



INNOVATIVE OCEANIA NEPALI SPORTS MEET 2023 CANBERRA

PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 19, 2023

It is a great pleasure to announce that the fifth edition of the Oceania Nepali Sports Meet (ONSM) tournament concludes with HUGE SUCCESS.

The tournament, held from Friday 7 to Monday 10 April 2023 in Canberra, the capital city of Australia, was coordinated by the ONSM Coordination Committee that has members from across Australia and New Zealand.

The event, popularly dubbed as “Nepali mini-Olympics” within the Nepalese diaspora in the Oceania region was a fun-filled 4-day long sporting extravaganza where over 700 Athletes from across Australia and New Zealand competed in 10 sports, including #GOLF, #BADMINTON, #TENNIS, #TABLETENNIS, #5KMRUN, #SWIMMING, #BASKETBALL, #VOLLEYBALL, #SOCCER, #CRICKET.

Following are the high lights:

1. Longest running campaign to host the event in Canberra since 2018
2. First time the ONSM is exposed to national stage. Credit goes to Mr [Craig Foster](#), AM for his support and graceful presence in the award ceremony.
3. First time, a member of the Indigenous community participated and performed acknowledgement of country and played traditional instrument Didgeridoo on the opening and closing ceremony
4. Swimming was included for the first time in the list of sports
5. Title sponsors were secured for all 10 sports
6. Large contingent of second-generation athletes took part in the tournament including a second-generation title sponsor for Basketball
7. Athletes from nine jurisdictions (eight States and Territories of Australia and New Zealand) participated in the events
8. Largest contingent to date participated from Tasmania and Western Australia
9. A six-digit budget needed for the first time to host the event
10. Live streaming of events for the first time
11. photography and videography full coverage of the event at all 10 sports venues
12. Two jurisdictions, NSW and ACT have athletes participating in all 10 sports
13. NSW secured the highest number of medals followed by VIC and ACT

Friday (7th April) the first day of the tournament saw heavy rain across Canberra so the cricket game scheduled at Lyneham grounds was called off due to wet condition. The Lawn Tennis scheduled in Western Creek was also cancelled but we were able to secure an indoor venue at Tennis Australia in Lyneham.

Adverse weather conditions and overwhelming participation that forced us to change few venues in the eleventh hours was challenging to manage but the agile team ACT promptly adapted to the evolving situations and held the opening ceremony at the greyhound Race Course with a BANG in the evening of the first day. The spectacular opening was witnessed by 600+ players, guests and performers. H.E. Mr Kailash Raj Pokharel graced the opening ceremony as the Chief Guest.

Saturday (8th April) the second day of the tournament saw commencement of the most of the sports as the rain cleared in Canberra. The cricket resumed its game at the scheduled grounds in Lyneham. The Lawn Tennis moved to the scheduled venue at Western Creek in the afternoon after the indoor game in the morning. Additionally, Badminton and Soccer games commenced at AIS, Golf in Gungahlin, Volleyball in Wanniasa, and Basketball in Tuggeranong.

On the sideline in the evening of the second day, the Special General Meeting was held in Flynn. The ONSM Coordination Committee (OCC) members and Sports Coordinators attended the SGM where closing ceremony, the next ONSM host in 2025, issues required to be tabled and addressed before the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July including challenges of ONSM for its sustainability and handover process to the next host were discussed.

Sunday (9th April) the third day of the tournament saw continuation of the sports started on the second day. Additionally, Table Tennis and Swimming commenced at Kingston and Gungahlin respectively. By the evening of the third day, all the games, except the Cricket concluded.

Monday (10th April) the fourth day of the tournament saw the semi-final and final games of the Cricket. Additionally in the morning, 5KM run was conducted at the beautiful Lake Burley-Griffin.

