

## **Community Sports Committee**

### **Report of the 9th Hong Kong Games Organising Committee**

This paper aims to sum up the 9th Hong Kong Games (HKG) and report on the public views regarding the HKG. Members are invited to put forward views and recommendations on the arrangements of the HKG as reference for the next HKG.

#### **Background**

2. To further promote the “Sport for All” culture in the community, the Sports Commission has organised the HKG biennially since 2007. HKG is a territory-wide major multi-sport event with the 18 District Councils (DCs) as participating units. Its objectives are to provide districts with more opportunities for sports participation, exchanges and cooperation, 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 community cohesion through facilitating communication and fostering friendship among the 18 districts.

#### **Summary of Activities of the 9th HKG**

##### **Review of the Activities and Recommendations**

3. To review the effectiveness of the 9th HKG and enhance the arrangement of the next HKG, the Secretariat of the 9th HKG Organising Committee (the Secretariat) invited co-organisers (including 18 District Offices (DOs), District Leisure Services Offices of LCSD (DLSOs), Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) and the national sports associations (NSAs) concerned to provide recommendations on the arrangements of the 9th HKG and hold review meetings with the relevant NSAs. The second Organising Committee (OC) meeting-cum-the fourth Standing Committee (SC) meeting was held on 18 October 2024 to review the arrangements of the 9th HKG, after which both of the committees were dissolved accordingly.

4. The co-organisers generally considered that the overall arrangements and publicity work of the 9th HKG were satisfactory, the operation was smooth and the Games helped foster the communication and friendship among the 18 districts, and

strengthen the sense of belonging and cohesion of the residents to their districts, achieving the goals of the HKG. Events such as the “Hong Kong Games Run and Exercise Together”, “Sports Legacy – Exercise to Get Super Fit” and “Fun for All@Hong Kong Games” also attracted more people to participate in the HKG. Live webcast of the 16 sports competitions and live TV broadcast of the finals of 7 sports competitions by RTHK achieved very positive results. It was therefore proposed that the arrangement be continued in the next HKG.

5. So far as the demonstration competitions of the four urban sports were concerned, the four NSAs involved unanimously agreed that in spite of the increasing popularity of these sports in Hong Kong, the 18 districts did not have a sufficient number of athletes to form teams to compete in the inter-district sports competitions. Hence, it would not be appropriate to include these sports as sports events in the next HKG at this stage. That said, it was proposed that consideration be given to continuing to hold demonstration competitions.

6. The salient views and suggestions put forward by the co-organisers and stakeholders regarding the 9th HKG are consolidated as follows:

(a) Positioning and Objectives of HKG

- It was proposed that the positioning and objective of promoting the “Sport for All” culture in the community be kept.
- It was proposed that the restriction on elite athletes’ participation in the HKG be continued to be relaxed.

(b) Sports Events

- It was proposed that the present eight sports events be maintained.
- It was proposed that the 5-on-5 basketball competitions be resumed.
- It was proposed that the demonstration competitions of breaking and women’s futsal be included as competition events.

(c) Sports Competition Format and Rules

- It was proposed that the seeding system be continued to be adopted.
- It was proposed that the division of age groups be revised.
- It was proposed that team events of badminton, table tennis and tennis be reintroduced.
- It was proposed that the upper age limit for youth players of 3-on-3 basketball be extended to 21 and two teams be sent by each district for both men and women’s events.
- It was proposed that, for athletics competitions, a total of three events including two field events and one track event or alternatively two track

events and one field event be enrolled by each athlete.

- It was proposed that, for futsal competitions, team captains or DLSOs staff be allowed to lead the team in competitions.
- It was proposed that, for volleyball competitions, the arrangement of another ballot for quarterfinals be cancelled.
- It was suggested that third runner-up awards be introduced.

(d) Sports Competition Date, Time and Venue

- While introducing "Finals Month" may enhance the ambience of the HKG, it is virtually impossible for the delegations to concurrently cheer on all athletes, for some competitions will be held at the same time.
- In case of rescheduled competition dates due to inclement weather, the website should be updated as soon as possible.
- It was proposed that preliminary rounds of 3-on-3 basketball and futsal, as well as finals of breaking be held in indoor venues.
- It was proposed that use of publicity materials in white or light colour at badminton competition venues should be avoided.
- It was proposed that the competition schedules be kept short.
- Clashes between HKG matches and those held by NSAs should be avoided.

