

INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION

EVENT REQUIREMENTS HOCKEY

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES
2026 - 2030**

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH

- **FIH Field Lighting and Equipment Specifications – Commonwealth Games**
- **FIH Venue Specifications – Commonwealth Games**

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Introduction

Purpose of the Document

This document describes the sport element of the venue requirements and key event related delivery areas for the Hockey competition at the Commonwealth Games. It is not intended to be a full Event Manual.

The purpose of the document is to:

- Provide clarity on the standards agreed between Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the Commonwealth Games;
- Assist Candidate Cities to submit proposals that meet these standards to avoid uncertainty or future issues;
- Assist Organising Committees to contribute to the development and overlay design process where new venues are to be built or existing venues are to be adapted;
- Assist Organising Committees in the delivery of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) Hockey event.

The specifications for turf and venue requirements are the base-line requirements for Hockey for cities bidding to host the 2026 & 2030 Commonwealth Games and beyond.

FIH works with CGF to review venue proposals by bid cities and to validate that these base-line requirements are, or can be, met. On selection of the host city, FIH will support reviewing all relevant venues to ensure that more detailed planning information is taken into account when developing final designs for the competition and training venues and venue operations and feedback to CGF and Organising Committees accordingly.

FIH is committed to supporting delivery of appropriate sport and venue legacy to the Host country and city as part of the evaluation and validation of proposals.

Ongoing support from FIH to CGF and the selected Host Organising Committee will be provided for event planning and delivery phases and FIH will appoint a central Event Director for each edition of the Commonwealth Games in addition to the Games time Technical Officials.

CGF & OC announcements about CWG Hockey Event/Venue should be shared in advance with FIH for agreement and collaborative approach to communications.

Format

This document has a number of sections and supplementary documents as outlined below.

- The Field of Play layout is agreed by FIH. Candidate Cities should demonstrate that their proposals meet the requirements or seek approval for variations. For the details of overall number and specifications of FOPs for competition and training please refer to ***FIH Field, Lighting and Equipment Specifications: Commonwealth Games***.
- Schedule of ***FIH Venue Specifications – Commonwealth Games*** is provided as an appendix which covers spaces in the venue and gives indicative areas to assist early planning. Candidate Cities can use these areas in their submissions. Organising Committees should consider specific sizes that reflect their completion programme and the legacy requirements for the venue.
- Competition and Technical aspects - provides an overview of the competition programme and technical aspects for purposes of planning and delivery, including the requirements for video umpire referral.
- Communications and wired communications includes the connectivity between technical operations and sports presentation.
- Event Operational covers aspects such as IF delegation, Personnel, Sports Presentation & Protocols, Readiness, Medal Ceremonies and Sport Initiation.

1. Field of Play

High quality Fields of Play shall be provided that meet the requirements for the Commonwealth Games competition in line with the ***FIH Field, Lighting and Equipment Specifications: Commonwealth Games***.

A high-quality Field of Play should:

- Enable the athletes to compete to high standards;
- Deliver the appropriate level of Turf and Floodlighting;
- Enhance the experience for spectators; and
- Allow a high standard of television coverage.

In line with FIH's principles of delivering an appropriate and sustainable legacy to Host nations, various models, both permanent and temporary overlay, exist for delivery of world level hockey events. The field specifications of which are outlined in the aforementioned appendix. Early collaboration with FIH through the bidding process is required.

2. Event Venue Specifications

2.1 General

FIH is committed to showcasing Hockey at Commonwealth Games and considers the quality and location of venue delivery to be integral to this concept. Location is considered important in respect both of proximity to the CWG Athlete Village and proximity to other Games sports for purposes of mutual benefit, efficiencies, atmosphere and collaborations.

A stadium feel is sought for all top-level Hockey events where spectators can get up-close to the action around the entire pitch and generate the best atmosphere for athletes to perform. Seating in an arena bowl style format around the FOP is preferred by FIH for the optimum Hockey venue.

A stadium capacity of 5000 is considered an appropriate minimum for CWG. However, FIH welcomes discussion with CGF around each bidding proposal relative to the strength of the sport in the Host nation.

It is preferred that a portion of the stadium & seating capacity is undercover – in particular it is essential that the team analyst technicians are under cover, in addition to provision for broadcast commentary, sports presentation, VIPs and Media.

