

Athletics NZ Statement

Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games

Athletics New Zealand (Athletics NZ) is set to publish the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Nomination Criteria shortly. Due to the considerable changes included in this document, such as a quota system and limited nomination numbers, we are releasing this statement to our Membership to help explain the changes.

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has advised quotas will be applied to all future Games, commencing with the Gold Coast Games. The CGF has made an allocation of quotas to each National Member Federation, in New Zealand this is the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC). The CGF have capped the total number of athletes for the Gold Coast at 4,500. The quota that the NZOC has been allocated does not include team sports nor Para athletes.

The NZOC has created an allocation process which has resulted in Athletics NZ being allocated only 19 quota places. Whilst we expect to have more than 19 athletes meet our eligibility standards, we have not been successful in having a higher number of quotas allocated. The NZOC have been allocated less quotas than the number of athletes that attended previous Games as part of the NZ Team. Essentially this is the reason that Athletics NZ has been allocated less quotas than we would expect.

The NZOC's methodology for deriving the quotas for each of the Individual Sports was based on the following:

- Average number of athletes participating in the previous three Commonwealth Games (Melbourne 2006, Delhi 2010 and Glasgow 2014);
- Medal success in the previous three CWG;
- Achievement of the over-riding selection criteria for athletes in the previous three CWG (eg top 6 placing for an individual);
- The opportunity for all sports to be represented, subject to athletes achieving performance standards (ie universality which is a pillar of the Olympic Charter and the CGF Constitution);
- How the sport operates (i.e. multi-disciplined, gender balance, ability to form a team)

The NZOC Selection philosophy remains being top 6 capable for individual athletes, but has been increased to top 3 for teams. Our Nomination Criteria is based on the top 6 and top 3 (relays) philosophy and details how athletes can secure quota places.

The NZOC expects there will be quota places available at the end of the nomination/selection process from New Zealand sports that do not have enough athletes selected to use each of their quota places. There is also an expectation that not all National Member Federations will use all of their allocated quota places and these will be redistributed by the CGF to those Federations who have expressed an interest in receiving more quotas, of which the NZOC has already indicated.

The NZOC has a Reallocation Process in place for when further quotas are available and Athletics NZ would nominate further athletes at that time.

Also to note is that 50 “Golden Tickets” have been set aside by the CGF specifically for high profile/high performing athletes. 30 of these are specifically ‘tagged’ for Australian athletes. The NZOC has no further information on how or when these will be allocated. However if any of our athletes were a recipient of a “Golden Ticket”, that would be in addition to our initial quota of 19.

We understand this is not a favourable position to be in as we expect a large team of athletes to qualify for the Gold Coast, but it is the direction of the CGF and in turn the NZOC. It’s our understanding that the system for allocating quotas for future Games will be in consultation with the International Federations and we expect the IAAF to release a Commonwealth rankings list to assist in this process.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Team@athletics.org.nz

Note: *The content of this statement is subject to change.*

Date 22 November 2016