Additional Sports – Expression of Interest

Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games

The 2026 Commonwealth Games Host, being the Victorian Government (Host State) and Commonwealth Games Australia (CGAus), are working with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) to consider additional sports (and/or disciplines) for the Victoria 2026 program. The Games Host is expecting to **add up to five additional sports** through this process.

This document provides an opportunity for **International Federations to submit an expression of interest** for inclusion in the 2026 Commonwealth Games and outlines the criteria and process involved.

International Federations are encouraged to review the [initial list of sports on the 2026 program](https://www.vic.gov.au/victoria-2026-commonwealth-games), as announced in April 2022, to see how their respective sport could complement and enhance the program.

International Federations should also consider how being included in the Games will assist in building a legacy that **benefits the Games Host** and Victorian community – participation, inclusion & integrity – and how the sport’s addition will assist in creating a fantastic Games.

Through the expression of interest process, the Games Host will prioritise **CGF Core** **sports that have been in recent Commonwealth Games,** as well as considering **new sports with significant potential for growth, audience appeal and enduring community benefit**.

The Games Host is aiming to ensure the program creates the best spectator, athlete and broadcast experience, supports gender parity, inclusion of para-athletes and geographic spread of competition.

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

All submissions must adhere to the CGF’s Regulation 6 requirements. A full description is included at *Appendix A* with requirements noted below:

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| **Minimum Requirements** | **Universality of Participation** | **Quality of Competition** | **Consumer & Commercial Appeal** | **Alignment with CGF Values** |
| **Benefits to Games Host** | | | | |
| In selecting additional sports, Victoria will prioritise the following Host benefits:   * Economic Benefits:   + Audience appeal, broadcast appeal, tourism and sponsorship opportunities. * Community Benefits   + Participation and inclusion, local partnership opportunities and geographical balance, quality of Australian competition. * Deliverability   + Infrastructure requirements (including capital works and temporary overlays), net costs to the state, construction timelines and ongoing functionality of any new infrastructure. | | | | |

The CGF is committed to **creating a balanced program** with an appropriate range, type and mix of sports and disciplines, and an integrated para sport program.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

All expressions of interest must be submitted by, and have the approval of, the recognised International Federation. It is recommended that applications are as succinct as possible using this template.

International Federations may include additional information or materials as attachments to the application but it is not a requirement.

**CONSULTATION**

International Federations must work with the recognised Australian National Federation (the relevant Australian National Sporting Organisation or equivalent) in developing an application.

**SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION**

Applications should be submitted to [Victoria2026Sports@sport.vic.gov.au](mailto:Victoria2026Sports@sport.vic.gov.au) by   
19 August 2022.

Any questions the International Federations may have, can also be sent through to the email address and a response will be provided as soon as possible. When sending through questions please include a contact phone number and the time zone the contact person is located in.

**ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

The Host State will make an initial shortlist of sports (and/or disciplines) that align with host benefit criteria and Regulation 6 requirements. Shortlisted sports may be contacted and additional information may be requested.

Following assessment of the shortlisted sports, the Host State and CGAus will agree on a package of additional sports and submit a formal proposal to the CGF Executive Board for approval.

The final package of additional sports is expected to be confirmed by the end of   
September 2022.

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| **Name of International Federation:** |  |
| **Contact Person:** |  |
| **Contact details (phone number and email):** |  |
| **Location:** |  |
| **Name of Australian National Federation** |  |
| **Contact Person:** |  |
| **Contact details (phone number and email):** |  |
| **Location:** |  |

**SECTION1 – CGF REGULATION 6**

The application must address the Regulation 6 requirements (**Appendix A**)of the Commonwealth Games Federation and provide relevant evidence. International Federations can provide links to existing material online to support the Regulation 6 requirements where appropriate.