2.2 Venue Spaces

A venue shall be provided for the full competition programme for Hockey at the Commonwealth Games. It shall be capable of meeting all requirements of CGF and FIH.

In summary, the Commonwealth Games requirements include the following:

- Competition Pitch including FOP toilet
- Warm-Up Pitch
- Back of House facilities
- Front of House facilities
- Training Venue(s)
- Spectator Experience areas (sport initiation etc)

Facilities required across all hockey areas and detailed room requirements are set out in the ***FIH Venue Specifications; Commonwealth Games***.

2.3 Access and Circulation

An effective and efficient access and circulation system, that is separate or easily separable from spectators and other accredited groups, shall be provided for the venue. This will form part of the highest level of accreditation control, together with the Field of Play and the Back of House areas.

Access and circulation shall consist of:

- Load zones;
- Dedicated entry; and;
- Circulation routes throughout the venue.

2.4 Broadcast camera positions

Camera positions should be selected to give the best options for coverage and must be mutually agreed with FIH. This includes one fixed camera on the goal-line camera as a minimum for the end of the pool & shootout stage of the competition.

3. IF Delegation

3.1 IF Delegation

FIH will appoint an Event Director to oversee the planning and delivery of the Commonwealth Games Hockey event from award of Host to Games Delivery.

FIH will support the on-site delivery of the event with a small number of core FIH staff, including a Communications Officer.

One room should be offered for the IF President/Secretary General by CGF or OC for the duration of the Games. FIH staff and Guests would request access to the central Games time transport system to attend meetings or support CGAs when required.

A direct route between the FIH and OC should exist to reserve tickets (at cost) for the Hockey event.

3.2 International Technical Officials

FIH will appoint 44 Technical Officials, headed by one (1) male Competition Director and one (1) female Competition Director with a gender balance to oversee the technical delivery of the Commonwealth Games Hockey competition from 1 year prior the Games.

As the Team Analyst Operator is a specialist role with Hockey specific knowledge required and cannot often be provided by the company delivering the camera technology this has been added as an ITO role for future Games.

Event Director	1
Competition Directors (TDs for FIH)	2
Technical Officials	10
Umpire Managers	4
International Umpires	24
Medical Officers	2
Team Analyst camera operator	1

An adequate supply of cooling ice and bottled water must be constantly available for teams and technical officials near the team benches and in the changing rooms.

The value of per diems for FIH appointed ITOs must match the FIHs standard policy of minimum of 65€ (or equivalent) per day for all officials.

Accommodation for ITOs should be equivalent to 3-star B&B accommodation in single rooms and as close to the venue as possible.

Breakfast should include a range of suitable cuisine for an international audience, including healthy options and catering for allergies and religious considerations. ITOs should be supported on their arrival in the Host city to their accommodation.

If walking is agreed between FIH & the OC between the accommodation and venue then a wet weather travel option is required to be confirmed by the OC. ITOs that are on venue for 4 hours or more per day should be provided with an on-venue meal.

4. Competition & Technical aspects

4.1 Competition Programme

The competition system for each medal event on the Commonwealth Games programme is:

- one Men's medal event of ten (10) teams and one Women's medal event of ten (10) teams.
- The competition is played over a 10- or 11-days period and the match schedule is agreed and approved in consultation with FIH taking into account full compliance with FIH policies and guidelines concerning schedule of play including rest times and consideration of local climatic conditions. The schedule will also consider scheduling of other sport medal events.
- The Hockey competition is delivered in accordance with the FIH Rules of Hockey current at the time of the Games and the FIH Competition Regulations for the Commonwealth Games as published for each iteration of the Games.
- The competition comprises two pools of five (5) teams in each of the men's and women's event.
- An agreed schedule of pre-competition meetings, including an Event Briefing meeting led jointly between FIH and Organising Committee are scheduled in the 3 days prior to the first day of competition.
- Agreed training schedules which provide for fair allocation of time for all CGAs on the competition and training pitches, as well as under lights mirroring the Games time schedules should be agreed with FIH.

