

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 to the Sports Commission (SC) in March 2023.

Progress Update for 2023

2. The ESC endorsed on 28 December 2023 the following issues by circulation.

Sports Science and Research Funding Scheme

3. Administered by the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI), the Sports Science and Research Funding Scheme (SSRFS)'s objective is to, through sports science research and innovative projects, enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong athletes, and help them better prepare for major international sports events. Under the funding and administrative guidelines of the SSRFS as approved by the SC on 31 January 2022, the target completion date of each project should not go beyond 31 December 2025 unless there are exceptional justifications.

4. Considering the positive feedback the HKSI received on the implemented projects, and to enable the SSRFS to benefit elite athletes in preparing for upcoming major games, including the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games and Asian Para Games, as well as the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, the ESC endorsed and recommended for SC's consideration to relax the funding and administrative guidelines to allow the HKSI to consider proposals with research completion date up to 31 December 2028. Details are set out in Paper No. SC 20/2023.

Development Programme for Team Sports 2024-2027

5. The Development Programme for Team Sports 2018-2023 ended on 31 December 2023. The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) met with relevant "national sports associations" (NSAs) and their respective

national squads in November 2023 to review their performances in the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games (AG), and to understand their experiences from participating in the programme.

6. Considering the impact COVID-19 pandemic has caused to the training and development of team sports, the positive feedback from the NSAs, and that team sports usually take longer to mature, the CSTB proposed to continue our funding support to team sports by launching the Development Programme for Team Sports 2024-2027 (the new round of programme), along with various enhancements including the implementation of a performance-based programme funding, the development of second-tier squads, the engagement of high-performance coaches, and the strengthening of sports medicine support. The new round of programme would start from 1 January 2024 and end on 31 March 2027 with the specific target to improve the teams' performances in the next Aichi-Nagoya AG. The ESC endorsed the CSTB's proposal and recommended its submission to the SC for consideration. Details are set out in Paper No. SC 21/2023.

Progress Update for 2024

7. The 51st meeting was held on 14 March 2024 which discussed the following issue.

HKSIL 2024-25 Annual Plan and Budget

8. The HKSI requested an allocation of \$941.6 million from the Elite Athletes Development Fund (EADF) for 2024-25, which marked a 9.1% increase compared to the allocation in 2023-24. Having considered the operational needs and financial requirements of the HKSI in the coming financial year, ESC Members endorsed the 2024-25 Annual Plan and Budget of the HKSIL, and recommended its submission to the SC for further deliberation. Details are set out in Paper No. SC 9/2024.

Preparation of Hong Kong athletes for Paris 2024 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

9. The Paris 2024 Olympic Games (OG) and the Paralympic Games (PG) will be held from 26 July to 11 August and from 28 August to 8 September 2024 respectively. As at 29 February 2024, Hong Kong athletes have obtained qualification for 15 Paris OG events and 12 Paris PG events. The Government and the HKSI would continue to fully support our athletes in preparing for the OG and PG. Details are set out in Paper No. SC 10/2024.

Advice Sought

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

**Sports Commission Secretariat
March 2024**