FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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University of Maryland Agrees to Continue Efforts to Improve Experience for Fans Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

In partnership with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the University of Maryland (UMD) and the NAD announce today several measures that are designed to better accommodate Terps fans who are deaf or hard of hearing. The changes are part of a lawsuit settlement and improvements have been rolling out since 2013. They now include an agreement to caption new and archived videos on UMD Athletics websites.

In 2014, UMD purchased and installed ribbon boards that display captions at Xfinity Center and Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium during basketball and football games to provide a better in-game experience for deaf and hard of hearing fans. Beginning with the 2018 football season, an additional ribbon board will be installed in Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium to display captioning during football games.

In addition, beginning with the 2016-2017 athletic season, the University of Maryland will caption newly posted videos and archived videos that are 10 minutes or longer on umterps.com and the Athletics Department’s official YouTube Channel. By 2018 UMD will also caption all remaining archived videos.

“It is important to the University of Maryland that we create an environment where all fans can enjoy intercollegiate athletics both on campus and online, and we are proud to take measures that move us further toward this goal,” said university spokesperson Brian Ullmann.

“The National Association of the Deaf appreciates the actions of the University of Maryland to ensure their sporting events are accessible to deaf and hard of hearing fans through providing line-of-sight captioning at their facilities and captioning of all videos on their website,” said Howard A. Rosenblum, Esq., CEO of the National Association of the Deaf.

Plaintiffs in the case were represented by Joseph B. Espo, Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP, and Marc P. Charmatz and Caroline Jackson at the National Association of the Deaf Law and Advocacy Center.

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