

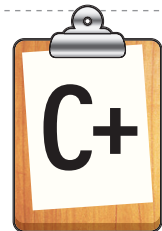
Team Singapore report card

With a 59-strong contingent competing on the Gold Coast, Singapore returned with a smaller haul. The Straits Times' Jonathan Wong and Lim Say Heng review how the various sports fared in Australia.

2018 **G G G G G S S B B**

2014 **G G G G G G G G S S S S S B B B B**

Athletics



Rachel Yang became the first Singaporean to compete in the pole vault at the Games. She cleared 3.5m – well below her national record of 3.91m – and finished last among the 14 competitors.

Aquatics



Toh Wei Soong (below) was third in the S7 men's 50m freestyle on his debut, Singapore's first para-sports medal at the Games since para sports was added to the programme in 2002. Roanne Ho reached the final of her pet women's 50m breaststroke event, while Quah Ting Wen made the semi-finals of the women's 50m and 100m freestyle, as well as the 50m butterfly. Neither hit a personal best or national record.



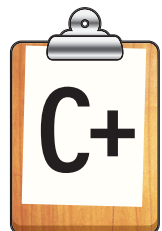
Badminton



The young team, averaging just 22.1 years in age, were not expected to be among the medals but showed a lot of promise, especially in the loss to England in the mixed-team bronze-medal match. With the right development, this cohort can go far in the next few years.

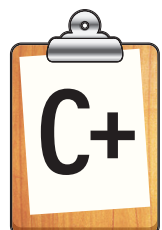


Beach volleyball



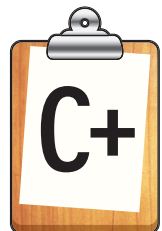
The new combination of Ong Wei Yu and Lau Ee Shan lost all three pool matches without winning a set and will feel they could have pushed their opponents closer.

Cycling



This was Luo Yiwei's first exposure at such a high level and she will learn what she needs to do to push herself closer to such world-class riders.

Gymnastics



It was always a tall order to follow up after Hoe Wah Toon's individual vault bronze at the 2014 Games. This group, which included an older Hoe, struggled at this level. It is the first time in three editions the gymnasts have returned empty-handed.

Lawn bowls



The men's quartet put up a creditable fight but were outclassed. The sport has made some strides in Singapore but more needs to be done.

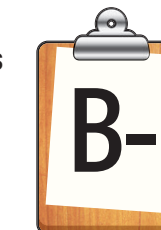
Shooting



An almost disastrous campaign was saved by one of the youngest members of the squad, Martina Veloso. The 18-year-old won two golds but her older and more experienced team-mates struggled.



Table Tennis



The paddlers were expected to bring in the bulk of Singapore's medals at the Games, but instead created several unwanted firsts. STTA chief Ellen Lee had tasked them with bringing home seven golds, but they managed only three. The only bright spark: The men's team featured three teenagers and two of them, Koen Pang and Ethan Poh, finished fourth in the men's doubles against the odds. It could be a sign of the promise to come. Gao Ning, 35, also did well to win two golds despite playing in every category.



Weightlifting/powerlifting



If not for a botched first lift, para powerlifter Kalai Vanen might have broken his PB by more than the 1kg he eventually did. Weightlifter John Cheah was far from his best.