

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 34th Meeting of the Community Sports Committee

Date: 29 August 2014 (Friday)
Time: 10:30 am
Venue: Conference Room 401, 4/F, Leisure and Cultural Services Headquarters,
1-3 Pai Tau Street, Sha Tin, Hong Kong

Present: Mr TONG Wai-lun (Chairman)
Mr David YIP Wing-shing (Vice-chairman)
Mr Daniel CHAM Ka-hung
Mr Henry CHAN Chi-chiu
Mr CHENG Shu-ming
Mrs Stella LAU KUN Lai-kuen
Ms LEE Ching-nga
Mr Philip LI Wing-kuen
Mr LIU Ah-chuen
Mr Raphael TONG Tai-wai
Ms TUNG Kin-lei
Prof Stephen WONG Heung-sang
Mrs Cecillia WONG LAM Siu-ling
Dr Simon YEUNG Sai-mo
Dr YUNG Shu-hang
Prof LEUNG Mei-lee

Department Representatives in Regular Attendance

Miss Olivia CHAN Yeuk-oi (Representative from Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Dr Anne FUNG Yu-kei (Representative from Department of Health)
Mr HO Chun-ip (Representative from Education Bureau)
Mrs NG NG Lai-chun, Quinnie (Representative from Social Welfare Department)
Mr Edric LEUNG Sing-lung (Representative from Home Affairs Department)

Absent with Apologies

Mr CHU King-yuen
Ms Peggy LEE Pik-yee

Mr George YIP Chi-wai
Miss Petty LAI Chun-yee (Representative from Home Affairs Bureau)

In Attendance

Ms Michelle LI Mei-sheung (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Ms Rebecca LOU Wai-yi (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Ms Alice HEUNG Ching-yee (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Mrs Susana TAI YIP Sau-lan (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

Secretary

Mr Wicky CHEUNG Wing-keung (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives from various government departments to the meeting. He also welcomed Ms Michelle LI, JP, who had taken up the post of Director of Leisure and Cultural Services. On behalf of the Community Sports Committee (CSC), the Chairman expressed thanks to Mrs Betty FUNG, JP, former Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, and Mr Simon LIU, former Secretary of the CSC, for their contribution to the CSC. Some Members were unable to attend the meeting and were represented by Mr Edric LEUNG of the Home Affairs Department (HAD); Mrs Quinnie NG of the Social Welfare Department (SWD); Mrs Susana TAI of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD); and Mr Wicky CHEUNG of the LCSD, who attended on behalf of Ms Winnie LEE, the new Secretary of the CSC.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of Last Meeting of the CSC

2.1 The Secretariat had emailed the draft minutes of the previous meeting to Members for comment on 30 April. Since no proposals for amendments had been received and no further amendment was proposed at the meeting, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the 33rd meeting were confirmed.

Item 2: Matters Arising

(i) Report on the Sport For All Day 2014

3.1 Mr Wicky CHEUNG of the LCSD reported that the Sport For All Day 2014 was held on 3 August. It attracted an attendance of more than 220 000, of which about 195 000 used leisure facilities free of charge, while more than 31 000 participated in various recreation and sports programmes for free. To enhance the impact of the event on the community, various bodies, including 18 District Councils, national sports associations (NSAs), community sports organisations, privately-run sports organisations, property management agencies and non-governmental organisations, had been invited to support the Sport For All Day 2014 and assist in its publicising. There were supportive responses from nearly 190 organisations, of which 28 organised free recreation and sports programmes and 26 opened their facilities for free on the event day. These drew an attendance close to 8 000.

3.2 Adopting rope skipping as its theme with the slogan “Stay active! Rope skipping keeps you fit!”, the Sport For All Day 2014 widely publicised the health benefits of skipping. As the biennial World Rope Skipping Championships was held in the Hong Kong Coliseum in early August, the LCSD worked in collaboration with the Hong Kong Rope Skipping Association, China in the promotion initiative for the Sport For All Day 2014 and the Championships, and drew wider public attention to the former event.

3.3 On the event day, the Secretary for Home Affairs joined the recreation and sports activities at the Lai Chi Kok Park Sports Centre. Apart from taking part in the group skipping and aerobics with members of the public, he also watched the parent-child mini-sports games and a dancing demonstration.

