This is the biggest team Scotland has ever sent to an overseas Games and it includes 93 women, the largest female contingent to travel away. In another first for Team Scotland, there are two female entries in women’s Boxing.

Scotland is participating in all 18 sports on the Games programme and with a number of Olympic, Paralympic, World, Commonwealth and European medallists across the team, there is a strong belief that the target of more than 29 medals is achievable.

Also included in the ranks are 18 Para-Sport athletes, competing in six of the seven Para-Sport disciplines, which are fully integrated into the Games. Gold Coast 2018 is proud to host the biggest ever Para-Sport programme in Games history with 38 medal events.

Geared up for Gold Coast

With a busy year of selection concluded, the stage is now set and Team Scotland is heading to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games with 224 athletes ready to fly the flag for Scotland on the international stage.

58% of the team will make their Games debut, while seven athletes were on the Team last time the Games were in Australia at Melbourne 2006. For Bowler Alex Marshall MBE and Shooter Ian Shaw, it will be an incredible sixth Games appearance.

The Commonwealth Youth Games and our Achieve Programme continue to demonstrate their worth, with 29 athletes having come through these important development initiatives.

Whilst the focus is on the Gold Coast, we welcome back Basketball to the Team for the first time since 2006, with their preliminary matches a three hour flight away in Townsville. We are also delighted to see Beach Volleyball make its Games debut, with representation in both men’s and women’s pairs playing at the magnificent Coolangatta Beachfront down by the New South Wales border.

Commenting on the final team, Jon Doig OBE, Team Chef de Mission said: “We have always prided ourselves on being the best prepared team possible and this year is no exception. However, none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our sports governing bodies and the sportscotland institute of sport, providing a world class team behind the team.

“We are particularly grateful for the sportscotland National Lottery funding which is supporting our Team Camp on the Sunshine Coast, where the majority of sports will either pass through for acclimatisation, or use it as a training base ahead of the Games.

“I look forward to Team Scotland athletes creating many memorable sporting moments over the next few weeks and our fabulous role models inspiring all young Scots back at home to get involved in sport and playing a part in the wider Team Scotland family.”
The Commonwealth Games is the only multi-sport event in which Scots get to compete under the Scotland flag, making it extremely special.

Incredibly, it is nearly four years since our home Games in Glasgow and not only was it publicly declared as ‘the best Games ever’, Team Scotland delivered its best performance ever, winning 53 medals and delivering many incredible performances that will live on in Commonwealth Games history.

So as we make our final preparations for Gold Coast 2018, our mission is clear and we head ‘down under’ aiming to win more than the 29 medals we won at Melbourne 2006, which would represent our best ever overseas Games.

Given a number of changes to the sport programme from Glasgow and the fact that for many sports they are competing out of season in the southern hemisphere, this will be no mean feat. However I am confident we have selected a fabulous team that will rise to the challenge and perform with distinction.

Our research continues to show how important the success of Team Scotland is to the Scottish public and how they strongly associate with our Team values: Proud, United, Ambitious, Inspirational and Inclusive. I am sure Team Scotland’s performance on the Gold Coast will continue to excite and inspire the nation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners especially the Scottish Government, sportscotland, CGI and Emirates for their magnificent support, helping to ensure we can provide our athletes with the best possible environment to excel at the Games.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and successful Games.

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Team Scotland to step out in style at the Commonwealth Games

Team Scotland is set to step out in style at the Opening Ceremony, with its new parade uniform created in collaboration with bespoke tartan manufacturers House of Edgar and multi-award winning Scottish fashion designer Siobhan Mackenzie.

The exciting new look was unveiled at The Gleneagles Hotel, where the ‘glorious playground’ provided the perfect backdrop for the occasion, with track and field stars Lynsey Sharp and Andrew Butchart taking centre stage.

The 2018 tartan was designed by Team Scotland athlete representatives, working closely with House of Edgar of Perth. The cloth was woven at their Isle Mill in Keith and the men’s kilts manufactured at their Paisley factory. It reflects Team Scotland’s brand colours (blue, purple, magenta and green) with the use of green also an acknowledgement of Australia’s traditional sportswear colour.

To ensure that the women’s outfit showcases a mix of tradition but with a modern twist, Team Scotland commissioned 24 year old Siobhan Mackenzie – named ‘Best New Scottish Designer 2016’ to create a stunning new look.