***International Federations currently in the list of Core Sports for the Commonwealth Games do not need to complete section 1.***

Has the International Federations participated in the Olympic and/or Paralympic Games in either 2016 or 2020?  Yes  No

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| **Minimum requirements** |
| * *The IF to confirm in writing it is the formally recognised body or organisation that groups together the majority of National Federations or organisations throughout the world practicing its sport and regularly holding international competitions* * *The IF to confirm in writing it adopts, as its minimum standard, the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement or their equivalent, as recognised by the CGF and other equivalent sporting organisations* * *The IF to confirm in writing it has adopted, implemented and is fully compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code* |
| **Universality of Participation** |
| * *The IF should demonstrate that the sport / discipline is participated in throughout the Commonwealth at an international and domestic level and that development within the Commonwealth is a priority for the IF. Additionally, the IF should demonstrate it recognises and understands the unique composition of the Commonwealth and confirm there are no restrictions to participation for CGAs* |
| **Quality of Competition** |
| * *The IF should demonstrate that Commonwealth athletes and officials regularly compete, succeed and officiate at a world and regional level. Additionally, the IF should demonstrate it will work with the CGF to align competition calendars to prevent scheduling conflicts and encourage participation by the highest ranked Commonwealth athletes* |
| **Consumer & Commercial Appeal** |
| * *The IF should demonstrate it can contribute positively to the spectator, sponsor and media appeal of the Commonwealth Games, and that this appeal spans a broad range of demographics* |
| **Alignment with CGF Values** |
| * *The IF should demonstrate its values and priorities are aligned with those of the CGF* |

**SECTION 2 - BENEFITS TO THE GAMES HOST**

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| **Competition Detail** | |
| What disciplines is the International Federation proposing? (If more than 1 please rank them in preference order.) |  |
| What medal events are being proposed? |  |
| What competition format is being proposed?  For example   * Races: Heats, semis and Final * Team sports: round robin, semis and final or pools, semis and final |  |
| Are any innovative disciplines or formats being proposed? |  |
| Is the proposed discipline and format supported by the relevant Australian National Federation? |  |
| Will the competition format being proposed include gender parity in medals and increase the participation of females? (Please include indicative athlete total, broken down by gender and discipline) |  |
| Is the International Federation proposing a para discipline? (Please include indicative medal events and athlete total, broken down by gender and discipline) |  |

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| **Spectator Appeal (Within Australia)** | |
| Has the International Federation hosted recent international/national events in Australia? (Dates and location) |  |
| What were the spectator/support attendance figures? |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Broadcast and Digital Appeal** | |
| What were the broadcast figures for the most recent international event for the International Federation? |  |
| Which countries was the broadcast shown in? |  |
| Please provide information about the sport’s digital and social media audience. |  |

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| **Venues** | |
| Please outline any venue specifications and minimum requirements for elite international competition to be included in the Games? |  |

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| **Additional Information / Attachments** | |
| Please provide any additional information and list of attachments. |  |

By submitting this information, I confirm the following:

* The International Federation will appoint appropriate senior staff resource to support this application process. If included in the sport program of the 2026 Commonwealth Games the International Federation agrees to allocate appropriate staff resource to support with planning and delivery, including but not limited to developing qualification processes.
* The International Federation agrees to work with the CGF to develop a Partnership Agreement, that sets out areas of cooperation between both organisations.

**APPENDIX A**

**Regulation 6**

**Factors and Criteria for how the CGF determines the Sports and Disciplines that will be included in the Programme of the Commonwealth Games**

**Purpose**

The sport programme of the Commonwealth Games aims to inspire and positively contribute to the lives of the people of the Commonwealth by showcasing and celebrating its athletes, delivering impactful sporting moments and helping Games hosts achieve meaningful benefits.

The purpose of Regulation 6 is to provide clarity as to how the CGF determines which sports and / or disciplines will be included in the Sport Programme for a specific edition of the Commonwealth Games.

CGF Byelaw 14 outlines how the CGF categorises the sports (Compulsory and Core sports) that combine to form the Sports Programme of the Commonwealth Games. It is possible for sports and / or disciplines not listed in Byelaw 14 to be considered for inclusion in a specific edition of the Commonwealth Games, providing they meet the Minimum Requirements and criteria outlined in Regulation 6.