3.4 In an ongoing effort to promote Sport for All in the community, the LCSD planned to organise the Sport For All Day again in the coming year. Details of the plan would be presented to Members in subsequent meetings.

3.5 The Chairman said that the Sport For All Day 2014 was welcomed by members of the public and had been successful in encouraging them to participate in sport and physical activities.

3.6 In response to Members’ enquiries about the effectiveness of the Sport For All Day in improving the people’s physical fitness, Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD said that the Department had conducted follow-up surveys for the event in previous years. It was noticed that after taking part in the Sport For All Day, some participants

who had never used recreation and sports facilities of the LCSD continued booking and using these facilities or participating in recreation and sports programmes afterwards. This showed that the Sport For All Day succeeded in increasing public participation in sport and physical activities. She also indicated that consideration might be given to include public participation in the event and its impacts in the study area of the Physical Fitness Test for the Community, which is conducted on a regular basis. Data would then be studied and collected in a more systematic and scientific manner, facilitating the promotion and enhancement of “sport for all”.

(ii) Report on the Follow-up Action on the Proposals to Improve the Arrangements for the Booking and Allocation of Recreation and Sports Facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

4.1 Ms Alice HEUNG of the LCSD presented a PowerPoint report to Members on the Department’s implementation progress of the improvement measures recommended by the Ombudsman. As by September 2014, the Department would have 17 of the Ombudsman’s 22 recommendations completed, including the penalties imposed on individuals in breach of the conditions of booking introduced in August and the revision of the quotas for booking by organisations during peak hours to take effect in September.

4.2. The remaining five suggested improvement measures included (i) reviewing the eligibility criteria and arrangement for organisations registered as limited companies or societies to make priority bookings; (ii) introducing immediate payment for telephone reservation; (iii) providing computerised booking services for non-fee-charging facilities; (iv) allowing a hirer to authorise another user to sign in; and (v) adjusting the opening hours for turf football pitches to increase supply. Given the complicated technical issues and additional resources involved, the above measures would be put on hold. The LCSD would keep on monitoring the effectiveness of the new measures implemented and review the relevant procedures and arrangement when necessary in order to meet the needs of organisations and the public.

4.3 With regard to the views and suggestions raised by Mr Daniel CHAM, Mrs Stella LAU and Mr Philip LI, responses from Ms Alice HEUNG were summarised as follows:

- (a) The LCSD had sought the NSAs’ views on issues concerning bookings by organisations. The NSAs had been informed that, while the affiliated clubs under NSAs or the Community Sports Clubs would be penalised for failing to take up booked sessions, the

penalty would be imposed on the NSAs if the sessions concerned were booked by NSAs on behalf of the clubs. Furthermore, in response to the recommendations made by the Ombudsman on improving the mechanism for booking recreation and sports facilities, the LCSD had in mid-2013 shortened the notice period for cancellation of bookings by organisations from 40 days before the date of use to 20 days, with a view to helping organisations better plan and stage their activities. Meanwhile, the LCSD had reviewed the penalty system for booking and use of land-based recreation and sports facilities by organisations. Under the revised penalty system for “no-show” which came into effect on 1 June 2014, organisation hirers would have their priority booking status in respect of all land-based facilities in the same district suspended for six months if they failed to take up their booked sessions on two occasions within 12 months, as opposed to four occasions within the same period for a one-year suspension in respect of all district land-based facilities in the past.

- (b) In addition, the LCSD had sought the views of the CSC early this year on the suggested revision of the booking quota for organisation hirers during peak hours. In its letter to NSAs, the LCSD, after consolidating relevant views and statistical data on bookings by organisations, made known that the quota for block bookings (including that for the LCSD and the HAB) would be capped at one half of the total peak-hour sessions in a given month, with no more than half of the total number of facilities at each venue at a time (not applicable to venues with only one facility). Booking applications for additional hours and facilities under exceptional circumstances (for example, for the staging of major games or competitions) would be reviewed and approved by the Chief Leisure Services Manager in charge. “Peak hours” referred to 6:00 pm or after from Monday to Friday, and any time on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.
- (c) The LCSD, in response to the Ombudsman’s recommendation, raised the concern that allowing a hirer to authorise another user to sign in might result in abusive use or encourage touting and thus considered it not advisable to implement such a measure at the present stage. The recommendation would be considered when a major overhaul of the Leisure Link took place in the future.
- (d) Prof Stephen WONG commented that the LCSD should provide the