Siobhan has been particularly keen to demonstrate how the contemporary kilt she has designed, with the tartan cut on the bias on the front and vibrant purple pleats on the back, not only creates a fabulous parade uniform for Team Scotland’s women, but will work well afterwards as a beautiful evening outfit and for on-trend casual wear.

Lynsey Sharp, who memorably battled back from illness to win silver in the 800m at Glasgow 2014 was thrilled to model the new women’s kilt and said: “The parade uniform is always a huge talking point and brings everyone together and makes you feel like one team. It will be fantastic to see everyone wearing it together at the Games.”

Sadly, Dunblane’s Andy Butchart has since been forced to withdraw from Team Scotland with a foot injury sustained whilst preparing for the Games in the USA. We wish him a speedy recovery and we know he will be cheering the team on.

In tune with the relaxed Gold Coast style and to suit the warm weather conditions, the kilts will be worn with a bespoke matching polo shirt produced by kit suppliers PSL.

As the last Commonwealth Games hosts, Scotland will be the first team to march into the Carrara Stadium on 4 April for the Opening Ceremony.
Team Scotland – ones to watch

AQUATICS
The 25-strong Swimming team includes three defending Commonwealth champions, Hannah Miley, Ross Murdoch and Dan Wallace, whilst Para-Sport swimmers Toni Shaw (14) and Beth Johnston will both make their Games debuts, with Toni the youngest member of Team Scotland.

Duncan Scott is now a seasoned campaigner on the international stage. With relay medals at Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth level to his name, he is one to watch, as he goes in four individual and three relay events. Four divers complete the Aquatics line-up, with Grace Reid contesting her third Games at just 21 years old and James Heatly will make his second Games appearance.

BADMINTON
With Scotland recently drawn alongside top seeds India in the Mixed Team Event, eight players are selected, four of whom competed in Glasgow.

Paralympic medallist Maria Lyle and Amy Carr, also 18, who won three medals at last year’s World Junior Championships.

ATHLETICS
Scotland’s track and field athletes have gone from strength to strength since Glasgow 2014, with record representation at Olympic, Paralympic and World level. This Gold Coast team sees 22 athletes raring to go. Eilidh Doyle will compete for a third successive Commonwealth Games medal over the 400m hurdles, with 800m runner Lynsey Sharp and hammer thrower Mark Dry, also aiming to replicate their 2014 podium finishes. Whilst on the road, Callum Hawkins’ record equalling fourth place in the 2017 World Championship Marathon, makes him one to watch on the final day of the Games.

Para-athlete Sammi Kinghorn steps up in distance at these Games, to tackle the 1500m and Marathon. At just 21 years old she is the senior member of a strong Scottish trio in the Para-Sport events, joined by 18-year-old Rio 2016 Paralympic medallist Maria Lyle and Amy Carr, also 18, who won three medals at last year’s World Junior Championships.

BASKETBALL
Basketball will make its return to the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 2006. The team will get their Commonwealth campaign underway in Townsville on 5 April, with a crucial game against England, before facing Cameroon and India in their other Pool B matches.

Glasgow Rocks and GB Basketball star, Gareth Murray, is the only returning Scot from 2006, whilst fellow Rocks team-mate, GB Basketball captain and London 2012 Olympian, Kieron Achara will make his Games debut, after missing out through injury last time round.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL
Beach Volleyball makes its Games debut at Gold Coast 2018. Men’s pair, Seain Cook and Robin Miedzybrodzki posted an impressive win at the official qualifying tournament in Cyprus to book their place in the 12-team competition. They will be joined at the stunning beachfront venue by teammates Lynne Beattie and Melissa Coutts. The women’s pair has a strong international pedigree and Lynne was captain of the indoor Volleyball team at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

BOXING
As the only sport to have won medals at every Games since they began in 1930, our boxers have an impressive track record to live up to. Boxing will field an 11-strong team, with Vicky Glover and Megan Gordon becoming the first Scottish women to take to the ring at a Commonwealth Games.

Silver medallist in Singles on that occasion, Kirsty Gilmour (pictured above) goes in her third Commonwealth Games and will be in the medal hunt once again, with the Rio 2016 Olympics, two European Championships silver medals and a first Scottish Open title the highlights of her recent success.

