

Commonwealth Games 2022

Archery is not included as a core sport in the Commonwealth Games Federation programme and therefore its inclusion has to be encouraged and brought to the attention of sports councils putting their bids together to host the Games. EAF Chairman, Marc Grady has written to the councils of the Birmingham and Liverpool bid teams who are hoping to win the opportunity to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games, stressing the value of including archery as one of the optional sports.

From the letter, the 10 key reasons for consideration for inclusion are listed below:-

1. Whenever staged and televised it draws large and profitable support from spectators. The venues of Lords and Woolwich Barracks were filled to capacity on just about every day of the Olympics and Paralympics 2012. The knockout format of the Head to Head event and the colourful field provides spectator tension and drama. This link to a clip from London 2012 gives a clear indication of the way a successful international archery event can look <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5M4-hB9t3kY>. I'm sure you'll agree in comparison to many sports it is both absorbing and extremely televisual.
2. Thirty six Commonwealth countries are members of World Archery, giving similar or greater coverage than half of the proposed compulsory sports.
3. Eight Commonwealth Nations medalled at the two appearances of Archery in the Commonwealth Games in 1982 and 2010, demonstrating the Commonwealth and global strength of the sport.
4. Venue costs are low in comparison to many sports, with the key requirements being a flat field and perhaps temporary seating. Existing cricket grounds offer superb venues for archery, as witnessed at Lords during 2012. However, there are many further options at country house estates, such as Croxteth Hall in Liverpool, which can showcase iconic regional back drops. Further options are universities, football and rugby stadia during the summer months, and the larger archery clubs within the region.
5. There are over 112 archery clubs across Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire alone and over 130 across the East and West Midlands which not only demonstrates the level of interest of archery in your locale but which are also available to be drawn upon to provide a knowledgeable and experienced volunteer work force.
6. Archery is completely inclusive; archers of all abilities will be seen competing on the same field together under the same conditions at tournaments. The equipment used by top tier international archers is the same as that available to be used at club level which sets a great example for aspiring archers.
7. Archery utilises the same venue for both able-bodied and Paralympic Archery events.
8. There are now over 46,000 archers registered with Archery GB.

9. England has a huge cohort of talented competitors, International Judges, technical advisors etc. who have not only played significant and leading roles in the 2012 and 2016 Olympics e.g. Graham Potts and Hilda Gibson but also will be available to lend their experience to help stage and support the 2022 event. We have currently an exceptional talent in the Youth Teams and they along with Silver Medal success for Lizzie Warner at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa have every indication of translating into senior medal potential for 2022.

10. The efforts that archery has undertaken since 1990 to change the format presented to the sporting public and television audiences has been significant. The most notable comment stated by the former IOC President Juan Antonia Samaranch to all sports including those seeking inclusion into the Olympic Programme, was that *“Archery had recognised the need to attract the audiences in the 21st Century and other sports seeking promotion to core status would do well to note the efforts of the International Archery Federation and its members who have embraced the new format”*.

The DCMS Review Group are visiting the cities w/c 3 July and an announcement of the awarded city is expected in the Autumn.