



**BATON DECORATION -
KING'S BATON RELAY
SCOTLAND LEG**
OPEN CALL

1. INTRODUCTION

Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) is seeking a designer who can create an inspiring and creative decoration for Scotland's King's Baton, as part of the Commonwealth Sport King's Baton Relay for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.

For the first time ever, every Commonwealth nation and territory will receive their own Baton for their celebrations and have been asked to customise and decorate this Baton to represent their culture.

Scotland's Baton will travel the country from 1st July, driving excitement and anticipation for Glasgow 2026 in communities across the nation.

All 74 Batons will be reunited at the Opening Ceremony of Glasgow 2026, where the Scotland Baton will be presented to His Majesty and the message read aloud to declare the Games open.

2. ABOUT US

CGS is responsible for selecting, preparing and leading Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games. Team Scotland has attended, and won medals at, every Commonwealth Games since the first in 1930, enjoying best-ever performances in 2014, 2018 and 2022.

Our vision is for Team Scotland and the Commonwealth Games to inspire Scotland to be physically active and successful in the sporting arena. We are a member sports organisation comprising 29 sports, with our central focus on:

- Enabling athletes to perform to their potential.
- Recognising and celebrating the hard work and achievements which make the country proud and utilising this profile to benefit sport and Scotland.
- Achieving this in a fair and inclusive way.

Our values are:



- Athlete-centred: Athletes at the heart of what we do.
- Excellence: Aspire to deliver excellence in our actions.
- Leadership: Lead through a participative 'One Team Scotland' approach.
- Inspiration: Promote the achievements of team members to inspire others.
- Inclusion: People respected, engaged and valued as part of the Team Scotland community, regardless of their background, identity or circumstance.

3. ABOUT THE GLASGOW 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Commonwealth Games are held every four years, attracting athletes from 74 nations, representing a third of the world's population, to compete across a variety of sports over an 11-day sporting schedule. It is the only multi-sport event in the world which operates a fully integrated para-sport competition. The Commonwealth Games is known as 'The Friendly Games' – a celebration of commonality and diversity as well as top class sport.

Glasgow 2026 promises an altogether brilliant Commonwealth Games, paving the way for a new era of Commonwealth Sport.

Taking place from 23 July to 2 August, Glasgow 2026 is an 11-day celebration that combines world-class sport with a future-focused vision, built and delivered by the vibrant spirit of Glasgow.

Set within a concentrated, eight-mile corridor that brings the Games closer to the fans than ever before, Glasgow 2026 will deliver:

- A record-breaking Para sport programme – 47 events across six sports
- The biggest Track Cycling, Swimming and 3x3 Basketball competitions seen at a Commonwealth Games
- Groundbreaking events like the return of the Commonwealth Mile in Athletics
- 10 exhilarating sports across four of the city's iconic venues; from Scotstoun Stadium to the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome and Arena, to Tollcross International Swimming Centre.



Glasgow 2026 will see 3,000 volunteers, alongside thousands of fans, and communities from across the city join together to welcome 3,000 athletes from 74 nations and territories to the city.

4. ABOUT THE KBR

The KBR began at Buckingham Palace on Commonwealth Day, Monday 10 March 2025, when His Majesty The King placed His Message to the Commonwealth that will be carried as part of the Relay into the first Baton.

The KBR is a tradition that celebrates, connects and excites communities from across the Commonwealth during the build-up to the Games and the journey to Glasgow 2026 will take 500 days and reach every corner of the Commonwealth.

For the first time ever, every Commonwealth nation and territory will receive their own Baton for their celebrations and have been asked to customise and decorate this Baton to represent their culture. All 74 batons will be reunited at the Opening Ceremony of Glasgow 2026, where the final Baton will be presented to His Majesty and the Message read aloud to declare the Games open.

For the first time as part of the KBR, Commonwealth Sport is partnering with the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) to deliver the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Plastics Campaign – bringing much-needed attention to both ongoing ocean conservation efforts and interesting new solutions to plastic waste.

The campaign aim is for athletes and communities to come together to prevent one million pieces of plastic from entering Commonwealth waters and spark lasting change in how we view plastic pollution, with this global relay of plastic clean-ups journeying through every Commonwealth nation and territory as part of the KBR.

As the Commonwealth Games Association (CGA) for Scotland, we are responsible for the delivery of the KBR activity in our territory.

5. KBR – SCOTLAND LEG

The KBR activity has been reimagined for the 2026 iteration, with key features including:



- A hub and spoke delivery model, with the delivery team based in Glasgow and travelling each day to events across Scotland, rather than a continuous route around the country.
- The baton will visit existing events and activities, and incorporate activation within existing event plans rather than batonbearers continuously running through the streets. Events will be drawn from those registered through the Games' All In programme (<https://www.glasgow2026.com/get-involved/be-all-in>).
- Events should be a celebration of Scottish sport and past/present/future athletes, the Commonwealth and the environment. We will also be servicing sponsor and charity partner visits.
- Batonbearers will be predominantly selected with event hosts and incorporated into activity. We won't be running an open Batonbearer nomination process.