4.2 Sport Equipment & Other Equipment

FIH will approve the sport equipment list for the Commonwealth Games based on its standard requirements. Main Field of Play equipment is listed in the FIH Field, Lighting and Equipment Specifications: Commonwealth Games document. Various other items of sport equipment must be provided. Specifications should be discussed in advance with FIH and Look of the Games should be applied to appropriate items.

4.3 Hockey Balls

Only approved white balls from an FIH approved manufacturer shall be used, and participating countries shall be advised of the selection at least six months prior to commencement of the competition. Two new balls and an adequate number of replacement balls of the same model shall be available at the start of each match. The balls should include the Look of the Games. Balls for training will be brought by the respective teams

4.4 Video Umpire Referral

Specifications are found in the **FIH Venue Specifications: Commonwealth Games** document.

The details outlined in the specifications are based on provision of a Hawkeye or Zebra solution which forms part of the FIH sport equipment requirements.

The specification and personnel requirements of a Video umpires' referral system are:

- Video standard 1080i
- Replay system to provide in game instant review by Video Umpire Referral
- Ability to ingest all available Broadcast video feeds including "Super Slow Mo" cameras at broadcast quality
- Quickly and efficiently review footage with video synchronised between multiple camera sources
- Ability to accurately zoom, split screen and frame step to enhance available evidence to broadcast quality
- Video output for footage to be integrated into both International Feed and Big Screen for on-field umpire
- Facility for events to be bookmarked and archived for post-match quality review
- The minimum of two monitors (one live, one replay) should be high quality TV Monitors, preferably high resolution and minimum 19" – 24" colour screens.
- Operators with Hockey specific experience to assist Video Umpire by providing the highest quality video evidence with minimum delay.
- Minimum of 11 cameras (including goal line camera for shoot-out)

- The VU system needs direct connection to the match clock and 8-second clock

If it is not provided by such a provider, then additional requirements would include:

- Communication between the VU Room and the TV Director and the replays would come need to come directly from the television broadcast area
- EVS machines and their operators would therefore be in the broadcast area, or have an EVS operator in the VU room

It is a requirement that connection with the Stadium audio presentation system ensures that the conversation between on-field and video umpire can be heard during referrals in the stadium.

4.5 Team Video Analyst – Tactical Camera

Specifications are found in the **FIH Venue Specifications: Commonwealth Games** document for both aspects of provision for team analysts and for the provision of video analysis to assist in disciplinary cases and feedback to Umpires.

A work area is required, together with a tactical analyst camera and operator to facilitate the performance analysis for elite teams. This area must be covered and weatherproof. Technical support got immediate issue resolution is required or back-up solution on site.

4.6 Match Copies

A “cloud” based portal which makes available for download each individual match to be supplied within the 30 minutes following its conclusion must be provided. Access is required for FIH, for all Umpire Managers and each participating team per match. The Competition Director requires access to the clips and must be able to request additional footage from TV, in case of disciplinary issues.

If the footage is provided on USB sticks the following numbers must be provided

Broadcast World Feed:

- One (1) copy per match for all teams – total 10
- Two (2) Match Officials – Umpire Manager & Competition Director
- One (1) FIH

Tactical Camera (analysts camera):

- One (1) copy per match for all teams – total 12
- Two (2) Match Officials – Umpire Manager & Competition Director
- One (1) FIH

Tagged footage of every match incident from every camera angle used by the Video Umpire Referral System:

- One (1) Match Official – FIH Competition Director
- One (1) FIH

4.7 Technology: Results timing and scoring

CGF and the Organising Committee provide a Game specific Timing, Scoring and Results System (CRIS), which is linked to both sport specific and spectator scoreboards. The full scope of Technology provision shall be developed by the Organising Committee in line with FIH's sport specific requirements for Hockey. The system shall include an integrated clock and hooter for the end of matches and shoot-outs as well as an integrated clock and sound for the start of the 8-seconds in shoot-outs.

FIH's system TMS will run simultaneously to provide information (e.g. starting line-ups and appointments) to CRIS.

FIH shall approve all scoreboard and graphics in advance and a list of scoreboard graphic requirements in outlined in the FIH Field, Lighting and Equipment specifications. Sport presentation and broadcast graphics are dealt with later in this document. The CRIS system must be capable of identifying officials from Home Nations individually.

