

# MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release*



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## **International body calls for tariff reductions**

The Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA) has joined its international body, the World Federation of Sporting Goods Industries (WFSGI) in calling for the reduction of outdated protectionist tariffs and duties.

At a World Trade Organization public forum in Geneva titled *“Increasing public access to sport through more open markets for sporting goods”* the need to reduce trade barriers for sporting goods such as footwear, apparel and equipment was examined. The WFSGI says that trade barriers and high duties block the access to sport and physical activity.

The reduction in tariffs and duties in Australia was proposed by the ASGA to the Productivity Commission’s Inquiry into the retail sector, and ASGA backed up its call at the PC’s public hearing earlier this month.

The WFSGI has called for trade policies that support global health promotion strategies by opening markets and facilitate the movement of goods that encourage sport and physical activity. The sporting goods industry is urging governments around the world to open up markets by reducing tariffs.

ASGA Executive Director Brad Kitschke said that it was surprising that the Productivity Commission’s draft report left off a recommendation to reduce outdated tariffs.

“Tariff reductions on things like Textile Clothing and Footwear (TCF) are planned for 2015 but we believe that there is no reason why those reductions should not occur sooner. Access to sporting goods and equipment is essential to increasing participation in sport and encouraging the preventative health benefits from a more active lifestyle’

“Apparel attracts a 10% tariff and footwear 5%. These outdated imposts need to be reduced and eliminated. The planned reductions should be brought forward to facilitate Australian retailers accessing products at cheaper prices and providing cheaper goods to Australian consumers. The end result of more open markets is greater access to sporting goods and equipment and more active and healthy Australians,’ Kitschke concluded.

For comment please contact Brad Kitschke on 0403 809 630 or email [brad.kitschke@asga.com.au](mailto:brad.kitschke@asga.com.au)

*The Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA) represents retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers of sporting goods in Australia and believes in the promotion of participatory sport and healthy lifestyles. Its members include companies like; Nike, Adidas Asics,, Puma, New Balance, Converse, Pacific Brands, Sports Power, Sports First., Footlocker, Rebel Sport.*



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