



Memorandum

To: All Commonwealth Games Associations
From: Michael Hooper, Chief Executive Officer
Date: 19 May 2009
Re: CGF Executive Board Meeting - Delhi 14th May 2009

Dear Presidents

The Executive Board met in Delhi last Thursday, this note provides a brief overview of matters discussed and specific decisions taken.

1. CGA Capacity Support Programme

In partnership with Commonwealth Games Canada (CGC) the Executive Board approved the implementation of a new 3 year pilot programme that will see a small number of interns placed within CGAs to augment the administrative capacity of CGAs. The Executive Board, accepted the CGC's recommendation that in the initial year the focus of the programme would be on the Caribbean and specifically with those CGAs who have hosted a CGC Canadian Sport Leadership Corp intern within the last 2 years and who have a demonstrated track record in supporting and utilizing in-country interns. This resulted in the following being selected for this pilot:

- Barbados;
- Bermuda;
- Jamaica; and
- Trinidad and Tobago.

For the second year of the pilot the Executive Board has agreed that the focus will be on Africa and in this regard the Federation is liaising with the RVP for Africa Abdoulie Touray.

2. Life Vice Presidents / Orders of Merit

At the General Assembly in The Gambia, the Honorary Secretary reported that the Executive Board at that time would be formulating a recommendation for the General Assembly to increase the maximum number of Life Vice Presidents' elected from time to time by the General Assembly from 3 to 6, at the same time the Board agreed to the introduction of two further levels of recognition within the Games Movement, namely:

- a) the introduction of the position of Honorary Life Members; and
- b) the creation of an Order of Merit.

After further consideration the Executive Board has now agreed that it will amend its final recommendation to the General Assembly that excludes point (a) above.

3. 2009 General Assembly Call for Business / Constitutional Amendments

We are currently developing the agenda for the 2009 General Assembly and associated meetings which are to be held in Delhi from October 6th – 13th and in this regard I now call for any items of notified business and should you have such we would appreciate receiving this no later than **August 31st**. Please note should you have any submissions that involve changes to the Federation's Constitution then in accordance with Article 30(2) these need to be submitted to us no later than Monday **June 22nd**.

With regard to the latter the Federation has received from the Commonwealth Games Association of Fiji an amendment to the Constitution as outlined within the attached.

The Executive Board considered the matters contained therein at its meeting last week and for the following reasons **does not support the proposed amendments**:

- Membership of the Commonwealth is a prerequisite for any nation to participate within the Commonwealth Games and other activities of the Federation;
- Membership of the Commonwealth is as FASANOC states set by a governmental body comprising all members of the Commonwealth at a political level;
- In support of the changes submitted FASANOC refers to a number of existing articles within the Constitution e.g. 2.1, 3 and 7, the text of the latter has been placed in bold emphasis by FASANOC within their submission i.e. the non-discrimination clause. The Executive Board is of the view that FASANOC has interpreted the intent of this clause more broadly than intended in that it is clearly limited to members of the Commonwealth and if FASANOC's argument in this regard was sustained then taken literally the Federation would have to admit any country into future editions of the Games; and
- To accede to the request would fundamentally undermine the basis of the Games movement which is clearly articulated throughout the Federation's Constitution as being "*...for the nations and territories of the Commonwealth*"

4. Delhi 2010

The Executive Board received a detailed presentation from the Organising Committee along with an interim update from the CGF's Coordination Commission which visited Delhi last week. Under separate cover the President has reported directly to CGAs on this.

5. International Federation Partnerships

At the General Assembly in The Gambia I reported on progress to date with our partnership programme with International Federations, since then we have finalised arrangements with the International Rugby Board for a joint programme aiming to elevate the standard of Rugby 7s within Commonwealth member nations in the Caribbean and Americas. The basis of the

programme, which will commence in 2010, is coach education and will be delivered through the North American and West Indies Rugby Association (NAWIRA).

6. Commonwealth Youth Games – Competitor Age Groups

The General Assembly in the Gambia adopted the following policy on the age limits for competitors at future editions of the Games:

“All competitors in the CYG will be a minimum age of 14 and a maximum age of 18 in the year of competition. In determining the specific age group for a particular sport or discipline (within the 14-18 bracket) the relevant International Federation rules, where they exist, will apply as it relates to their Youth category.”

As such for the next edition of the Games on the Isle of Man in 2011, the following will apply to all the competitors albeit within any constraints imposed by the relevant International Federation:

Aged 18 in 2011 – Born in 1993
 Aged 17 in 2011 – Born in 1994
 Aged 16 in 2011 – Born in 1995
 Aged 15 in 2011 – Born in 1996
 Aged 14 in 2011 – Born in 1997

Consistent with the above and after consultation with each of the respective International Federations, the Executive Board determined that the following will apply to each sport in the Isle of Man:

Athletics

The IAAFs Youth age category:

- Boys and Girls: 16 – 17 years of age (athletes born in 1994 & 1995)

Badminton

The BWF's own Junior World Championships age bracket (under 19):

- Men and Women: 14 – 18 years of age (athletes born in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 & 1997)

Boxing

AIBA's Youth category:

- Boys: 17 – 18 years of age (athletes born in 1993 and 1994)

Cycling (Road)

UCI'S regulation for Junior competition:

- Men & Women: 17 – 18 years of age (athletes born in 1993 and 1994)

Gymnastics (Artistic)

FIG regulations for Junior competition states that male gymnasts must not be less than 14 years of age nor more than 18 years and that women gymnasts must not be less than 13 years of age nor more than 15 years. Following a request from FIG, the Executive Board has granted a specific dispensation for this event, in that the relevant International Federation's rules will apply.

