

INVESTMENT GUIDELINES FOR SPORTS ON THE PROGRAM OF THE 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

1. BACKGROUND

In April 2019, Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) released its "First Among Equals" Strategic Plan 2019-2026. This Plan identified "Delivering Team Success" as one of five (5) strategic priorities.

The funding strategies and investment approach outlined in the "Investment Guidelines for Sports on the Program of the 2026 Commonwealth Games" (Guidelines) have been developed to support this performance priority for the 2026 Commonwealth Games (V2026 Games).

Our aspiration for Australia for the V2026 Games is *"to be the No. 1 nation in gold medals, overall medals, medallists and number of sports winning medals"* (Aspiration).

2. SOURCES OF FUNDING

CGA has continually committed to financially contributing to member National Sports Organisations (Sports) and athletes in their preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

Between 1996 and 2022, CGA has provided in excess of **\$56 million** to its Sports and athletes. It should be noted this total amount does not include the costs incurred for Australian Teams participating in a Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games (see Section 3).

CGA derives its income from a combination of returns on investments held in the Australian Commonwealth Games Foundation, sponsorship rights sales and pledges received from State Governments.

CGA receives no funding from the Australian Government, Australian Sports Commission (ASC), Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) nor the State/Territory Institute/Academies of Sport. CGA does recognise and acknowledge these high-performance system partners do provide significant financial and service support directly to a member Sport and athletes for their preparation for a Commonwealth Games.

CGA is committed to working in collaboration with these high-performance system partners. As a member-based organisation, CGA advocates on behalf of its Sports to maximise funding and service support from the high-performance system to ensure that our potential Commonwealth athletes are given every opportunity to achieve Commonwealth Games success.

3. FUNDING OF COMMONWEALTH GAMES TEAMS

Subject to the contribution of program and personnel support provided by other organisations from within the Australian high-performance sports system, CGA fully funds the cost of the Australian Teams participating in the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CGA INVESTMENT 2023-2026

CGA will follow the Guiding Principles outlined below when determining its investment in Sports and their athletes:

- i) CGA investment is designed to value-add to the high-performance programs of Sports;

- ii) CGA investment complements and does not replace or replicate, other sources of high-performance funding, in particular, ASC/AIS funding;
- iii) Subject to the availability of funds, CGA will allocate **\$13 million** over the period 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2026. This amount is inclusive of:
 - a. **\$2 million** allocated to directly support athletes during the final 18 months leading to the V2026 Games (subject to section 7 below);
 - b. **\$300,000** allocated to support a CGA Recognition Program amongst Sports around their CGA investment; and
 - c. **\$10.7 million** to invest in sport projects/initiatives which CGA deems likely to contribute its V2026 Games Aspiration.
- iv) The \$10.7 million contestable investment pool and investment period will be allocated as follows:
 - a. **July 2023 – Nov 2024 – \$4.815 million (i.e. 45% of investment pool); and**
 - b. **Dec 2024 – Mar 2026 – \$5.885 million (i.e. 55% of investment pool).**
- v) The \$10.7 million contestable investment pool will consist of two components:
 - a. **a Foundation component made up of 20% of the investment pool (i.e., \$2.14 million); and**
 - b. **a Performance component made up of 80% of the investment pool (i.e., \$8.56 million);**
- vi) A Sport will receive **ONE investment allocation per investment period** which is comprised of the Foundation and Performance components (see sections 5 and 6 of these Guidelines);
- vii) CGA will prioritise investment in initiatives focussed on V2026 Games performance outcomes; and
- viii) At CGA's discretion, some flexibility with respect of priorities will be afforded to Sports who receive little or no AIS investment or whose primary performance priorities are the V2026 Games rather than the 2024/2028 Olympic or Paralympic Games.

5. FOUNDATION COMPONENT – \$2.14 MILLION

All Sports will receive an allocation from the Foundation component of the CGA investment pool.

