**ACT Briefing** 

**30 July 2017**

**This note summarises the latest information arising from two recent ACT Management Committee meetings (in June and July) to aid ITU NFs that are members of ACT and may have a hope of sending athletes to the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.**

**Competing in a Commonwealth Games can be a life goal for athletes from the smaller nations and territories. We are now in a position to make it possible for this to happen without some of the downsides.**

1. **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games: Qualification**

Athletes must be 16 years of age as at 31st December of the year of competition (2018). This applies to both the individual and mixed relay races.

*Triathlon:*

A sprint race will be held with a maximum of 3 men and 3 women per Commonwealth Games Association (CGA). There will be no additional eligibility or qualification criteria N.B. [http://www.triathlon.org/uploads/docs/Athlete\_Allocation\_Systems\_(PACK)\_March\_2017.pdf](http://www.triathlon.org/uploads/docs/Athlete_Allocation_Systems_%28PACK%29_March_2017.pdf) page 8. Preliminary numbers (as of 17.7.2017) were around 34 male and 28 female triathletes, received as indications from the Commonwealth Games Associations (CGAs). More notifications are expected as **not all CGAs had completed this process by this time** (including Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, Namibia, Nigeria, Solomon Islands and Turks & Caicos). It is anticipated that CGAs will be able to send the number of athletes they wish, due to the reallocation process of athlete places. **National Federations must iterate with their CGA and request their entry numbers accordingly. Please act soon!**

In addition, and following the test event earlier this year (Gold Coast WTS), the course has been modified to ensure that **there will be no lapping out**, as there was in Glasgow 2014. The new layout will allow enough space for athletes to ride alongside and not through transition, allowing an athlete to be 1 or 2 laps behind, if necessary. **This is a significant improvement that contributes to athlete experience, excellence, universality and spectator appeal, while paying full attention to the safety of the athletes and officials.** It was also noted that, as the race will be held over the sprint distance, the time gaps between the first and last finisher will reduce significantly and therefore the medal ceremonies are expected to be concluded promptly. The men’s and women’s sprint races will take place on 5 April.

*Paratriathlon:*

Paratriathlon’s debut at the Commonwealth Games will include sprint races for PT1 classification with a maximum of 10 men and 10 women per field and a maximum of 2 athletes per any individual Commonwealth Games Association. The race is scheduled for 7 April, on the same day as the mixed relay. A full field is expected for the men’s race (11 already registered), whereas it may be more challenging to fill the places for the women’s race (10 already registered). Encouragement is warmly given to NFs to promote their PT1 athletes, male and particularly female. It was noted that, as of mid July, no participants had been registered from Asia for the Paratriathlon.

*Mixed Relay:*

There will not be any separate qualification process for the mixed relay. Each CGA may enter 1 team of 2 women and 2 men in advance. Whereas all teams that wish to race (and can present a team) will be allocated a start, approximately 8-10 countries are expected to enter the mixed relay, as per Glasgow 2014. A significant change, however, is that athletes will not be obliged to compete in the individual race in order to qualify to race in a mixed relay team. The race is scheduled for 7 April on the same day as the PT1 races.

1. **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games: Technical Officials (TOs)**

TOs have been appointed from NF nominations. Each NF had the option to put forward a maximum of 4 officials with a 2:2 gender split. There will be 55 male and 45 female TOs who have been selected on merit, whereas there had been 66 male and 33 female TOs in Glasgow. 10 National Technical Officials have been selected from Australia in addition to those selected from 15 other nations. Technical Delegate Shanelle Barrett is in charge of the allocation of TO roles.

1. **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games: Event details**

The events will take place on day 1 (April 5th) and 3 (April 7th) of the Games. The women’s sprint will be the first medal of the Games, which is a great honour and will offer excellent profile for our sport.

The venue is near to, but not the same as, the 2009 Grand Final venue. Courses for the land disciplines are flat, with a ‘technical’ bike course.

