INVICTUS AUSTRALIA SPORTS FESTIVAL 2026

PRESENTING SPONSOR

ATCO

MEDIA GUIDE

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Invictus Australia Sports Festival 2026, Presented by ATCO

1. About

What is the Invictus Australia Sports Festival?

The Invictus Australia Sports Festival 2026, Presented by ATCO, is an international adaptive sports event bringing together wounded, injured and ill serving and veteran defence personnel from across the Indo-Pacific. The Festival harnesses the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect for our veteran communities.

Through the Festival, Invictus Australia aims to create more year-round pathways for veterans and families to stay active, supported and engaged beyond an Invictus Games. It also deepens international collaboration across the region.

Unlike elite sporting competitions, the Festival is inclusive and designed for competitors of all abilities. Participation is focused on rehabilitation, community and personal progress - reflecting the same commitment to wounded, injured and ill defence personnel that underpins the Invictus Games.

When and where will the Invictus Australia Sports Festival 2026 take place?

The Invictus Australia Sports Festival will take place from 23-25 October 2026 in Perth, Western Australia, bringing the Invictus spirit to one of the country’s most vibrant coastal cities. The Festival will be delivered across iconic Perth locations, with Scarborough Beach serving as a central hub.

The event begins on 23 October with an international symposium, followed by two days of adaptive sports competition on 24–25 October. Scarborough Beach will host the indoor rowing and swimming events while the sitting volleyball and pickleball will be held at Perth’s High Performance Centre.

Why was Perth selected as the host city?

Perth was selected to host the inaugural Invictus Australia Sports Festival for its world-class sporting venues, strategic position as a gateway to the Indo-Pacific, and strong commitment to supporting veteran recovery through sport. The Festival will showcase some of Western Australia's premier sporting locations, including Scarborough Beach and the High Performance Centre, while helping grow adaptive sport opportunities across the region. Perth's selection was further strengthened by the support of ATCO Australia, the Festival's

Presenting Partner, whose Western Australian roots and commitment to veteran communities align closely with Invictus Australia's mission.

What will the Invictus Australia Sports Festival involve?

Across the weekend sports program, competitors will take part in adaptive sport events designed to be inclusive, empowering and reflective of the Invictus spirit. The program features both team-based and individual disciplines, ensuring every competitor can participate in the way that best supports their abilities, interests and recovery goals, whether through the independence of individual events or the shared motivation and connection found in team competition.

As well as sporting competition, the Festival also include a host of special events.

What sports are in the Invictus Australia Sports Festival?

The Invictus Australia Sports Festival 2026 will feature four adaptive sports:

- Indoor Rowing
- Pickleball
- Sitting Volleyball
- Swimming

Who will compete at the Invictus Australia Sports Festival?

The Festival will host up to 60 wounded, injured and ill service personnel and veterans from three countries.

Participating Nations:
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Republic of Korea

The Australian contingent will include 30 competitors.

Team Australia Fast Facts

- Number of competitors: 30
- Oldest Team Australia competitor: 61 – Cindy Chawner
- Youngest Team Australia competitor: 30 – Callan McLean
- Competitors come from all branches of the ADF
- Eight (8) competitors hail from host state, Western Australia
- **Click here to view Team Australia bios**

What role will the Invictus Australia Knowledge and Translation Symposium, Supported by Bupa, play in the Invictus Australia Sports Festival 2026?

The Knowledge and Translation Symposium is an important addition to the weekend, establishing the agenda for meaningful conversations about sport, recovery and wellbeing.

As an additional element to the Festival, the symposium is a rare opportunity to hear from national and international experts, exchange ideas on the future of policy and practice, and build connections with people shaping outcomes across the sector.

It will focus on translating evidence and lived experience into practical insights that can support veterans and families long after the Festival concludes.

2. History

What are the origins of the Invictus Sports Festival?

This is the first time the Festival format has been held in Australia. Regional Festivals have been hosted by Germany, most recently in June 2026 when Australia sent a team to compete.

How is it different to an Invictus Games?