4.8 Medical Services

4.8.1 Personnel

An Organising Committee doctor and an Organising Committee dentist must be on duty at each competition FOP during all matches. Stretcher bearers must be on duty at each competition FOP during all matches. FIH will appoint an FIH Medical Officer for the event who will work with the OC to oversee the athlete medical operations.

An appropriate medical room and FOP medical station in line with the requirements laid out in the FIH Medical Handbook (Link: <http://www.fih.ch/inside-fih/anti-doping-and-medical/>) should be provided and equipment outlined below. A suitable number of ambulances must be on site at all times.

In addition, appropriate facility / ability to treat and care, including physiotherapy and massage facilities, for the umpiring panel and Technical Officials must be provided.

An FOP Organising Committee team member with responsibility to clean the pitch of blood stains must be available at each competition pitch during all matches.

4.8.2 Equipment

Please refer to ***FIH Venue Specifications – Commonwealth Games; section Medical***

The provision of the following equipment is required beside each competition field of play:

- stretcher at or near the Technical Official table
- seating for stretcher bearers; iii spinal board;
- wood, aluminium or air splints for fractures of upper or lower limbs;
- ambulance service (fully equipped, with unobstructed access to the field of play and for exit from the venue).
- Oxygen and means of administering it
- AED defibrillator

4.8.3 Medical Room

Please refer to ***FIH Venue Specifications – Commonwealth Games; section Medical***

A Medical Room (supervised by OC doctor on duty) must be set up and equipped with:

- i dedicated area and desk for the FIH Medical Officers;
- ii minimum of two treatment tables;
- iii adequate lighting;
- iv facilities for suturing cuts;
- v sterile / non-sterile bandages (e.g. elastic bandages), slings, band-aid type dressings, tape;
- vi basic medicines;
- vii analgesics (oral and injectable), including morphine, medicines for gastrointestinal disorders;
- viii oxygen and means of administering it;
- ix intravenous equipment and sterile fluids for treatment of severe heat exhaustion (in tropical zone);
- x adequate splints and availability of morphine are essential;
- xi means of disposal of used sharp, sterile and non-sterile equipment.
- xii Crutches and wheelchair
- xiii Emergency tracheostomy device

4.9 Doping Control

Doping control facilities, comprising a waiting room and doping control room, in line with requirements of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and FIH Anti-Doping Rules, shall be provided for use during the Commonwealth Games.

Specifications for the rooms and sizes are found in the ***FIH Venue Specifications: Commonwealth Games*** document.

The facilities shall be easily accessed from the Mixed Zone so that athletes can be taken there immediately after leaving the Field of Play. This is a restricted area, lockable and accessible only to authorized personnel, and so should preferably not be on major circulation routes and must allow privacy for athletes. The FIH Medical Officer should be fully informed of the Doping Control process during Games time.

4.10 Training Schedule

A Training schedule which is fair to all participating teams should be prepared by the OC and approved by FIH. The principles of the training schedule should be:

- One session per day per team;
- Equal number of sessions on the competition pitch per team;
- At least one night session on the competition pitch per team;
- To try to replicate as much as possible teams training at the different times of day they have matches;
- 90 minutes sessions as a standard;
- 60 minutes sessions on the opening ceremony day with priority for the competition pitch for teams playing on the 1st day of competition.

5. Communications & Wired Communications

5.1 On field & Video umpire referral wireless radio communications

The host broadcaster will supply seven (7) wireless broadcast radios, 4 with open microphones for FOP Umpires (plus the Reserve Umpire, in case of substitutions of on field Umpires through injury or illness) as well as the umpire managers.

For each pitch:

- Four (4) Listen and Talk
 - o Three (3) On Field Umpire
 - o One (1) Video Umpire

- Three (3) Listen only
 - o One (1) Competition Director
 - o Two (2) Umpire managers

Failing this a solution is to be agreed with FIH and provided by the Organising Committee.

The audio from the radios shall be available for connectivity with video umpire referral system and should be audible in the stadium and connected to sports presentation and broadcast.

5.2 Wired communications

Two (2) way communication systems should be in place, to enable communication with Sports Presentation for Video Display Screen and announcement purposes.

The PA Announcers should have the Umpires / Video Umpire audio feed for the purposes of keeping the stadium spectators informed regarding additional commentary around Video Umpire Referrals and their outcomes.

