

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 June 2022.

“M” Mark event applications

2. As of early March 2023, we received a total of twelve “M” Mark event applications for 2022-23. Four of them were cancelled by the organiser prior to vetting and approval of the applications and seven applications were approved. The remaining application was rejected as it did not qualify for the “M” Mark status upon assessment. The details are listed as follows –

Events cancelled

- (a) FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2022;
- (b) 2022 Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races;
- (c) Hong Kong Tennis Open 2022; and
- (d) YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2022 - part of the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 500

Applications approved

- (a) Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2022;
- (b) FIBA 3x3 World Tour Hong Kong Masters 2022;
- (c) Everbright Securities International Hong Kong Squash Open 2022;
- (d) Bank of Communications Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge 2022;
- (e) 25th Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon;
- (f) World City Championship presented by Hong Kong Golf Club (March 2023); and
- (g) Cathay/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2023 (March 2023).

Application rejected

(a) SDG FairBreak Invitational T20 2023 (Cricket).

3. Currently, four “M” Mark event applications for 2023-24 are under processing –

- (a) FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2023 (13-18 June);
- (b) 2023 Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races (24 to 25 June);
- (c) YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2023 - part of the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 500 (12-17 September); and
- (d) Hong Kong Open 2023 (DanceSport) (15 to 29 December).

Funding position

4. Since the launch of the “M” Mark in 2004, we have granted “M” Mark status to 164 events, 79 of which granted a total funding support of **\$290.61 million**¹.

Enhancement for the “M” Mark System

5. With a view to attracting and supporting the staging of more international sports events in Hong Kong, as well as to promoting the development of sports industry, the MSEC discussed and endorsed the proposed enhancement measures set out below –

- (a) the cap on matching fund for an event supported by “M” Mark System be increased from \$10 million to \$15 million;
- (b) the cap on direct grant for a new “M” Mark event, regardless of event type², be aligned to \$6 million or 85% of eligible expenditure (whichever is less) in addition to the matching fund, subject to a combined funding ceiling³ of \$15 million per event;
- (c) the duration of direct grant for a new “M” Mark event be extended from the first year to the third year, provided that the event is held

¹ The amount of special direct grant disbursed is not included.

² The type of event includes World Championships, Grand Finals of World Series, World Cup and tournament of World Series.

³ The combined funding ceiling includes matching fund and direct grant only.

consecutively each year and that the income/expenditure account or audited accounts of the last event has a surplus not exceeding 25% of the event's overall expenditure inclusive of LCSD venue charges;

- (d) the quota of two "M" Mark events per applicant per year be abolished;
- (e) the eligibility of the applicant be relaxed to cover events organised by "national sports organisations" and other private or non-government organisations; and
- (f) the restrictions on the use of event surplus and reserve fund be abolished.

6. Relevant paper has been submitted for Members' consideration separately.

Advice sought

7. Members are invited to note the above progress.

**Sports Commission Secretariat
March 2023**