

insidethe
blogs

- 

Philip Barker: Could one of the new Athletes' Commission members become IOC President one day?
- 

Liam Morgan: Is the proposed new ISSF constitution a step forward or backward?

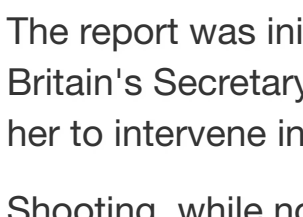
More blogs

Indian official claims shooting absence from Birmingham 2022 would alienate subcontinent

By Michael Pavitt

Friday, 6 September 2019

Add comment Facebook 1 Twitter Facebook Pinterest +



National Rifle Association of India President Raninder Singh has claimed the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) have offered financial assistance to have the sport included at Birmingham 2022 and suggested its absence risks alienating the subcontinent.

Singh made the claims in a 184-page report entitled: "The removal of shooting from the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games – facts, findings and recommendations."

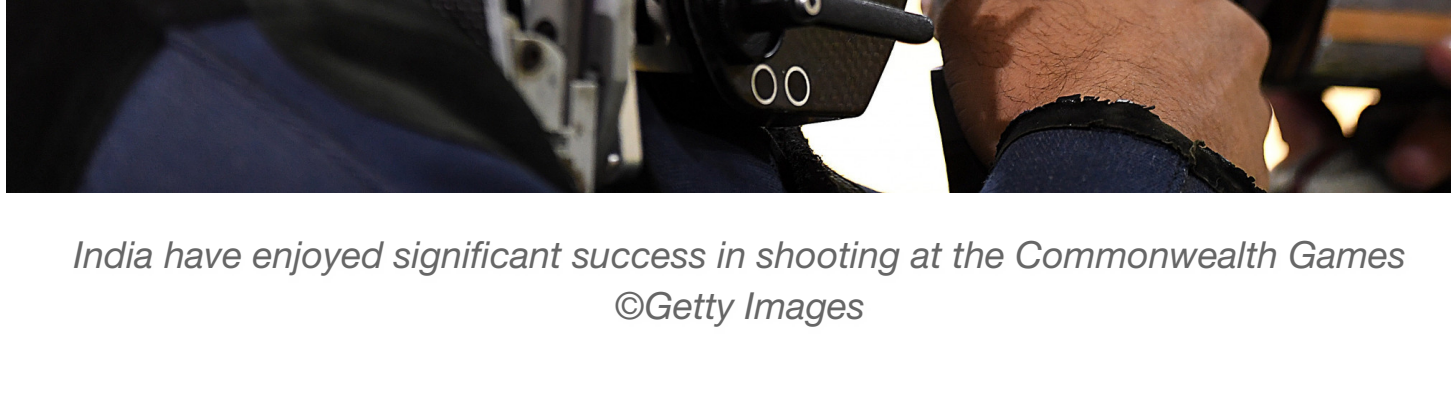
The report was initially sent to India's Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, who then wrote to Britain's Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Nicky Morgan urging her to intervene in the row.

Shooting, while not a compulsory Commonwealth Games sport, has been part of every event since Kingston 1966, with the exception of Edinburgh 1970.

India has traditionally been strong in the sport, winning 16 medals, including seven golds, at Gold Coast 2018.

Shooting was not included on the Birmingham 2022 programme, prompting the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to threaten to boycott the event.

Birmingham 2022 has claimed it did not have the facilities to accommodate shooting and was not prepared to host it at the Bisley National Shooting Centre, more than 130 miles away.



India have enjoyed significant success in shooting at the Commonwealth Games ©Getty Images

Singh dismissed concerns over the potential cost of shooting's inclusion on the Games programme and the distance to Bisley, the range which has been proposed by supporters for any potential competition.

He claimed the ISSF have pledged financial support to any competition, which he believes would ease any potential burden on organisers.