Also making his third Games appearance is Kieran Merrilees in the Men’s Singles, while Men’s Doubles pairing Martin Campbell and Patrick MacHugh return from Glasgow 2014.

Bronze medallist at Glasgow 2014, Reece McFadden returns to Team Scotland and is joined by fellow 2014 representatives Aqeel Ahmed and Scott Forrest. Samoa 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games gold medallists, John Docherty and Sean Lazzerini make the step up into the senior team.

Glasgow Rocks and GB Basketball star, Gareth Murray, is the only returning Scot from 2006, whilst fellow Rocks team-mate, GB Basketball captain and London 2012 Olympian, Kieron Achara will make his Games debut, after missing out through injury last time round.

Duncan Scott ready for the duel in the pool

A Scotch girl in the pool
CYCLING

Olympic champions Katie Archibald and Callum Skinner head a list of 15 cyclists, with fellow Olympian, Mountain Biker Grant Ferguson, also selected. Tandem pairing Aileen McGlynn and Louise Haston take to the boards once again, after double silver in Glasgow, while Neil Fachie teams up with Matt Rotherham in the Men’s Tandem events, looking to defend both titles he won four years ago.

There is also a raft of young talent on the track with Jack Carlin, Mark Stewart, Jonathan Wale and Neah Evans all medallists on the World Cup circuit in the past two years and Carlin and Stewart fresh from World Championship success. John Archibald, elder brother to Katie, also makes the team, following a rapid rise on the track following a switch from the road.

GYMNASTICS

Scotland fields a full strength squad in Artistic Gymnastics. World and Olympic medallist Dan Purvis (pictured below) and reigning British Floor and Vault champion, Frank Baines are the returning members of the team which won a historic silver medal in the Team Event at Glasgow 2014.

They are joined by three 19 year-old rising stars; 2017 Scottish All-Around champion Kelvin Cham, double British Championship medallist Hamish Carter and David Weir, who won seven medals at last year’s Scottish Championships. After a fifth place in the Team Event in Glasgow, Cara Kennedy leads a women’s team which features some exciting young talent.

HOCKEY

Scotland take to the field in both the Men’s and Women’s Hockey competitions. Scotland’s men took an outstanding victory in the 2017 EuroHockey Challenge II and go into Gold Coast set on bettering their eighth place finish from Glasgow.

Scotland’s men took an outstanding victory in the 2017 EuroHockey Challenge II and go into Gold Coast set on bettering their eighth place finish from Glasgow.

There is a wealth of experience in the squad with Kenny Bain, Alan Forsyth, William Marshall and Gordon McIntyre all selected for their third Games.

LAWN BOWLS

Alex ‘Tattie’ Marshall MBE will make his sixth Commonwealth Games appearance and hopes to add to his tally of four gold medals, which include both Pairs and Fours titles at Glasgow 2014. He will be joined by two fellow Glasgow gold medallists; Paul Foster MBE, who won Pairs and Fours gold with Marshall and 2014 Singles champion Darren Burnett.

The women’s team will be looking for their first medal since 2006 and Caroline Brown and Claire Johnston each return for a third Games. Pairs silver medallist from 2006, Kay Moran returns to the team and now living in Australia, will look to make her local knowledge count.

The pair has already experienced success on the Gold Coast greens, taking silver at the 2016 Eight Nations Championships.

NETBALL

Netball select an exciting squad of 12 players, with an even split of youth and experience. Six return from the Glasgow 2014 team, including captain Claire Brownie, vice-captain Lynsey Gallagher and stalwart Hayley Mulheron, who has over 100 caps. The debutants include three teenagers, with Niamh McCaill, the first player born in the 2000s to receive a senior cap.

They have had a recent confidence boost with news of a move up to ninth place in the latest World rankings.

RUGBY SEVENS

Gold Coast promises to deliver another thrilling Rugby Sevens tournament. Captain, Scott Riddell – Scotland’s most capped sevens player in history – and Lee Jones are among the most experienced sevens exponents in the squad, approaching their third Commonwealth Games.

