

WTSF PRESS RELEASE – COMMONWEALTH GAMES BIRMINGHAM 2022

Following today's announcement that the sport of Target Shooting will not be included in the programme for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the Welsh Target Shooting Federation has expressed its extreme disappointment.

It will be the first time since 1970 that shooting has not featured at the Games. It was included in the original programme of Durban 2022 South Africa who was stripped of the bid. And then passed on to Birmingham 2022. The initial announcement that shooting wouldn't be included in the list of sports set to be represented at Birmingham 2022 came out two years ago. But since then, shooting governing bodies across the Commonwealth have worked hard to propose a plan that would be viable for all parties.

Following a consultation period, the ISSF, British Shooting, and other prominent shooting federations across the Commonwealth had hoped that the Commonwealth Games Federation and the Birmingham Organising Committee would be able to find a successful solution to include shooting sports in the 2022 programme.

Bisley was suggested as the venue for shooting sports, which is the same location used for the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games with great success.

However, the Commonwealth Games Federation today reaffirmed their initial announcement of shooting sports not being included.

The news was met with dismay in the shooting world, this follows a petition on [Change.org](https://www.change.org) receiving 61,094 supporters.

For many nations, shooting sport is the only opportunity for smaller nations to win medals and at Gold Coast 2018, target shooting was the fourth most popular sport in terms of nation's who participate.

For the WTSF, it was the most successful CG yet, with Shooting finishing as the top Welsh Sport in terms of medals won (2 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze). It has brought home medals in every CG since 1974, again, the only sport to have done so.

Furthermore, larger Shooting nations such as India, Australia and the UK's Home Countries are dependent on the Commonwealth Games performance, success and funding as part of their national Olympic pathway.

Wales Double Commonwealth Champion, David Phelps, secured the Gold Medal at Melbourne 2006 and again last year, being the current Commonwealth Rifle Champion at Gold Coast 2018, is shocked by this decision.

He said: *'I'm really disappointed that shooting has not been chosen as one of the sports to feature at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022, especially having been originally one of the agreed Sports in Durban South Africa.'*

"Shooting is an amazing sport with incredibly talented athletes from all over the Commonwealth, with the chance for smaller countries and territories to win medals."

"Competing at five Games has been a terrific experience for me and having won the Gold medal in the Gold Coast, it will be strange to think the sport won't feature when it's held locally in Birmingham in 2022."

Wales Shooting Performance Director John Dallimore said: *Shooting is the only Welsh Sport to win medals at every Games since 1966, except for 1970 and It must be noted last year at the Gold Coast, shooting secured 15% five medals (two golds, two silvers and a bronze) contributing to the record medal haul of 36 by Wales, as the top Welsh medal winning Sport. Gladly it remains a central sport in the Paralympic and Olympic Games and our athletes are looking forward to competing in Tokyo."*

British Shooting Chief Executive, Hamish McInnes, said: *"This news is a huge disappointment. Across the whole Commonwealth, many target shooting athletes, their coaches and their families will, inevitably, feel let down that they will be denied the opportunity to compete in Birmingham in 2022."*

"Shooting sports embody the CGF values of Humanity, Equality, and Destiny. Shooting sports have been a hugely popular and loyal member of the Commonwealth movement embracing a wide diversity of nations, large and small, and from all corners of the Commonwealth."

"I sincerely hope that the CGF will find a way to give hope and confidence to its shooting community that come 2020 and the decision to award the 2026 version of the Games that shooting can regain its place."