The Invictus Australia Sports Festival reflects Invictus Australia's broader commitment to ensuring the impact of sport continues beyond major competition.

While the Invictus Games is a large-scale, global multisport event held every two years, bringing together nations from around the world, the Invictus Australia Sports Festival is a regional event that will takes place across a weekend, involving three nations from the Indo-Pacific region. The event forms part of a broader commitment to extend the impact of sport beyond the Invictus Games, by creating additional recovery pathways for defence communities around the world. In the Indo-Pacific region, it builds on Invictus Australia's grassroots and adaptive sport programs, expanding access for veterans and families while fostering stronger ties across the region.

What does the word Invictus mean?

"Invictus" is Latin for unconquered, and it embodies the fighting spirit of defence service personnel.

How is The Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry involved?

The Duke of Sussex founded the Invictus Games and is the patron of the Invictus Games Foundation. Prince Harry continues to drive awareness and support for the Invictus Movement to positively change the lives of wounded, injured and ill active and veteran defence personnel.

Will Prince Harry attend?

Prince Harry first announced the Invictus Australia Sports Festival during an Invictus Australia reception at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra earlier in 2026 helping shine a spotlight on the event and its role in supporting veteran recovery.

While he will not be attending the Festival in Perth, Prince Harry continues to champion the Invictus movement globally, driving awareness and support for initiatives that positively impact wounded, injured and ill serving and veteran defence personnel.

What is the legacy of the Invictus Australia Sports Festival?

The legacy of the Invictus Australia Sports Festival is its role in extending the impact of sport-based recovery well beyond an Invictus Games. The Festival creates additional, year-round pathways for wounded, injured and ill defence personnel and their families to stay active, connected and supported in their communities. In the Indo-Pacific region, it strengthens international collaboration and builds on Invictus Australia's grassroots and adaptive sport programs, opening more opportunities for participation and shared learning across nations.

3. Information and Tickets

Where can I find out more information?

People can connect, follow, and collaborate with us on social media:

- Instagram: @invictusaustralia
- Facebook: Invictus Australia
- LinkedIn: Invictus Australia

Supporters can visit our website to read inspiring competitor stories and learn more about the Games. Visit https://invictusaustralia.org

Can I attend the Festival; do I need a ticket? Yes.

The public is invited to experience the Invictus Australia Sports Festival, with opportunities across the weekend to support competitors, connect with the Defence and veteran community, and get involved in a range of activities.

Saturday offers a full day of free, family-friendly events at Scarborough Beach:

Indoor Rowing competition begins at 9.00am at the Scarborough Beach Amphitheatre, where spectators can cheer on competitors as they put their strength and endurance to the test.

The Defence Community Sports Expo opens at 10.30am and is free and open to everyone. Visitors can try a variety of sports, meet organisations from across the Defence and veteran community, and learn more about the support services and opportunities available.

These activities are free and open to the public.

Competition then moves to Scarborough Pool for Swimming, which commences at 3.00pm. Due to the size and capacity of this venue, the swimming will be a closed event.

The action continues at the Perth High Performance Centre on **Sunday**, with Pickleball and Sitting Volleyball kicking off from 9.00am.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Sunday's competition by securing a free ticket **via this link.**

The Invictus Australia Sports Festival provides a unique opportunity for the community to support serving and former Defence personnel on their recovery journey through sport while enjoying an exciting weekend of competition and community activities.

4. Fundraising

Can the public and companies fundraise for the Games?

Yes. Anyone can support the Invictus Australia Sports Festival through the **Fill the Stands** campaign. Individuals, community groups and organisations can purchase Virtual Seats, Rows or Corporate Boxes, with all contributions helping fund sport-based recovery programs for wounded, injured and ill veterans, as well as proactive wellbeing initiatives. It's an easy way for supporters everywhere to get involved and show their backing for competitors at the Festival.

What do you do with the money raised through fundraising?

Funds raised through Fill the Stands virtual seats fundraising campaign directly support Invictus Australia to deliver their ongoing veteran sport-based recovery and preventative sporting programs across the country.

