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## Sport History

### *Shooting*

#### **Origins and the sport today:**

Shooting has a history dating back hundreds of years, starting in Europe in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many clubs had grown into national federations, with the inauguration of the Swiss Federation in 1824 an early example. In 1859, Queen Victoria fired the first shot to inaugurate the British National Rifle Association.

The first World Shooting Championships took place in 1897 in Lyon, France, with the men's 300m rifle three positions the only event. Ten years later, representatives from seven national shooting federations met in Zurich, Switzerland, and the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) was born.

Today, there are four disciplines regulated by the ISSF: rifle, pistol, running target and shotgun. There are 158 member federations, with more than 65 million people participating in shooting as a sport. The ISSF World Championships take place every four years, with separate shotgun world championships every two years and running target world championships every four years.

#### **Shooting at the Commonwealth Games:**

Shooting is an optional sport at the Commonwealth Games, meaning it is up to the host federation to decide whether it should be on the program.

It has been included in the Commonwealth Games since 1966, with the exception of the Edinburgh 1970 British Commonwealth Games. Events were open, until being separated by gender at the Victoria 1994 Games for pistol and most rifle events, and at Manchester 2002 for trap and skeet; fullbore rifle competitions remained open.

Australia tops the Commonwealth Games medal table with 163 (67 gold, 54 silver and 42 bronze), India sit in second place, with England third and Canada fourth – however, 23 nations have all won at least one shooting medal at the Commonwealth Games.

At Gold Coast 2018, there will be nine men's events and eight women's events, along with the Queen's prize individual and Queen's prize pairs, which are mixed/open.

There have been many outstanding Commonwealth Games shooting performances, including Canadian trap shooter Susan NATTRASS. She was the only woman to compete in trap shooting at the Games prior to 2002 when it was an open event, and also won two Commonwealth Games silver medals and three bronze at Melbourne 2006.

Abhinav BINDRA (IND) won four gold, two silver and one bronze in the 10m air rifle discipline (Manchester 2002, Melbourne 2006, Delhi 2010 and Glasgow 2014), and heads the ISSF Athletes' Committee.

England's Mick GAULT has competed at six Commonwealth Games and won 18 medals in total (nine gold, four silver and five bronze). That is the equal highest number, along with Australian Phillip ADAMS (seven gold, nine silver and two bronze), for any athlete.

#### **Shooting in Australia:**

There has been no shortage of Australian success stories in shooting – none more so than Phillip ADAMS. The shooter from New South Wales competed in six consecutive Commonwealth Games from 1982. His haul of 18 Commonwealth Games medals is a record he holds jointly with Mick GAULT (ENG), who competed at Victoria 1994, Kuala Lumpur 1998, Manchester 2002, Melbourne 2006, Delhi 2010 and Glasgow 2014.

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## Belmont Shooting Centre (BEL)

Shooting



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Other high-profile Australian shooters include Michael DIAMOND, who won five gold and three silver in the trap, trap pairs and double trap pairs across the 1998, 2002, 2006 and 2010 Commonwealth Games. DIAMOND also has two Olympic Games gold (Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000).

Russell MARK won gold at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and bronze at Delhi 2010 in the double trap event. He also took gold at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games and silver at Sydney 2000.