CSC with information relating to the implementation of the new measures, including non-compliance and enforcement, the general situation and relevant statistical data, conflicts and difficulties faced by frontline staff, mitigation methods and staff training arrangement. Ms Alice HEUNG replied that 1 985 advance bookings were cancelled by hirers during the past two weeks (15 to 27 August), i.e. around 150 bookings per day on average, representing a significant increase by fivefold compared with the number before the measures were in place. The record of the first Sunday (17 August) indicated about half of the cancelled sessions was taken up by other users. Those preliminary findings showed that the new measures were effective in minimising the time of facilities being left unused.

- (e) Currently, while sessions cancelled online were available for public booking immediately, those reserved over the phone but later cancelled would not be released until 7:30 am on the following day to the public for booking on a first-come-first-served basis. Mr Raphael TONG suggested that all the cancelled sessions be made available for booking after 7:30 am on the following day to prevent those cancelled online from being taken up immediately by persons in the know (essentially a “transfer”).

4.4 Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD said that the Department had been committed to improving the booking and allocation mechanism of recreation and sports facilities and enhancing the computerised booking system so as to prevent abuse of facilities and balance the needs of various parties. The Department would take Members’ views into consideration, and data would be collected and analysed to determine the severity and prevalence of the problems so that appropriate actions could be taken.

4.5 The Chairman thanked Members for their valuable views and hoped that the LCSD would consider those views for further improvement of the booking and allocation mechanism.

(iii) Report on the Hong Kong and Shanghai Summer Sports Camp for Youth 2014

5.1 Mrs Susana TAI reported that the Hong Kong and Shanghai Summer Sports Camp for Youth 2014 was successfully held at Shanghai Jincai High School between 11 and 15 August. It was originally planned that Mr CHU King-yuen and Mrs Cecilia WONG would be Head and Deputy Head of the Hong Kong Delegation

for this year. As Mr CHU was unable to attend the camp due to other commitments, Mrs Cecilia WONG and Dr Simon YEUNG would instead be Head and Deputy Head of the Delegation. The sports under this year's exchange programmes were tennis, basketball and volleyball. With the participation of 40 young athletes aged 11 to 16 from Hong Kong and Shanghai respectively, the five-day, four-night camp offered a range of activities, including joint training and friendly matches in the sports concerned, visits to local sports facilities and participation as spectators as well as sightseeing at tourist attractions such as the Oriental Sports Center, the China Pavilion for the World Expo, the skating rink at the Sanlin Sports Center, Shanghai's Bund along the Huangpu River, etc. The exchange programme not only provided the youth athletes with opportunities to develop independence and self-discipline, but also raised sports standards of the two cities and fostered friendship among the athletes of the two places. Next year's camp would be held in late July of 2015 in Hong Kong. The LCSD and the Shanghai Administration of Sports would discuss the sports and programme arrangement later on.

5.2 The Chairman thanked Mrs Cecilia WONG and Dr Simon YEUNG for taking up their respective roles as Head and Deputy Head of the Delegation and leading the young athletes to the Camp.

5.3 Mrs Cecilia WONG found the trip eye-opening as they learnt more about the sports facilities in the Mainland. She was grateful to LCSD staff for arranging visits to some tourist attractions and venues that fell outside the itinerary, enabling the young athletes of Hong Kong to broaden their horizons. The youngsters' sports knowledge had also been enriched during the training sessions given by both new and former coaches as well as exchanges between them and their counterparts. She suggested including some other sports under the programme next year so as to facilitate wider participation of athletes from different disciplines.

5.4 Dr Simon YEUNG thanked the CSC for giving him the opportunity to take part in the programme and expressed appreciation for LCSD staff's thoughtful planning of activities. He considered the arrangement of visits to renowned local schools (such as Shanghai Pudong Zhongxue) and accommodation in campus by the Shanghai side an appropriate move. He suggested that the LCSD could make reference to the above arrangement when hosting next year's summer camp in Hong Kong. The Department could provide accommodation and conduct sports activities in well-equipped schools and arrange visits to facilities reflecting Hong Kong's culture so as to enhance sports and cultural exchanges among the teenagers of the two cities.

