

SPORTS COMMISSION

Progress Report of the Elite Sports Committee

INTRODUCTION

This paper reports on the work of the Elite Sports Committee (ESC) since the last update the Sports Commission (SC) in July 2020.

PROGRESS UPDATE

2. At the meeting held on 18 November 2020, the ESC discussed the following issues.

2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics

3. The Government and the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) would continue to fully support our athletes in preparing for the Tokyo Olympic Games (OG) and Paralympic Games (PG). As at November 2020, seven sports have obtained qualification in 22 events in the Tokyo OG, while five para sports have achieved qualification in 11 events in the Tokyo PG.

4. In response to the COVID-19 situation, the Home Affairs Bureau has been assisting the HKSI's operations to safeguard the health of athletes under appropriate anti-epidemic measures, so that athletes may continue to train at the HKSI. For this purpose, the Chief Secretary for Administration has exempted the HKSI from complying with the directions of the Secretary for Food and Health made under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), such as directions for sports premises to close. Furthermore, the HKSI has implemented comprehensive infection control measures at its campus, which include adopting closed-door training camp arrangement when the pandemic situation requires¹, mandatory wearing of masks in all common areas, temperature checking at all access points, enhanced cleaning and sanitising protocols, and various social distancing measures. Due to the recent increase in the number of confirmed local cases for COVID-19, the HKSI resumed the adoption of the closed-door training camp arrangement on 1 December 2020.

¹ The closed-door training camp arrangement was adopted from 25 March to 8 May and from 29 July to 18 September this year.

Postponement of the Evaluation of Sports Achievement under EVSS

5. In order to avoid disruption to our athletes' preparation for major events, in particular the postponed Tokyo OG and PG in 2021, and to make up for the lost opportunities for the sports to attain the necessary results for their qualification of Tier A or B statuses, the ESC recommended the postponement of the biennial evaluation of sports' achievements under the EVSS originally scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2021 by one year to the first quarter of 2022. Details are presented in Paper No. SC 15/2020 discussed at this SC meeting.

Progress Report on the Five-Year Development Programme for Team Sports

6. The performance of 14 teams from eight sports in stage 2 (2019-2020) under the Programme was reviewed and assessed. Having considered the impact of the pandemic, the ESC recommended that teams having achieved EV1 in 2019 alone would be deemed to have met their stage 2 targets, and would hence be eligible for an increase in programme funding under stage 3 (2021-2022). For teams that could not achieve EV1 in 2019 and 2020, if they could achieve EV1 in 2021, their annual programme funding under stage 3 would be increased in 2022. Details are presented in Paper No. SC 16/2020 discussed at this SC meeting.

7. Four teams, namely baseball (men), ice hockey (men), water polo (men) and water polo (women), are considered to have met their stage 2 targets and will have their programme funding raised in 2021.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to note the progress reported above.

**Sports Commission Secretariat
December 2020**