

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 April 2023.

“M” Mark event applications

2. As of early March 2024, the MSEC endorsed 18 applications in the 2023-24 financial year and four applications in the 2024-25 financial year. Seven applications were rejected as they did not meet the vetting criteria in full under the “M” Mark System upon assessment. The details are listed as follows –

Applications approved in the 2023-24 financial year

- (a) Cathay /HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2023;
- (b) FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2023 presented by China Life (Overseas);
- (c) 2023 Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races;
- (d) VICTOR Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2023-part of the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 500;
- (e) Aramco Team Series presented by PIF-Hong Kong 2023;
- (f) Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open 2023;
- (g) Hong Kong (Golf) Open 2023;
- (h) FIA World Rallycross Championship Hong Kong, China-Season Finale 2023;
- (i) New World Harbour Race 2023;
- (j) Bank of China (Hong Kong) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (Hong Kong Section) Half Marathon 2023;
- (k) FIBA 3x3 World Tour Hong Kong Masters 2023;
- (l) TTI Milwaukee Hong Kong Squash Open 2023;
- (m) WDSF Breaking for Gold World Series - Hong Kong 2023;
- (n) Bank of China Hong Kong Tennis Open 2024;
- (o) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2024;
- (p) LIV Golf Hong Kong 2024;

- (q) 2024 Tissot UCI Track Nations Cup- Hong Kong, China; and
- (r) 2024 World Triathlon Cup – Hong Kong.

Applications approved in the 2024-25 financial year

- (a) Cathay/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2024;
- (b) 2024 Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races;
- (c) 2024 World Lacrosse Women's U20 Championship ; and
- (d) WBSC Baseball5 World Cup 2024.

Application rejected

- (a) SDG FairBreak Invitational T20 2023 (Cricket);
- (b) 2nd International eMotorsport Championship Challenger Cup;
- (c) Super Sixes – Hong Kong;
- (d) East Asia Super League (EASL) Final Four;
- (e) World Superstars Cup;
- (f) 2024 Hong Kong Snooker All-Star Challenge; and
- (g) The 6th Trampoline Junior and Senior Asian Championships.

3. Currently, eight “M” Mark event applications for the 2024-25 financial year are under processing –

- (a) FIBA 3x3 Universality Olympic Qualifying Tournament 1 (UOQT1) (12-14 April);
- (b) FIE Foil World Cup – Hong Kong, China (1 to 4 May);
- (c) FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2024 (11 to 16 June);
- (d) International Football Match: Kitchee vs Atletico Madrid (7 August);
- (e) Hong Kong China International Basketball Tournament 2024 (2 to 4 September);
- (f) Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2024 - part of the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 500 (10-15 September);
- (g) International Skateboarding Contest (Hong Kong) (28 to 29 September); and
- (h) Hong Kong 2024 World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships (30 November to 4 December).

Funding position

4. Since the launch of the “M” Mark in 2004, we have granted “M” Mark status to 184 events, of which 97 were granted a total funding support of **\$452.6 million**¹.

¹ The amount of special direct grant disbursed in light of the pandemic is not included.

Review on Enhancement for “M” Mark System

5. The Government launched various measures on 1 April 2023 to enhance the “M” Mark System. These measures include increasing the funding ceiling for each event to \$15 million², lifting the quota of “M” Mark events to be organised by the same applicant each year, and relaxing the eligibility of the applicants for “M” Mark events to cover events organised by “national sports associations” as well as private or other non-government organisations.

6. The enhancement measures have been effective since their implementation, with a record-high of 18 major international sports events supported by the “M” Mark System in the 2023-24 financial year. Of these events, the Aramco Team Series, the FIA World Rallycross Championship, the WDSF Breaking for Gold World Series, the LIV Golf and the World Triathlon Cup etc were staged in Hong Kong for the very first time. These events attracted more than 500,000 participants.

7. To review the effectiveness of the enhancement measures, the MSEC is currently consolidating experiences gained from various applications and will conduct a comprehensive review on the vetting and monitoring mechanism of the “M” Mark System so as to facilitate the staging of more major international sports events in Hong Kong while further enhancing the System. The review is expected to be completed in around the third quarter of this year.

Advice sought

8. Members are invited to note the above progress.

Sports Commission Secretariat
March 2024

² Excluding grants for venue and/or marketing.