- Men: 14 – 18 years of age (athletes born in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 & 1997)
- Women: 13 – 15 years of age (athletes born in 1996, 1997 & 1998)

Rugby 7s

Following discussions with the IRB, it was recommended that the following age bracket apply, taking into account the CGF policy and the safety of athletes:

- Men: 16 – 18 years of age (athletes born in 1993, 1994 & 1995)

Swimming

FINAs age limit for their World Junior competitions:

- Men: 15 – 18 years of age (athletes born in 1993, 1994, 1995 & 1996)
- Women: 14 – 17 years of age (athletes born in 1994, 1995, 1996 & 1997)

7. Commonwealth Youth Games – Rugby Sevens Participation

In reviewing the programme and other arrangements for the 2011 Commonwealth Youth Games the Executive Board noted that there had been a limited response to the Organising Committee's questionnaire on the likely level of participation at the Games.

As you know there is an overall cap on athlete participation within the Games of 1,000 and that the allocation of these will be consistent with the approach taken for Pune albeit with one change approved by the Executive Board and that is that participation in the Rugby Sevens tournament will first be deducted from the 1,000 cap. In this way the option remains open for all CGAs to consider sending a Rugby Sevens team to the Games.

With the Organising Committee covering ground based costs and the CGF providing all CGAs with a travel subsidy equating to 6 people (4 athletes and 2 officials) any decision by a CGA to participate within the Rugby Sevens competition will have financial implications for them. In this regard, to assist the Organising Committee in the Isle of Man, the Executive Board would appreciate receiving confirmation from those CGAs who wish to enter the Rugby Sevens competition at the Youth Games by September 30th. Could you please respond directly to our Operations Director John Eades on j.eades@thecgf.com on this matter.

8. Tennis Entries – Delhi 2010

Attached are two letters from the International Tennis Federation (ITF) within which they express concerns over the basis upon which entry levels are set for the forthcoming competition at the Games in Delhi. The Executive Board after considering the issues raised agreed to the following:

- a maximum of 3 singles players per nation;
- a maximum of 2 teams per nation for both regular and mixed doubles; and that
- the agreed maximum of 4 male and 4 female participants per competing nation remain.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Hooper', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Michael Hooper
Chief Executive Officer



***FIJI ASSOCIATION OF SPORTS &
NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE***



March 2, 2009

Ref 071/09/D03

Mr Michael Hooper
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Games Federation
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Email : m.hooper@thecgf.com
ENGLAND

Dear Mike

Fiji CGA submits the following amendments to the CGF constitution:

Article 10.1 Delete the word “Commonwealth” in line 2 and add the words “listed in regulation 5” after the word **countries** in line 2

The amended Article 10.1 would therefore read as follows:

The Federation in General Assembly shall consider and, if thought fit, approve applications for affiliation from appropriate sports bodies of Countries listed in Regulation 5 and upon becoming affiliated to the Federation such sports bodies shall be referred to as affiliated CGA.

Article 24.1 Delete the word “Commonwealth” in line 2;

In line 2 after the word “Country”, add the words “of the Commonwealth Games Association”.

The amended Article 24.1 would therefore read as follows:

Subject to Article 24(2), as a condition of entry to compete in the Commonwealth Games, all competitors must be citizens or subjects of the Country of the Commonwealth Games Association that enters them and must.”

(2)

Article 24.2; 24.3 In these two Clauses; amend the words “Commonwealth Country: to read “Member Country.”

Article 31

Definitions: Add “Member **Country** means a country whose CGA has been granted affiliation to the CGF.”

Our concern has been, for some time, that membership to the CGF is determined not by the CGF itself but by another group, a group of politicians, which, in our view, does not have much to do with the Commonwealth Games itself.

Article 2.1 of the CGF Charter states that participation in the Games “shall be open to eligible competitors representing affiliated **Commonwealth Games Associations**”

Article 3 states “The Federation is the supreme authority in all matters concerning the Commonwealth Games”.

Article 7 states “That for the Commonwealth Games and generally in respect of all activities of the Federation and events under its control, **there shall be no discrimination against any country or person on the any grounds whatsoever, including, race, colour, gender, religion or politics.**”

You will recall that the Fiji CGA had lost its membership of the CGF because of the 1987 military coup. As a result our athletes were denied the opportunity to participate in the 1990 and 1994 Commonwealth Games.

It is likely Fiji may again be expelled from the Commonwealth of Nations because of the 2006 military coup. If this does eventuate then Fijian athletes could possibly be again denied the opportunity to participate in the Commonwealth Games in the future.

