



GoodSport



S R I L A N K A O L Y M P I C W E E K L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N



**HANGZHOU
CHALLENGE;
WE ARE SERIOUS
ABOUT IT
- CDM NISHANTHE
PIYASENA**

Undoubtedly, China was, is, and will be a great nation on earth. Throughout history, the route to China has been legendary and many other nations have lived, prospered and died while looking for the upmarket stuff that were traded along the silk route.

At the same time, arguably the only man-made monument seen from space – the Great Wall of China, is a place that needs no other introduction.

Today, China remains in the forefront in every sphere of activity and there is no need to reiterate that sport is one of the packaged items in that deal.

“Hangzhou 2022” - the XIX Asian Games shouts out loud their motto – “Heart to Heart, @Future”. So, like the past, China also is more than conscious about their tomorrow.

It is with this mind Nishanthe Indunil Piyasena – the President of the Modern Pentathlon, is taking up the challenge of leading the Lankan contingent as the Chef-de-Mission to the Hangzhou Games from 23 September to 8 October 2023.

The task at hand for the Lankan contingent is unforgiving. Since 2006, when Susathika Jayasinghe made her swan song at the Games, winning a silver and Bronze, and a men’s 4x400 team won a bronze in Doha, the athletic medal basket has been empty.

The former Mahinda College cricketer, who later became the cycling sports expert, explained to GoodSport his task at hand and how he plans to accomplish his unenviable task.

He said, “In spite of all adversaries and developments around us at home, we are on the job striving to make the Sri Lankan brand reemerge.

“We are very mindful that we are short of funds, and the task at hand is humungous, yet we are looking to work with all local conglomerates to come out with a helping hand at making this arduous task a possibility.”

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“So far, the National Olympic Committee, under its President and the Secretary General, have taken some positive steps to achieve its objectives. It is with this mind I hope to give a message to all athletes who will be a part of the Lankan contingent, to take this chance as an opportunity. The same responsibility has to go to the officials who are a part of this, along with the respective coaches - that the Lankan authorities mean business this time.”

Explaining further, the CDM designate said, “There are around three months left before reaching the games village. The athletes will have to work with the statisticians, work on a tight timeline, work backwards from the opening day of the Games to now and develop ways on reaching their peak by the time they arrive at the games village. The responsibility of this task also goes to the respective Federations. They must be mindful that the athletes are at mint condition at all times.”

Speaking of handling the athletes, Piyasena said, “Handling athletes mostly will be the task of the managers, the coaches and the other allied officials who are selected to be a part of the contingent.

“My task is to keep a tab of the proceedings, but still, we have a separate system to keep an eye on their behaviour and how they obey the rules at ground level.

“Especially in China, they have announced that they have laid some strict rules for the games.

“This does not mean arresting anyone, but things should happen by the laid down laws of the Chinese government.

“There are around three months left before reaching the games village. The athletes will have to work with the statisticians, work on a tight timeline, work backwards from the opening day of the Games to now and develop ways on reaching their peak by the time they arrive at the games village”

“They are very clear where driving, doping and the usage of alcohol is concerned - the Games authorities will be keeping a close watch on the above. One particular aspect they are very sensitive about is decamping - they will be very strict on that.”

Describing the overall task at hand, he said, “Overall, it is going to be a serious task, where there would be a contingent of more than one hundred personnel which includes approximately 80 athletes taking part in around twenty-one disciplines. Of course, with Gender Balance being a prime factor. Still, we are not sure what the final count would be, but this could be the nearest yardstick under the present circumstances. According to the Estimated Team Size Calculations, that could be a round figure.

“This is my fourth assignment as the Chef-de-Mission - previously in 2009, the Asian Youth Games, in 2010, I led the contingent at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore, and in 2014, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. I will be working with a very vibrant team and we hope to make this Games a very memorable one.”



(L-R): Sri Lanka's Men's 4x400 team and Susathika Jayasinghe who won a Bronze medal and 2 medals - 1 Silver and 1 Bronze, respectively, in 2006 Doha Asian Games



Registration Open for Art Competition 2023

Preface

The history of International Olympic Day can be traced back to 1948 when the International Olympic Committee accepted the proposal to celebrate this day. As a result, the first Olympic Day was celebrated on 23 June 1948. International Olympic Day is an occasion that celebrates sports and encourages everyone to participate in them. This day highlights the fact that people come closer through activities such as sports. Internationally, the day is celebrated to promote and spread awareness about the Olympic Movement, and to encourage more and more people to take part in the Olympic Games. Athletes and sportsmen from almost all nations participate in sports activities, such as runs, music, art competitions, exhibitions, different sports, games, and educational seminars on the day. The Olympic Day has three pillars — *Move, Learn, Discover*.

Art Competition Registration

The NOC Sri Lanka invite children age between 12 and 15 to promote the '*Olympic Values*' by sending their paintings expressing their *imagination and understanding of the Olympism*. If you are interested, please notify your willingness through submitting a drawing on the theme highlighted above. The competition is open only for Colombo district school children as this time the Olympic Day celebrations will be held in Colombo. There will be two phases of competitions.

The first phase will be an online submission. The best 50 paintings will be selected from the online open submissions. Then the second phase of competition will be conducted at NOC Sri Lanka headquarters on June 11, 2023.

Eligibility

Children who are studying in Colombo district school and their age should be between 12-15 years [born on or between 01 June 2008 - 31 May 2011].

Timeline and Competition Procedure



Interested candidates are encouraged to register online via <https://forms.gle/T5PxEZjm8dW1VYdbA> on or before May 31, 2022. Then, the registered candidates will be briefed virtually about the contest on June 3, 2023 at 11.00 a.m.