From time-to-time and at its own discretion, the CGF, having given due notice, will use Regulation 6 to review the composition of sports categories as defined in Byelaw 14.

**Process**

The CGF will work closely with an appointed and/or potential Commonwealth Games Host, and International Federations to determine the sports, disciplines and events that comprise the Sport Programme for each Commonwealth Games, noting that the CGF Executive Board and General Assembly are the ultimate decision making bodies for confirming the Sport Programme.

In formulating recommendations to the Executive Board and the General Assembly on the Sports Programme of the Commonwealth Games, the Sports Committee will be guided by Regulation 6 and Byelaw 14.

The Sports Committee and Executive Board shall consider a range of factors and criteria which will include, but will not necessarily be limited to, the following:

1. **Minimum Requirements:**

For a sport or discipline to be considered for inclusion in the programme of the Commonwealth Games it must meet the following minimum requirements:

* 1. the sport / discipline must have the full endorsement of its International Federation. The International Federation shall be formally recognised as the body or organisation that groups together the majority of National Federations or organisations throughout the world practicing its sport and regularly holding international competitions.
  2. the International Federation adopts, as its minimum standard, the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement or their equivalent, as recognised by the CGF and other equivalent sporting organisations; and
  3. the International Federation must have adopted and implemented the World Anti-Doping Code.

1. **Universality of Participation:**

The Sports Programme comprises sports and disciplines that are relevant to and engaged in by the people of the Commonwealth, measured by:

* 1. the number and breadth of Commonwealth nations affiliated with the International Federation and Commonwealth athletes actively participating in that sport or discipline at an international and domestic level;
  2. the commitment demonstrated by the International Federation to development within the Commonwealth; and
  3. sports / disciplines with a history of inclusion in the Commonwealth Games, Commonwealth Youth Games and / or Commonwealth Championships are able to demonstrate athlete participation from across the Commonwealth.

1. **Quality of Competition:**

The Commonwealth Games showcases world class sport that inspires and engages the people of the Commonwealth, measured by:

* 1. the number of medallists (men & women) from Commonwealth nations at World, Olympic, Paralympic and Regional level;
  2. the number of Commonwealth athletes or teams highly ranked by the relevant International Federation;
  3. the level of commitment shown by the relevant International Federation to the importance of the Commonwealth Games; and
  4. the International Federation is committed to securing the attendance of the Commonwealth's top athletes.

1. **Consumer and Commercial Appeal:**

The Sport Programme has significant spectator, sponsor and media appeal and contributes to expanding the reach of the Commonwealth Games, measured by:

* 1. the ability to help retain, strengthen and / or grow commercial, broadcast and sponsor partnerships across the Commonwealth Movement;
  2. spectator attendance and ticket revenue, particularly within host communities;
  3. live broadcast, online and mobile streaming audiences throughout the Commonwealth and the rest of the world;
  4. the participation in the Commonwealth Games by athletes and teams who have extensive fan bases and social media followings;
  5. social media & digital engagement; and
  6. appeal to a broad range of demographics.

1. **Benefit to Games Hosts:**

The Sport Programme contributes to the delivery of positive impacts and value for host communities, measured by:

* 1. a sport / discipline can contribute to a hosts ambition to deliver tangible and sustainable legacy and social impact benefits;
  2. a sport / discipline provides showcasing opportunities that attract spectator and general public interest and supports the local economy; and
  3. the operational complexity or cost of a sport / discipline is reasonable in relation to the benefit.

1. **Alignment with CGF Values:**

The CGF is committed to working with sports / disciplines that are aligned with and can contribute to the Values and Priorities of the CGF, measured by:

* 1. an International Federation demonstrates high standards of integrity and ethics consistent with the CGF’s;
  2. an International Federation’s commitment to foster a strong and supportive relationship with the Commonwealth Sport movement; and
  3. the International Federation actively promoting inclusion (para sport where appropriate) and gender equity.

1. **Creating a Balanced Programme:**

The CGF is committed to creating a balanced program with an appropriate range, type and mix of sports and disciplines, and an integrated para sport program.