

SPORTS COMMISSION

Progress Report of the Elite Sports Committee

INTRODUCTION

This paper reports on the latest development in elite sports in Hong Kong under the COVID-19 pandemic, which is related to the work of the Elite Sports Committee (ESC).

PROGRESS UPDATE

2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics

2. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was announced on 30 March 2020 that the Tokyo Olympics would be postponed to 23 July – 8 August 2021 while the Tokyo Paralympics would be postponed to 24 August – 5 September 2021.

3. As at end-June 2020, Hong Kong athletes obtained 29 qualifications in events at the Tokyo Olympics and 15 qualifications in events at the Tokyo Paralympics.

Training at the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI)

4. In response to the COVID-19 situation, the HKSI operated under a closed campus environment for Olympic and Paralympic full-time athletes, and their coaches and supporting staff from 25 March to 7 May 2020. The purpose of a closed-camp operation at the HKSI was to ensure the uninterrupted preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games under a healthy and safe environment. The HKSI stepped up hygiene measures, including enhanced sanitisation and requiring all personnel to wear masks within the campus. Throughout the closed-camp operation, the number of athletes, coaches and supporting staff residing at the HKSI ranged from 146 in the first week to 180 on 7 May 2020. The HKSI has resumed normal training for all full-time athletes on 8 May 2020 respectively, which was followed by part-time athletes on 27 May 2020.

COVID-19 cases of HKSI athletes and coaches

5. Three Karatedo athletes, namely Lee Chun-ho, Tsang Yee-ting and Chau Ka-him, were tested positive for COVID-19 on 18, 20 and 21 March 2020 respectively after returning to Hong Kong on 16 March 2020 from their training in France. Their coach Rida Bel-lahsen and Head Coach William Thomas were also tested positive on 30 March 2020 and 1 April 2020 respectively. All five athletes and coaches recovered and were discharged from hospitals between April and early May 2020, and resumed work/training from early May to June 2020. The HKSI sports science and medicine team would closely monitor their training and recovery.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to note this report.

**Sports Commission Secretariat
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