynamic team and our National Sports Organizations and Ad-hoc Committees, who are taking huge strides toward the advancement of our organization and of our athletes. I am excited to build upon that foundation as we continue to strengthen our principles, vision and goals. It is not enough to increase our presence as the face for deaf and hard of hearing sports; we must also aspire to make USADSF a trustworthy community where all members collectively support the sports ideology that we promote for our athletes and the society that we live in.

There is no denying there will be challenges. As a former athlete myself, I like to think of challenges as opportunities for improvement. Currently, some of our most urgent challenges include straightforward communication, overall visibility, and fiscal sustainability. The Board and I are rolling up our sleeves to resolve these critical matters with clarity and expediency. I am a firm believer that teamwork overcomes obstacles; and together, we can make a meaningful impact on deaf and hard of hearing sports. We are all involved in this together because we all love sports and the benefit it provides to our athletes and our communities.

The USADSF Board of Directors and I are actively working on a few relevant matters that I'd like to share with you. First, we are currently working diligently to develop and

Implement a new five-year strategic plan by the end of the year. Our new roadmap depends heavily on your invaluable input, and we encourage the sports community and you to join us in this effort with your feedback at key points along this process. Secondly, we are working to solidify our relationship with each NSO and their directors, coaches, and affiliated members by providing clear resources, useful information and transparent communication. Thirdly, we are working to increase our organizational visibility with social media, vlogs, emails and newsletters. Finally, we are committed to expanding our fundraising efforts in order to keep the costs low for the athletes' participation in international play over the long-term. Ultimately, it is our objective to make USADSF a self-sustainable organization and assure our position as a leader in world sports for deaf and hard of hearing athletes.

Exciting times are ahead of us! USADSF would not be here without the collective effort of our athletes, coaches, directors, and supporters. I would like to thank each one of you for your continued devotion and patience for the betterment of our community and our organization. We are committed to supporting all of you wholeheartedly and we will actively seek your input as we move forward. As I continue to transition into my role at USADSF, I invite you to contact President Danny Lacey and myself anytime.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jameson Crane III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jameson" being the most prominent part.

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