Cable is required between Timing and Scoring partner's electronic horn to SPP and Broadcast audio mixers as the electronic horn must be heard through the venue spectators speakers and audible in the Video Umpire Referral System

5.3 Stadium audio system connectivity

It is a requirement that the connection with the stadium audio presentation system ensures that the conversation between on-field and video umpire can be heard during referrals directly in the stadium alongside the images of the referral on the venue screen.

FIH should be involved in the planning of when match footage is shown on the screen, in particular where there is a possibility of a referral replays should not be shown until 20 seconds have elapsed to prevent teams watching the footage and then choosing to refer.

5.4 Operational radios

Sufficient operational radios with multiple channels to support venue operations of the event and issue escalation and resolution through venue operations center are required.

6. Event Operational areas

6.1 Sport Presentation

FIH endorses a big, bold, packed and loud approach to Sports presentation in its events and places priority on the importance that the event experience and sports presentation has in relation to the experience that Fans take away from its events.

Sport Presentation at the stadium is the link between spectators, athletes, the event and the sport competition itself with the objectives to provide a consistent, informative and entertaining event presentation and memories to take away, showcasing both athletes and the sport before, during or after a match.

FIH will work with the OC to approve a sport presentation concept for Hockey that showcases the sport with importance placed on integrating new innovative technology and presentational ideas (for example illuminating goals/pyrotechnics, LED athlete entrances etc.) and ensuring the sport presentation team are experienced in the sport of Hockey. Innovation and use of fan engagement technology is at the heart of our ambition and should be embedded in our celebration moments.

Operational support can be provided to the OC with sport specific aspects for scripting and planning and FIH will provide support and approval for all aspects of sport explanatory videos and sport specific graphics as well as for the approval of sport presentation announcers.

FIH requires a gender balance and sport specific experience amongst the Sports Presentation announcers and venue Host personnel and to approve the names of both as well as any sport explanatory videos or sport specific content & graphic productions as mentioned above.

FIH has standard Pre-match protocols which it will share with the OC to be integrated into the Daily Competition Activity Schedule.

Music is a key part of sports presentation and FIH endorses the use of music throughout matches and to highlight particular game changing elements of the game as well as athlete entrances. For example:

- Goals
- Penalty corners
- Video Referrals
- Shoot outs

Facilities shall be provided to allow the presentation of events to be enhanced using audio, video, lighting and other technology at the Competition Pitch. This shall include:

- **Control Desk**
The control desk, preferably a room, shall be located with a clear view of the Field of Play and contain positions for an announcer, video and audio control. Scoreboard control is provided from the Technical Table and operated by the Technical Officials.
- **PA/Audio System & communications connectivity**
A PA / audio system shall be provided that delivers high quality music and speech to all seating areas. This shall be connected to the audio control desk.
- **Video screens**
The video screen can be integrated with the scoreboard if the functionality of the screen delivers the requirements for both. Specifications for scoreboards are found in the ***FIH Field, Lighting and Equipment Specifications, Commonwealth Games*** document

Facilities shall also be provided to allow the presentation of events at the Warm-Up Pitch if competition is played there. This may be to a lower standard than the Competition Pitch, but the scope will depend on the policy of the Organising Committee, which must be agreed with FIH.

Specifications for the sizes and number of rooms to support Sports Presentation are found in the ***FIH Venue Specifications: Commonwealth Games*** document.

6.2 Event Rehearsal

FIH require the full Event Rehearsal to take place on Day – 2, prior to the Event Briefing meeting on Day -1, and to include a full test of the video umpire facilities with broadcast cameras, broadcast production teams, sports presentation, scoreboard, scoring and graphics.

6.3 Broadcast Integration & Graphics

Broadcast graphics must be approved by FIH in advance of the event and cover all key requirements of the sport, including cards, video referral status and shoot out for the understanding of the TV audience.

FIH will approve the camera plans for the CWG Hockey event and should be involved in key pre-event meetings. It is important that the detailed broadcast discussions and planning done in the pre-event phase are passed on to the broadcast production team prior to their arrival on venue, as they are often the last stakeholder to arrive and therefore need to arrive fully briefed and fit seamlessly into the event delivery.

Clear planning in relation to camera placement around the FOP and of installation timeline on FOP that takes into account the athlete training schedule should be agreed between OC and broadcast in advance.

