

Ministerial Statement

21 -22 July 2026

Glasgow, Scotland, UK, 21 - 22 July 2026

Agenda Item 11

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12th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting Ministerial Statement

Paper by the
Commonwealth Secretariat

Theme:
***Reimagining the Power of Sport towards Healthier, Fairer
and Equitable Commonwealth Communities***

1. Sports Ministers and Games representatives of Commonwealth member countries, met in Glasgow, Scotland on 22 July 2026 alongside the XXIII Commonwealth Games to reaffirm our shared belief in the enduring power of sport to strengthen communities, promote inclusion, advance sustainable development and unite people across the Commonwealth.
2. Ministers reaffirmed that sport remains central to the Commonwealth family and its shared values of dignity, equality, inclusion, democracy, respect and human rights. Sport continues to provide one of the Commonwealth's most visible and impactful platforms for promoting peace, social cohesion, youth empowerment, health and economic opportunity across generations, cultures and regions.
3. The Meeting recognised the importance of emerging technologies, research & innovation and trade & investment in strengthening sport ecosystem's contribution to economic mobility, social inclusion, health and sustainable development across the Commonwealth, including through collaboration among governments, academia, sport bodies, schools & educational institutions, media, the private sector and public-private partnerships.
4. The Meeting recognised the important contributions of governments, Commonwealth Sport, Commonwealth Games Associations, the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS), athletes, youth networks, civil society, academia and development partners in advancing sport for development, integrity and evidence-based policy.
5. Ministers welcomed the policy paper on Sport in the Commonwealth and the proposal for renewed structures of collaboration, revised CABOS leadership model, and the establishment of a virtual Commonwealth Sport Coordination Forum (CSCF) to improve coordination and sector collaboration, sustain intersessional action, and support the sport sector's measurable contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Ministers encouraged the CSCF to reflect the full geographic and developmental diversity of the Commonwealth, Ministers emphasised the importance of practical approaches to resourcing, capacity strengthening and technical assistance to support meaningful participation by developing member countries in renewed collaborative structures and programming.
6. Ministers reaffirmed the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) as an invaluable mechanism for dialogue, shared accountability and action across sport policy matters in the Commonwealth and welcomed the expressions of interest by member countries for the 2026 - 2028 cycle in accordance with the updated CABOS Terms of Reference.

7. Looking ahead to CHOGM 2026 in Antigua and Barbuda, the 2027 Commonwealth Youth Games in Malta, and the centenary Commonwealth Games in India in 2030, we recognise this as an important moment to renew Commonwealth cooperation through sport and to reimagine sport's contribution to healthier, fairer and more equitable societies. We further note that major Commonwealth sport events must continue to be anchored in host nation developmental legacies – in infrastructure, skills transfer, employment and long-term community upliftment – and welcome Commonwealth Sport's commitment to working with future Games hosts, Commonwealth governments, regional bodies and the sport movement to maximise legacy impacts, share learning and support practical approaches that align future Games opportunities with national, regional and Commonwealth development priorities.
8. Ministers support continued Commonwealth-level collaboration through agile, sustainable and member-led approaches, including partnerships, regional cooperation, centres of excellence and knowledge-sharing platforms aligned with future Commonwealth Games cycles. We reaffirmed our commitment to protecting and promoting the integrity of sport and good governance, including anti-doping, anti-corruption, safeguarding and non-discrimination. We recognised the importance of ensuring that African member states, Small Island States and Commonwealth Territories, alongside all regions of the Commonwealth, are meaningfully included in the governance, resourcing, hosting and sporting development architecture of the Commonwealth.
9. Ministers noted the commitment for Commonwealth wide collaboration based on full transparency and accountability across Governments given the interconnected nature of hosting the Commonwealth Games and related national activities within the resource constrained environment in which we operate.
10. Ministers recognised the need for safe, inclusive and equitable sport systems that respect human rights and address structural barriers to participation, with particular attention to women and girls, persons with disabilities, young people, Indigenous Peoples and communities historically excluded from the benefits of sport. Ministers affirmed that transformation in sport – in leadership, access, and opportunity – is not aspirational but necessary, and that Commonwealth member states bear a shared responsibility to translate these commitments into measurable policy outcomes.
11. Ministers recognised growing global evidence that sport and physical activity are essential contributors to public health, mental well-being, social cohesion and economic resilience. We therefore encouraged stronger cross-sector collaboration and greater investment in community sport and physical activity as drivers of healthier societies, youth development, innovation, employment and sustainable economic growth across the Commonwealth. Ministers noted that the benefits of such investment are not uniformly distributed, and that member countries with fewer fiscal resources require dedicated funding, targeted capacity-building, partnership support and investment readiness assistance to translate these ambitions into practice. Ministers encouraged collective action in the development of an investment framework that supports under-resourced

member states and strengthens evidence, partnerships and investment for sport and physical activity across the Commonwealth.

12. Ministers noted the reimagined approach to the Commonwealth Games movement and recognised Glasgow 2026 as an important platform for innovation, sustainability and renewed confidence in major events. Ministers welcomed Malta 2027 and India 2030 as opportunities to strengthen youth leadership, deepen Commonwealth partnerships and inspire a renewed era of cooperation through sport. In light of the fact that Africa has not yet hosted a Commonwealth Games, Ministers expressed their strong support for the Commonwealth Games to be hosted on the continent of Africa in 2034.
13. Ministers thanked and commended the Scottish Government for chairing and hosting a successful meeting and wished Commonwealth Sport, the Organising Committee for the Commonwealth Games and the Scottish Government every success in hosting the XXIII Commonwealth Games.