The incredible tournament culminated in the evening of the fourth day with a closing ceremony that featured gala dinner, medals distribution and cultural performances including acknowledgment of country and Didgeridoo instrumental by a member of the local indigenous community in Canberra. The ceremony was attended by former Socceroo's captain Mr [Craig Foster](#), AM, H.E. Mr [Kailash Raj Pokharel](#) Nepalese Ambassador to Australia, Mr [David Smith MP](#), and Mr [Peter Cain](#) MLA. Other distinguished guests included Mr [Ben Thurley](#) INF Australia, Mr [Ashish Devkota](#) President [Australia-Nepal Friendship Society](#) and Mr [Nanda Gurung](#), President NRNA Australia.

It is fair to say that the ONSM 2023 tournament overall is a HUGE SUCCESS and that it achieved new heights and reached to national stage in Australia. The success story of the tournament will have rippling effect to reverberate and enthuse other multicultural communities to organise similar sporting events, drawing players, families and friends from across Australia and overseas. Sports unite people and communities. So, this will have a longer-term implication as the sporting events such as the ONSM has potential to bring together diverse ethnic groups and cross-cultural communities from across the Oceania region, promote community harmony, and enhance multiculturalism in the region. It is envisaged that, in the long run, this could also generate significant revenue supporting local businesses and creating local jobs.

The Nepalese community is vibrant and fast-growing but is relatively new. The ONSM is a unique initiative of its kind but is resource intensive and it brings a great deal of challenges. We are under-resourced financially and lacking adequate support from the government mechanisms. There is the

tremendous opportunity available to reach out to multi-ethics communities through the means of sports and we would like to draw the attention of all level of the governments to provide support for its professional development and sustainability.

SUCCESS of ONSM 2023 was all possible with dedicated sports coordinators from team ACT and uncountable volunteers led by Adarsha Jung Pandey, ACT Coordinator, Mahesh Bashistha, Deputy ACT Coordinator and Raj Kumar KC Overall sports Coordinator (refer to Table 1 below for details). Their unconditional support and invaluable contribution are acknowledged. HUGE shout outs to the teamACT. Also, the help and support provided remotely by Jabin Shrestha and Nabin Rayamajhy of NSW on all IT related matters including management of online registration process and regular website update is noted and highly appreciated. Support and guidance provided by the OCC members are duly acknowledged. Outstanding contributions made by the patrons from the beginning to date was duly recognised.

The event was organised in partnerships with Australia-Nepal Friendship Society Inc. (ANFS) and in association with the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) Australia. The tournament was supported by Canberra-based Nepalese sporting Clubs including the Football (Soccer) Club, the Cricket Club, the Volleyball Club and the Badminton Club and many other local community organisations in the region. The support and contribution from the host and the partners organisations spread across Australia and New Zealand is duly acknowledged (refer to Table 2 below for details).

Innovative Associates provided financial support as the tournament sponsor. Without this and 10 title sponsors for each sport, organising a mega-even of this nature is impossible. Financial support from all sponsors is duly acknowledged (refer to Table 3 below for details).

Similarly, the support and contribution provided by Media partners is duly acknowledged (refer to Table 4 below for details).

Overall medals tally in Table 5 shows that NSW is a clear tournament winner with 49 medals. The second place goes to VICTORIA with 22 medals while the third place goes to the host ACT with 20 medals. Medals tally for each sport is provided in Table 6. The winners and Runner-ups details for team sports (Basketball, cricket, Soccer & Volleyball) is provided in Table 7. The winners, 1st Runner-ups and 2nd Runner-ups details for individual sports is provided in Table 8 (Badminton, Lawn tennis & 5Km Run) and Table 9 (Golf, TT & Swimming). List of Founding members / patrons and State / Country Coordinators is provided in Table 10.

Started as the Nepalese Interstate Sports Meet (NISM) for the first three editions (2013 Sydney, 2014 Melbourne, 2016 Brisbane) and re-branded as the Oceania Nepali Sports Meet (ONSM) from the fourth edition (2018 Sydney), this sports meet is a biennial event.

