



# GUIDELINES FOR THE GREEN2GOLD2GREAT SPORT INVESTMENT PROGRAM

## 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.

CGA’s aspiration for Australia for the 2026 Games remains “to be the No. 1 nation in gold medals, overall medals, medallists and number of sports winning medals” (Aspiration).

The funding strategies and investment approach outlined in the “Investment Guidelines for the Green2Gold2Great Sport Investment Program (Guidelines) have been developed to primarily support this performance aspiration for the 2026 Commonwealth Games (2026 Games).

Following the withdrawal from hosting the 2026 Games by the Victorian Government and the subsequent award of hosting rights to Glasgow, Scotland by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), CGA has amended these Guidelines to reflect the reduced 2026 (G2026) Sports Program and the impact on sports no longer included on the program (Non-Program Sports).

While the focus of CGA Investment remains on delivering team success in 2026, provision has been made to support the Non-Program Sports in the development of emerging talent.

## 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 up to **\$11.6 million** over the period from 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2026. This amount is inclusive of:
  - a. **\$1.5 million** allocated to directly support athletes during their final preparation for 2026 Games (**Direct Athlete Support** as per section 7 below);
  - b. **\$300,000** allocated to support a CGA Recognition Program amongst Sports around CGA investment and delivered by CGA to support 2026 Games performance outcomes (**CGA Initiatives**);
  - c. **\$8.8 million** in a contestable pool (across two investment period) to invest in sport projects/initiatives which CGA deems likely to contribute its G2026 Games Aspiration (**Campaign Investment** – as per sections 5 and 6 below); and
  - d. **\$1 million** to invest in projects/initiatives to development emerging talent in non-program sports (**Emerging Talent** – as per section 8 below).
- iv) The \$8.8million contestable investment pool will be allocated as follows:
  - a) **Period 1 – July 2023 – November 2024 \$4.8 million (already allocated); and**
  - b) **Period 2 – April 2025 – July 2026 \$4 million.**
- v) The \$8.8 million contestable investment pool consists of two components:
  - a) **a Foundation component made up of 20% of the investment pool; and**
  - b) **a Performance component made up of 80% of the investment pool.**
- 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 G2026 Games performance outcomes – the Aspiration; 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 2026 Games rather than the 2024/2028 Olympic or Paralympic Games.

### 5. CAMPAIGN INVESTMENT - FOUNDATION COMPONENT- \$1.76 MILLION

All Sports originally included on the Victoria 2026 (V2026) program (V2026 Program Sports) received an allocation from the Foundation component of the CGA investment pool during Period 1.

The Period 1 Foundation component allocation to each Sport was based on the likely number of athletes that would have qualified and been selected in their respective sport/discipline as members of the V2026 Team.

The amount allocated per athlete during Period 1 was 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 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.

The Foundation budget allocation to V2026 Program Sports during Period 1 totalled **\$960,000**.

Only sports included on the G2026 Sports Program will be eligible to receive a Foundation component allocation during Period 2.

Subject to the final medal event program and allocation of athlete quotas by the CGF it is likely the overall Foundation component allocation for Period 2 will be up to **\$800,000** (approx. 20% of the Campaign Investment pool).

Each Sport will be advised of their Foundation component allocation in June 2023 (Period 1) and in April 2025 (Period 2). As outlined in section 4 (iv), payments to Sports from the Foundation component will be made as part of their overall allocation.

## **6. CAMPAIGN INVESTMENT – PERFORMANCE COMPONENT \$7.04 MILLION**

All V2026 Program Sports received an allocation from the Performance component of the CGA investment pool during Period 1.

The Performance budget allocation to V2026 Program Sports during Period 1 totalled \$3.84 million.

The Performance component investment pool available for allocation to G2026 Program Sports during Period 2 is **\$3.2 million** (approx. 80% of the total G2026 investment pool for Period 2).

Only sports included on the G2026 Sports Program will be eligible to receive a Performance component allocation during Period 2.

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 G2026 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. DIRECT ATHLETE SUPPORT – UP TO \$1.5 MILLION**

CGA will provide a one-off payment of **\$5,000** to each athlete selected in the 2026 Australian Commonwealth Games Team (Team).

The payment is designed to assist each athlete with their final preparation for G2026 competition and will be made following confirmation of selection to the Team by CGA.

Payment will be made using a payment method to be determined by CGA at its absolute discretion which may include, but is not limited to, the presentation of a pre-loaded credit or debit card.

## **8. EMERGING TALENT (NON-PROGRAM SPORTS) – \$1 MILLION**

CGA remains committed to maintaining support for non-program sports as part of a balanced approach to achieving sustained success. By providing investment in non-program sports, CGA aspires to support initiatives geared towards the development of talent with potential to contribute to 2030 Commonwealth Games outcomes.

Sports originally included the V2026 Sports Program which are now not included on the G2026 Sports Program (Non-Program Sports) are eligible to apply for CGA Investment to fund initiatives to support the development of emerging talent.

This may include, but is not limited to hosting international competition, competition events, camps, specialised coaching, performance support services, equipment, the acquisition and/or deployment of sports technology etc.

Investment allocations are contestable and will be determined in accordance with section 4.

## **9. SPORT ALLOCATIONS**

A G2026 Program Sport's total allocation will be the combined total of the Foundation and Performance components received during Periods 1 and 2.

A Non-Program Sport's total allocation will be the combined total of the Foundation and Performance components (Campaign Investment) received during Period 1 and the Emerging Talent Investment received during Period 2.

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

## **10. APPLICATIONS FOR CGA INVESTMENT**

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

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

## **11. 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. As per the Agreement and to receive CGA Investment, a Sport will be required to include promotion of the value of the Commonwealth Games and Australian Commonwealth Games Team.

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

CGA has committed \$300,000 from the CGA Investment Program for the implementation of its own activities to maximise recognition of its investment in sports and athletes. All sports receiving CGA investment are required to provide their support to CGA initiated activities.

## **12. ADVOCACY FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES BY SPORTS**

To assist CGA in its advocacy on behalf of Sports, each Sport is asked 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 2026 Games campaign as a critical and integral part of the overall athlete pathway.

## **13. AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES**

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*

*Revised and approved by the CGA Board on 25 November 2024*