

SPORTS COMMISSION

Progress Report of the Major Sports Events Committee

INTRODUCTION

This paper reports on the work of the Major Sports Events Committee since July 2020.

PROGRESS UPDATE

“M” Mark event applications and funding position

2. Owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, a total of 15 major sports events scheduled to be held in 2020 and 2021 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/HKBC Hong Kong Sevens 2020 (cancelled);
- (d) 2020 ITTF World Tour – Hang Seng Hong Kong Open (cancelled);
- (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);
- (h) New World Harbour Race 2020 (cancelled);
- (i) World Match Racing Tour (postponed);
- (j) YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2020 (cancelled);
- (k) Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open 2020 (cancelled);
- (l) Everbright Sun Hung Kai Hong Kong Squash Open 2020 (cancelled);

- (m) 62nd Hong Kong Open (Golf) (postponed to Q1 2021);
- (n) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2021 (postponed to Q4 2021); and
- (o) Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2021(postponed).

3. Currently, five applications for “M” Mark event to be held from January to November 2021 are under processing –

- (a) 62nd Hong Kong Open (Golf);
- (b) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2021;
- (c) Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2021 (Rugby);
- (d) 2021 UCI Track Cycling Nations Cup Hong Kong, China; and
- (e) 15th World Nations Dragon Boat Championships.

4. Since the launch of the “M” Mark in 2004, we have granted “M” Mark status to 155 events, 71 of which received a total funding support of **\$202.61 million**. A list of “M” Mark events since 2019 is at **Annex**.

Special Support Measures for “M” Mark Events

5. The Sports Commission (SC) approved the provision of a special direct grant to “M” Mark events affected by the social situation in the second half of 2019. For “M” Mark event carried out in the second half of 2019, a maximum of \$1 million or 85% of eligible expenditure items of the additional costs that arise from arrangements made in response to the social situation, such as extra security and transportation arrangements and refund-related costs (e.g. credit card and bank charges and charges by ticketing agents) will be provided, subject to deduction of an amount equal to any surplus in the event.

6. On top of the above, the SC further approved that for “M” Mark event cancelled or postponed due to the social situation or the epidemic, 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) will be provided upon deduction of the receipt from sponsors, whichever was lower.

7. As of early December 2020, eight applications for special direct grant have been received. Details are as follows–

Events affected by the social situation in the second half of 2019

- (a) 2019-2020 TISSOT UCI Track Cycling World Cup Hong Kong, China (additional costs incurred);
- (b) Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open 2019 (cancelled); and
- (c) Everbright Sun Hung Kai Hong Kong Squash Open 2019 (cancelled).

Events affected by the epidemic

- (d) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2020 (cancelled);
- (e) LONGINES Masters of Hong Kong 2020 (cancelled);
- (f) 2020 ITTF World Tour - Hang Seng Hong Kong Open (Table Tennis)(cancelled);
- (g) FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2020(cancelled); and
- (h) Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2020 (cancelled).

8. We are processing the above applications and target to approve them in around two months, subject to the submission of all the required information from the organisers.

ADVICE SOUGHT

9. Members are invited to note the progress update.

**Sports Commission Secretariat
December 2020**