"Through this and in the presence of the President Vladimir Lisin and the secretary general Alexander Ratner, the ISSF very generously offered to completely finance at an estimated £780,000 (\$960,000/€870,000), the refurbishment of all equipment necessary to bring Bisley to a finely tuned mark for the conduct of the shooting events," Singh wrote.

"No further investment is warranted on the range as all the infrastructure required to conduct the Games is existent since Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games were conducted on this very range.

"The second issue stated, that since Bisley is at a distance of 130 kilometres from Birmingham, such a distance necessitates the requirements of a satellite village to be created to house the requisite athletes and official nearby Bisley itself.

"This is an additional cost to the Organising Committee that it may not be able to burden.

"When one observes, that the Organising Committee shall be transporting cycling athletes to the London Velodrome on a daily basis, one is struck by the fact that Bisley is much closer to Birmingham than London.

"Strangely the same standard and yardstick of finding a requirement for a satellite village for the cycling athletes and official does not find mention, yet for shooting it does?

"Shooting as a sport is quite adept to two hours there and back."



The ISSF has offered to contribute towards hosting shooting at Birmingham 2022 @ISSF

Singh claimed the Indian subcontinent would be negatively impacted from shooting's absence from Birmingham 2022.

He noted that Bangladesh's two gold medals at the Commonwealth Games have come in shooting, while the sport was responsible for one of Sri Lanka's four golds.

A total of 63 of India's 181 gold medals since 1966 have come in shooting.

Singh included letters in the report highlighting the support of several British Government officials for having shooting included on the programme.

He claimed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi would raise the issue with British counterpart Boris Johnson, as he reportedly had done with Johnson's predecessor Theresa May.

Singh questioned whether alienating the Indian subcontinent would be a wise decision for Britain as the Government prepare to leave the European Union.

"The analysis in this paper clearly points out to a disadvantage targeted towards the nations in the Indian subcontinent," Singh wrote.

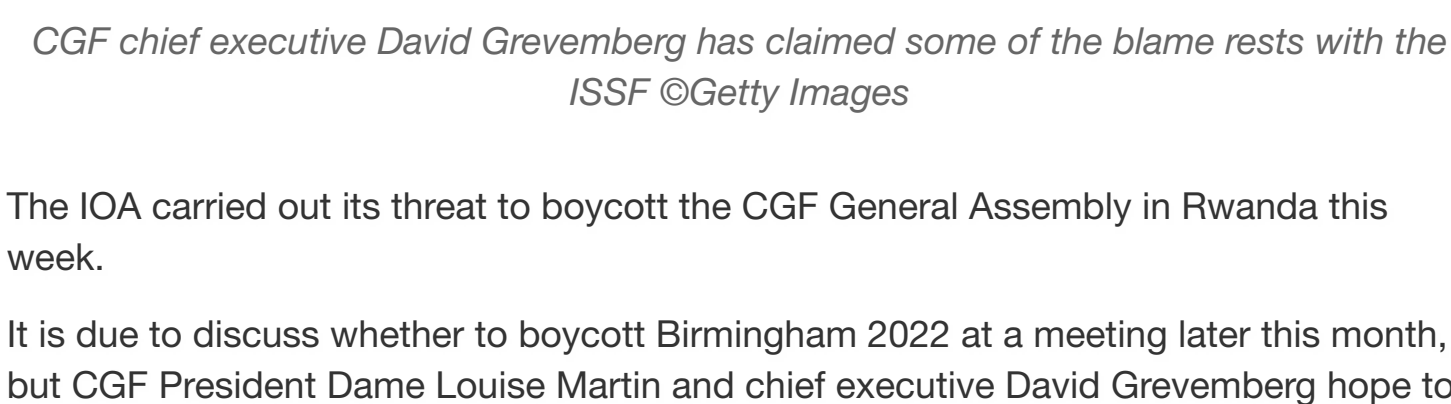
"It is pertinent to note that India and its neighbours contain a large population size that aspires to not only compete but also to promote the Commonwealth Games.