* Triathlon: 1 lap swim, 4 lap bike and 2 lap run.
* Paratriathlon: 1 lap swim, 4 lap bike, 2 lap run
* Mixed Relay: 1 lap swim, 2 lap bike and 2 lap run

Both the ITU World Triathlon Series and ITU World Cup races for 2018 will be scheduled to fit around the Games dates, with the likely scenario being:

* There will be a ITU World Cup in Australia four weeks before;
* There will be a ITU World Cup in New Zealand two weeks before;
* The first 2018 ITU World Championship Series race will be three weeks before.

In addition, the ITU Sport Director is in contact with the Super League group to help ensure there is no clash in major triathlon events around the Games dates.

1. **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games: Ancillary matters**

The athletes’ village will be 1-2km from the triathlon event location, adjacent to the University of the Gold Coast.

All officials will be located in a nearby hotel. The ACT President and Secretary General are likely to arrive on 3rd or 4th April.

There will be an ACT meeting in the Gold Coast, including election for posts for the next four-year cycle. It is planned to hold this event on the day between the two triathlon events (6 April). ITU, through Gergely Markus, will help to arrange a venue/room for a 2 hour slot.

1. **Commonwealth Games Federation matters**

*Commonwealth Youth Games 2021*

There is currently an ongoing assessment of the sports that fit best within the Youth Games, including infrastructure requirements, pathway to Commonwealth Games, smaller nation involvement. Triathlon is currently viewed positively as a core sport and more information will come out shortly on the application process. The ACT President wrote to the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Committee in December 2016, with cc to the CGF President as previously discussed and agreed with her, regarding the great opportunity to include triathlon in the 2021 Youth Games. She received no answer from NI, but the message has been received loud and clear by the CGF!

*Commonwealth Games 2022*

Following the withdrawal of Durban 2022, bids are being evaluated from Australia, Malaysia, Canada, England. It is anticipated that the outcome will be announced within the next six months.

1. **ITU and ACT support**

## *BTF-ITU Partnership Coaching Programme*

## In March, British Triathlon and the International Triathlon Union joined forces with UK Sport International Development to deliver a coaching programme to the African Triathlon Union, in a bid to grow the sport across the continent. A team of British Coach Developers successfully delivered the programme; committed to ensuring that the sport of triathlon thrives in emerging and developing countries around the world.

*Youth Olympic Games*

The Sport Director advised that the ITU had been able to support Grenada with one of the universality slots in the women’s race. The second slot cannot now be filled (no requests were received from NFs anyway). In the boys’ race, the US Virgin Islands and Aruba had applied for and been awarded the slots.

*Rotterdam / Grand Final*

The Treasurer confirmed he would be in attendance in Rotterdam and would be available for ACT members to come and exchange information and discuss Commonwealth matters together. Unfortunately, neither the ACT President nor Secretary General are able to attend (it is the opening week of semester for the former).

The ITU have kindly arranged for a room to be available as follows:

Friday 15 September between 12:00 and 13:30

At The Wijnhaven (The Coachhuis)

[https://www.google.ch/maps/place/Het+Coachhuis+Rotterdam+Wijnhaven/@51.9171106,4.484955,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x47c4335d0679f89f:0x6a029631eb4d8c8d!8m2!3d51.9171106!4d4.4871437](https://www.google.ch/maps/place/Het%2BCoachhuis%2BRotterdam%2BWijnhaven/%4051.9171106%2C4.484955%2C17z/data%3D%213m1%214b1%214m5%213m4%211s0x47c4335d0679f89f%3A0x6a029631eb4d8c8d%218m2%213d51.9171106%214d4.4871437)

If you have any specific questions you would like to ask, please feel free to let us know in advance if you wish.

*Funding opportunities*

Should any ACT member be aware of an athlete who could benefit from support from the Team ITU project, please advise the Sport Director, as the ITU are positive about supporting good potential athletes with attendance and performance support at selected ITU competitions. (N.B. This needs to be someone who is sufficiently competitive not to be lapped by the rest of the field therefore the focus could be at Continental level initially).

**Is there potential need for financial assistance to smaller nations to enable them to support younger athletes to compete in the upcoming Games?** If so, please make contact with the ACT President / Secretary General as soon as possible, as there is no time to waste!

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