



# GoodSport NEWS

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

SPORTS NEWS

*Judo – a game that is growing*

## Resuscitating the training building is our prime objective

**A**s a person connected to sports and journalism, I often hear people discussing the subject of what is the best sport that is suited for the Sri Lankans, considering various factors.

Coming out very prominently is the height and weight and genetically the Lankans are smaller in size.

Then another strong argument is the hand-eye coordination and in this field the Lankans have done wonders in Cricket and in other sports like Tennis, Table Tennis, Squash and Badminton the success has been marginal in spite-

of Badminton being one of the biggest number wise in the island.

Of course, Olympian Niluka Karunaratne stands out like a beacon in the game of Badminton, but according to the numbers participants they have not done justice to the argument.

But, out of the ordinary, Judo is generally associated with brawn and physical contact which is generally not associated with Sri Lankans but is now on the upward trend in spite of its perennial pre conclusions.

Some may argue points on Rugby is doing well with these qualities, but that success too is connected to only the Asian circuit.

However, coming out the against the accepted norms, Judo has produced an Olympian in Chamara Dharmawardena and he in his first outing managed to beat his first opponent and enter the second round.

For a sport that is comparatively small in numbers, and also small in participation the Dharmawardena legacy is sure bound to have a huge impact.

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Reason, the Lankan segment of this game has realized that they are living within the possibilities of impacting the sport in the international arena and what is required is only the guidance and a set of officials who are willing to drive the change.

It is within this background that Rtd. Lt. Commander Sri Lanka Navy T.H. Duminda Asela and Udara Manuel were elected the respective President and secretary of the Sri Lanka Judo Association recently.

An Old boy of Wickremabahu National School in Gampola, President Asela also is an innate Judoka who familiarized with the sport as a youngster.

Growing from that point Asela overcame his initial hurdle when he won the Novices 65kgs title 1996 and also won the National Sports Festival Gold in 1997 in the same category at the Albert Peiris Stadium in Wennapuwa. From point onwards he lived by the sport that he chose to love.

Leaving school in 1998 he joined the Sri Lanka as an Officer Cadet and at every opportunity he represented Navy and also the National cause and in ended up being a Judo Referee and officiated in many championships.

Climbing up the ladder as a result of his dedication to the sport, Asela took over the reins of Navy Judo in 2019 and two years later stepped in as the President of the Sri Lanka Judo Association along with Udara Manuel also of the Sri Lanka Navy as his secretary.

With determination written in their faces the duo began to narrate their programme – the past, present and future.

They said “The biggest platform for us is that we are in a position to talk about the sport to the hierarchy of the sport because we already have produced an Olympian which most of the of the sports people still aspire to; especially a sport where physical ability takes pride of place.

“Now the three forces Army, Navy and Air Force play a lot of attention to the game and they are backing the game of Judo to more than appreciable levels. The Judokas in the three forces are given the latest equipment plus the medical and balanced diets helping the players to only concentrate in their sport.

“As a result, we have been able to sustain the sport at a competitive level. Now we have three layers of payers – the top, the intermediary and the novices.

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*"As a result, we have been able to sustain the sport at a competitive level. Now we have three layers of payers the top, the intermediary and the novices."*

"But, ironically the Judokas outside the circle that we mentioned before – the Judokas who are not in the three forces are facing some difficulties. The main reason to this is that they lack a Dojo. The main Judo Association building at Kotahena is at a dilapidated stage.

"This is our next challenge. We are not interested in looking as to who was responsible for the situation and engage in finger pointing exercise.

"We are only interested in finding out of a way of resuscitating our headquarters. It will be a challenging task, but we are ready for it. If we could find sufficient backing to bring back the Kotahena building to its pristine glory, we could move the sport of Judo to new heights and we are sure that the ultimate winners of that duet would be the game itself."



## Taniya Balasuriya wins the third consecutive Sri Lanka Ladies Open

The Sri Lanka Ladies Open Amateur Stroke Play Golf Championship 2021 sponsored by the Abhayaratne family in memory of Mr. Malin Abhayaratne, Past President of the Sri Lanka Golf Union and Past President and Captain of the Royal Colombo Golf Club for the second consecutive year was played on the 07th, 08th and 09th December '21 at the Royal Colombo Golf Club, Colombo.

This prestigious tournament was played as a WAGR ranking tournament for the ladies.

Taniya Balasuriya stamped her supremacy in ladies Golf with gross scores of 73, 72 and 71 to win the championship for the third consecutive year, 10 shots ahead of her closest rival. There was a keen tussle for the runner up position between Kayla Perera, Kaya Daluwatta and Sherine Balasuriya. However, Kayla shot a superb round of gross 71 on day 3 to claim runner up position.

The Nuwara Eliya Cup which is awarded to the best nett score over three rounds was won by Sherine Balasuriya (208) and in runner up position was Arika Wickramasinha (215).

The Bronze Cup awarded to the aggregate gross score for handicaps 21-30 was won by the experienced Golfer Roshini Sangani and in runner up position was Vivienne Fowler Watt.

