

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Plan of Enhancing Sports Facilities as Competition Venues

Purpose

This paper aims to brief Members on the plan of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to designate five sports centres in the territory as competition venues.

Background

2. Hong Kong has been active in hosting international and regional sports events, ranging from competitions in single sports to major multi-sport events. In addition, national sports associations (NSAs) and schools in Hong Kong also organise many eye-opening territory-wide major sports competitions every year. The hosting of major sports events not only helps to enhance Hong Kong's image as a sports events capital in Asia and achieve the objective of developing Hong Kong into a prime destination for hosting major international sports events, but also enables Hong Kong athletes to compete and members of the public to watch sports events on home soil, helping to nurture a sustainable sporting culture and tie in with the objective of "Sport for All". LCSD plays an active role in supporting NSAs and schools to organise sports competitions of various levels and suitable sports facilities will be reserved for competition.

3. Currently, a wide range of leisure and sports facilities are provided by LCSD for hire by members of the public and organisations. For effective management of the use and fair allocation of public facilities, guidelines have been drawn up on booking and allocation procedures. According to the guidelines, block booking by organisations is subject to quota control. Normally, only half of the total peak-hour sessions¹ available in the month and not more than half of the total number of facilities at each venue may be allowed for block booking at any one time (inclusive of the events organised or subvented by the Home Affairs Bureau and LCSD), so that most of the facilities

¹ Peak hours refer to the period from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays and the whole day of Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays

will be available for use by individual hirers. The above arrangements aim to strike a balance between the needs of different stakeholders who use the facilities for training, competition or recreation purpose.

4. Quite a number of NSAs and the school sector reflected to LCSD that since major competitions normally have to be held in venues with more seats, competitions of the same event have to be held on separate days or at different venues at the same time and competition period has to be extended as a result of the quota control on block booking of venues, undermining the flexibility of organisers in arranging competitions.

5. To assist NSAs in staging more sports competitions and events as pledged by the Chief Executive in the Policy Address announced in October 2017, LCSD will designate and enhance suitable sports facilities as competition venues.

Plan of Designating Sports Centres as Competition Venues

6. LCSD intends to designate some suitable sports centres as competition venues in a bid to assist NSAs in staging more major sports competitions and attract public participation, thereby promoting a sporting culture in community. Consideration will be given to various criteria in selecting sports centres, including the location, traffic network and the requirements that the sports centres concerned should comprise of a main arena with area equivalent to 2 to 3 basketball courts and a spectator stand with 1 000 or more seats; and that they should be equipped with ancillary facilities capable of staging major competitions. LCSD intends to designate one sports centre in each of the 4 districts (Hong Kong Island, Kowloon District, New Territories East and New Territories West) as competition venue while one more sports centre will be designated for staging competitions for organisations of persons with disabilities. The proposed locations for competition venues are as follows:

District	Sports Centre	No. of seats	Area of main arena
Hong Kong Island	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre	1 334	At the size of 3 basketball courts
Kowloon District	Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre	1 281	At the size of 3 basketball courts

District	Sports Centre	No. of seats	Area of main arena
New Territories East	Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre	1 156	At the size of 2 basketball courts
New Territories West	Tsuen Wan Sports Centre (Expected to be commissioned in mid-2018)	1 908	1 basketball court and 1 secondary arena
New Territories East	Ma On Shan Sports Centre (Suitable for staging competitions for persons with disabilities)	1 258	At the size of 3 basketball courts

7. LCSD will actively discuss with the works department on the improvement works to be carried out at the above sports centres, including the provision of doping control facilities and enhancement of ancillary facilities, such as sports lighting, electronic display panels, conference rooms and broadband facilities, etc.

8. In addition to upgrading and enhancing hardware facilities, more flexible measures will also be adopted for booking of facilities at the designated sports centres. These include relaxing the restrictions that the number of hours allowed for block booking should not exceed half of the total peak-hour sessions available in the month and the number of facilities allowed for block booking should not exceed half of the number of facilities at each venue at any one time. Such measures will allow greater flexibility in arranging the schedules of major competitions so that the designated sports centres and the ordinary recreation and sports facilities can serve different purposes.

9. When competition venues are not used for competition, they are the same as the ordinary recreation and sports facilities, which are available for hire by the public in accordance with normal booking procedures. When they are booked for major competition, LCSD will retain a certain number of related facilities at other sports centres in the same district for individual booking so as to strike a balance between the needs of organisations and the public.

Implementation Arrangements

10. LCSD will consult the stakeholders (including DCs, NSAs, etc) and carry out the necessary enhancement works on ancillary facilities at the

designated competition venues in stages. LCSD will discuss with NSAs to arrange major competitions at the competition venues. The relevant project is expected to commence in 2018-19.

Advice Sought

11. Members are invited to comment on LCSD's plan to use the designated sports centres as competition venues.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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