Buy your virtual Seat, Row of Box here - **https://fundraise.invictusaustralia.org/seats**

5. Invictus Australia Sports Festival 2026 Spokespeople

Invictus Australia

- Glenn Keys AO – Invictus Australia Chairman
- Michael Hartung OAM – Invictus Australia CEO
- Adam Pine OAM OLY – Director of Teams, Pathways and Alumni,

Invictus Games Foundation

- Rob Owen OBE – CEO, Invictus Games Foundation
- David Wiseman – Chief Internation Programs and Strategy, Invictus Games Foundation
- Helen D'Oyley - Chief Growth Officer, Invictus Games Foundation

Competitors from Team Australia, New Zealand and Republic of Korea will be available throughout the Festival on request.

6. Invictus Australia

Who is Invictus Australia?

Invictus Australia uses the power of sport and physical activity to support the recovery and wellbeing of current and former serving Defence personnel and their families.

As part of the global Invictus Movement, Invictus Australia connects veterans and families with inclusive, welcoming opportunities to get active, participate and build community from grassroots sport across Australia to international adaptive sporting opportunities.

What does Invictus Australia aim to achieve through the establishment of the Invictus Australia Sports Festival?

The Invictus Australia Sports Festival has been established to strengthen recovery, connection and wellbeing for wounded, injured and ill veterans; expand international collaboration across the Indo-Pacific; and create more year-round pathways for veterans and families to stay active, supported and involved in their communities.

What does the research say?

Research shows that sport can be a powerful tool for improving veteran wellbeing, supporting mental health, building social connection and helping people successfully transition from military to civilian life.
Invictus Australia is prioritising research and evidence-based programs to ensure veterans and families can access these benefits.

Key findings include:

- Sport could support 34 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.
- Research across 170+ studies identified 11 areas where sport positively impacts veteran wellbeing.
- Sport can reduce the burden of anxiety by up to 6.5% and depression by up to 4.4%.
- Active veterans are 40% more likely to overcome mental health challenges.
- Every $1 invested in sport delivers an estimated $2.50 return in social and economic value

These findings reinforce why Invictus Australia is investing in sport as a pathway to recovery, connection, purpose and wellbeing for veterans and their families.

For more information, visit the **Invictus Australia Research Agenda.**

What impact is Invictus Australia having?

Invictus Australia is translating research into action through community sport programs that help veterans and families build connection, improve wellbeing and find renewed purpose.
To date, Invictus Australia has supported nearly 30,000 veterans and family members through sport-based initiatives that strengthen wellbeing, connection and recovery.

This approach ensures more veterans and families can access the proven benefits of sport in their local communities.

7. Invictus Games Foundation

Who is the Invictus Games Foundation?

The Invictus Games Foundation is the global charity that leads the Invictus Movement, driving international sporting recovery opportunities including the Invictus Games, an international adaptive sporting event for wounded, injured, and sick (WIS) service personnel and veterans.

Founded in 2014 by Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex, the Foundation uses the power of sport and adventurous challenge to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation, and generate a wider understanding and respect for those who serve their country.

Today, its work extends across 26 nations, creating year-round opportunities for recovery through sport, supporting programmes in local communities and building evidence of the critical role sport can play in long-term recovery.

8. Invictus Australia Sports Festival 2026 Media Contact & Accreditation

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Accreditation

We welcome media attendance at the Invictus Australia Sports Festival 2026, and our on-ground team is ready to support you throughout the event.

All venues will operate under an accreditation system, and we kindly ask media wishing to attend to complete the accreditation form ahead of their arrival. Upon reaching the Festival, please check in at the media help desk to collect your accreditation and receive any event-specific guidance.

Each venue will feature an I-Zone where interviews with competitors can be arranged. Dedicated media seating will be available for viewing the sport, and photographers and camera crews will have access to designated photo positions.

Our on-site media liaison team will provide updates, facilitate access and help ensure you have what you need to cover the Festival effectively.