The Scots face Papua New Guinea and Malaysia before a potential group decider against South Africa in Pool A, from which only the top-ranked team will advance to the semi-finals for a chance to take home a medal.
Full bore shooter, Ian Shaw becomes the second Team Scotland athlete to make his sixth Commonwealth Games appearance and the two-time Games medallist will want to replicate his medal winning form from the 2017 Commonwealth Championships, held at the competition venue in Brisbane.

Five time Commonwealth Games medallist Jen McIntosh and younger sister Seonaid (pictured above) will also be in the medal hunt after an impressive European Championships last year. Both sisters claimed an individual and team gold and went on to the Commonwealth Championships finishing first and second in the Prone event, with Seonaid also claiming gold in the 3 Position.

With a full set of medals to his name from previous Games, Neil Stirton will be have his sights set on a return to the podium, while Caroline Brownlie makes her third Games appearance in the Pistol discipline.

20-year-old Aedan Evans, finalist at the 2017 World Junior Championships, heads a list of seven shooters making their debut.

Five Squash players will be looking to court success on the Gold Coast and secure Scotland's first Squash medal for 20 years. Alan Clyne and Greg Lobban will undoubtedly bring their huge experience to bear at the Oxenford Studios. Clyne in particular is determined to make it third time lucky in Gold Coast, having finished fourth in Men's Doubles at both Delhi 2010 and Glasgow 2014.

In their first major tournament together, they claimed World Doubles Championship gold in 2016. Defending that title in 2017, the pair had to settle for silver and, with Australia taking gold in a reverse of the result from 2016, the scene is now set for an epic showdown.

A four-strong Wrestling team sees Glasgow 2014 bronze medallists Alex Gladkov and Viorel Etko return to the mat in Gold Coast. They are joined by Commonwealth Championships bronze medallist, Ross Connelly and British Open champion, Joe Hendry, a convert from the professional arm of the sport.

Better known as a 10,000m track athlete, competing at both the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and 2017 World Championships, Beth Potter makes her Commonwealth Games debut as a triathlete and will become the first Scottish athlete to compete in two sports at a single Games

She will be joined by 17 year old Erin Wallace (pictured above), who won gold in the 1500m at the 2017 Commonwealth Youth Games and who is also proving a success in Triathlon. On the men’s side, there is a return to Team Scotland for Marc Austin and Grant Sheldon. Austin, memorably thrilled the home crowd during Glasgow 2014 as part of a three-man breakaway with the Brownlee brothers. All four will combine in the fast-paced Mixed Team Relay.

Para-Triathlon makes its debut. Since being paralysed from the chest down in a climbing accident, the Inverness based athletes has pushed herself in an incredible series of challenges, alongside her sporting endeavours, all using just the power of her arms.

All four weightlifters make their Games debut following an encouraging Commonwealth Championships. Former World and European record breaking powerlifter Lisa Tobias posted the top Scottish result coming fifth in the 48kg category. She is joined by British silver medallist Jodey Hughes, 2015 Australian Champion, Scott Wilson and Scottish U23 record holder Zach Courtayne.

Powerlifter Mickey Yule is selected for his second Games in the Heavyweight division. The first British athlete to win gold at the 2016 Invictus Games, he has had an injury hit 2017, but is now on the comeback trail, aiming to recapture the form that places him second on the Commonwealth rankings.

In Table Tennis, Perth's Gavin Rumgay returns to Team Scotland for a fourth Commonwealth Games, having taken a record-equalling 12th Scottish Championship Singles title in 2017. He is joined by Craig Howieson, making his third Games appearance and 23-year-old Colin Dalgleish, who represented Great Britain at the 2017 World University Games and will make his Team Scotland debut. Each will play in the Singles and Team event, with Rumgay and Howieson teaming up once again in the Doubles.
Topics ranging from travel, acclimatisation and health, to social media best practice, living in the Athletes’ Village and performing at a multi-sport Games were all on the agenda. Team members also had the opportunity to hear from past athletes, as they shared their experiences and passed on their top tips for a successful Games, before the day ended with the all-important collection of the team kit.

The other important business of the day, was the opportunity for each sport to vote to decide who would have the honour of being Team Scotland’s flagbearer for the Games Opening Ceremony. There was an impressive shortlist of three: 400m hurdler Eilidh Doyle, who has won medals at the last two Games; Shooter Jennifer McIntosh, Scotland’s most decorated female Commonwealth Games athlete; and Lawn Bowls double gold medal winning duo from Glasgow 2014, Alex Marshall and Paul Foster.

