

MARSHALL ISLANDS



October 25, 2021

To: Micronesian Games Associations

Dear Micronesian Games Associations (MGAs),

In light of the continued global pandemic and in ongoing conversations with our Micronesian Games Organizing Committee, its key stakeholders, including Majuro Atoll Local Government and the Marshall Islands National Olympic Committee (MINOC), the Cabinet has approved a one-year postponement (please reference attached Cabinet Minute) of the 10th Micronesian Games that was scheduled to take place from July 25 to August 5, 2022 in the Republic's capital of Majuro.

The decision by the Pacific Games Council to delay the 2023 Pacific Games in Solomon Islands from summer of 2023 until November/December of 2023 for pandemic-related reasons, opens a timeframe to reschedule the Micronesian Games at that time. In conversations with most of you in Japan during the Olympic Games and in subsequent phone and virtual conversations, the support has been unanimously positive for this schedule delay; however, we need you as our governing body Micronesian Games Council to formally approve this one-year delay.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly and there are two overriding concerns that have caused us to make this decision at this time:

First, global, regional and national travel restrictions and lengthy quarantine requirements continue for our safety with the ongoing pandemic, which will have an impact on participation, performance and present many logistical, financial and administrative challenges. While the majority of our sports venues are ready to host their events, and the new track and field, softball and beach volleyball facilities are set to be completed in the first quarter of 2022, and the renovated basketball facility in June of 2022, the pandemic has complicated and delayed the availability of specialized contractors and shipping of necessary construction materials, supplies and equipment that must still be obtained and could further delay the facilities preparations. The Republic of the Marshall Islands' (RMI) four-week repatriation requirement and the prioritization of limited groups has already prohibited the travel of professional experts to run Olympic Solidarity and Oceania Sport Education Programs (OSEP) courses to upskill our officials, referees, administrators and volunteers for the various sports and committees that will have oversight of the Games.

Mr. Kenneth Kramer
President
MINOC

Mr. Terry Sasser
Secretary General
MINOC

Mr. Anthony Muller
Treasurer
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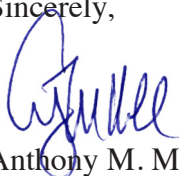
www.oceaniaisport.com/marshall

Second, and most important, the safety of our athletes, entourage and communities remains our number-one priority and the risk to anyone's health and wellness given the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic must be mitigated. Each of our countries, states and territories has worked tirelessly to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19 within our borders and even one false positive could result in cancelled flights and lengthy quarantines, that could strand hundreds of athletes and officials here in RMI for a lengthy period of time, as we have seen with those still trying to repatriate following the Tokyo Olympic Games. The International Federation experts who must travel to RMI from the United States, Australia, Asia and Europe, which all have high rates of COVID, would have to quarantine in Hawaii and upon arrival, causing many to be unable to join us, thus degrading the quality of the sports competitions. The uncertainties resulting from low vaccination rates, new virus variants, the ongoing debate about boosters for those who have been vaccinated and the global supply-chain issues, make it impossible to project with any degree of accuracy when these concerns can be reconciled.

We must take this opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering support of our National Government in the development of facilities and preparations to host the Games. We are grateful for their commitment to the professional and safe delivery of these Games.

Thank you for your understanding during these difficult times. We appreciate all of the hard work and time you've invested into preparing your athletes and teams, and hope you will maintain the momentum for another year. Your dedication to our shared love of sport inspires us to be the best version of ourselves as we work through these difficult times.

Sincerely,



Anthony M. Muller
Majuro Senator
MINOC Executive Board
Micronesian Games Organizing Committee Co-Chair

Cc: MINOC President Kenneth Kramer
MINOC Secretary General Terry Sasser
Micronesian Games Council