



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

## Media Release

### Australia's top marksman target World Championships

Wednesday 3 February 2010

Australia's elite shooters will have World Championship selection on their mind as they line up for Australia Cup 1 at the Sydney International Shooting Centre this Friday (5 February).

All of Australia's top marksman in the pistol, rifle and shotgun categories will compete across 18 events over the three days of competition to gain ranking points to qualify for the Australian World Championships team later this year.

In the pistol and rifle sections Australia Cup 1, 2 and 3 will act as the selection events for the World Championships, while shotgun includes the results of the ACTA National Championships held in Brisbane last month, this event, and the Australia Cup Open at the end of March.

Dual Olympic gold medallist, Michael Diamond (NSW), leads the ranking points in the men's trap after finishing second behind New Zealand shooter, Myles Browne-Cole, at the ACTA National Championships.

Diamond reconfirmed his status as one of the world's top shooters in 2009 after claiming gold in the World Cup Final in Beijing and already has his sights set on a third Olympic gold medal at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

2008 Beijing Olympic bronze medallist, Warren Potent (NSW), will be the favourite to win the men's 50m prone rifle as he continues to make inroads in the sport at international level. In 2009 Potent followed up his Olympic bronze medal with a bronze medal in the 2009 World Cup Final in Wuxi, China.

Fellow Olympians Russell Mark (VIC), Lauryn Mark (VIC), Adam Vella (VIC) and Suzy Balogh (NSW) will also take to the range this weekend, along with the Russian born pistol pair of Dina Aspandiyarova (VIC) and Lalita Yauhleuskaya (VIC).

Australian Shooting CEO Nick O'Sullivan says the event will provide all shooters with a chance to make an impression in front of the selectors.

"The strength of competition in Australia is improving every year and Australia Cup 1 will once again showcase the skills of our finest athletes," Sullivan said. "The race for inclusion

#### AFFILIATIONS

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION  
INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING SPORT FEDERATION  
INTERNATIONAL METALLIC SILHOUETTE SHOOTING

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE  
OCEANIA SHOOTING FEDERATION

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH GAMES ASSOCIATION  
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on the Australian team in 2010 starts on the weekend and I expect some impressive scoring."

Australia Cup 1 will run from Friday 5 February-Sunday 7 February.

The 2010 ISSF World Championships will be held from 1-11 August in Munich, Germany.

**For more information please call David Polglase on 0401 453 041**

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