It should be known that what is happening in Fiji has had nothing to do with the athletes of Fiji and yet they find themselves victims of the coup.

In order to avoid any embarrassment and maintain its relationship with the Commonwealth Secretariat we would suggest that CGAs of those Commonwealth Nations whose membership to the Commonwealth has been terminated, should be permitted to participate in the Commonwealth Games. The delegations of these CGAs be permitted to march under their own CGA flags or under the CGF flag, and not that of its country. Similarly the National Anthem of an expelled country shall not be played at the Games.

(3)

We very strongly suggest that the CGF should control its own destiny. It should not be dictated to by a political organisation. It should only be the CGF which should decide who it recognises as its affiliates and who it allows to participate in the Commonwealth Games. The CGF should also recognise the autonomy of individual CGAs who are its members.

The amendments we are proposing, we hope, will be supported by the Executive Board and would be put forward to the next CGF General Assembly for adoption.

Yours sincerely



V P LAKHAN
PRESIDENT

cc Hon Secretary General



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1 April 2009

Mike Hooper
Chief Executive Officer
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Dear Mike,

CWG 2010 Tennis Competition Entries

I hope you are well.

Further to our meeting at SportAccord in Denver, I would like to take this opportunity to outline our concerns regarding the player entry situation for the 2010 CWG Tennis Event.

As you know the original submission of the ITF was to have a maximum three (3) singles athletes' per nation. This was subsequently reduced by the CGF Assembly to maximum two (2) athletes per nation.

Having conducted a mock entry based on the current CGF entry criteria of 2 singles players per nation and the current ATP/WTA rankings, it appears very likely that we will not be able to fill either the Men's or Women's draws with ranked players, making the entry process very complicated and also compromising the quality of the Draw. It may be possible for us to allocate the remaining slots based on ATP/WTA doubles rankings or even ITF Junior rankings, but as there is no guarantee of how many athletes will be covered in these rankings, this will obviously reduce the overall standard of the competition and even then may not ensure a full draw.

Therefore we suggest a return to the ITF's original proposal by amending the maximum number of singles players per nation to 3. This will ensure that we can fill both draws with world ranked players and provide as high-quality a field as possible. We appreciate the issue of universality in this event, but feel that this can be effectively achieved through the 6 ITF Places, which we propose to allocate to each geographical region according to the breakdown on the Commonwealth Games Federation website and based on advice from the ITF Juniors and Development Departments.

There is also the question of the entry procedure for the doubles events. Even after adding the number of ATP/WTA ranked doubles players from Commonwealth nations to the singles ranked participants, it appears likely that we would still not be guaranteed a full doubles draw. One possible solution to this could be to accept a doubles team with just one ranked player (singles or doubles). Or, similarly to the singles problem, we could increase the number of doubles teams allowed per nation to 2, still covering the universality issue through the 3 ITF

Places. If we chose the latter, the maximum number of male and female participants per nation would still remain at 4.

I hope these proposals make sense and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Thanks and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Smith, ITF Executive Director, Olympic Tennis Event

cc Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti, President, International Tennis Federation
Mr John Eades, Operations Director, Commonwealth Games Federation



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8 April 2009

Mike Hooper
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Games Federation
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Dear Mike,

CWG 2010 Tennis Competition Entry Criteria

I hope you are well.

Further to my recent letter dated April 1, I would like to further clarify the ITF's position regarding both the singles and doubles entry criteria for the 2010 Commonwealth Games Tennis Event.

In summary, we propose the following:

- A return to the ITF's original proposal of maximum 3 singles players per nation
- A maximum of 2 teams per nation for both regular and mixed doubles
- To remain with the agreed maximum of four male and four female participants per competing nation.

We very much believe that utilizing the above criteria is crucial in terms of safeguarding the quality and credibility of the tennis event. It is apparent through recent meetings with our colleagues in Delhi that the CWG tennis event is being viewed as a major revenue-generator through ticket sales so therefore we must do our utmost to ensure as high-quality a field as possible. TV broadcasters will also expect top-level tennis and, with it being the first time tennis has been a part of the Commonwealth Games, the ITF view it as an excellent opportunity to portray our sport on a new platform to a different audience and do not want to compromise on the quality of the event.

Direct acceptance into the CWG tennis events must be based on recognized ATP/WTA world ranking, as per all other major events. Should there be a shortfall of ATP/WTA ranked singles players, we propose to extend the direct acceptance to firstly include top-200 ATP/WTA ranked doubles players and then to include top-200 ITF ranked juniors. We do not want to select players any lower in these rankings or by any other means (for example National Rankings) as it will be detrimental to the quality of the event.

Entry into the doubles events will be based on the Olympic premise of "best combined ATP/WTA singles or doubles ranking". Again, should there be a shortfall, we will extend this to include top-200 ITF ranked juniors but that is as far as we are prepared to go.

By using the above entry criteria we will maximize our chances both of filling the draws and having the highest quality players participating.

I hope these proposals and reasoning make sense Mike and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Thanks and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PS', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Smith, ITF Executive Director, Olympic Tennis Event

cc Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti, President, International Tennis Federation
Mr John Eades, Operations Director, Commonwealth Games Federation