(e) Entry Eligibility

- It was proposed that participation of full time athletes be prohibited.
- It was proposed that enrolment of athletes in the capacity of students of schools in their respective district be allowed.
- It was proposed that participants in the age group of 16 to 17 without recognised competition results of the events be allowed to enrol in the selection competitions in the capacity of local residents.
- It was proposed that the number of First Division League players in each team for 3-on-3 basketball be limited.
- It was proposed that enrolment in higher divisions be allowed.
- It was proposed that the length of residence in Hong Kong of athletes holding Hong Kong identity card be reduced.

(f) Athlete Selection and Mechanism

- It was proposed that the entry requirements for district athlete selection competitions be announced six months in advance.
- It was proposed that athletes be nominated by the district working groups

to compete in athlete selections for competitions if there are still places in the respective districts.

- It was proposed that athletes with competition results of the New Territories region inter-primary/secondary schools competitions recognised by the Hong Kong, China Association of Athletics Affiliates and the Hong Kong China Swimming Association be allowed to enrol in district athlete selections.
- It was proposed that athletics test events be held.

(g) Members of District Delegations

- It was proposed that more professional members in districts be invited to the district delegations.
- It was proposed that the number of assistant instructors nominated by selected teams for team events be increased.
- It was proposed that the requirement for the District Officers to be the head of delegation be dropped.

(h) Training and Instructor Hiring for District Delegations

- It was desirable to arrange a maximum of 30 hours of pre-event training. It was also proposed extra training sessions be offered as teams advanced in the competition.
- Attendance to district training sessions was not satisfactory.
- It was proposed more athletics and swimming instructors/ assistant instructors, as well as volleyball assistant instructors be hired given the introduction of age groups.
- It was proposed the calculation period of instructors' working hours be extended. Some districts expressed concerns that certain instructors did not lead the team in every match, failing to fulfil their job responsibilities. It was therefore proposed that requirements including those on instructor attendance rates be put in place by NSAs.

(i) Uniform/Competition Uniform Arrangements by the Organiser

- It was proposed that all competition uniforms be provided by the Organiser.
- It was proposed that consistent fonts and typography be adopted across all competition uniforms.
- It was proposed that competition uniform requirements be strictly enhanced by the Organiser for all events.

- It was proposed that the use of the grey colour be avoided for basketball competition uniforms.

(j) Opening Ceremony

- The Ceremony was held at a conveniently located venue at an appropriate time, with satisfactory programme rundown.
- It was proposed that only spectator stands on three sides be open to use.
- It was proposed that the location of the cheerleaders' rest area be improved.
- It was proposed that an event backdrop be placed outside the venue for photo-taking.

(k) Closing cum Prize Presentation Ceremony

- It was generally agreed that the arrangement of the Ceremony was ideal and was held at a conveniently located venue.
- It was proposed that more performances be staged.
- It was proposed that the Ceremony's programme be streamlined.

(l) Community Participation Programmes

- On the whole, the community participation programmes could effectively promote the HKG.
- The "Hong Kong Games Run and Exercise Together" and "Fun for All@ Hong Kong Games" on the final competition days were both conducted in a great manner.
- It was proposed that warm-up areas, rest areas and supplies for teams participating in "The 18 Districts' Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition" be provided in light of their team size.

(m) Promotion Efforts and Effectiveness

- The promotion campaign for the HKG was adequately and effectively conducted.
- Sports ambassadors and elite athletes could enhance the promotion and publicity efforts.
- The promotional video clips could allow members of the public to know about local athletes.
- The online livestreaming and live broadcasting of the finals on RTHK TV32 were welcome.
- It was proposed that the contents on the medal chart and competition

schedules at the HKG website be refined.

**(n) Sponsorships and Financial Arrangements**

- It was proposed that specific guidelines on the use of sponsorship funds be issued.
- It was proposed that the provisions on awards for athletes be introduced.
- It was proposed that the funding for district cheerleading teams be increased.

