

ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT DEVELOPMENT POLICY

“Empowering Identity, Building Unity, **Unlocking Potential**”



VISION

To build a **unified, culturally proud, and socially cohesive Guyana** where **young people thrive, diverse communities are celebrated, and sports are institutionalized** as a pathway to discipline, education, excellence, employment, and national pride.

I. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Guyana is a rich tapestry of ethnicities, cultures, languages, and histories — yet, we remain deeply fragmented by race, region, religion, and class. At the same time, our youth population, though vibrant and resourceful, is underserved, under-skilled, and often disconnected from national purpose. Sport remains an underutilized vehicle for development, lacking the infrastructure, support, and investment needed to achieve greatness.

This policy seeks to **bridge Guyana's divisions and elevate its promise** through **targeted investment in culture, youth empowerment, and sport**—not as three isolated sectors, but as an **integrated force for national transformation**.



II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Inclusivity & Representation:** Every culture, ethnicity, and region must see itself in the national story.
- **Equity of Opportunity:** Regardless of background, every youth must have access to opportunity.
- **Cultural Preservation & Innovation:** Celebrate heritage while fostering contemporary creativity.
- **Excellence Through Sport:** Institutionalize sport as a career path, not just a pastime.
- **Health & Wellness as a National Priority:** Use sport and lifestyle to fight chronic disease.
- **Integration Across Ministries:** Youth and sport development must engage Education, Health, Labour, Culture, Tourism, and Finance.



III. POLICY PILLARS

1. CULTURE AS COHESION AND CURRENCY

Goals:

- Promote **social cohesion** through shared cultural experiences
- Empower cultural entrepreneurs and preserve indigenous knowledge
- Build Guyana's identity as a **global cultural brand**

Key Actions:

- Establish a National Institute for Cultural Heritage & Arts Innovation
- Archive and digitize oral histories, art forms, languages, and practices
- Train youth in cultural entrepreneurship, media production, and heritage tourism
- Create an annual National Culture & Unity Festival
- Celebrating Guyana's six peoples through storytelling, food, dance, design, and discussion
- **Mandate multicultural and historical education** in school curricula
- Emphasize shared struggles, contributions, and the effects of colonization and division
- **Introduce community grants** for culture-based development projects
- **Strengthen cultural diplomacy** and promote Guyanese talent internationally

2. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOR A MODERN GUYANA

Goals:

Keep youth in school and prepare them for real-world opportunity

Equip youth with **life skills, technical skills,** and **civic engagement tools**

Re-orient youth toward **national purpose,**



innovation, and productivity

Key Actions:

- Establish the National Youth Development Authority (NYDA)
- An inter-ministerial body to coordinate youth empowerment programs
- Launch the National Youth Empowerment Service (YES!)
- Offers training in life skills, vocational courses, financial literacy, mental health awareness, digital skills, and civic participation
- **National Youth Internship Program** with public and private sector incentives
- **Relaunch Youth Entrepreneur Grants & Incubators** in each region
- **Revamp community centers** as safe youth innovation, art, and tech hubs
- **Introduce national youth volunteerism programmes** for environmental protection, literacy, elder care, and social cohesion



3. SPORT AS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOOL

Goals:

- Use sport to drive discipline, identity, health, education, and employment
- Make sport accessible, competitive, and professional
- Integrate sport with school and community life

Key Actions:

- **National Student-Athlete Programme (NSAP)**
- Allows participation in competitive school sports **only if academic performance is maintained**
- Requires collaboration between the Ministries of Education, Health, and Culture, Youth & Sport
- School + Sport = Scholarship Pathway
- Encourage excellence in both academics and athletics
- Expand scouting and sports scholarships locally and abroad
- **Develop alternative sports streams** such as chess, robotics, esports, scrabble, table tennis, etc.
- **Mandate physical education and sports participation in schools**
- **National Sports Academy** to develop elite athletes in football, athletics, cricket, volleyball, rugby, table tennis, chess, and swimming
- **Upgrade and regionalize sports infrastructure**, including:
 - Multi-sport stadiums in Regions 1, 7, 8, and 9
 - Dormitories for national/regional tournaments
 - Regional training centers for coaches, referees, and medics
- **Community Sports Fund** for grassroots

tournaments and youth leagues

4. HEALTH, WELLNESS AND BEHAVIOURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPORT

Goals:

- Combat rising rates of chronic disease through sport
- Promote discipline, structure, and teamwork in youth
- Expand health education through physical activity

Key Actions:

- **School-based health programs** linked to physical activity
- Free fitness assessments, vision, dental, and dietary guidance for student-athletes
- National “Move Guyana” Campaign
- Promote 30 minutes of daily activity for all citizens, tied to chronic disease prevention
- Train and employ **physical therapists, sport psychologists, fitness instructors** regionally
- Provide **tax exemptions and grants** for sporting gear and wellness services

5. GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, & PARTNERSHIPS

Key Actions:

- Establish a **National Council on Culture, Youth, and Sport Development**
- Includes government, private sector, civil society, artists, and youth reps
- **Decentralize funding and decision-making** to regional levels
- **Partnerships with NGOs, private sector, faith-based organizations, and schools**
- Introduce **Annual Youth and Sports Development Scorecards**
- Publicly tracks funding, performance,



- access, and participation
- Ensure **gender parity, Indigenous and hinterland inclusion**, and support for youth with disabilities

IV. INSPIRATIONAL MODELS REFERENCED

Singapore: Community-centric sport and cultural policy; integration of ethnic history into education

Brazil: Youth sport development as part of poverty reduction and community renewal
South Africa: Culture as reconciliation and nation-building

Barbados: National Youth Service and sports-in-school pipeline

South Korea: Youth innovation, arts, and digital entrepreneurship empowerment

V. TIMELINE & IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

TIMELINE	KEY MILESTONES
First 100 Days	Establish NYDA and National Council; Launch Culture and Unity Festival pilot
Year 1	Student-Athlete Programmelaunches;Communitycenter revitalization begins
Year 2	First regional sports training centers opened; Youth internship rollout complete
Year 3	Cultural archive completed; School sport scholarships awarded; Scorecard published
Year 5	Guyana fields competitive teams internationally; Youth unemployment drops 15%

VI. CONCLUSION

Culture, youth, and sport must no longer be treated as peripheral or ceremonial sectors. They are **core drivers of social progress, unity, health, and national identity**. This AFC policy affirms that **Guyana’s greatest untapped resource is its young people**, and that the richness of our cultures must be **mobilized to build cohesion, pride, and global competitiveness**.

This is our promise: A Guyana where every young person is inspired, every community is united, and every talent is nurtured.

**AFC: FOR OUR PEOPLE.
FOR THE FUTURE**

VOTE

AFC

X



**Better
must
come**