

## **SPORTS COMMISSION**

### **Progress Report of the Major Sports Events Committee**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This paper reports on the work of the Major Sports Events Committee (MSEC) since March 2020.

#### **PROGRESS UPDATE**

*“M” Mark event applications and funding position*

2. In light of the outbreak of the COVID-19 since early 2020, a total of seven major sports events scheduled to be held in the first half of 2020 have been either cancelled or postponed -

- (a) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2020 (cancelled);
- (b) LONGINES Masters of Hong Kong 2020 (cancelled);
- (c) Cathay Pacific / HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2020 (postponed);
- (d) 2020 ITTF World Tour – Hang Seng Hong Kong Open (postponed);
- (e) FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2020 (cancelled)
- (f) 2020 Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races (cancelled)
- (g) 2020 “Belt & Road” International Basketball Tournament cum Tokyo Olympic Warm-up series (cancelled)

3. The Cathay Pacific / HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2020 hosted by the Hong Kong Rugby Union has been postponed to 16 to 18 October 2020. The Vetting Panel of MSEC has recommended awarding the “M” Mark status as well as the funding support to the event. The recommendation is being circulated to MSEC for endorsement.

4. Currently, five applications for “M” Mark event to be held from October to December 2020 are under processing –

- (a) Harbour Race 2020;
- (b) World Match Racing Tour (Sailing);
- (c) Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2020;
- (d) Hong Kong Squash Open 2020; and
- (e) Hong Kong Tennis Open 2020

5. Since the launch of the “M” Mark in 2004, we have granted “M” Mark status to 154 events, 70 of which received a total funding support of **\$190.61 million**. A list of “M” Mark events in 2019 - 2020 is at **Annex**.

*Promotion of “M” Mark events*

6. Given all the “M” Mark events held in the first half of 2020 were either cancelled or postponed as a result of the epidemic, the related promotion works were suspended. We will closely monitor the situation and arrange appropriate publicity for the “M” Mark events to be held in the coming months.

*Special Support Measures for “M” Mark Events Affected by the Epidemic*

7. Having made reference to the special support measures for “M” Mark events in the light of the social situation in the second half of 2019, the MSEC recommended providing a special direct grant of a maximum of \$2 million or 85% of eligible expenditure items that have been reasonably incurred or committed (and would be foregone even if the events would be held at a later date) for each “M” Mark event that was subsequently cancelled or postponed due to the epidemic upon deduction of the receipt from sponsors, whichever is lower.

8. The above special one-off support measures was endorsed by the Sports Commission in mid-June 2020. The MSEC Secretariat will liaise with national sports associations concerned for follow up arrangement.

**ADVICE SOUGHT**

9. Members are invited to note the progress update.

**Sports Commission Secretariat  
June 2020**