7. At the second OC meeting-cum-the fourth SC meeting held, some members reflected that the names of district sponsors could only be found in the list of sponsoring organisations/individuals for the 9th HKG. It was proposed that publicity efforts for future HKGs be stepped up to recognise the contributions made by district sponsors, with a view to attracting more community people to offer sponsorships for their districts. The Secretariat noted these comments for review of future arrangements for HKGs.

8. Details of the views and suggestions received from various sectors of the community on the 9th HKG are set out in **Annex I**.

**Complaints and Follow-up Actions**

9. During this year's HKG, a total of 402 enquiries, 2 recommendations and 79 complaints have been received, with the latter primarily relating to athlete eligibility (2 cases), district athletes selection (3 cases), community participation programmes (38 cases), sports competitions (20 cases) and overall arrangements (16 cases). The Secretariat has taken follow-up actions and given replies as appropriate.

10. In addition, two appeal cases in respect of this year's HKG have been received, with one about the failure to extend roll call time on the tennis event day despite rain, and the other about an instructor from another district assuming coaching duties and signing the attendance record on behalf of a local instructor during the district volleyball competition. Both were immediately referred to the respective appeal boards for follow up, which deliberated and unanimously ruled that the appeals be dismissed. That said, the OC Secretariat would continue to review competition procedures with NSAs to refine future arrangements.

**Way Forward**

11. The biennial 9th HKG has drawn to a great conclusion, witnessing the smooth preparations, efficient overall operations, as well as more refined organisation and scale. It was encouraging to see that the attendance to the event exceeded 940 000, including over 1 500 young athletes in sports competitions. There were significant improvements in organisation, scale, community involvement and public support

during the 9th HKG, which could in turn further promote sports development in the community and foster social cohesion.

12. The approaching 10th event marks a milestone of the HKG. Given this, the Secretariat plans to introduce new elements into the 10th HKG. Meanwhile, 2025 promises to be an exciting year, as Hong Kong will co-host the 15th National Games (NG) with Guangdong and Macau for the first time from 9 to 21 November, along with the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities (NGD) and the 9th National Special Olympic Games (NSOG) from 8 to 15 December 2025. It bears great significance to Hong Kong, for the city will host eight competitive events and one mass participation event of the 15th NG, as well as four competitive events and one mass participation event of the NGD & NSOG. Stakeholders including various bureaux and government departments, the SF&OC, the Hong Kong Sports Institute, relevant NSAs and athletes, medical institutions, disciplined forces, schools, sponsors, and volunteers will spare no efforts in supporting and participating in the preparation and publicity for the events. For focused deployment of resources, the OC and SC endorsed at their joint meeting on 18 October 2024 to postpone the 10th HKG from 2025-26 to 2026-27. The launching events of the 10th HKG will be held in 2026, while the inter-district sports competitions will take place in 2027.

### **Advice Sought**

13. Members are invited to note the above report and put forward their views.

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Secretariat of the 9th Hong Kong Games Organising Committee  
December 2024

**Key Views from Various Sectors of the Community  
on the 9th Hong Kong Games (HKG)**

**I. Overall Views**

- a. The overall arrangement and publicity work of the 9th HKG were generally considered satisfactory. The operation of eight inter-district sports competitions, four urban sports demonstration competitions, four sports competitions for persons with disabilities and various community participation programmes was smooth. The 9th HKG was conducive to fostering the communication and friendship among the 18 districts, and strengthening the sense of belonging and cohesion of the residents to their districts, thereby achieving the goals of the HKG;
- b. It was generally proposed that the positioning and objective of promoting the “Sport for All” culture in the community be kept in the next HKG, and that participation of elite athletes in the HKG be continued, with a view to enhancing the appeal of matches.

**II. Sports Events**

- a. It was generally proposed that the present eight sports events be maintained in the next HKG. Individual districts, however, expressed that while 3-on-3 basketball was fast-paced, the 5-on-5 games were still more popular among the public. It was therefore proposed that, in addition to keeping the 3-on-3 basketball competitions, the 5-on-5 events be resumed;
- b. It was proposed that the demonstration competitions of breaking and women’s futsal be included as competition events.

