

The background features a collage of stylized illustrations of people engaged in various sports. At the top, a woman in a white tank top is jumping to shoot a basketball. To her left, a man in a blue shirt is holding a volleyball. In the center, a woman in a dark blue sweater is running. At the bottom, a person in green pants is running with a large wheel, possibly a wheelchair. On the right, a woman in a red shirt is running. The entire scene is set against a light blue background with a central blue rounded rectangle containing the title.

The Commonwealth Games

What Is the Commonwealth?

The Commonwealth consists of 54 countries across the regions of Africa, Asia, South America, Europe and the Pacific, with member nations making up 30% of the world's population.

Although each of these countries have different cultures, customs and ways of living, they work together to promote peace, prosperity, democracy and solve issues facing our planet, such as climate change.

Members from each Commonwealth country meet together every two years to discuss and address these issues.



What Are The Commonwealth Games?

The Commonwealth Games are a sporting event hosted by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Athletes from each of the Commonwealth countries participate in a variety of sports, with the games taking place every four years. It is the third-largest sporting event in the world, with the Olympic Games a larger event.



The Commonwealth Games are also known as 'the Friendly Games' as each member nation comes together to meet and compete in a friendly and fair competition.

History of The Commonwealth Games



1930 - Hamilton, Canada

The first games held were known as The British Empire Games and saw 11 countries and 400 athletes participate.



1934 - London, England

The second games saw 16 nations take part and over 500 athletes competing in six different sports including, athletics, boxing, cycling, lawn bowls, swimming and diving and wrestling.



1938 - Sydney, Australia

The southern hemisphere hosted for the first time. 15 nations took part and 464 athletes competed. These games were the first time Fiji and Ceylon competed. Seven sports were featured including, track and field, boxing, cycling, lawn bowls, rowing, swimming and diving and wrestling.



1950 - Auckland, New Zealand

Due to the Second World War, the games didn't take place in 1942 and 1946. 12 countries participated in the games in 1950, with 495 male and 95 female athletes competing. These games were the first time Nigeria and Malaysia competed. Nine sports were featured including, track and field, boxing, cycling, fencing, lawn bowls, rowing, swimming and diving, weightlifting and wrestling.

History of The Commonwealth Games



1954 - Vancouver, Canada

24 countries competed as part of these games, along with 662 athletes, the largest since the games originated.



1958 - Cardiff, Wales

35 countries competed as part of these games, along with 1122 athletes. This was the first time that Dominica competed as part of the games. Nine sports were featured including, athletics, boxing, cycling, fencing, lawn bowls, rowing, swimming and diving, weightlifting and wrestling.



1962 - Perth, Australia

35 countries competed as part of these games, along with 863 athletes. This was the first time that Papua New Guinea, St Lucia and British Honduras competed. Nine sports were featured including, athletics, boxing, cycling, fencing, lawn bowls, rowing, swimming and diving, weightlifting and wrestling.



1966 - Kingston, Jamaica

These games became known as the British Commonwealth Games. 34 nations competed as part of these games, along with 1316 athletes. Nine sports were featured including, athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, fencing, shooting, swimming and diving, weightlifting and wrestling.

History of The Commonwealth Games



1970 - Edinburgh, Scotland

42 nations competed as part of these games, along with 1383 athletes. Nine sports were featured including, athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, fencing, lawn bowls, swimming and diving, weightlifting and wrestling. It was the first time Queen Elizabeth II attended the games as head of the Commonwealth and that metric measurements and photo finish technology were used.



1974 - Christchurch, New Zealand

38 nations competed as part of these games, along with 1276 athletes. Nine sports were featured including, athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, lawn bowls, shooting, swimming and diving, weightlifting and wrestling



1978 - Edmonton, Canada

46 countries competed as part of these games, along with 1474 athletes. Ten sports were featured including, athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, lawn bowls, shooting, swimming and diving, weightlifting and wrestling. It was at these games where the name of the event changed from The British Commonwealth Games to The Commonwealth Games.

History of The Commonwealth Games



1982 - Brisbane, Australia

46 nations competed as part of these games, along with 1583 athletes. Ten sports were featured including, athletics, archery, badminton, boxing, cycling, lawn bowls, shooting, swimming and diving, weightlifting and wrestling.



1986 - Edinburgh, Scotland

26 nations competed as part of these games, along with 1662 athletes. Ten sports were featured including, athletics, aquatics, badminton, boxing, cycling, lawn bowls, rowing, shooting, weightlifting and wrestling.



1990 - Auckland, New Zealand

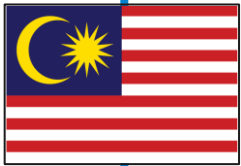
55 nations competed as part of these games, along with 2073 athletes. Ten sports were featured including, athletics, aquatics, badminton, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, judo, lawn bowls, shooting and weightlifting.



1994 - Victoria, Canada

63 nations competed as part of these games, along with 2557 athletes. Ten sports were featured including, athletics, aquatics, badminton, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, lawn bowls, shooting, weightlifting and wrestling. This was the last time Hong Kong competed before becoming part of the People's Republic of China.

History of The Commonwealth Games



1998 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Commonwealth Games were held in Asia for the first time. 70 countries competed as part of these games, along with 5065 athletes. 15 sports were featured including, aquatics, athletics, badminton, boxing, cricket, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, netball, lawn bowls, rugby sevens, shooting, tenpin bowling, weightlifting and wrestling.



