

**COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE**  
**Proposed Strategies on Intensifying the Scope of “School Sports Programme”**  
**and Report on Better Utilisation of School Sports Facilities**

**PURPOSE**

This paper reports to members the progress of intensifying the scope of the “School Sports Programme” (SSP), the proposed promotion strategies in the coming years, and the follow-up action for better utilisation of school sports facilities.

**BACKGROUND**

2. At its meeting on 9 August 2006, the Community Sports Committee (CSC) discussed the development strategies for promoting community sports. One of the main directions of development is to intensify the scope of the SSP and better utilise school sports facilities. With regard to the specific work required for implementing the development strategies, the LCSD has made a detailed report to the Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-committee (SSACS) under the CSC on 9 May 2007. Upon consolidation of the views of the SSACS, the proposed promotion strategies and initiatives to be taken in the coming years are reported.

**LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF “SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMME”**

3. The SSP has made good progress since its implementation in 2001. Under the SSP, six subsidiary programmes and different activities are devised according to the preferences of students and their levels of sports skills. The “Sport Education Programme” aims at providing students with the latest information on sports. The “Easy Sport Programme” aims to design a series of training courses through simplified sports rules, skills and equipment that suit the physique of primary students. Under the “Outreach Coaching Programme”, coaches assigned by the National Sports Associations (NSAs) will conduct training in schools or the LCSD sports venues to students on sports skills, strategies and rules and to assist schools to form school teams. Under the “Badges Award Scheme”, coaches from the NSAs will assess participants’ skills according to the test items of various levels of badges at the end of the training courses of the above two programmes. The NSA concerned or the LCSD will award badges and certificates to those who meet the required standards. The “Joint Schools Sports Training Programme” aims to select students with potential from the above programmes for further training. It serves as a channel for finding potential elite athletes. The “Sport Captain Programme” provides professional training on coaching, sport administration and sport coordination to parents, teachers

and students who can subsequently assist in promoting school sports activities by taking voluntary work in sports activities organised by schools and the NSAs.

4. The “sportACT Award Scheme”, the seventh subsidiary programme of the SSP, was launched in October 2006 with the aim of encouraging students to draw up a plan for sports participation and cultivate a habit of doing exercise constantly and regularly. Certificates will be awarded to students as a token of encouragement for their participation in sports. The “Active School Award” has been introduced to recognise the efforts of schools in promoting sports development.

5. There are currently 32 sports activities available under the SSP for schools to choose. The number of activities organised has increased from 1 188 in 2001 to the present 7 075, an almost fivefold increase. The number of participating schools has increased from 574 in 2001 to the present 955. Student attendance has increased from 234 000 in 2001 to the present 516 198. The results are satisfactory.

## **PROPOSED PROMOTION STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES IN THE COMING YEARS**

6. To sustain intensifying the scope of the SSP to achieve the ultimate objective of “One Student, One Sport”, the LCSD has planned to increase the school participation rate in the SSP in the coming three years from about 70% at present to over 90%. It is estimated that the school participation rate will increase to 80% in 2007/08 and further to 85% and 90% in 2008/09 and 2009/10 respectively. The specific work proposed is as follows:

- (a) To take the initiative to contact those schools which have not yet participated in the SSP and encourage and assist them to join the SSP;
- (b) To identify the present needs of schools for sports activities and offer them support and assistance as far as possible;
- (c) To strengthen cooperation with the NSAs to provide more sports activities for schools to choose;
- (d) To enrich sport exhibitions and sport talks under the SSP and make them more interesting by introducing new topics and subjects so as to arouse students’ interest in sports;
- (e) To encourage schools to open up their sports facilities outside school hours as Joint Schools Training Centres to facilitate students from schools in the vicinity to join the training;
- (f) To take the initiative to arrange talks for potential teachers undergo training at the Institute of Education and tertiary institutions to enhance their understanding of the SSP. This will facilitate their support of the SSP and arrange suitable sports activities for their students when they join the teaching profession in future;
- (g) To cooperate with the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) by arranging sport talks and activities (such as talks to promote the Beijing

