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Delhi looks to add tennis and snooker to Games

RICHARD MOORE IN MELBOURNE

THE PROSPECT of Andy Murray representing Scotland at the Commonwealth Games was raised yesterday when the 2010 host city, New Delhi, proposed that tennis be added to the programme in four years. The Indian city submitted their suggested programme of sports at yesterday's meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) in Melbourne.

As well as tennis, Delhi has proposed that archery, snooker and billiards also be added, with the triathlon, introduced at the Manchester Games four years ago, dropped from the programme. If accepted, it would mean that the Delhi Games would comprise 18 sports, two more than will feature in the Melbourne Games, which open on Wednesday.

A vote on Delhi's proposed programme was expected yesterday, but Mike Hooper, Chief Executive of the CGF, said after the meeting that the decision will not now be taken until "the end of the first quarter of 2007". Hooper added that the number of core sports - currently five - is also under consideration as part of a wider review being conducted by the CGF sports committee.

There is no cap on the number of sports in a Games," said Hooper. "But it may well be that we do introduce a cap. We may also look to have more than five core sports." Currently those are aquatics, athletics, lawn bowls, rugby sevens and netball. "Delhi put a submission to us in January," said Hooper, who refuted the suggestion that voting had been deferred at yesterday's meeting, which overran by more than two hours as the CGF discussed Delhi's proposals.

What will happen now is that the sports committee will provide us with a report and a decision will be made at the end of the first quarter of 2007."

Prior to the meeting, the Delhi organisers admitted defeat in their bid to include cricket.

"We keep asking the Board of Control for Cricket in India to confirm whether they want to be part of the Games," said Suresh Kalmadi, chairman of the 2010 Games Organising Committee. "But they have no time to answer our question. Maybe they are just not interested."

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