Item 3: Report on the School Sports Tour – iSmart Fitness Scheme (CSC Paper 04/14)

6.1 Mrs Susana TAI presented CSC Paper 04/14 and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the implementation progress of the programmes under the School Sports Tour – iSmart Fitness Scheme.

[Mrs Stella LAU left the meeting after the presentation.]

6.2 The Chairman was pleased to know that the fitness programme had achieved the intended results and that the LCSD would extend the programme to more schools so as to benefit more students with low levels of physical activity and weight problems. He also expressed thanks to the LCSD, the Education Bureau, the Physical Fitness Association of Hong Kong, China and the Department of Health for their close collaboration which had facilitated the smooth implementation of the Scheme.

6.3 Mrs Susana TAI's responses to Members' enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (a) The main reason why only 21 students had their "Weight-to-Height" ratio improved to normal after sports training was that the students would take a longer period of sports participation, coupled with certain favourable conditions, to show more noticeable improvement in physical fitness. Having said that, the Scheme had achieved the objectives of raising students' interest in sports and their physical activity level.
- (b) It was agreed that parents' attitude towards sports would shape their children's participation in physical activities. The LCSD hence invited parents to seminars and sport demonstrations with an aim to enhance their awareness of their children's health.
- (c) Regarding the suggestion of tracking the fitness of participating students for comparison, she remarked that it would be difficult to implement for several reasons. For instance, students' fitness would be influenced by various factors (such as dietary habits); also, huge extra resources would be needed to follow up on the fitness of 500 participating students; moreover, some of the participating P1 to P6 students might already have left school. To tie in with the major objective of the Scheme, that is, to encourage children's continuous participation in sports, the LCSD wrote to schools that were in their

first year of the Scheme to encourage their students to persevere and take an active part in sports activities after the courses ended, and to include sports in their everyday lives.

- (d) The LCSD would consider the other suggestions offered by Members, including the broadening of the Scheme to cover more schools, increase in incentives, a mid-term evaluation of students' fitness, and use of an interactive app instead of DVDs, in order to enhance the operation of the Scheme.

[Dr Patrick YUNG left the meeting after the discussion of this item.]

Item 4: Report of the 5th Hong Kong Games Organising Committee (CSC Paper 05/14)

7.1 Ms Rebecca LOU of the LCSD briefed Members on CSC Paper 05/14.

7.2 In reply to Members' enquiry on the judging of the "Cheering Team Competition for the 18 Districts", Ms Rebecca LOU stated that the Organiser would put together a judge panel, who would decide on the winning teams for the prizes. The panel would consist of four members, including two representatives from the Community Sports Committee, one representative from the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and one representative from the Cheerleading Federation of Hong Kong, China. Results of the competition would be announced in the 5th Hong Kong Games Closing cum Prize Presentation Ceremony.

[Mr CHENG Shu-ming left the meeting after the presentation of this item.]

Item 5: Any Other Business

8.1 Ms LEE Ching-nga advised that the LCSD consider applying the enrolment scheme for the fitness (multi-gym) training courses on other popular training courses. Under the scheme, participants who had enrolled in the course for three times or more would be given a lower priority in enrolment than the new participants. Other than the fitness (multi-gym) training course, repeated enrolment was also found in lawn bowls and social dance training courses. This situation was common in Kwai Tsing, as well as Eastern and Southern districts of Hong Kong Island. In addition, coaches tended to pay more attention to the recurrent participants and less to the new ones.

8.2 Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD said that instructors were reminded to take notice of participants' progresses, especially those of the new participants. Moreover, the LCSD's investigation revealed that repeated enrolment was very common in the fitness (multi-gym) training course, creating a rather serious situation. To deal with the issue, the scheme in which "new participants" enjoy a higher priority in enrolment would be adopted for this course. The LCSD would explore if there was a need to apply the same enrolment scheme to other training courses.

Adjournment of Meeting

9.1 The Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting. The secretariat would inform Members of the date of the next meeting in due course.

9.2 The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Community Sports Committee Secretariat
October 2014