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GOLDOC BOARD REAFFIRMS PROPOSED 2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES PROGRAM

FIQ/WTBA President, Kevin Dornberger today called for unity of purpose and collaborative action in promoting and developing the sport of tenpin bowling internationally.

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC) has reaffirmed that no additional sports will be proposed for the 2018 Commonwealth Games program of sports. The program will reflect the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) stipulated 10 core sports (including para-sports) and an additional seven optional sports. The CGF caps the number of sports at 17.

GOLDOC Chairman, Nigel Chamier OAM, announced the decision yesterday, dashing the hopes of bowlers across the Commonwealth. Mr Chamier said formal submissions for inclusion were received from Beach Volleyball, Canoeing, Judo and Tenpin Bowling and were reviewed over the last six months.

"I am sorry to hear this ... it was just announced yesterday that tenpin bowling will again be included in the 2015 Pan Am Games, but we have to ask and wait each Games to hear," commented Mr Dornberger on receiving the disappointing news. "We do not appear to be destined for inclusion in the inaugural 2015 European Games there is a common theme here, and that is we are not an Olympic sport. It will continue to be a struggle to remain/gain access to admission to all the major regional Games until we are an Olympic sport," he continued.

"The bottom line is that we must pool our resources in an effort to improve our perceived deficiencies at the IOC and regional level, they are the same this will also continue the process of improvement of our sport," he added.

President of the Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Federation, Julian Pace-Bonello also expressed his reaction to the GOLDOC announcement from Malta today. "We are equally disappointed to learn this news. Our Executive Committee, in particular our Secretary General, Lynne Clay and myself have made numerous efforts and attended countless meetings (some in conjunction with Tenpin Bowling Australia), in the hope that our sport would manage to make the 2018 Gold Coast sports program and repeat its success in Kuala Lumpur and Bendigo.

"We shall not be deterred in our resolve to achieve permanent status within these prestigious Commonwealth Games," Mr Pace-Bonello added.

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