

## **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 December 2020.

#### **PROGRESS UPDATE**

##### *“M” Mark event applications and funding position*

2. Owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, all “M” Mark events scheduled to be held from February 2020 to April 2021 have been either cancelled or postponed.

3. While a total of 15 “M” Mark event applications were received during the period, 4 events which had already been recognised by the MSEC as “M” Mark events were eventually cancelled due to the epidemic. In addition, another 9 annual “M” Mark events and 2 new major sports events were either cancelled or postponed by the organisers at the vetting stage of applications. Details are as follows:

##### Recognised “M” Mark events cancelled-

- (i) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2020;
- (ii) LONGINES Masters of Hong Kong 2020;
- (iii) Cathay Pacific/HKBC Hong Kong Sevens 2020; and
- (iv) 2020 ITTF World Tour – Hang Seng Hong Kong Open.

##### Annual “M” Mark events cancelled or postponed by organisers at the vetting stage of application -

- (i) FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2020 (cancelled);
- (ii) 2020 Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races (cancelled);
- (iii) New World Harbour Race 2020 (cancelled);
- (iv) YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2020 (cancelled);

- (v) Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open 2020 (cancelled);
- (vi) The 62<sup>nd</sup> Hong Kong Open (Golf) (cancelled);
- (vii) Everbright Sun Hung Kai Hong Kong Squash Open 2020 (cancelled);
- (viii) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2021 (postponed to Q4 2021); and
- (ix) Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2021(postponed to Q4 2021).

New major sports events cancelled or postponed by organisers at the vetting stage of application -

- (i) 2020 “Belt & Road” International Basketball Tournament cum Tokyo Olympic Warm-up series (cancelled); and
- (ii) World Match Racing Tour (postponed).

4. Currently, two applications for “M” Mark event to be held in May and November 2021 respectively are under processing -

- (i) 2021 UCI Track Cycling Nations Cup Hong Kong, China; and
- (ii) 15th World Nations Dragon Boat Championships.

5. 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*

6. 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 and the COVID-19 epidemic with a view to alleviating the financial burden of relevant national sports associations. As of early March 2021, nine applications for special direct grant have been received. Details are as follows -

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

- (i) 2019-2020 TISSOT UCI Track Cycling World Cup Hong Kong, China (successfully organised with additional costs incurred);
- (ii) Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open 2019 (cancelled); and
- (iii) Everbright Sun Hung Kai Hong Kong Squash Open 2019 (cancelled).

Events cancelled due to the epidemic

- (iv) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2020;
- (v) LONGINES Masters of Hong Kong 2020;
- (vi) 2020 ITTF World Tour - Hang Seng Hong Kong Open (Table Tennis);
- (vii) FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2020;
- (viii) Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2020 ; and
- (ix) Hong Kong Squash Open 2020.

7. Three applications had been approved with a total of \$1.98 million of special direct grant disbursed. The remaining six applications are being processed and expected to be approved in around two months, subject to the submission of all the required information from the organisers

**ADVICE SOUGHT**

8. Members are invited to note the progress update.

**Sports Commission Secretariat  
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