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MEDIA STATEMENT

Malaysian Golf Association (MGA)

Clarification on Malaysia's Non-Participation in Golf at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026

The Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) has taken note of the concerns and questions raised by members of the golfing community following the announcement that Malaysia will not be represented in golf at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026.

MGA fully understands the disappointment felt by golfers, parents, coaches and supporters, as we share the same aspiration of seeing Malaysian golfers compete on the Asian Games stage.

We wish to clarify that Malaysia's non-participation in golf was the result of the performance-based selection criteria established by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS).

The selection of athletes for the Asian Games is governed by the Selection Criteria for the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026, which were approved by KBS and implemented through the National Selection Committee comprising representatives from KBS, the National Sports Council (MSN) and the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM).

For public understanding, KBS classifies eligible athletes into two categories:

Category A

- Athletes must demonstrate a performance equivalent to placing among the Top Four (4) Asian countries in their respective event.
- Athletes selected under Category A are fully funded by KBS to participate in the Asian Games.

Category B

- Athletes must demonstrate a performance equivalent to placing Fifth or Sixth (5th/6th) among Asian countries.
- Athletes selected under Category B may be considered for participation, with the cost of participation to be borne by the respective National Sports Association (NSA), subject to the approval of the National Selection Committee.

For golf, which is classified as a measurable individual sport, these benchmarks are assessed by comparing an athlete's performance against the required Asian standard, including the performance equivalent to the fourth-place finisher at the previous Asian Games or recognised international performances achieved during the qualification period from January 2025 to May 2026.

Following the evaluation process, none of Malaysia's nominated amateur and professional golfers met the prescribed Category A or Category B performance benchmarks required under the KBS Selection Criteria. Consequently, no golfer was eligible for selection to represent Malaysia at the 2026 Asian Games.

While this outcome is understandably disappointing, MGA respects the national selection process and remains fully committed to strengthening Malaysia's high-performance pathway. Through the National Team Pathway Programme, National Amateur Development Programme (NADP), the National Junior Development Programme (NJDP), expanded World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) tournaments, enhanced international exposure, MGA will continue working closely with KBS, MSN, OCM and all stakeholders to develop golfers capable of achieving the required performance standards for future Asian Games and other major international championships.

We appreciate the continued support of the Malaysian golfing community and hope this clarification provides a better understanding of the national selection process and the respective roles of the organisations involved.

Malaysian Golf Association