**III. Sports Competition Format and Rules**

- a. As far as 3-on-3 basketball was concerned, each team must have at least one to two youth players aged 18 or below. Given that such players must seek prior consent from parents or guardians to participate in competitions, districts have found it difficult to recruit them to form teams. It was



therefore proposed that the upper age limit for youth players be extended from 18 to 21 or below. Individual districts, however, expressed that given competing teams would not face any restrictions on the maximum number of youth players on the field/court, it was proposed that no restriction on enrolment by youth players be put in place;

- b. Again, on 3-on-3 basketball, each district could currently send up to three teams for both men and women's events. It was proposed that such an arrangement be aligned with those applicable to other team events, under which each district could send up to only two teams for those events;
- c. Seven districts proposed that, in addition to individual events of badminton, table tennis and tennis, group events of those sports should be reintroduced in the next HKG, with a view to strengthening athletes' team spirit, cohesion and sense of belonging, as well as enhancing the ambience of the events;
- d. The 9th HKG introduced three age groups to the events, namely Group A for those aged 18 or above, Group B for those aged 16 to 17 and Group C for those aged 15 or below. It was generally agreed that the low enrolment numbers of Group B could be attributed to the clashing dates of some events and the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. It was proposed by individual districts that the division of age groups be revised as follows:

Proposed Amendment		Age Group
To adjust the age distribution of the three age groups	Option 1	Group A (aged 17 or above)
		Group B (aged 15 to 16)
		Group C (aged 14 or below)
	Option 2	Group A (aged 18 or above)
		Group B (aged 15 to 17)
		Group C (aged 12 to 14)
To merge the three	Option 1	Adult Group (aged 18 or above)

age groups into two		Youth Group (aged 17 or below)
	Option 2	Aged 17 or above
		Aged 16 or below

- e. Some districts remarked that publicity efforts on the three age groups of individual events could be stepped up;
- f. It was proposed by individual districts that a new age group for those 60 or above be introduced;
- g. It was proposed that the seeding system be continued to be adopted to make matches more competitive and appealing, and that the personal data of participants be verified in detail by the relevant National Sports Associations (NSAs) to avoid blunders in seeded players lists, which could compromise the professionalism of the competitions;
- h. It was generally agreed that the athletes/teams who made it to the quarter-finals but failed to turn up in the competitions due to injuries, illness or participation in major international events would continue to be allowed to keep their positions and scores. It was also proposed that team leaders be reminded at the team leaders' meetings to make such applications by producing the relevant supporting documents signed by accredited doctors and NSAs for verification, only upon which their positions and scores could be kept. Individual districts, however, considered that the results of those failing to turn up should not be counted, in line with the practices of other major events;
- i. Individual districts proposed that only one youth player be included in each team to address the difficulties of recruiting youth players;
- j. It was proposed that the arrangement for athletics relay events be aligned with that for swimming relay events, where all relay team members must have already enrolled onto individual events. It was also proposed that districts be allowed to submit the list of relay team members on the day of

the event, that individual participants be allowed to enrol in three individual events, i.e. two field events and one track event or alternatively two track events and one field event, and that adequate rest time be allowed in between relay events to avoid those athletes competing in consecutive events without enough rest;

- k. The new athletics women's triple jump event was cancelled due to under-enrolment. It was therefore proposed that districts be consulted prior to preparation of competition prospectuses when introducing or cancelling any event in the next HKG;
- l. It was proposed that districts be notified of cancellation of swimming events as soon as possible for timely notification to athletes, so that they would not learn that the events in question had been cancelled after they commenced training. Also, rules of relay events should be clearly explained at the team leaders' meeting to ensure the matching of the actual order of participants to that submitted, thereby avoiding results being declared void due to invalid qualifications;
- m. It was proposed that the swimming competition for persons with intellectual disability be changed from a 100 m event to a 50 m one;
- n. It was proposed that, for futsal competitions, team captains or DLSOs staff be allowed to lead the team in competitions. Some districts also reflected that competitions had started even before training began. It was therefore proposed that both the training and competition dates be scheduled as appropriate by districts and the Secretariat;
- o. It was proposed that, for volleyball matches, lots drawing for upper and lower brackets before the group stage be retained to avoid teams from the same region competing in the same group. There were, however, varied views on whether another draw should be held for the quarter-final. It was also proposed that adequate rest time be allowed for athletes competing in the quarter-final and semi-final to avoid teams playing multiple matches on the same day. To ensure precise reporting of scores

and stage promotions of all districts, it was proposed that the accuracy of the Organiser's website be enhanced.