"The President of the ISSF, Mr Lisin has extended his support to the President of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) in terms of financial assistance to help negate costs incurred for the re-introduction of shooting sports at Birmingham 2022, as well as offered any additional support in excess of this that the Commonwealth Games may desire.

"Finally, as he has most graciously done in the past, we once again look to our Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi Ji to take up the matter bilaterally with his counterpart Mr Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the UK, at his earliest convenience.

"The timing for our Governments intervention cannot be better as the new Government that has just taken office in the UK is surprisingly stacked with cabinet ministers who are and remain supportive of our sports re-inclusion for 2022.

"Besides, the host nation's top current political agenda is driven by the issue of Brexit, which that this shall leave the host nation rather aloof post such an exit completion, would this most hospitable host nation choose to alienate 1.45 billion Commonwealth members as well?"



CGF chief executive David Grevenberg has claimed some of the blame rests with the ISSF ©Getty Images

The IOA carried out its threat to boycott the CGF General Assembly in Rwanda this week.

It is due to discuss whether to boycott Birmingham 2022 at a meeting later this month, but CGF President Dame Louise Martin and chief executive David Grevenberg hope to hold talks with them in November.

Grevenberg claimed earlier this week that some of the blame for shooting being dropped from the programme for only the second time in 56 years was down to the ISSF.

He claimed that, unlike other world governing bodies, the ISSF did little to promote shooting in the Commonwealth.

TOP STORY: Fourcade chosen as French candidate for election to IOC Athletes' Commission in 2022

across the Commonwealth." Grevenberg said.

"It is not just a matter of we like shooting or we don't like shooting.

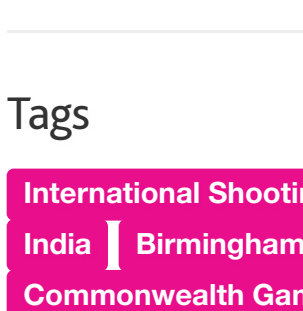
"The ISSF needs to engage with us.

"We are committed to engaging shooting, as well as India."

Related stories

- September 2019: Birmingham 2022 given multi-million pound cash boost by UK Government
- September 2019: CGF President to lead India visit and dissuade Birmingham 2022 boycott threat
- August 2019: British Shooting to explore hosting Commonwealth Championships in 2022 following Birmingham exclusion
- August 2019: Birmingham 2022 "very hopeful" Indian boycott of Commonwealth Games can be avoided
- August 2019: Australia should boycott Birmingham 2022 if shooting not added to programme, claims union

About the author



Michael Pavitt Senior reporter

Follow @michael_pavitt 1,358 followers

Since joining insidethegames.biz in 2015, Michael Pavitt has covered a variety of international multi-sport events, including the Baku 2015 European Games, the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games, Sapporo 2017 Asian Winter Games and Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade. He also reported on the UCI Presidential election in Bergen in 2017, as well as attending the IOC Session in Lima and three ANOC General Assemblies.

Contact Michael Read more of Michael's articles Follow @michael_pavitt on Twitter

Tags

International Shooting Sport Federation India Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Share this page

Recommend 1 Tweet

0 Comments

insidethegames.biz

1 Login

Recommend

Tweet Share

Sort by Newest

Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

Facebook Twitter Google Plus Name

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON INSIDETHEGAMES.BIZ

Emilia Grueva is a rare voice of sense in the crisis at AIBA
1 comment • 9 days ago

Tarquin Tarpaulin IV — The fact that the entire AIBA executive chose to ignore allegations against the

Kuznetsov accepts four-year doping ban after positive ...
1 comment • 11 days ago

Анатолий Песков — The World Anti-Doping Agency has no jurisdiction over the case as the

CGF launch new brand as transformation 2022 Refresh ...
1 comment • 3 days ago

Анатолий Песков — Duncan...I am sure...Insidethegames is the best internet edition on world