2002 - Manchester, England

At the time, these games became known as the largest Commonwealth Games with 72 nations competing, along with 3863 athletes. 17 sports were featured including, aquatics, athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, judo, lawn bowls, netball, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, table tennis, triathlon, weightlifting and wrestling.

History of The Commonwealth Games



2006 - Melbourne, Australia

71 countries competed, along with 4049 athletes. 17 sports were featured including, athletics, aquatics (diving, synchronised swimming and swimming), badminton, basketball, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, lawn bowls, netball, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, table tennis, triathlon and weightlifting. These games were the first time that the Queen's Baton visited each Commonwealth country and nation before the opening of The Commonwealth Games.



2010 - Delhi, India

This was the first time the games were hosted by India. During these games, 71 nations competed, along with 6081 athletes. 17 sports were featured including, aquatics, archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, lawn bowls, gymnastics, hockey, netball, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, table tennis, tennis, wrestling and weightlifting.



2014 - Glasgow, Scotland

During these games, 71 nations competed, along with 4929 athletes. 17 sports were featured including, aquatics (diving and swimming), athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling (mountain bike, road and track), gymnastics (artistic and rhythmic), hockey, judo, lawn bowls, netball, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, table tennis, triathlon, weightlifting and wrestling.

History of The Commonwealth Games



2018 - Gold Coast, Australia

71 nations competed, along with more than 6000 athletes. These games included 18 sports and seven para-sports including, athletics, badminton, basketball, beach volleyball, boxing, cycling (mountain, road and track), diving, rhythmic and artistic gymnastics, lawn bowls, hockey, netball, para-powerlifting, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis, triathlon, weightlifting and wrestling. Women's beach volleyball, rugby sevens and para-triathlon all feature for the first time.



2022 - Birmingham, England

72 nations are expected to compete, along with around 5054 athletes. These games include 19 sports and six para-sports including, athletics and para-athletics, swimming and para-swimming, diving, badminton, 3x3 basketball, beach volleyball, boxing, T20 cricket, cycling (mountain, road, track and para-track and time trial), rhythmic and artistic gymnastics, hockey, netball, judo, lawn and para-lawn bowls, para-powerlifting, rugby sevens, squash, table and para-table tennis, triathlon and para-triathlon, wheelchair 3x3 basketball, weightlifting and wrestling. These games will be the first time that para-sports take place alongside other sporting events.

History of The Commonwealth Games



2026 - Victoria, Australia

These games will be the first time that an entire state will play host to The Commonwealth Games, making it a multi-city event. Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong and Gippsland are due to host a variety of the 16 sporting events. These events will include, aquatics (swimming, para-swimming and diving), athletics and para-athletics, badminton, boxing, beach volleyball, T20 cricket, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, lawn and para-lawn bowls, netball, rugby sevens, squash, table and para-table tennis, triathlon and para-triathlon, weightlifting and para-powerlifting.

Sports in The Commonwealth Games

The sports that feature in each of The Commonwealth Games changes slightly between each four-yearly event, with some sports being added or removed. These are many of the key sports that have featured in more recent games.



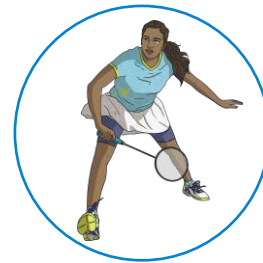
swimming and
para-swimming



diving



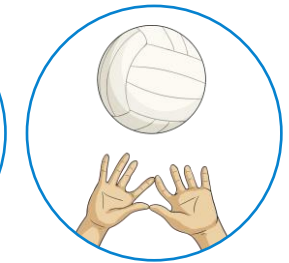
athletics and
para-athletics



badminton



basketball
and wheelchair
basketball



beach volleyball



cycling (mountain,
road, track and
time trials)



T20 cricket



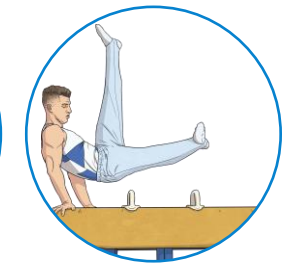
boxing



hockey

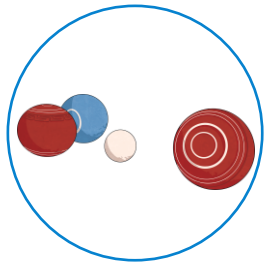


judo



rhythmic and
artistic
gymnastics

Sports in The Commonwealth Games



lawn bowls and
para-lawn bowls



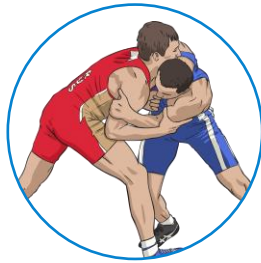
weightlifting and
powerlifting



rugby sevens



squash



wrestling



table tennis and
para-table tennis



triathlon and
para-triathlon

The Queen's Baton Relay

The Commonwealth Games has a special baton called the Queen's Baton. Queen Elizabeth II, who is the head of the Commonwealth, places a special message inside the baton before the relay starts at Buckingham Palace. The baton is then carried around each of the Commonwealth countries and nations before arriving at the opening ceremony, similar to the Olympic Torch Relay. This relay makes people in each Commonwealth country and nation feel like they're part of The Commonwealth Games.



