



## Media Release

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### Nine Wrestlers Named for Glasgow Commonwealth Games

The Australian Commonwealth Games Association is pleased to announce the nine athletes who will represent Australia in wrestling at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Three wrestlers return from the team which contested the previous Commonwealth Games in Delhi four years ago. Australia won three medals then – one in freestyle wrestling and two in Greco-Roman.

Only freestyle wrestling is on the program in Glasgow and Australia's only medallist in that style – Emily Bensted in the women's 55kg division, is not in the team this time around.

In another change, new weight categories were adopted earlier this year, prompting some shuffling of competitors between divisions both in Australia and internationally.

Thirty-three year old Ali Abdo (86kg) is the veteran of the team, having competed in three Olympic Games in Sydney, Athens and Beijing.

Gene Kapauks (97kg) is the highest-ranked returnee from the Delhi team. He reached the semi-finals of the 84kg division then, losing to the eventual gold medallist and then losing the bronze medal bout.

Shane Parker (57kg) and Mehrdad Tarash (65kg) are also back for a second Games team. Parker competed in Greco-Roman four years ago, but has made the switch to freestyle for his second Games team.

Tarash is the youngest of three Iranian-born brothers. The middle brother, Farzad, represented Australia at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Jayden Lawrence (74kg) is the youngest male member of the team and, barring injury, will go on to compete at World junior championships in Croatia after the Commonwealth Games.

Former South African, Deon Swart (61kg), competes in his first Commonwealth Games.

A trio of first-timers, Indian-born Rupinder Kaur (53kg), 20-year-old Carissa Holland (58kg) and Stevie Grace Kelly (63kg) will represent Australia in the women's competition. Kelly is a convert from judo to wrestling.

Wrestling in Glasgow will be conducted at the SECC Precinct on 29-31 July.

#### The Australia wrestling team for the Commonwealth Games:

##### Men

Shane Parker (57kg)  
Deon Swart (61kg)  
Mehrdad Tarash (65kg)  
Jayden Lawrence (74kg)  
Ali Abdo (86kg)  
Gene Kapauks (97kg)

##### Women

Rupinder Kaur (53kg)  
Carissa Holland (58kg)  
Stevie Grace Kelly (63kg)

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