

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The first general principle in the constitution states that the direction of the Commonwealth Games is vested in the Commonwealth Games Federation. Other articles include the following principles:

The Games shall be held every fourth year;

They shall be open to amateur competitors of the Commonwealth Games Associations of the founding entities which still remain in the Commonwealth, and of all Commonwealth countries, colonies, and dependent or associated territories of a Commonwealth country affiliated to the Federation;

The Games shall include in the programme 10 sports, of which two -- athletics and swimming -- are compulsory, and eight are selected from the list of optional sports (see page 10). No sports conducted solely on a team basis can be added to the list of optional sports;

No discrimination against any country or person shall be permitted on grounds of race, colour, religion or politics;

The Games are contests between individuals and between competitors in team events, and not contests between countries;

The official language of the Commonwealth Games is English;

A code of conduct is contained within the constitution which requires adherence to the Gleneagles Declaration; and

Changes to the constitution can only be made by the Federation's General Assembly.