The process for batonbearers, and attending established events over a dedicated programme of activity, is consistent with past delivery of baton relay activity in Scotland ahead of the Gold Coast 2018 and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

6. **KBR SCOTLAND - OBJECTIVES**

CGS objectives for the KBR include:

- Increase and strengthen support for Team Scotland, Glasgow 2026 and the Commonwealth Sport movement.
- Showcase Scotland's athletes and Scottish sport.
- Engage with communities across Scotland.
- Achieve a memorable and impactful KBR leg, that reflects positively on Scotland as a host.
- Design a baton that reflects the nation well at the Opening Ceremony, being the focal point of an event watched by millions across the world.
- Deliver our obligations as host CGA for baton activity, including sponsor activations and the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Plastics Campaign.

Wider objectives and opportunities include:

- Drive anticipation and excitement for Glasgow 2026 with a drumbeat of content in the immediate build-up.
- Provide high-quality opportunities for public participation and celebrate diverse communities across Scotland.



- Showcase Scotland as a world-class visitor destination through media and social media activity.
- Celebration of community sport and volunteers.
- Consistent look and feel of policing, appropriate to the size and scale of event.

7. ABOUT THE BATON

For the first time ever, every Commonwealth nation and territory will receive their own Baton for their celebrations and have been asked to customise and decorate this Baton to represent their culture.

All 74 Batons will be reunited at the Opening Ceremony of Glasgow 2026, where the Scotland Baton will be presented to His Majesty and the message read aloud to declare the Games open.

Inspired by the three Commonwealth Sport values - Humanity, Equality, Destiny - three interlocking pieces of sustainably sourced ash (a hardwood from Scotland) come together to create the Baton's form. The negative spaces where the three pieces come together are a strong design feature – representing Commonwealth connections.

In a break with recent tradition and like the first ever Queen's Baton Relay in Cardiff in 1958, the Baton takes more of a traditional baton shape. It is simple and sustainable – with no complex electronics or chambers, and is a blank canvas, enabling the final design of each Baton to be crafted by the nation or territory it belongs to.

The Scotland Baton will contain a chamber for the King's Message. The King placed His Message into the Baton on 10th March 2025 when he launched the King's Baton Relay at Buckingham Palace. This Baton contains a cork chamber closure, emblazoned with a Saltire of wood, which will keep The Message safe and hidden until it is retrieved in July 2026.

Each of the other Batons has one single word from The King's Message engraved onto it, taking the message far and wide across the Commonwealth until the full message is reunited at the Opening Ceremony for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.

The word on Scotland's Baton is 'GATHER' – we would encourage artists to consider this as part of their inspiration for the Baton design.



The Baton has been specially designed, engineered and handmade in Glasgow by skilled makers from a social enterprise named Galgael and master craftsman Tim Norman. The Baton design celebrates the beauty of local natural, sustainable materials and creates a beautiful blank canvas for customisation.

The Baton stands at around 470mm high and each face around 70mm wide.

Each end is tapered to allow two people to hold the Baton at the same time, creating moments of connection throughout the King's Baton Relay and across the Commonwealth.

This will be one of the lightest Batons ever created at around 800 grams, creating a more accessible Baton for the King's Baton Relay.

8. YOUR ROLE

We are looking for a designer to design and decorate the three sides of the Scotland Baton.

We are open to all creative concepts and are not prescriptive over what should be included, though would expect submissions to be considerate of the themes of:

- Scotland and Scottish Sport
- The Commonwealth
- The word GATHER, which appears on the Baton.

Examples of decoration from other Commonwealth Nations can be found here: <https://www.commonwealthsport.com/kings-baton-relay/route>

9. PROJECT BUDGET

The winning designer will receive a £7,000 commission – please note material costs are inclusive of this.

Applicants selected for pitching stage will receive £500 for their research, development time and visualisation work.



10. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested parties are invited to submit a proposal document detailing:

- A design CV detailing current awards, commissions, exhibitions and design achievements
- Portfolio of relevant previous work
- A maximum of 250 words describing your design approach, and a description of your initial decoration concept for the Scotland Baton
- A maximum of 250 words describing your motivation for winning this commission
- Declarations of interest - please detail any existing relationships with employees, contractors or member organisations (see Appendix 1) of CGS, including details of work carried out by your company on their behalf

11. PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Our process schedule is as follows:

- Completed submission should be returned to Team Scotland by **midday on Thursday 12th March**
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their expression of interest by **Friday 20th March**
- Successful applicants at this stage will receive:
 - o Further guidance to support them in developing their design concept for the Scotland Baton.
 - o An invitation to pitch their design response to a selected panel.
- The winning designer will be selected at the end of this process.
- The final, decorated baton should be delivered no later than **Monday 1st June.**

12. SUBMISSION DETAILS

The completed submission should be sent to:

- KBR@teamsotland.scot or KBR, Commonwealth Games Scotland, Airthrey Castle, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA

CGS may not consider any late submissions, or which does not meet any of the other requirements set out in this document.

CGS is not bound to accept any submissions.



APPENDIX 1 – CGS MEMBER SPORTS

Scottish Archery	Paddle Scotland
Scottish Athletics	RYA Scotland
Badminton Scotland	Scottish Rowing
basketballscotland	Scottish Rugby
Bowls Scotland	Scottish Target Shooting
Boxing Scotland	Scottish Squash
Cricket Scotland	Scottish Swimming
Scottish Cycling	Scottish Ten Pin Bowling Association
Scottish Disability Sport	Table Tennis Scotland
Scottish Fencing	Tennis Scotland
Scottish Golf	Triathlon Scotland
Scottish Gymnastics	Scottish Volleyball
Scottish Hockey	Weightlifting Scotland
Judo Scotland	Scottish Wrestling
Netball Scotland	