The 5th edition of the event was originally planned for 2020 but postponed due to COVID-19. During the COVID years, we were unable to host the tournament, however we continued to work behind the scenes to progress the paper work for institutionalization of the ONSM with respect to the development of guiding principles, code of conduct, organizational structure, roles and responsibilities of committee members, and documentation of processes in the Tournament planning space.

Since the inception, the objectives have been geared towards communities and individuals:

- to improve health and fitness by promoting sporting events
- to provide a platform for organisations and individuals to connect and learn from each other
- to stimulate social harmony and interaction
- to inspire and support young sporting talent
- to promote business through partnerships and sponsorships
- to facilitate and build self-confidence and a healthy competitive spirit
- to encourage various sporting organisations to collaborate
- to encourage the younger generation to get involved and network with the previous generation through the means of sports and learn from their experiences
- to socialise and mingle with community sporting spirit.

It is hoped that this unique community initiative has the potential to spread over to all countries across the Oceania region (Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) and make a significant contribution in shaping multi-cultural landscape of the region.

The 6th edition of the ONSM tournament will be held in 2025 in Perth WA.

Team ACT will start preparation for the handover process to team WA by conducting an AGM by end of July 2023.

The team ACT looks forward to meeting you all in 2025.

Thank you.

[Adarsha Pandey](#)

President

Oceania Nepali Sports Meet (ONSM)

On behalf ONSM Coordination Committee

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[Dr DD Kandel](#)

Founding Member and Patron

Oceania Nepali Sports Meet (ONSM)

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Table 1: ONSM 2023 ACT Sports Coordinators

Sports	Coordinators	Deputy Coordinators
Volleyball	Jeevan Bakhunchhe	Gyanendra Thapa
Cricket	Samir Adhikari	Dipta Rijal
Soccer	Suraj Poudel	
Basketball	Adhishek Adhikari	Milan Puri
Badminton	Biswash Manandhar	Anup Chhetri
Tennis	Santosh Adhikari	
Table Tennis	Chudamani Sapkota (Gyanu) Recognised for Significant Contribution for the last 10 years (2013 – 2023)	Nabin Dahal
Golf	Abin Pyakurel	
Swimming	Vikas Shah Thakuri	Ejan Rajbhandari
5 KM Run	Dipendra Subedi	
OVERALL	Raj Kumar KC	

Note: ACT Coordinator: Adarsha Jung Pandey, Deputy ACT Coordinator: Mahesh Basishtha

Table 2: Host and partners organisations by jurisdictions that have supported ONSM 2023

States / Country	Community Based Organisations
ACT	Australia-Nepal Friendship Society (ANFS), Canberra
NSW	Nepalese Recreation Club (NRC), Sydney
VIC	Nepali Sports Association of VICTORIA (NSAV), Melbourne
QLD	Nepalese Association of Queensland (NAQ), Brisbane
SA	Adelaide Nepalese Cricket Association (ANCA), Adelaide
TAS	Nepalese Tasmania Sports Association (NTSA), Hobart
WA	Nepalese Association of Western Australia (NAWA), Perth
NT	Nepalese Association of Northern Territory (NANT), Darwin
NZ	Nepalese Association in BOP (NABOP), New Zealand
AUSTRALIA	NRNA Australia

Table 3: ONSM 2023 Sponsors

Sponsorship	Sponsoring Business / Organisation	Contact person
Tournament Sponsor	INNOVATIVE ASSOCIATES	Dila Kharel
Diamond sponsor	Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)	
Diamond sponsor	INF Australia	Ben Thurley
Platinum sponsor	Mid-city College Canberra	
Platinum sponsor	Barbeque Nation Canberra	
TITLS Sponsor - Volleyball	Aussie Finance & Home Loan (AFHL)	Raj Kumar KC
TITLS Sponsor - Cricket	Success Education and Visa Services (SEVS)	Adrasha Jung Pandey
TITLS Sponsor - Soccer	Grace International	Dipak Pandey
TITLS Sponsor - Basketball	mude	Shubham Kandel
TITLS Sponsor - Badminton	G1 Builder	Jeevan Rana
TITLS Sponsor - Tennis	Expert Education & Visa Services (EEVS)	Sagar Adhikari
TITLS Sponsor - Table Tennis	Dented Code	Prem Acharya
TITLS Sponsor - Golf	Active Care Disability Services (ACDS)	Pawan Panta
TITLS Sponsor - Swimming	RK Home Loan	Kamal Kunwar
TITLS Sponsor - 5 KM Run	The Battery Factory	Dipen Subedi