The link for the briefing about the contest:

Time: June 3, 2023 11:00 a.m. [Sri Lanka]

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85162833342?pwd=QVpmTmcxY-2hoM1Rkd1RYNXNKOUFRZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 6283 3342 and Passcode: 171186

The deadline for the online submission of your painting is June 8, 2023. The best 50 paintings will be selected for the next stage of the contest and that will be notified on June 9, 2023. Then, there will be an online workshop for the best 50 contestants on June 11, 2023 virtually at 11.00 a.m. Finally, the selected 50 candidates will have to draw their best again on June 16, 2023 and that contest will be held at Olympic House, Colombo 07. The judges' decision will be final and no appeal will be entertained.

Submission Process

Your submission should be via email. You may scan or take a good quality photo using a mobile phone of your painting and send it to nocsrilanka@gmail.com along with a scanned birth certificate. Do not forget to mention the below details in your email.

1. Full Name
2. Contact Number
3. School Name

To contact

Ms. Nipuni Darshika: 071-210-0862

SRI LANKAN YEVAN DAVID EARNS A PODIUM FINISH IN BELGIUM



Skillful and masterly driving by 15 year old Sri Lankan Yevan David was the Cynosure of the DKM German Karting Seniors Championship Race, held over the weekend.

The competition attracted 44 professional drivers.

An engine failure in the Pre-finals resulted in his relegation to the back of the grid at P27 start in the finals.

Despite this setback David endured 23 overtaking maneuvers within a phase of 19 laps to finish at P4 in an enthralling final lap.

This performance earned him a Podium Position in the overall competition standings.



BRITISH CYCLING BAN TRANSGENDER WOMEN FROM RACING IN FEMALE COMPETITION TO 'SAFEGUARD THE FAIRNESS OF COMPETITION'

British Cycling have banned transgender women from racing in the female category at all events to 'safeguard the fairness of competition'.

The national governing body's new policy ends transgender rider Emily Bridges' dream of competing for Great Britain or Wales in women's races and puts pressure on the sport's international federation, the UCI, to strengthen their own rules. British Cycling will change their current men's category to an 'open' category, where transgender women can compete against other male-born riders, while the female category will be reserved for those who were female at birth.

The new policy relates to all competitive activity – any race or event involving timing, ranking or prizes – and will come into force in full by the end of this year. Transgender women will still be allowed to ride with women in non-competitive cycling settings, such as the Breeze community programme.

'Our new policies are the product of a robust nine-month review process, which we know will have a very real-world impact for our community both now and in the future,' said British Cycling chief executive Jon Dutton. 'I am confident that we have developed policies that both safeguard the fairness of cyclesport competition, whilst ensuring all riders have opportunities to participate.'

British Cycling chief executive Jon Dutton has confirmed transgender women will be banned from racing in all female events.

British Cycling's previous rules allowed transgender women to compete in the female category providing they had lowered their testosterone levels to below five nanomoles per litre over a 12-month period.

However, they suspended that policy in April last year after Bridges – who was previously on Great Britain's Academy as a male rider named Zach – attempted to enter the women's race at the National Omnium Championships, where she would have come up against five-time Olympic champion Laura Kenny.



British Cycling chief executive Jon Dutton

British Cycling then began a consultation with female and transgender riders and reviewed the available medical evidence, concluding that 'even with the suppression of testosterone, trans women who transition post-puberty retain a performance advantage'.



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That is the key medical reason for the landmark policy change and they have taken advice from sports and equality lawyers, Mills & Reeve, to ensure their new rules comply with the Equality Act should they receive any legal challenges.

British Cycling attempted to contact around 10 known transgender and non-binary riders – including Bridges – to inform them of the new policy prior to it being published.

‘I am sorry that it’s taken so long to get to this point,’ said Dutton, who only began his role last month.

‘We appreciate this has been an incredibly difficult period.

It has caused anxiety, uncertainty and distress for many riders and we have a duty of care to support those people.

‘But today is about leadership and giving that absolute clarity and direction to remove that uncertainty, however difficult that may be.

‘On the competitive policy, fairness is absolutely the driving factor.’

British Cycling’s announcement comes less than four weeks after the sport’s latest transgender storm, when American Austin Killips won the Tour of the Gila – the first transgender rider to triumph at an official UCI stage race.

The UCI currently allow transgender women to compete in female events as long as they have reduced their testosterone levels to 2.5 nmol/L over a two-year period

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Bridges said she is considering leaving Britain because of the abuse of transgender people

In the meantime, British Cycling and the UCI have different policies - but Dutton confirmed that Great Britain teams for international events will be selected under the new national rules.

British Cycling’s move follows that of other sports in recent months, with World Athletics, UK Athletics, World Aquatics and British Triathlon all among the governing bodies who have recently banned transgender women from the female category and are moving towards changing their men’s category to open.

‘We have always been very clear that this is a challenge far greater than one sport,’ added Dutton. ‘We remain committed to listening to our communities and working with our fellow sporting bodies to monitor changes in the scientific and policy landscape, to ensure that sport is inclusive for all.

‘We have been open and transparent with the UCI on our decision and will work collaboratively with them to ensure a seamless implementation over the coming months.’



American Austin Killips became the first transgender rider to win an official UCI stage race

However, in the wake of the Killips row, they announced they will be ‘reopening consultation’ regarding their rules and will decide on any changes by August, when it is likely they too will ban transgender women from the female category.

Courtesy Daily Mail