



Athlete Advocacy Guiding Principles



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Introduction



Brendan Williams

Athletes Advisory Committee Chair
Two-time Commonwealth Games
competitor for Dominica in high jump
(Delhi 2010 and Glasgow 2014).

I am so proud to Chair the Commonwealth Sport (CS) Athletes Advisory Commission (AAC). I speak for all my AAC colleagues when I say that we are truly honoured to represent the voice of Commonwealth athletes to the very best of our abilities.

Across our 74 nations and territories, our great strength is our close friendship and our true diversity.

The Commonwealth is made up of some of the biggest, most populous countries on the planet with the most advanced economies as well as developing countries and small states, just like my own country of Dominica in the Caribbean.

“A priority for me as the Commonwealth Sport AAC Chair is ensuring that every single athlete, in every single nation and territory, has a voice and a platform to be heard.”

For a long time, we have spoken about Commonwealth athletes as Inspiring Leaders, Agents of Change, Advocates for Integrity and Ambassadors for Respect, Impartiality and Non-Discrimination.

It is important for every Commonwealth athlete to know what that means and what that looks like, particularly at our flagship event; the Commonwealth Games.

That is why I am proud that, after much work and consultation, we have created three Athlete Advocacy Guiding Principles to support our athletes.

This work has been developed by and for athletes, but it applies to all Participants who may wish to make positive expressions of their values in accordance with these Guiding Principles.

Aligned with the principles of the Commonwealth Charter, these focus on freedom of expression and positive action.

This is not a protest policy, rather principles that encourage tolerance, respect and understanding

The principles outlined in this document are relevant to every single Commonwealth athlete. Some are comfortable advocating for big issues and some are not, but our mission is to support every single one of you.

My AAC colleagues and I aim to be a visible and readily available presence to every Commonwealth athlete, both at Games Time and outside of Games Time.

If you are passionate around supporting positive causes and are not sure what that could look like, I would encourage you to reach out because the job of the AAC is to support, advise, guide and above all, represent your views.

I hope you find our guiding principles helpful, and I hope that as the CS AAC Chair, and the athlete representative on the CS Executive Board, I can honestly represent all your views and do you all proud.

Yours in Commonwealth Sport,

Brendan Williams

Athlete Advocacy

- A vastly experienced and diverse working group held 3 Sessions in 2021 to formulate an Athlete Advocacy Policy
- After much discussion, the the Group decided to move away from a prescriptive “Policy-style document” (with examples of what athletes can and cannot do) and towards guiding principles.
- The logic was to focus on trust and mutual respect between athletes and Commonwealth Sport, to “encourage the positive” rather than “police the negative”
- Executive Board signed off Athlete Advocacy Guidelines in November 2021, before public launch in February 2022



Our Values

We are defined by people, how we treat each other and where we are going.

Humanity

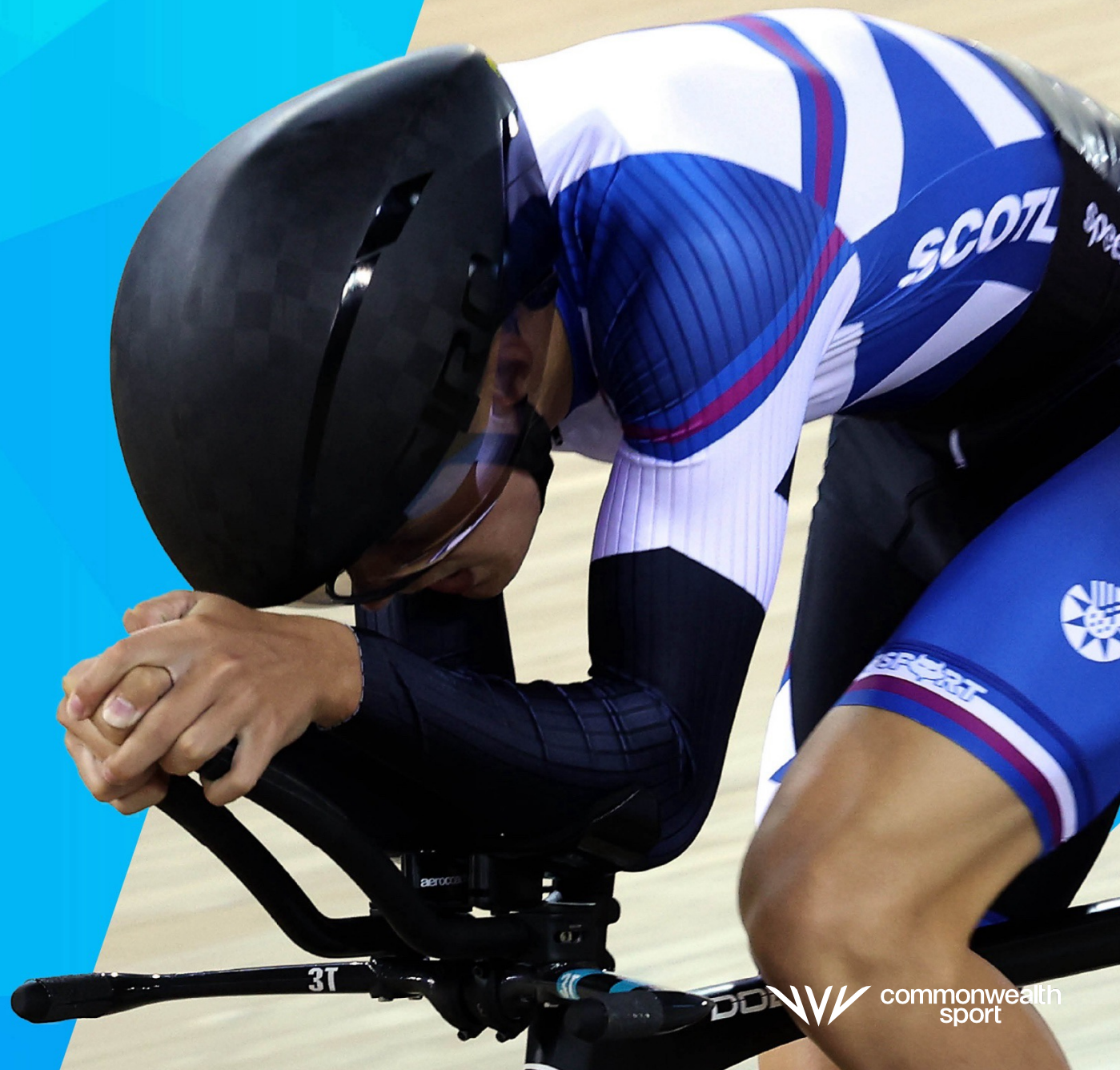
Our athletes and citizens inspire us with their purpose and potential