Table 4: Media and IT Partners that have supported ONSM 2023

Organisations	Contact Person	Jurisdiction
Nubik IT Solution	Nabin Rayamajhi	NSW
VOLUNTEER	Jabin Shrestha	NSW
VOLUNTEER	Ashish Sapkota	ACT
CMS Radio 91.1	Pradeep Timalisina	ACT
Mero Kapuri Ka	Siddhi Binayak Adhikari	ACT
Hamro Australia	Prabhakar Shah	ACT
Mangobyte Digital Services	Krishna Prasad Rijal	NEPAL
VOLUNTEER	PradhYumna Dahal	ACT

Table 5: Overall medals tally by the jurisdictions for all 10-sports

States / Country	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
New South Wales (NSW)	28	13	8	49
Victoria (VIC)	9	9	4	22
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	5	12	3	20
Queensland (QLD)	3	5	4	12
South Australia (SA)	2	2	3	7
New Zealand (NZ)	1	2	2	5
Tasmania (TAS)	1	2	1	4
Western Australia (WA)	0	0	2	2
Northern Territory (NT)	0	0	0	0

Table 6: Medals tally by sports

		ONSM 2023 CANBERRA Medal Tally																																			
		NSW				VIC				ACT				QLD				SA				NZ				TAS				WA							
		G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T	G	S	B	T
1	SOCCER	28	13	8	49	9	9	4	22	5	12	3	20	3	5	4	12	2	2	3	7	1	2	2	5	1	2	1	4	0	0	2	2				
1.1	SOCCER OPEN	1		1	1	1	1		0				0				0				0				0				0				0				
1.2	SOCCER VETERAN	1		1	1				0				0	1			1				0				0				0				0				
2	VOLLEYBALL	1		1	1				0				0	1			1				0				0				0				0				
3	BASKET BALL	1	1	1	1				1				0				0				0				0				0				0				
4	CRICKET	1	1	1	1				0				0				0	1			1				0				0				0				
5	LAWN TENNIS	3			3	1	2	3	1				1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	4				0				0				0				
6	5 KM RUN	2	1	2	5	2			2	2	3	1	6				0	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1		1				2				
7	BADMINTON	3	4	2	9	2			1	3			2	2			2				0	1	1	2	4	1			1	1	2		0				
8	Golf	3	1	4	1	1	1		1	2			0	1	2		3				1	1			0				0				0				
9	TABLE TENNIS	3	1	3	7	2	3	1	6				1	2	3	1	1				0				0	1			1				0				
10	SWIMMING	11	5		16	1	3		4	3	5		8	1	1		2				0				0				0				0				

Table 7: Medals tally by the jurisdictions for team sports

States / Country	BASKETBALL	CRICKET	SOCCER Open Age	SOCCER 35+ Veteran	VOLLEYBALL
NSW	RUNNER-UP +LEAGUE MVP +BEST SPOSTSMANSHIP	RUNNER-UP +MAN OF THE TOURNAMENT +BEST BATSMAN	WINNER +HIGHEST SCORERER +BEST GOALKEEPER	WINNER +BEST PLAYER +HIGHEST SCORERER	WINNER +BEST SETTER +BEST SPIKER +EMERGING PLAYER
VIC	WINNER +FINALS MVP +HIGHEST SCORERER +SIXTH MAN OF THE LEAGUE +BEST PONT-GUARD		RUNNER-UP +BEST PLAYER		
ACT	+RISING STAR +BEST 3-POINTER				
QLD				RUNNER-UP	RUNNER-UP +BEST LEBRO

