

## SPORT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

### BACKGROUND NOTE

A Commonwealth sport development assistance programme might have three guiding principles: the assistance should, where possible, be rendered within the country or region receiving it; the programme should lay a foundation for further autonomous development (e.g. a coaching training programme must be such as to allow the recipients both to build on it, and to pass on its benefits to another generation of coaches); and the assistance should be designed to meet the needs and level of sport development of the recipient.

A certain percentage of the Commonwealth Sport Trust's annual revenues would be devoted to sport development assistance as a part of the Trust's mandate. Specific types of sport development assistance might be left to bilateral administration by Governments or private institutions. The sport development assistance programme might be carried out by the Trust. Individual Governments might wish to operate bilateral sport development assistance projects under the umbrella of the Trust with responsibility shared between Trust and Government.

The provision of sport-related equipment could be on a responsive basis and tailored to the specific needs of the recipient country or region. For example, an equipment donation programme undertaken by the Victoria Games Council for the 1994 Commonwealth Games was based on a survey of equipment requirements within the selected regions.

Sport development assistance can take many forms, including the organization of seminars and clinics in different aspects of sport methodology. One area worthy of consideration is whether a programme of direct athlete assistance, such as now exists in various countries, including Canada, should be created on a Commonwealth-wide basis. Promising Commonwealth athletes from the developing countries could receive grants-in-aid, or a similar form of assistance that would allow them to train to Commonwealth standards while furthering their education.