6.4 Medal Ceremonies

Facilities shall be provided to allow medal presentation ceremonies to be carried out to professional and consistent standards at the Competition Pitch. These shall include facilities for presenting medals on a podium, raising the country flags of the medal winning nations and playing the national anthem of the gold medal winning team.

The facilities include:

- **A Waiting/Staging area**
This is an area for those involved in the presentations to gather and wait prior to presentations. The area shall accommodate up to 30 people and have direct access on the Field of Play near the podiums.
- **A Ceremonies Office**
This is a work and storage area for the Ceremonies staff.
- **Changing Rooms**
Separate areas are required for male and female staff to change and get ready. The area should be located close to the Ceremonies Office.
Existing changing rooms are suitable. For temporary accommodation, a common preparation area with two sub-divided areas of 8 / 10m² each for changing, would be suitable.
- **Podium Storage**
The podium should have a differential in height for the Gold medal winning team from the silver/bronze. The podium requires a storage space where they are not likely to be damaged. Direct and easy access to the Field of Play is required.
- **Victory Flag Equipment**
Three flagpoles shall be provided for the flags of the medal winning nations to be raised. The location needs to be determined based on the layout of the Field of Play and the location of the Games Family Lounge and seating area but shall allow access and space for the flag raising team to raise the flags in a dignified and ceremonial manner.

6.5 Sport Initiation & Fan Engagement

FIH believes that the opportunity to engage fans with the sport of Hockey through activity is as important as through watching and will work with the OC and local National Federation to devise a suitable plan for a sport initiation area for fans to have a go at Hockey in the spectator area of the venue.

FIH will support the OC to have discussions with the National Federation of the OC country to provide sport specific qualified volunteers to deliver the Sport Initiation activities. The sport initiation programme requires to be approved by FIH and include the international strategy as well as a local national focus.

Fan Zone and Fan engagement activities are an essential part of the event experience and FIH looks forward to working closely with the OC in these areas.

6.6 Staffing & Sport Specific Volunteers

FIH will work with the OC to support discussions about the appropriate number and roles of Sport Specific staff roles and to agree the sport specific volunteer roles and numbers per shift.

Sport Specific volunteer roles include the following:

Training Site Coordinator
Training Site Team Member
Administration Coordinator
Administration Team Member
Athletes Services Coordinator
Athletes Services Team Member
Field of Play Coordinator
Field of Play Team Member
Sport Equipment Coordinator
Sport Equipment Team Member
Sport Information Coordinator
Sport Information Team Member
Technical Official Coordinator
Technical Official Team Member

6.7 Media Operations, Reporting & Digital Asset Management

FIH and the OC and the CGF shall work closely to maximise collaboration and joint promotional opportunities and utilize FIHs social media handles and digital platforms to amplify Games relevant information. Also, in the area of media operations planning.

FIH should receive access to the media portal and the DAMs promotional portal for the IF Senior Communications Manager and the IF Media personnel supporting the Commonwealth Games ahead of the event.

FIH should receive access to view the CWG Hockey matches for media reporting purposes, if the region of Switzerland is not covered under a broadcast contract.

FIH requires all athletes and coaches to pass through the mixed zone at the end of each match in line with its regulations.

An I-zone area located within the media center is a more appropriate replacement for a full press conference area at the event venue.

6.8 Transportation

To be agreed between FIH and OC and based on the sport specific requirements and location of the Athlete Village and Technical Officials accommodations.

Each CGA Team must have a dedicated bus with luggage provision for travel to and from the Athlete Village and Hockey venue. The bus must be free to travel within an agreed appropriate time window to meet the needs of each individual team's arrival and departure from venue.

6.9 Readiness

FIH would expect to discuss and consider a proposal from OC and CGF outlining a programme of activities ensuring appropriate readiness of the personnel and venue delivering the Games for arrival of athletes on venue for pre-Games training. FIH to be involved in appropriate readiness exercise and to agree and approve contingency planning for Games time. FIH to be represented on the Competition Schedule Change Committee for Hockey.

Appendix

- [FIH Field, Lighting and Equipment Specifications: Commonwealth Games](#)
- [FIH Venue specifications: Commonwealth Games](#)