

Community Sports Committee

Preparatory Work for the 9th Hong Kong Games

Purpose

The paper aims to report to Members the preparatory work for the 9th Hong Kong Games (HKG).

Background

2. To further promote the “Sport for All” culture in the community, the Sports Commission (SC) and its Community Sports Committee (CSC) have, in collaboration with the 18 District Councils (DCs), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, as well as the relevant national sports associations (NSAs), organised the HKG on a biennial basis since 2007. The HKG is a territory-wide major multi-sport event with the 18 DCs as participating units. Its objectives are to provide districts with more opportunities for sports participation, exchanges and co-operation, and to encourage active public participation in sports. Apart from improving sporting standards at the district level, the HKG can also strengthen the public’s sense of belonging to the district they live in and help promote social cohesion through facilitating communication and fostering friendship among the 18 districts.

3. The 8th HKG had been postponed by one year to between 2021 and 2022 in response to the COVID-19 epidemic. A resolution was eventually passed at the Joint Meeting of the 8th HKG Organising Committee and Standing Committee on 1 April 2022 to cancel the remaining events due to take place, including the district athlete selection, inter-district sports competitions and community participation programmes. The summary report on the 8th HKG was presented at the 51st meeting of the CSC held on 18 May 2022.

The 9th Hong Kong Games

4. It was stated in the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address that efforts would be stepped up to promote urban sports that have become popular among young people in recent years, such as 3-on-3 basketball, sports climbing and skateboarding, and to encourage their greater participation in such sports.

5. Upon review of the competition events of the HKG, the Government has planned to introduce new age divisions for youths under 16 and under 18 in athletics, swimming, badminton, table tennis and tennis events. The 5-on-5 basketball competitions will be replaced by the 3-on-3 event, which is more popular among young people. Additional teams representing each district in the team events will also be allowed. Meanwhile, popular urban sports events among young people, including sports climbing, breaking and skateboarding, will be held as demonstration events. On another front, as part of efforts to boost publicity of the HKG, the Government will leverage those social media sites frequented by young people in support of promotion of the events, thereby increasing participation from young people.

The Establishment of the 9th HKG Organising Committee

6. An organising committee (OC) is established for each of the HKGs, with membership being the SC, the CSC, relevant co-organisers (including the DCs and relevant NSAs), as well as members of the Standing Committee of the previous OC including representatives from the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation and Hong Kong Elite Athletes Association, who will offer valuable views on their respective fields of expertise. For the 9th HKG due to take place in 2023 and 2024, the role of the DCs in the HKG will be subject to review, given the current term of the DCs ending on 31 December 2023 and the ongoing review of district administration.

7. The first meeting of the 9th HKG OC is scheduled for May 2023, where various issues covering, inter alia, competition events, competition rules, athletes' eligibility and selection mechanism will be finalised. As such, the LCSD and the other co-organisers can conduct open selection exercises to choose qualified athletes representing each district early, for whom pre-competition training sessions can be arranged in preparation for the HKG. Meanwhile, the OC will formulate and decide on comprehensive publicity and community engagement

strategies at the meeting to spur active public participation and drum up support from the citizens across Hong Kong for the HKG. In addition, the OC will also report to the CSC on a regular basis on the progress of such preparatory work.

Paper Submission

8. Members are invited to note the preparatory work for the 9th HKG.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
April 2023