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Consultation Paper
Scottish Government
Area 2 – F(S)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland Response by the SCOTTISH GAMES ASSOCIATION

Introduction

The **SCOTTISH GAMES ASSOCIATION** welcomes this consultation and the opportunity to contribute to the Legacy Plan for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

We are the sports governing body for Highland Games, events that exemplify community-based sport with accessibility, breadth of participation and public appeal that is unique. We represent 60 of the country's best games events, from ancient village games like Ceres to internationally recognized events, like The Braemar Gathering. Our non-profit events bring in over 150,000 visitors and see over 500 people competing; for many Scottish youths their first performance in front of a crowd is at one of our events, and in many areas of the country local highland games provide the only competitive opportunity. A government report last year estimated (conservatively) that our events contributed £20million to the economy annually. We strive to improve the position, both for competitors and visitors, and recent successes include partnering new schools training in the Highland region and working with Scottish Enterprise to provide an even more professional approach.

Whilst the awarding of the Commonwealth Games to Glasgow in 2014 provides opportunities across a number of sporting sectors, it is essential that non-CWG sports do not become marginalised; this is a tangible issue as we have already experienced withdrawal of support from government agencies that gives serious cause for concern. We would hope that the CWG legacy restores and builds upon support for grassroots, community-based sports.

Consultation

Our response is based on discussions with our members and at the governing council meetings – we also participated in the consultative workshops co-ordinated by the SSA.

Key Issues

Physical education and sport in schools

- We would like to see Scotland's own highland games disciplines recognized and offered in schools – in a pilot programme, this has been hugely successful in engaging a traditionally difficult youth segment .
- We would like to see a mechanism to help regions share best practice and consequently improve participation levels.

Facility access and provision

- We believe that it is essential to maintain the provision of open spaces for leisure use; the reductions/sell-offs over the last two decades is of concern.
- Facilities can take many forms - many of our members find more difficult than ever to stage competitive events, though a combination of local authority charges for using common land and increasing legislative burdens. For the CWG legacy to work effectively, support will be needed if organizations are to stage more competitive opportunities.
- We would like to see greater commitment to clean sport, which includes support for anti-doping testing. Our support from UKSport for anti-doping was withdrawn last year because we are non-CWG/Olympics – it seems perverse to do this to an entry-level sport, and it's something that we would expect to be rectified as part of the CWG legacy.

Volunteering, including coaching

- The difficulties in recruiting and retaining volunteers is a problem experienced by all; any legacy improvement in this area would therefore be far-reaching.

Business models

- There are an increasing number of legislative and administrative burdens placed on organizations, such that it is now more complicated than ever to set up a group and make something happen. There is a real risk that the legacy may fail to deliver because of a lack of implementation opportunities; to counter this it will really help to have a guide through the maze of Compliance, Legislation, Health&Safety, Insurance, Licensing, Permissions, Child Safety, etc, etc.
- A legacy change to centralized funding should be considered; for example, will the existing model of channelling funds to Scottish Athletics actually deliver 'additionality' for the legacy? How can other event organizers tap into such funding? (Our partnership with SA in running national Youth Relays has been withdrawn this year because of their focus on CWG – a tragic case of goal-displacement that we'd hope the legacy would address).

Response by the SCOTTISH GAMES ASSOCIATION

Summary

We would like to ensure that the CWG legacy encompasses aspects of sport that are often marginalised, such as highland games, and that grassroots community sporting activities are given the recognition they deserve. We would also like to see immediate measures to restore the support that has recently been withdrawn in the name of the CWG.

The Scottish Games Association