Commonwealth Sport to open host process for 2031 Commonwealth Youth Games in November

The process to identify the host of the 2031 Commonwealth Youth Games will formally open at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly on 25 November 2026, with interest in the 12-month process expected to come from nations across all regions of the Commonwealth.

Designed to give young athletes their first experience of a major multi-sport event, the Commonwealth Youth Games bring together participants aged 14–18 from across the Commonwealth through sport, education and culture. The Games aim to develop future athletes and leaders, unite communities and drive positive social change.

The hosting model is designed to be flexible and sustainable, with Commonwealth Sport working collaboratively with interested hosts to develop proposals that reflect their local ambitions, existing infrastructure and opportunities for long-term benefit.

With six to nine sports across five to six days of competition, including a fully integrated Para sport programme, the event is designed to create opportunities for nations of all sizes to host, with existing venues and infrastructure utilised wherever possible to reduce costs and complexity.

Commonwealth Sport has already received encouraging early interest in hosting the 2031 Games, with initial discussions taking place with potential hosts across all regions of the Commonwealth.

Dr Donald Rukare, President of Commonwealth Sport, said: “Some of the biggest names in world sport took their first steps on the international stage at the Commonwealth Youth Games, including Grenada’s Olympic champion Kirani James. But their impact goes far beyond the field of play, inspiring young people, bringing communities together and creating opportunities that last long after the final medal is awarded.

“We have already seen strong interest in hosting the 2031 Games. As we formally open the process, we welcome interest from nations of all sizes, across every region of the Commonwealth, as we seek a host that can deliver an unforgettable experience for young athletes and create lasting benefits for its communities.”

A pathway for nations of all sizes

The Commonwealth Youth Games have provided an important platform for emerging talent, with a number of athletes going on to achieve success at senior Commonwealth Games, Olympic and world championship level. Past participants include Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill, Sir Kirani James, Dina Asher-Smith, Jazmin Sawyers, Julien Alfred and Chad le Clos.

Beyond competition, the Games combine education and cultural activities with a Youth Engagement Programme that runs before and during the event. With more than 60% of the Commonwealth's 2.5 billion people aged under 30, the Youth Games provide an opportunity to engage young people, develop future leaders and create a lasting legacy for host communities.

Host identification timeline

Following the formal launch on 25 November 2026, the process will run through 2027, with the successful host expected to be confirmed ahead of the closing ceremony of the Malta 2027 Commonwealth Youth Games.

Key milestones include:

- 25 November 2026: Host identification process opens at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly.
- 1 February 2027: Deadline for interested Commonwealth Games Associations (CGAs) to submit Expressions of Interest, including a mandatory non-binding letter of support from their government.
- February–May 2027: Host proposals developed collaboratively with Commonwealth Sport.
- 14 June 2027: Deadline for submission of host proposals.
- June–August 2027: Evaluation of compliant proposals against published criteria.
- October 2027: Planned host award by the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board, following review of the evaluation recommendations.
- 4 November 2027: Official host handover at the Malta 2027 Commonwealth Youth Games closing ceremony, including the transfer of the Commonwealth Sport Flag and Commonwealth Youth Games Quaich.

The process represents an opportunity for nations across the Commonwealth to help shape the future of the Youth Games, providing young athletes with an inspiring international experience while creating benefits that extend well beyond the competition itself.

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