				+BEST GOALKEEPER	+BEST PLAYER
SA		WINNER +BEST Wicket KEEPER +BEST BOWLER			
TAS		+BEST FIELDER			

Table 8: Winners of Individual sports: Badminton, Lawn Tennis & 5Km Run

Sports	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
BADMINON			
Men's Open Single	Sanjeev Khadka (TAS)	Sushil Giri (NSW)	NirBikram Devkota (QLD)
Men's 45+ Single	Kesh Gurung (NZL)	Umesh Khadka (ACT)	Sanjay Shrestha (NSW)
Ladies Open Single	Siyona Shah (VIC)	Shweta Rai (NSW)	Season Gurung (NZL)
Boys U15	Aryav Shah (VIC)	Priyash Gurung (NZL)	Akshan Maskey (NSW)
Men's Open Double	Jagat Bayambu & Sushil Giri (NSW)	Sojan Gauchan & Nischal Basnet (NSW)	Sanjeev Khadka & Hari Gotame (TAS)
Men's 45+ Double	Sanjay Shrestha & Shamsher Thapa (NSW)	Umesh Khadka & Jeevan Rana (ACT)	Deepak Regmi & Nitin Mahat (QLD)
Mix Double	Jems Rai & Shweta Rai (NSW)	Lizan Maskey & Meena Sharma (NSW)	Kesh Gurung & Season Gurung (NZL) + Satya Shah & Siyona Shah (VIC)
LAWN TENNIS			
Men's Open Single	Binit Shrestha (NSW)	Arshutosh Paudel (ACT)	Amrit Poudel (QLD)
Men's 35+	Bhesh Bahadur Thapa (SA)	Umesh Budhathoki (SA)	Shankar Prasad Aryal (VIC)
Men's 45+	Bishnu Hamal (NSW)	Rajendra Karki (VIC)	Sandip Bhandari (VIC)
Men's Open Double	Bishnu Hamal & Jyoti Rajbhandari (NSW)	Bhesh Bahadur Thapa & Amar Khadka (SA)	Balu Bhandari & Dipendra Gurung (SA)
Kids Exhibition Games	Selene Adhikari (ACT), Samyokh Yonzon (VIC), Sienna Poudel (VIC), Aaron Bagale (NSW), Anji Kanda Rawal (NSW), Devson Subedi (NSW), Sarina Bhattarai (NSW)		
5KM RUN			
Men's Open	Rajan Aryal (ACT)	Khil Karki (NSW)	Manoj Basnyat (WA)
Men's 35+	Krishna Kandel (VIC)	Ganesh Ghimire (TAS)	Madhukar Poudel (SA)
Men's 50+	Dr Ganesh Shrestha (NSW)	Santosh Aryal (ACT)	Baikuntha Dulal (WA)

Ladies Open	Shikha Basnet (VIC)	Prerana Bhatt (ACT)	Risha Karki (ACT)
Boys U14	Utsav Pant (NSW)	Ayush Khaniya (ACT)	Akshan Maskey (NSW)
Girls U14	Reva Adhikari (ACT)	Season Gurung (NZL)	Sarah Shrestha (NSW) Prajna Dawadi (ACT)