Equality

Our sports and our Games are a level-playing field, bringing us together as equals

Destiny

Together we can create a more peaceful, sustainable and prosperous future



Athletes Advocacy Guiding Principles



1

Commonwealth Sport recognizes that athletes are: inspirational leaders, agents of change, advocates for integrity, ambassadors for respect, impartiality and non-discrimination.

2

Commonwealth Sport is supportive of freedom of expression and trusts, respects and understands that athletes may want to make positive expressions of their values in line with the Commonwealth Sport values of **Humanity**, **Equality** and **Destiny**

3

Any such positive expressions of values are subject to the Commonwealth Sport Charter of Good Conduct.

COMMONWEALTH ATHLETES ARE

INSPIRING LEADERS

Driving the ambition and impact of all Commonwealth citizens through sport.

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Inspiring leaders of a forward-looking global sporting force , committed to act with grace, humility and pride as it seeks to change the world for the better by upholding and living its values of humanity, equality and destiny.

ADVOCATES FOR INTEGRITY

Uphold and cherish the principle of the level playing field and connect people across the world through a shared passion for sport and a sense of common purpose that endures.

AMBASSADORS FOR RESPECT, IMPARTIALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Through actions, words and deeds Commonwealth Athletes inspire fairness, inclusion and respect for the individual regardless of gender, ability, faith, sexuality or ethnicity.



Good Conduct

The team colours and flags Commonwealth Athletes wear with pride in competition mark them out as of one of the world's most diverse fraternities of nations, territories and people.

Commonwealth Athletes stand for much more than a number on a bib, or a name on a start list. They reach further than their medal or their personal best. They are the vanguard of a great movement whose purpose has been carried and shared across decades, across generations and across borders.

To embody these shared values at Games Time, Commonwealth Sport has developed a Charter of Good Conduct to promote the highest possible standard of competition, respect, fairness and behaviour at the Games. Any infringement or alleged infringement of this Charter will be subject to the Commonwealth Sport's rules.

Every CSA also has a responsibility to provide positive advocacy advice and guidance to their athletes in line with relevant National Laws.



Aligned with our Principles

Raising an Aboriginal or Pride flag during a victory lap

Raising a hand on the podium

Taking a knee before the start of a race/match

Using voice in press, social media in support of causes

Wearing a badge, armband or clothing on the podium with e.g Human Rights

Not aligned with our Principles

Wearing a hate symbol or using hate speech

Defacing a national flag

Making hand gestures affiliated with hate groups

Protests aimed explicitly against a specific organisation, person or country

Verbal protests that disrupt the podium experience or competition

Any expression outside the scope of a racial or social justice cause

The Athlete Advisory Commission



Brendan Williams
AAC Chair
Dominica (Athletics)



Matt Levy
Para Representative
Australia (Swimming)



Suzy Drane
Europe Representative
Wales (Netball)



Moroke Mokhotho
Africa Representative
Lesotho (Boxing)



Chelsea Edghill
Americas Representative
Guyana (Table Tennis)



Ryan Muscat
Youth Representative
Malta (Triathlon)



Makeba Alcide
Caribbean Representative
St Lucia (Athletics)



Julia Ratcliffe
Oceania Representative
New Zealand (Athletics)



Terry Tay
Asia Representative
Singapore (Gymnastics)

A photograph of three Commonwealth Athletes, two women and one man, hugging each other in a celebratory embrace. They are wearing athletic gear, including a green and yellow singlet with the number 167. The background is a dark, blurred stadium setting with large red and pink geometric shapes overlaid. The text is overlaid on a dark horizontal band across the middle of the image.

To Commonwealth Athletes, sport is more than just competition. Sport is just the beginning. Sport connects them – and all of us – with dreams, goals and aspirations for ourselves, our families and our communities