

Community Sports Committee

Review of Sports Policy

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to invite members' views on:

- (a) Overall objectives and direction of community sports policy;
- (b) Specific content of review on community sports policy;
- (c) Method of review and priorities of the subjects under review (including the establishment of ad hoc groups for follow up)

BACKGROUND

2. The Community Sports Committee (CSC) discussed the review of sports policy set out in CSC paper 14/05 during its meeting on 28 September 2005. Members noted the administration's follow up on recommendations of Report of Sports Policy Review Team in 2002, especially the progress of promotion of community sports. The CSC considered that the review on the community sports policy should include: (a) efficient ways to promote community involvement; (b) tapping and use of resources; and (c) planning, management and mode of operation of sports venues, etc. As the subjects covered many areas, it was agreed that a special meeting on specific subjects would be convened so as to prepare preliminary proposals for CSC's consideration. In this connection, the Chairman, Vice Chairman and some members convened a small group meeting on 8 December 2005 to explore the above subjects and formulate the basic parameters for future review.

Overall objectives of development of community sports policy

3. The ad hoc group proposed that the community sports policy of Hong Kong should focus on enhancement of the personal health and public solidarity through active involvement of different sectors of the community in sports activities, and alignment of sports with economic development for maximum benefit. In addition to promoting participation of people of different ages and competence in sports

activities, fostering the public to be sports spectators is an important component of development of community sports. Besides, individuals and organizations of various sectors and domains of the community should be invited to cooperate for organization of sports and training programmes, and setting up of community sports clubs; develop volunteer works and promote sports, so as to gradually establish a sport culture in the community.

Specific directions to fulfill the objectives and aims of community sports

Promotion of sports for all

4. The consolidated objectives of the CSC's work in 2005 were continued commitment to promotion of participation of young people in sports, and strengthening cooperation with schools, community organizations, Education and Manpower Bureau in fulfilling the target of "a sport for each student". The Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-Committee (SSACS) under the CSC is gathering information on the measures and resources of various organizations in promoting sports to young people in order to put forward more constructive proposals and avoid overlapping of resources. The Group suggested that such work should continue.

5. The Group expressed concern towards the needs for sports activities by other sectors in the community, e.g. the elderly and disabled. They agreed the relevant departments (including the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Department of Health) should have a part to play in it. In such a connection, the Group agreed to invite the SWD and the concerned organizations to present to the CSC on their services to the community groups in need; and start a dialogue and communication with relevant advisory bodies (such as Elderly Commission and Rehabilitation Advisory Committee) and explore opportunities of collaboration. Moreover, Members noted the relation between sports and health, and consented to discuss with Department of Health on suitable measures and room for cooperation. (Department of Health would present a paper on Exercise Prescription on 7 February 2006))

Development of Community Sports Clubs

6. The Group discussed and generally supported the development of community sports clubs, regarding them as a major initiative in promoting the sustainability of public participation in sports and creating a sport culture. The

Group held the view that development of community sports clubs would help: (a) arouse the interest of the public in sports; (b) optimize the use of existing sports facilities; (c) local residents develop a sense of belonging towards their community, and enhance social cohesiveness; and (d) offer opportunities for development of volunteer services in sports. The Group noted the work of the existing National Sports Associations (NSAs) and Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in establishing community sports clubs, and considered that there was room for improvement in the mode of operation of these clubs. A study on their mode of operation and successful examples overseas was proposed to identify the appropriate mode for Hong Kong. To follow up on the proposal, the CSC might invite representatives from the concerned NSAs to attend the meeting and share their experience in management of such clubs.

Review of terms of reference of District Councils and management of local venues by LCSD

7. The group was concerned about the review of the terms of reference of District Councils (DCs), in particular, the impacts of the proposed involvement of DCs in management of LCSD's local venues on the public participation in sports activities. Therefore, the Group proposed the CSC should discuss the policy and measures before the review has come to conclusion, and make suggestions to the concerned authority on the roles of the DCs, NSAs, District Sports Associations, and LCSD in managing and using the local sports venues.

Resource Allocation

Funding mechanism

8. The Group was of the view that, as the policy formulating institution for Hong Kong, the Sports Commission (SC) should take up a more active role in allocation policy of fund and resources, e.g. the SC might make strategic recommendations on the weighting to resource allocation for development of community sports, elite sports and promotion of major sports events. Members suggested a proposal be made to the SC about reviewing the mechanism of allocation of fund and resources.

Sports lotteries

9. The option of sports lotteries to generate funding for sports development is worth studying. Some members stated that lotteries of this kind might be acceptable to the public if they had a clear and specific objective and the gambling element was not explicit. However as it was a complicated issue, the ad hoc group proposed that the option of issuing sports lottery should be incorporated in the sport consultation paper to invite comments from the public.

THE WAY FORWARDS

10. Members are invited to give comments on the proposals of the ad hoc meeting, confirm if the issues it raised will be the subjects of concern of the CSC for the year, and set priorities for them. Members may consider the need for convening a special group meeting on matters of higher priority, with a view to making proposals for consideration of members and submission to the SC, so as to facilitate their compilation and preparation of a consultation paper on sports policy review.

ADVICE SOUGHT

11. Members are invited to offer their advice on the paper.

Community Sports Committee Secretariat
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