Table 9: Winners of Individual sports: GOLF, Table Tennis & Swimming

Sports	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
GOLF			
Hardest Golfer	AJAY KSHATRY (NSW)		
Nearest to Pin	JOG LIMBU (VIC)		
Longest Drive	KAMAL GURUGNG (QLD)		
Handicap 19 or above	DIPAK PAHARI (NSW)	MANOJ SHARMA (VIC)	SUVAS KC (SA) & Pawan Pant / Dixcha Pant ()
Handicap 18 or below	RABIN BHUJEL (NSW)	TAPAN SHARMA (QLD)	RAJU DEVKOTA (NSW)
TABLE TENNIS			
Men's Open Single	SANTOO SHRESTHA (NSW)	PIYUSH AWAL (VIC)	NIHAL SHRESTHA (NSW)
Men's 30+ Single	SUJAN THAPA (VIC)	ADARSHA J PANDEY (ACT)	DILA KHAREL (NSW)
Men's 40+ Single	PRASHESH POUDYAL (NSW)	LIZAN MASKEY (NSW)	CHUDAMANI SAPKOTA (ACT)
Men's Open Double	SANTOO SHRESTHA + NIHAL SHRESTHA (NSW)	BHOLA SHRESTHA + SURAJ SHRESTHA (TAS)	PIYUSH AWAL + SHATARANJ SUWAL (VIC)
Ladies Open Single	MENUKA KC KOIRI (QLD)	SHIKHA BASNET (VIC)	SRIJANA BASNET (ACT)
Mix Single U15	SOHAM DHITAL (VIC)	SAMYOKH YONZON (VIC)	AKSHAN MASKEY (NSW)
SWIMMING			
Swimmer of the meet (Male)	Utsav Panta (NSW) 26.68		
Swimmer of the meet (Female)	Ria Rana Bura (NSW) 38.43		
U10 Male Freestyle 50m	Aryav Shah Male VIC 1.03.03	Ryan Dahal Male ACT 1.11.04	
U10 Female Freestyle 50m	Azalea Maskey NSW 1.08.32	Priyanka Dahal ACT 1.08.50	
U12 Male/Female Freestyle 50m	Ria Rana Bura NSW 38.43 Samik Panta NSW 38.97	Sarah Shrestha NSW 51.38 Reva Adhikari ACT 58.28 Akshan Maskey (NSW)	

U12 Male/Female Backstroke 50m	Samik Panta NSW 47.94	Ria Rana Bura NSW 48.00.56	
U25 Male Freestyle 50m	Utsav Panta NSW 26.68	Nitesh Manandhar NSW 28.25	
U25 Female Freestyle 50m	Nitika Koiri QLD 45.13	Siyona Shah VIC 50.43	
U25 Male Backstroke 50m	Utsav Panta NSW 33.84	Nitesh Manandhar NSW 40.63	
U25 Female Backstroke 50m	Yashaswi Kakshapati NSW 45.19	Nitika Koiri QLD 54.13	
U25 Male/Female BreastStroke 50m	Utsav Panta NSW 41.69	Ejan Rajbhandari ACT 47.81	
25+ MALE FREESTYLE 50M	Bel Bahadur Rana ACT 37.38	Chandra Bura Magar NSW 38.53	
25+ FEMALE FREESTYLE 50M	Rubina Rana NSW 55.37	Luuniva Singh VIC 56.03	
25+ M/F BREASTSTROKE 50M	Dhiraj Baniya ACT 47.37	Luuniva Singh VIC 50.56	
25+ M/F BACKSTROKE 50M	Bel Bahadur Rana ACT 52.65	Vikas Shah ACT 1.0	

Table 10: ONSM representatives in Australia and New Zealand.

States / Country	State / Country Coordinators	Founding Members and Patrons
ACT	Adarsh Jung Pandey Recognised for Significant Contribution and Leadership for the ONSM 2023	Dr Durga Dutta Kandel
NSW	Ajay Kshatry	Bishnu Hamal Jabin Shrestha
VIC	Tara Gaire Sid Shestha	Jog Limbu Madhu Pokharel
QLD	Amit Lohani	Abhimanyu KC
TAS	Ms Punam Panta Recognised for Significant Contribution for the last 10 years (2013 – 2023) Bishnu Sapkota	
SA	Supak Adhikari Santosjh Jung Adhikari	
WA	Dawa Sherpa Dipak Basnet	
NT	Ashish Kattel Chandra Gurung Recognised for Significant Contribution for the ONSM 2023	
NZ	Kesh Gurung Recognised for Significant Contribution for the last 10 years (2013 – 2023)	

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Canberra, Australia

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The End