



shootingaustralia

Enabling Australian athletes to be World's Best

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2 January 2018

Mr Sam Coffa
President
Commonwealth Games Australia

Email: scoffa@bigpond.com

Dear Sam,

2022 Commonwealth Games Birmingham – Shooting Sport

Shooting Australia is most concerned with the announcement that Birmingham has been awarded as host for the 2022 Commonwealth Games (the Games) and has not included shooting on the program of sports to be contested at the Games.

This is a bad decision and a most 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 seek the assistance of Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) to ensure that this terrible decision is reversed and our sport is included in the sporting programme for 2022.

As per my letter of 29 November 2017 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 Malta, 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.

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. The delivery models used at the Manchester 2002 and Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games show the shooting sport can be very successfully delivered using existing or temporary facilities at reasonable costs and with limited resources. We are also aware that the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) has approached the CGF and requested a meeting with the CGF President regarding the exclusion of the sport of Shooting from the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Shooting Australia respectfully urgently urges CGA to formally request the CGF to bring influence to bear upon the Birmingham Host City organisation to reverse its' decision to exclude shooting from the Games and reinstate the sport of shooting in the program. We understand that this is possible as the ceiling of the number of sports on the program has not been exceeded noting that the inclusion of 3 on 3 Basketball is not an additional sport as Basketball is already in the program for 2022.

Shooting Australia does 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. The value of our sport of shooting to a host city, as well as the wider CGF and Commonwealth family, cannot be under estimated. We would expect that CGA would not want to forego the opportunity of a repeat of the shooting medal results for Glasgow where Australian Shooting athletes won six (6) Gold and two (2) Bronze medals. Australia should fight to have Shooting returned to the Games as we want the medals that shooting brings.

Shooting Australia would very much appreciate if you in your position as CGA President could approach the CGF and seek their direct engagement with the Birmingham Host City Organisation and request reversal of their previous decision and provide formal assurance that Shooting will be reinstated in the program for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

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