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Commonwealth Sport Declaration on Reconciliation and Partnership with Indigenous Peoples

Paper by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)



The Commonwealth Sport Iək'wəŋən Declaration:

**COMMONWEALTH SPORT DECLARATION ON RECONCILIATION AND PARTNERSHIP
WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

Sport is an ideal learning ground for life's essential skills, and especially for young people. Sport is universal. Occasionally, sport is the opportunity that saves peoples' lives. Participating in and having access to sport is a right that belongs to every person and this declaration affirms and progresses those rights for Indigenous Peoples who are strong and resilient people connected to their lands and cultures.

Through a spirit of openness, truthfulness, peace, reconciliation, collaboration and partnership - and in accordance with Article 2 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - the parties to this declaration commit to engage in a process of developing the path forward; respecting, protecting and promoting the rights and opportunities of Indigenous Peoples through sport – and in particular the legacy planning and delivery of Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Sport events.

In drafting this Declaration, the representatives of Indigenous communities reaffirm their right of self-determination, reminding all stakeholders of their roles and responsibilities, including under international law, regarding the holistic wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples.

ACTIONS

The parties to this Declaration call for the following 10 actions, to promote inclusion, education, health, development and peace through sport:

1. Promote the holistic physical, cultural, spiritual, mental wellbeing and life skills benefits of sport to Indigenous Peoples.
2. Collaboratively develop inclusive, coherent and sustainable sports policies, programs and projects, that integrate and implement sustainable sport development for Indigenous Peoples.
3. Support and invest in sport development activities for Indigenous Peoples, with particular focus on coaching, youth mentorship, infrastructure and community cohesion using methods that are Indigenous driven.
4. To advance knowledge and create research and development opportunities on Indigenous Peoples, culture, history and sports, particularly with respect to traditional games, and how sport can be used for reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
5. Provide physical education for all Indigenous children and include Indigenous sport, physical activities and traditional Games into schools and sport programs that are Indigenous driven.



6. For sport events, including international sporting events:
 - ensure Indigenous Peoples are equal partners in the bidding, planning and delivery and legacy of sport events;
 - host sporting events in Indigenous Communities, and ensure those events create positive social, economic and environmental impacts for Indigenous host communities;
 - celebrate Indigenous athletes, cultures, languages and history;
 - recognise, celebrate and respect Indigenous Peoples' territory and protocols;
 - encourage Indigenous youth attendance at sporting events;
 - include traditional Indigenous sports into sport programmes, and stage regional and national level Indigenous Games in the most culturally appropriate way.
7. Create and support development pathways to high performance and pursuit of excellence for Indigenous athletes and coaches.
8. Celebrate and raise the profile of Indigenous athletes and coaches and their achievements, so Indigenous youth are inspired by and connected to positive role models.
9. Through relationship building, strengthen sports networks and enhance sport coordination for sport with Indigenous Peoples.
10. Ensure accountability and establish systems for ongoing monitoring and evaluating progress in implementing the actions of this Declaration.

We invite everyone to support and promote and implement this Declaration and to consider it as part of a global campaign to advance peaceful co-existence and reconciliation.

We call on all Sports organisations, Institutions, Governments, Games organisers, Individuals and Indigenous Peoples to work together to support and implement the spirit and actions of this Declaration.