- 2008 Olympic Games and its countdown activities) for students so as to enhance their awareness of spectacular sports events, thereby arousing their interest in sports participation;
- (h) To arrange guided tours for students in connection with major international competitions (such as the 2008 Olympic Equestrian Events and 2009 East Asian Games), visits and performances of outstanding athletes from the Mainland taking place in Hong Kong in the coming years. Students can thus watch high-level matches, pre-match training and demonstrations under the guidance of professional coaches from the NSAs, thereby enhancing their knowledge and interest in sports;
  - (i) To introduce the SSP and its related activities to district school Principal associations, Parent-Teacher Associations, School Management Committees, etc. so that they will have a better understanding of the benefits of exercise and will encourage and support their students/children to take part in sports activities after school;
  - (j) To promote the SSP among the public by conducting roving exhibitions and playing video shows on SSP activities at LCSD's sports and recreational venues;
  - (k) To provide students with the latest information on sports via schools on a regular basis and invite them to take part in SSP activities; and
  - (l) To release the latest information and activities on sports by updating the SSP webpage at the LCSD website on a regular basis.

## **FOLLOW-UP ACTION FOR BETTER UTILISATION OF SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES**

7. Regarding the suggestion of better utilisation of school sports facilities, the SSACS held meetings with the representatives of school councils and the EMB on 15 September 2006 and 28 March 2007 respectively to discuss the proposal and collect their views. Representatives of the schools councils remarked that opening up school sports facilities should be on a voluntary basis. If proper arrangements could be made in regard to security, maintenance, third party liability insurance, venue cleansing after activities, electricity charges as well as overtime payment for staff, etc., schools might consider applications from the relevant organisations for hiring their facilities.

8. A meeting was held on 18 January 2007 among the LCSD, EMB and Architectural Services Department (Arch SD) to discuss the school councils' concerns such as third party liability insurance and maintenance of school facilities. The EMB remarked that there were established guidelines and circulars (i.e. EMB Circular Nos. 9/2005 and 11/2005) regarding the issues of schools hiring out their facilities and third party liability insurance. At present, most schools have lent their facilities for other uses, such as public examinations, the Schools DanceSport Festival and polling stations. The EMB considered that if the hirers/hiring organisations could address

the concerns of schools properly, schools would be willing to consider lending their facilities for public use. The EMB suggested that schools might draw up an agreement on the hiring terms and conditions directly with the hirers/hiring organisations. As for the charges, schools (except for private and Direct Subsidy Scheme schools) might, according to the guidelines issued by the EMB, adjust the rate for payment of related expense having regard to the nature of use and appropriate arrangements for staff to be on duty.

9. At present, a Block Insurance Policy (BIP) has been arranged by the EMB on behalf of all government, aided and subsidised schools. It has learnt from the Insurer and noted that the policy covers all accidents arising from the use of school facilities, i.e. accidents which happen outside school hours and during non-school activities that are of concern to the school councils. Nevertheless, the hirers/hiring organisations also have to effect a policy of insurance for their activities. The EMB will upload a full set of the BIP conditions onto its webpage for schools' perusal.

10. For maintenance, the Arch SD remarked that requests for maintenance made by schools would be dealt with immediately. For minor maintenance work that costs less than \$3,000 for primary schools and less than \$8,000 for secondary schools, the schools may arrange a private contractor to carry out the maintenance work.

11. It is believed that the above information concerning the maintenance and management of facilities and insurance can address the concerns of schools. The SSACS will consolidate the above information and prepare a document to school councils for reference. School councils will be requested to explain in detail to their members and encourage schools to open up their sports facilities for use by other schools/students or community organisations as a means to increase sports facilities in the community and ensure better use of resources.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

12. Members are invited to comment on the promotion strategies and initiatives in the coming years as proposed in paragraph 6 above and note the follow-up actions to be taken for better utilisation of school sports facilities as elaborated in paragraphs 7 to 11.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
May 2007