The result of the vote will be announced at the Team reception on the Gold Coast on Monday 2 April.

Jon Doig OBE, Team Scotland Chef de Mission said: “Today has been a fantastic opportunity for athletes and staff to get to know each other and come together as one team before heading to Australia over the next few weeks. The information they have received will stand them in great stead for Gold Coast and we hope they leave inspired and ready to perform with distinction, as we aim for our best overseas Games.”

The Team Camp was also supported by a host of willing volunteers, Team sponsors and suppliers. Representatives of compression supplier Medi UK were on hand to measure the team for flight socks, whilst The Park Practice gave advice on maintaining dental health and measured contact sport athletes for mouth guards.

Official charity partner Save a Life ran a workshop, teaching vital CPR skills as part of its drive to equip an additional 500,000 people with CPR skills by 2020. Aileen Campbell MSP, Minister for Public Health and Sport led the way along with Team Scotland athletes, swimmer Ross Murdoch, Hockey player Rebecca Condie and Netball player Jo Pettit. Rebecca and Jo are both huge advocates of CPR, being involved in the medical profession in their careers outside sport.

It will soon be the turn of the Sunshine Coast to host Scotland’s Team Camp Australia based at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort. A huge thank you to sportscotland, our Team Camp staff and our colleagues at Sunshine Coast Council and University of the Sunshine Coast for all their hard work preparing for the team’s arrival.
This exciting initiative is part of the Team’s acknowledgement and mark of respect for the First Nations peoples of Australia and specifically the Yugambeh people of South East Queensland, embracing the Games Organising Committee’s (GOLDOC) Reconciliation Action Plan.

Team Chef de Mission, Jon Doig OBE, explained: “When we prepare for each Games, we like to connect with the host country’s culture in the true spirit of the ‘Friendly Games’ and express this in the imagery and branding used within our team area of the Village and for Scotland House.

“Following an introduction from GOLDOC during one of our planning visits, we have been working with Leeton to develop a meaningful piece of original artwork, which our design agency Brand Oath has then incorporated into a stunning range of branding and promotional materials.

“We are thrilled with what he has created and how in-keeping with indigenous culture, it tells the story of our journey to Gold Coast to join the rest of the Commonwealth and the local Australian communities for the Games. It beautifully illustrates the connection between our two countries and our enthusiasm for participating in these Games.”

Talking about the collaboration, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist, Leeton Lee, said: “I am very excited to have been approached to design the story for Team Scotland and tell their journey through my art. I was also happy to know that part of the reason for the use of Aboriginal art was as an acknowledgement to the First Nations peoples here in Australia.”

You can find out more about Leeton’s work and products at www.leetsdreaming.com
Team Scotland photography

For a second Games in a row, Team Scotland has teamed up with Glasgow photographers Stuart Gray and Alistair Devine to showcase individual sports through iconic athlete photos and create another stunning group image, part of which features on the front cover of this Games edition of Countdown.

With the beach theme set to play a huge part in this year’s Commonwealth Games, we chose our own ‘Gold Coast’ - Elie Beach in Fife, as the impressive backdrop. The photograph will be widely used on the team’s branding and promotional materials for Gold Coast 2018, along with the striking image of the parade uniform also shot by Alistair Devine.

The Team will get a first glimpse of the new branding when they depart from Glasgow Airport, which has have come on board as an official Team Scotland supporter. In addition to in-airport branding they are providing lounge access for the team as they wait to board the Emirates flight bound for Brisbane via Dubai.

Connect with the Team and show your support

Having the support of everyone back home is hugely important to our athletes, as they strive to have their most successful ever overseas Games.

Our communications team will be working round the clock to take you behind the scenes and give you an insight into what it means to be part of Team Scotland. So follow the action via: @Team_Scotland on Twitter and Instagram or @TeamScotlandCGS on Facebook.

Share your own games experience with the team using the hashtags: #TeamScot2018 and #ImaTeamScot

As well as finding lots of useful information and the latest news on our website, along with a download for our team media guide, you can also post your photo messages of support: www.teamscotland.scot/supporters/show-your-support

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Guy Learmonth and Mairi Drummond model the kit

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