"The golf played this year was of a high standard," said Ms. Anouk Chitty the Captain of the Ladies section of Royal Colombo Golf Club and Chairperson of Ladies Events (Sri Lanka Golf). Mr. Michael Perera Magala President of Sri Lanka Golf and Mrs.



# The third version of the Sport Administrators Course concluded

The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka conducted its third Sport Administrators Course for the year 2021 under the auspices of Olympic Solidarity virtually on December 4,5,11 and 12, 2021. A total of 24 sport administrators representing various sport organizations such as NOC Sri Lanka, National Sport Federations/Associations, Tri Forces and Universities were part of the programme.

The course was conducted by Programme Director Mr. B.L.H. Perera, National Course Directors – Grp. Cpt. Nalin de Silva and Ms. Olivia Gamage, and Provisional National Course Directors – Maj. Gen. Dampath Fernando and Mr. Gobinath Sivarajah. The course was conducted based on the Sport Administration Manual published by the Olympic Solidarity. The contents of the course were basically on Olympism and Olympic Movements, Games, and Management skills.

Some of the course participants' comments are below:

NOC Sri Lanka's Games Operations Manager Ms. Hansika Wijayagunasekara commented, "What I liked the most in the Olympic Solidarity Sport Administrators Course (OSSAC) was the interactive sessions.

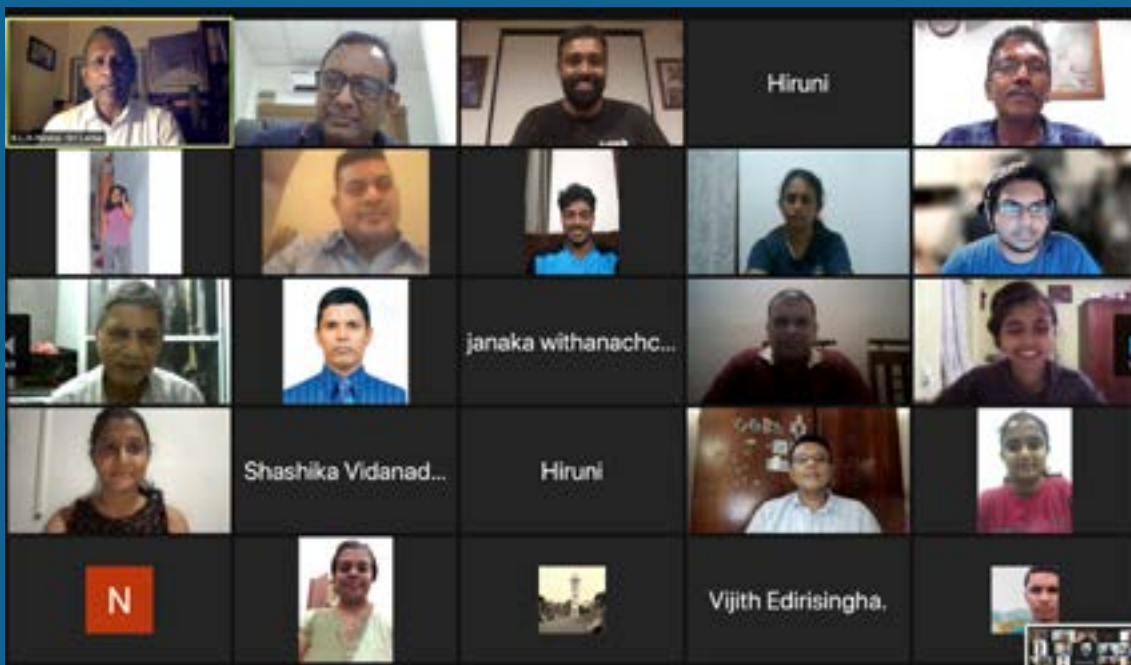
"It was always nice to share and hear personal experiences of the different sports bodies on one platform. Most of the subjects covered under the OSSAC were what a sports administrator comes across often. The Programme was fruitful as a whole."

Regarding the course delivery, Cdr. Antony Soundararajah, Assistant Secretary of the Sri Lanka Basketball Federation mentioned that "The course was well organised and executed. I gained a wealth of new knowledge in sports administration."

Ms. Achini Yapa, an intern at Sri Lanka Basketball Federation said, "I am very positive about the outcome of the course. It was well-arranged educational delivery; I truly appreciate the effort and the knowledge shared by the experienced professionals. Thank you for the amazing lectures and discussions. I was so passionate while doing the group activities – the facilitators gave us honest feedback to improve our skills. I learned a lot and benefited. Thank you! Well, done team."

The President of Sri Lanka eSports Association Mr. Raveen Wijayatilake said that "The Sports Admin course conducted by the NOC Sri Lanka takes you on a deep dive into the Olympic movement, its structures, policies, ethics and good governance compiled from over a century of sports admin experience, conveyed to attendees with rich practical examples by some of Sri Lanka's most experienced Sports administrators.

At completion, you will take away a good sense of direction on how to enhance your sports initiatives and governance."