- p. It was proposed that third runner-up awards be introduced to encourage participants. It was also proposed that the results/scores of HKG winners be recognised by the NSAs concerned to attract more outstanding athletes to take part in HKG.
- q. It was proposed that, for singles events of table tennis, badminton and tennis, group stages be held before knockout stages, allowing athletes to participate in more matches. Take the badminton competition as an example, the single round robin system on a group basis was adopted in the preliminary round, with the top two athletes in each group of three to enter the next round, whereas the knock-out system was adopted in the quarter-final. The preliminary round is a game up to 31 points, and the quarter-final is a win-by-two game with three games of 21 points each.

#### IV. Competition Time and Venue Arrangements

- a. It was proposed that, in response to rescheduled competition dates due to inclement weather, the website be updated as soon as possible, so that instructors and athletes could be informed by districts to make arrangements accordingly, and that discrepancies between the fixtures posted in venues and the website's content could be avoided.
- b. It was proposed that HKG matches be scheduled in a flexible manner on weekday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays to avoid clashing with major events held by the NSAs and school exams which could reduce the attendance of athletes, and that, so far the competition venues were concerned, matches be held at venues close to the MTR stations to facilitate participation of athletes and staff from remote areas.
- c. It was proposed that scheduling of HKG competition fixtures be first coordinated with the NSAs concerned. In case after the announcement such HKG competitions were found to clash with the NSAs' own ones, it was proposed that the former be rescheduled to avoid withdrawal of players.

- d. It was proposed that preliminary rounds of 3-on-3 basketball and futsal, as well as finals of breaking be held in indoor sports centres to avoid disruption of matches due to rain, and that matches should begin as scheduled in the fixtures to avoid a shortened warm-up time due to early starts of matches.
- e. While it was generally considered useful to introduce the “Finals Month” to enhance the ambience of the HKG, some districts found it virtually impossible for the delegations and district staff to concurrently cheer on all athletes, for some competitions were held on the same day at different venues.
- f. It was proposed that, in the year of HKG, considerations be given to either bringing forward the district age group competitions or postponing the HKG selections to allow adequate time in between the two events. For instance, district tennis competitions postponed due to inclement weather might clash with the HKG selections. Given this, it was necessary to make proper arrangements regarding the district competition fixtures and HKG selections.
- g. It was proposed that the team leaders’ meetings and ballots for the events be held as soon as possible, so that the fixtures could be finalised and announced early for instructors and participants to make arrangements as necessary.
- h. It was proposed that banners and signboards in light colour which looked similar to white badminton shuttlecocks and might therefore affect the sight of players be avoided at badminton competition venues.
- i. It was proposed that the periods of age group competitions be kept short. Given that the current competitions of the three age groups were scheduled in a period of two and a half months, it was proposed that competitions for different groups be held in the early, middle and late parts of the period. For example, during the two and a half months, the competitions of Group C would be held in the early part of the period,

while those of Group B and Group A would be respectively held in the middle and late parts of the period, so that the competitions of each group could be completed in one to one and a half months, thereby facilitating participation of athletes in such competitions.

V. Entry Requirement for Athletes

- a. It was proposed that the restriction on the participation of full-time athletes be reviewed and reconsidered.
- b. It was proposed that the entry requirements for athletes be relaxed in such a manner that considerations could be given to allowing athletes to enrol in the capacity of students of schools in their respective district, which should be clearly stipulated in the prospectus.
- c. It was proposed that participants in the age group of 16 to 17 without recognised competition results of the events be allowed to enrol in the selection competitions in the capacity of local residents. Meanwhile, the enrolment arrangements for the first and second round should be clearly stipulated in the prospectus.
- d. It was proposed that the number of Division A1 and A2 League players in each team for 3-on-3 basketball be limited.
- e. It was proposed that younger athletes be allowed to enrol in events for older age groups.
- f. It was proposed that the residence requirement of athletes holding Hong Kong identity card be relaxed, and that their length of residence in Hong Kong be shortened to one to two years.