Alan Hubbard: How London's East End mobsters tried to ...
1 comment • 4 days ago

Анатолий Песков — Thanks Alan...it is good article.. a lot of interesting information on this topic

Subscribe

Disqus Privacy Policy

DISQUS

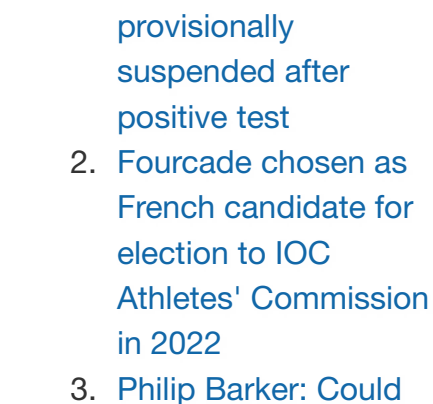
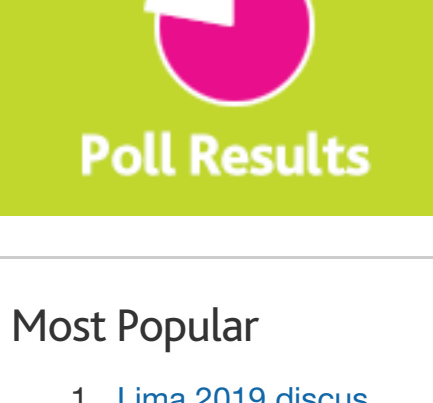
See our comment guidelines here

The Big Read

The International Basketball Federation has reflected upon its 'year of delivery' positively as the World Cup begins in China. Mike Rowbottom explores a sport which has made big changes on and off the court.

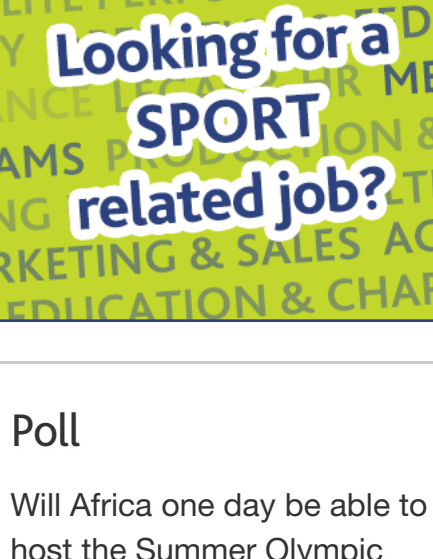
Read more

Big Read Archive



Most Popular

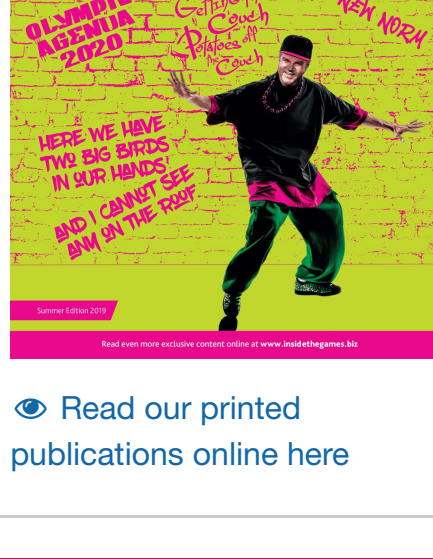
- Lima 2019 discuss silver medalist provisionally suspended after positive test
- Fourcade chosen as French candidate for election to IOC Athletes' Commission in 2022
- Philip Barker: Could one of the new Athletes' Commission members become IOC President one day?
- WADA Athlete Committee urges organisation to establish deadlines for IFs on Russian cases
- WADA identifies nearly 300 athletes with most suspicious data from Moscow Laboratory



Poll

Will Africa one day be able to host the Summer Olympic Games?

Vote on this poll



Read our printed publications online here

Sign up for FREE daily e-alerts

View our Social Feed

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Meet the team