



25 March 2020

RE: Australian Sikh Games COVID-19 Decision

The Australian National Sikh Sports and Cultural Council (ANSSACC) has today confirmed that the Australian Sikh Games will not be held in 2020 in the interests of the health and safety of our members, athletes and the wider community. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting government restrictions on public gatherings and travel has severely impacted many sporting events across the country and it is with great sadness that we have had to make this decision.

ANSSACC's Executive Committee has worked closely with ANSSACC WA in recent weeks to understand the situation. This has involved consultation with key event partners including the WA Government, Tourism WA and Curtin University, together with feedback from our member clubs and participants.

Our primary objectives are always to ensure a safe environment for our athletes and the community and to act in a socially responsible manner. Over 2,200 athletes and coaching staff had already registered for the event and tens of thousands of spectators from around Australia and overseas were expected to attend over three days. Running such a large-scale event with people in close proximity to one another would be unviable in the current and foreseeable circumstances.

The Australian Sikh Games is an important event on the Sikh community calendar and vast amounts of effort, finances and coordination goes into preparing teams to attend the Games. To assist our members, we will be fully refunding their registration fees over the coming week.

We are currently working through the logistics of the 2021 Australian Sikh Games. We will consult with our member base on the choice of the host city ahead of our Annual General Meeting to be rescheduled to later this year.

We thank all our event partners, media partners and member clubs for their support and ongoing commitment to the Australian Sikh Games.

ANSSACC Executive Committee

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