



shootingaustralia

Enabling Australian athletes to be World's Best

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29th November 2017

Mr Sam Coffa
President
Commonwealth Games Australia

Email: scoffa@bigpond.com

Dear Sam,

2022 Commonwealth Games Birmingham – Shooting Sport

Thank you for your time and our discussion yesterday. Shooting Australia is keen to ensure that the shooting sport is being considered and will be represented in the sports programme of potential cities bidding to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games. As we discussed presently Birmingham is the only city bidding to host the Games in 2022 and currently it does not include the shooting sport in its programme. Naturally, we believe this to be a serious omission in that it undermines our national sporting interests as well as running counter to the wider wellbeing of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and Commonwealth family. We would ask and seek the assistance of Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) in supporting and ensuring that our sport is considered and duly included in the sporting programme for 2022, regardless of which city is eventually selected to host the Games.

The first point is that for many smaller Commonwealth nations, islands and dependencies, shooting is the only sport through which they can participate in the Games. Indeed, historically the sport attracts some 35 to 40 shooting nations to each Games, many of them smaller dependencies representing countries from across all continents and regions of the Commonwealth. By omitting Shooting, countries such as the Falkland Islands, Norfolk Islands, Gibraltar and Malts, to name but a few, will not be represented at the Games. Thereby, automatically the list of Commonwealth nations represented at the Games will fall from 72 to a figure somewhere in the 60s. The ethos of inclusion and engagement that the Commonwealth Games always engenders will be seriously undermined and excluding nations in such a way is most certainly not in the spirit of the Games.

The second salient fact is that Shooting provides all nations, large and small, with a realistic opportunity to win medals at the multi-sport Games level. For some nations shooting represents the only sport by which they can achieve sporting success and through which they can inspire and encourage people to become involved in sport. The Commonwealth Games provides an invaluable stepping stone and learning experience for athletes, dovetailing performance plans and pathways toward wider representation, even to the Olympics. The successes enjoyed by our Australian shooting athletes at previous Commonwealth Games, most recently the Glasgow Games where Australian Shooting athletes won six (6) Gold and two (2) Bronze medals is clearly evident, as is their significant contribution to the overall sporting success of Australia's medal tally.



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We are aware that British and English Shooting have already approached Birmingham on this subject, detailing the advantages that the sport brings to the Games and outlining some delivery options. These are varied as witnessed at both the Manchester 2002 and Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. Certainly, Manchester, London and Glasgow were delivery models that show the shooting sport can be very successfully delivered using existing or temporary facilities at reasonable costs and with limited resources. The sport embraces the concept that true legacy is about people and inspiration, not just bricks and mortar. We sincerely hope that due consideration has been made, or will be made by Birmingham to these facts and to the possibilities of similar delivery options in or around Birmingham.

I am sure that you do not mind my writing, as I am bound to ensure that the sport receives the consideration it so rightly deserves. Plus, I do not want to see our national interest, nor that of the wider Commonwealth adversely affected by the exclusion of a sport that for many small nations is the only opportunity they have of being represented at the Games. Therefore, the value of our sport of shooting to a potential bid city and prospective host, as well as the wider CGF and Commonwealth family, should not be under estimated.

As discussed Shooting Australia would very much appreciate if you in your position as CGA President could approach the CGF and seek their assurance that Shooting will be included in the program for the 2011 Commonwealth Games.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss options further with you should you so wish and we remain eager to assist in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to ask for more detail and advice if necessary and we remain ready to assist as we can.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Fettell
President Shooting Australia

Copy to:

Martin Mace
Secretary
Commonwealth Shooting Federation