## Commonwealth Sport Pride Network launched to positively champion LGBTQ+ inclusion

The Commonwealth Sport Pride Network has today been launched to positively champion and enable LGBTQ+ inclusion at the Commonwealth Games and across the Commonwealth Sport Movement.

The Commonwealth Sport Pride Network is a voluntary network and coordination group, that looks to bring together athletes, coaches, Commonwealth Games Associations (CGAs), Games organisers, stakeholders, partners and allies. It is open to all.

An international working group of athletes, CGAs and stakeholders has set out four key areas of focus – community, education, visibility and influence – enabling the network to:

- Create a safe space for LGBTQ+ people and allies to meet, support and coordinate activities as a community
- Increase visibility and awareness of LGBTQ+ inclusion and participation in Commonwealth sport and positively promote equality, role models, best practice and support Pride House at the Games
- Support allies, CGAs, Games organisers and other stakeholders through information-sharing, training and education
- Provide a collective platform to influence and drive positive change for LGBTQ+ acceptance and equality across Commonwealth Sport and the wider Commonwealth.

Athletes, coaches, stakeholders and team members can sign up at [www.thecgf.com/pride](http://www.thecgf.com/pride) to become part of the network and get involved supporting activities at Birmingham 2022 and across the Movement.

The launch of the network coincides with Rainbow Laces Day 2021, which celebrates the impact that sport has on LGBTQ+ people and the impact that LGBTQ+ people have on sport.

*"We hope the network will be a safe space to connect, support, learn, understand and celebrate. This is not a political movement, but an opportunity to champion inclusion and tell stories in a positive way.*

*In launching this voluntary network, we are mindful of Commonwealth-wide realities. Our cultural and religious diversity defines our family, and it is important for the CGF to continue to lead by example, embracing our shared passion for sport and living our values of Humanity, Equality and Destiny."*

Commonwealth Games Federation President Dame Louise Martin DBE said: "We are launching the Commonwealth Sport Pride Network to champion and enable LGBTQ+ inclusion at the Games and across our Movement.

"We hope the network will be a safe space to connect, support, learn, understand and celebrate. This is not a political movement, but an opportunity to champion inclusion and tell stories in a positive way.

"In launching this voluntary network, we are mindful of Commonwealth-wide realities. Our cultural and religious diversity defines our family, and it is important for the CGF to continue to lead by example, embracing our shared passion for sport and living our values of Humanity, Equality and Destiny.

"As "The Games for Everyone" we all hope Birmingham 2022 will provide an inspiring and important opportunity to engage, champion and benefit many diverse communities, and I am proud that this will now include support and initiatives for the LGBTQ+ sporting community."

CGF CEO Katie Sadleir said: "Equal rights are a cornerstone of the Commonwealth Sport Movement. In recent years, the CGF and our members have taken bold action to support Para sport inclusion and gender equality and we continue to drive efforts to address racism and post-colonial legacies.

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To date, however, there has been little discussion on LGBTQ+ rights and opportunities, so I am delighted – and extremely thankful to our working group and wider network of CGAs – that we are able to launch this voluntary network.”

Commonwealth Games Minister Nigel Huddleston said: “This network is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of the LGBTQ+ Commonwealth community. It will promote inclusion, education and equality and also provide an important safe space for LGBTQ+ athletes from across the Commonwealth to come together at Birmingham 2022.

“I hope it will be a powerful voice for LGBTQ+ athletes and harness the power of this unique sporting family to strengthen our shared Commonwealth goals of democracy, development and peace.”

Jamaican swimming star Michael Gunning, who has worked with the CGF to help establish the Commonwealth -

Sport Pride Network, said: “I am delighted to see the launch of the Commonwealth Sport Pride Network which is a ground-breaking moment in international sport. With my longstanding personal journey in commonly advocating for LGBTQ+ inclusion in sport, and with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games next year, we have a fantastic opportunity to provide a platform for visibility and impact. I would encourage all athletes and allies to sign up to the network and encourage everyone to work closely with us to bring about requisite inclusion by sharing our stories in a positive and impactful way.”

England squash player Sarah-Jane Perry, who won silver at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, said: “The Commonwealth Sport Pride Network is a fantastic coordination group that will bring together like-minded individuals to drive positive action. This is an exciting moment for the Commonwealth Games and for Commonwealth Sport so I hope that many athletes, coaches, partners and allies can get involved.”

Pride House International Co-Chair Lou Englefield said: “The launch of the CSPN is a huge step forwards in the inclusion, participation and visibility of LGBTQ+ people in sport throughout the Commonwealth. The network will provide much needed support and leadership when LGBTQ+ people's lives and rights are not experienced equitably and in some areas are under threat of being rolled back.”

Athletics Pride Network Co-Chair Andy Paul and Pride in Water Chair Joshua Devine said: “The Athletics Pride Network and Pride in Water, whole heartedly welcome the Commonwealth Games Federation's continued commitment to inclusion and equality for the LGBTQ+ community across the Commonwealth through the new Commonwealth Sport Pride Network.

“Together both Pride in Water and the Athletics Pride Network look forward to working in partnership with the CSPN to help generate positive and substantial change for Birmingham 2022 and across the Commonwealth going forward.”



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