



# 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

19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

## THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Finally, Godot arrived at the sports-loving island nation of Sri Lanka, in a bid to prove Sri Lanka's might at the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games.

Though the celebrations of the official opening will be on 23 September, the games proper launched with the spikers getting into their gear with the advent of Beach Volleyball on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Rowing on the 20<sup>th</sup> and the Women's Cricket celebrities will get into the quarter-final of the proceedings in a bid to defend or upgrade their Incheon Bronze on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The final list of Lankan athletes will count to a total of 96 --- (62 males and 34 females, minus the assisting staff like coaches and managers).

The contingent did have its own incongruous assimilations -- some incomparable. But, the ship sails on and once they come ashore, who or how would rule out a pot of gold -- or maybe silver or bronze, we Lankans are ready to take them as they come. Yes, there were none-starters like Equestrian Mathilda Karlsson, High Jumper Ushan Thiwanka and much taunted Yupun Abeykoon - it may be disheartening but it's the bitter truth.

Then, the Rugby episode is another tale of sports, but, a turn of events has given it a different bleach altogether.

Due to the suspension of Sri Lanka Rugby by World Rugby, the Sri Lanka men's team were not able to compete at the Asian Games. However, considering this, the Asia Rugby Executive Committee made a thoughtful decision to allow Sri Lankan athletes to compete under the OCA flag. This transpired with Asia Rugby officially announcing the addition of an OCA team to the roster of the Asian Games Men's Rugby 7s event.

Continued on Page 02

From page 01

It will be called the OCA Rugby Sevens Team – clad in white, yellow and orange. This development expands the participation to 13 men's teams and 7 women's teams. The Asian Games have a rich history with rugby, having made its debut in 1998 in Bangkok, Thailand.

According to the games' organisers, the decision to incorporate the OCA team emerged with the athletes' best interests in mind and through close collaboration among key stakeholders. It was a carefully considered move to uphold the fundamental principles of Asia Rugby - Equality, Transparency, and Accountability.

A much-relieved manager, Air Commodore Sanath Pitigala, sighed and added the OCA team cleared the air of its presence at Hangzhou. He said, "From the players' perspective, I will be serving as the manager of the team and I take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Sports and this team of officials. Also, a special thanks to the NOC SL President - Suresh Subramaniam, who left no stone unturned to make this a reality, along with NOC SL Secretary General - Maxwell de Silva; they rode that extra mile for the sake of the game of Rugby.

"This is a boost for the whole fraternity of Sri Lanka - giving them hope and continuity amid uncertainties, and taking these Lankan players into the tournament to get real international exposure. Being a rugby buff myself I am glad that this is now a reality.

Talking about the preparation Cmdr Pitigala said that they are glad that they have a reliable captain in Tarinda Ratwatte and a well-proven coach in Dushantha Lewke.

He added that they, right now, are going through the motions of honing the finer skills and playing as a unit. "They have understood the real requirement of the country. In spite of the adverse weather conditions, they are immersed in calculated training."

With regards to the new playing schedule, Asia Rugby carefully considered the level and ability of the athletes who will represent the OCA team and decided that the OCA team will join South Korea and Chinese Taipei in group B as a 2<sup>nd</sup>-ranked team and Malaysia will join Hong Kong China and the Philippines in Group A as a 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team. Subsequently, Nepal will move to Group D as a 4<sup>th</sup>-ranked team.

It is worth noting that Asia Rugby has always considered a 13-team playing schedule and Group D was previously identified as the group with 4 teams.

"We are billed to take on South Korea and Chinese Taipei, and we have faced them in tournaments in South Korea and Dubai. There, our boys performed quite impressively and even the organisers were taken up with what the Lankans had to offer as a team. Taking this into consideration, I feel that the team that is playing under the OCA team will raise more than a few eyebrows", he commented.

"I know playing under the OCA banner there would have some points of view, but as far Sri Lanka Rugby and players are concerned, we are taking part in this tournament and it is very important to us".

Numerous meetings and discussions were held between Asia Rugby, the Sri Lanka National Olympic Committee (NOC SL), and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs in Sri Lanka, to ensure that these athletes wouldn't miss out on an event that occurs only once every four years.