The Foundation component allocation to each Sport will be based on the likely number of athletes that will qualify and be selected in their respective sport/discipline as members of the V2026 Team.

The amount allocated per athlete will be determined on a pro rata basis considering the overall projected V2026 Team size (athletes only) and the total funds available under the Foundation component.

The \$2.14 million Foundation component will be divided into two allocations, being:

- a. **July 2023 – Nov 2024 \$963,000 (i.e. 45% of Foundation component)**
- b. **Dec 2024 – Mar 2026 \$1,177,000 (i.e. 55% of Foundation component).**

The intended use of the Foundation component allocation by a member Sport must be consistent with the Guiding Principles outlined at section 4 of these Guidelines and approved in advance by CGA.

Each Sport will be advised of their Foundation component allocation in June 2023 and in September 2024.

As outlined in section 4 (iv), payments to Sports from the Foundation component will be made as part of their overall allocation.

6. PERFORMANCE COMPONENT – \$8.56 MILLION

The \$8.56 million Performance component will notionally be divided into two allocations, being:

- a. **Mar 2023 – Sept 2024** **\$3,852,000 (i.e. 45% of Performance component);**
- b. **Oct 2024 – Mar 2026** **\$4,708,000 (i.e. 55% of Performance component).**

Funding allocations to Sports from the Performance component will be determined in accordance with the Guiding Principles outlined at section 4 of these Guidelines.

Performance component investment is contestable and allocations to Sports will be merit based i.e., funding will be provided to those initiatives/projects deemed most likely to contribute to CGA's V2026 Games aspiration. This may include but is not limited to competition, camps, daily training environment, specialised coaching, performance support services, equipment, the acquisition and/or deployment of sports technology etc.

CGA will consider initiatives which are:

- i) specific to one sport (submitted by one Sport);
- ii) have applicability to multiple Sports (submitted jointly by more than one Sport); and in some instances
- iii) CGA initiated activities on behalf of multiple Sports.

When reviewing applications for Performance component investment, CGA will seek the advice of relevant experts from within Australia's high-performance system as required.

A Sport's allocation from the Foundation component will be considered when determining any allocations under the Performance component.

7. SPORT ALLOCATIONS

A Sport total allocation will be the combined total of the Foundation and Performance components.

A Sport will be required to comply with the terms and conditions of the CGA/Sport Investment Agreement (Agreement) which will be executed prior to funds being made available by CGA.

8. DIRECT ATHLETE SUPPORT – \$2 MILLION

At the time of publication of these Guidelines, the AIS is embarking on a complete review and redesign of athlete payments and the treatment of those payments for tax purposes.

CGA will review these findings to determine how best CGA can invest in targeted athletes to ensure that this investment complements the agreed model determined.

9. APPLICATIONS FOR CGA INVESTMENT

CGA will invite Sports to apply for CGA investment in June 2023 and October 2024.

When reviewing applications for funding, consideration will be given to the Guiding Principles as outlined in section 4 of these Guidelines.

10. RECOGNITION OF CGA INVESTMENT

Each Sport is required to recognise CGA's investment in a manner which is commensurate with the level of support provided.

CGA will work with each Sport to determine an individualised recognition program.

The individualised recognition program will be incorporated into the Agreement between the Sport and CGA.

Failure by a Sport to recognise CGA's investment in accordance with the Agreement may result in a reduction in or cessation of funding.

11. ADVOCACY FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES BY SPORTS

To assist CGA in its advocacy on behalf of Sports, each Sport is to ensure that in their discussions with other high performance system partners, particularly the AIS, they reinforce the importance of continued support for their respective V2026 Games campaign as a critical and integral part of the overall athlete pathway.

12. GUIDELINES AMENDMENTS

The CGA Board will review these Guidelines from time to time.

Any amendments to these Guidelines will be determined by the CGA Board at its absolute and sole discretion.

Adopted by the CGA Board on 21 April 2023