From Page 03

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

**JUDO**



**CHAMADA RUWAN DHA DHANAWATHIRANA**  
ATHLETE  
MEN -73 KG



**POGODATH RATHIRANA**  
COACH



19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

**KARATE**



**HESHANEE P. RANACHCHI**  
ATHLETE



**DHANESH MUTHURANGA**  
ATHLETE



**HESHANEE P. RANACHCHI**  
ATHLETE



**DHANESH MUTHURANGA**  
ATHLETE



19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

**ROWING**



**NIVYAN SAMPATH SAKARA**  
ATHLETE



**MOHAMED NATTHAN**  
ATHLETE



**MAHESHI DISSANAYAKE**  
ATHLETE



**JAYANI HETTIARAJA**  
ATHLETE



**BASEL LOKEE PERERA**  
ATHLETE



**MAHIPALAJU ALATHURATHIL**  
ATHLETE



19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

**SAILING**



**THARSHEN NANAYAKKARA**  
SCAFT BOYS



**ARIANNA TAALVA TRANCHELL**  
SCAFT GIRLS



**THARSHEN NANAYAKKARA**  
SCAFT BOYS



19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

**SQUASH**



**RAVINDU HASENTHIA**  
ATHLETE



**CHASITHMA SHIRALY**  
ATHLETE



**M.M. MOHAMED SHAMMAL**  
ATHLETE



**RAVINDU HASENTHIA**  
ATHLETE



**M.M. MOHAMED SHAMMAL**  
ATHLETE



19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

**TAEKWONDO**



**CHALINDA SAMPATH**  
LYONAGE  
MENS -68KG



**I.R.K. MAHADULA**  
WOMENS -49KG



**CHALINDA SAMPATH**  
LYONAGE  
MENS -68KG



**M.R. DINESH**  
COACH



19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

**WEIGHTLIFTING**



**NIMESH JAYASINGHE**  
ATHLETE



**DHANIRA SUBRAMANIAM**  
ATHLETE



**NIMESH JAYASINGHE**  
ATHLETE



**DHANIRA SUBRAMANIAM**  
ATHLETE



19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

**WRESTLING**



**NETHMI AHINSA FERNANDO**  
ATHLETE



**NETHMI AHINSA FERNANDO**  
ATHLETE



**NETHMI AHINSA FERNANDO**  
ATHLETE



19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

**WUSHU**



**HIRUN BLANKA**  
ATHLETE



**PETRUS NUJMAN**  
ATHLETE



**HIRUN BLANKA**  
ATHLETE



**PETRUS NUJMAN**  
ATHLETE



From Page 04

# Under the Olympic Council of Asia Flag



## 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022



### RUGBY



**RANDIMA RAVEEN DE SILVA**  
ATHLETE



**JANSEN HESHAN SENAN**  
ATHLETE



**ASHAN TARINDA RATWATTE**  
ATHLETE



**KAVINDU ANJANA DE COSTA**  
ATHLETE



**GAMUNU CHETHIYA**  
ATHLETE



**RAVINDU ANJULA HETTIARACHCHI**  
ATHLETE



**DHARSHANA DABARE**  
ATHLETE



**ADEESHA ESHAN WEERATHUNGA**  
ATHLETE



**RAMESH RUKMAL FERNANDO**  
ATHLETE



**AKASH MADUSANKA SINGHE**  
ATHLETE



**ADAM NICHOLAS GAUDER**  
ATHLETE



**DINUPA ANUSARA SENEVIRATHNE**  
ATHLETE

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



MEDIA SUPPORT



# NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SRI LANKA ANNOUNCES ITS LAUNCH OF "OLYMPIC FOREST"



The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka (NOC Sri Lanka) along with the Department of Forest Conservation have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for their investment in protecting and promoting greenery in the country.

The discussions were continued related to this mission since 2020 and finally NOC Sri Lanka managed to convince Ms. Pavithra Wanniarachchi, the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resource Conservation in Sri Lanka in securing 50 Hectares of land from Weerakkodichole Forest in Puttalam District.

The Sri Lankan economy and the identity depends heavily on the natural resource sectors including forestry.

The rapid deforestation caused by land clearing for agriculture, encroachment from unplanned settlements, cropping by the landless poor, illegal logging, and commercial timber extraction became a -

*The NOC SL will continue to raise long term capital of USD 170,000 for this mission in the next three to five years with the assistance of IOC and OCA to support the sustainability and development of Sri Lanka's growing forestry sector*

serious environmental problem for the country. The "Olympic Forest" was formulated to address the diminishing forest resources.

This newly published "Olympic Forest" program will run until 2030 and thereby NOC Sri Lanka will give their fullest commitment to UN Climate Change proposal and environmental sustainability and to ensure we have a secure earth by sending the right message to all Sri Lankans as well as to all the NOCs around the world.

The NOC Sri Lanka plans to reduce 50% carbon by 2030 and Zero carbon by 2040.

The NOCSL will continue to raise long term capital of USD 170,000 for this mission in the next three to five years with the assistance of IOC and OCA to support the sustainability and development of Sri Lanka's growing forestry sector. Establishing a New Forest is a unique approach to Sri Lankan sports field and as well in the sustainability.

The NOCSL will focus on the key areas of impact: undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility, reduce overall climate impact, educate for climate action, promote sustainable and responsible consumption and advocate climate action through communication.

The NOC Sri Lanka is openly inviting to all the stakeholders and friendly NOCs who are in the capacity to give a chance to the mother earth to breath more.