VI. Methods and Mechanism for District Athlete Selection

- a. It was proposed that, for the next HKG, the entry requirement for athlete selections, as well as competitions recognised by the NSAs concerned, be announced at least six months prior to the enrolment period, thereby allowing participants adequate time and opportunities to enrol in competitions recognised by the HKG and obtain the recognised results for enrolment in HKG selections.
- b. It was the current practice that, for badminton, table tennis and tennis events, each athlete be nominated for at most one singles event. It was proposed by some districts that each athlete be allowed to enrol in one

singles and one doubles event to avoid vacancies in doubles event.

- c. It was proposed that the results of the New Territories region inter-primary/secondary schools competitions be recognised by the NSAs concerned (the Hong Kong, China Association of Athletics Affiliates and the Hong Kong China Swimming Association) to increase the number of eligible participants in each district.
- d. It was proposed that the seeding system be adopted in the preliminary round of district selections for table tennis, badminton and tennis and team events to refine the selection arrangements for ball games, and that, to avoid top-tier participants competing in the same group, a standardised mechanism be put in place for all competitions.
- e. It was proposed that the enrolment for district athlete selections be divided into the first-round registration and supplementary registration, with the former being only open to individuals with recognised results/qualifications. If there are still places after the first-round registration, those eligible for HKG competitions may take part in the selections on a first-come, first-served basis during the supplementary registration.
- f. It was proposed that district sports associations be commissioned by the district working groups to recommend athletes with competition results other than the recognised ones for direct entry to the competitions, provided that there are still places after the conclusion of athlete selections.
- g. It was proposed that one or two athletics test events be held to give athletes a last chance to achieve the results required for participating in the HKG.
- h. It was proposed that the selection period for athletics athletes be extended to allow sufficient time for districts to select eligible athletes for competitions. Meanwhile, it should be clearly stipulated in the selection prospectus that athletes were only allowed to participate in selection competitions in one district.
- i. It was proposed that the round-robin format be adopted in the selection competitions for individual events of table tennis, badminton and tennis to determine the athletes' ranking. A single match of 21 or 31 points should be considered to determine a winner. If there were many participants, a

group round-robin format might be adopted, with the top player from each group advancing to the knockout stage. In addition, each athlete was only allowed to participate in two events at most during the selection competitions, meaning that he/she should only participate in singles plus doubles, singles plus mixed doubles, or doubles plus mixed doubles.

#### VII. Members of District Delegations

- a. It was proposed that more experienced/professional members from the sports sector in districts be invited to join the district delegations to help manage the teams in a more efficient manner.
- b. It was proposed that local talents be appointed by the Home Affairs Department as members of district delegations and the number of assistant leaders for team events be increased. Those assistant leaders could be nominated by the selected teams to help their leaders follow up on the matters related to training and competitions in a more efficient manner.
- c. There should be neither mandatory requirements for the District Officers to serve as the heads of delegations nor mandatory appointment of honorary heads of delegations. The respective DLSOs might advise on the matters related to their district delegations, leaders and sports consultants. In addition, The Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committees, District Youth Development and Civic Education Committees and District Youth Community Building Committees of the District Councils might also play some roles in this regard.

#### VIII. Training and Instructor Hiring for District Delegations

- a. It was generally agreed that it was desirable to arrange 30-hour training sessions before matches, which could help enhance the skill levels of district athletes and foster their rapport. That said, some districts remarked that such a practice would make it more difficult for members of the public to book venue facilities in the districts. There were also some districts expressing that it would be virtually impossible for two men's and two women's volleyball teams to concurrently receive training at the same venue. Given this, additional training venues might be reserved. It was therefore proposed that the universal requirement for 30-hour



training sessions be removed. Meanwhile, the districts might increase or adjust the number of training hours before matches up to 30 hours on their own, provided that the athletes/teams had advanced to quarter-finals. Some districts/NSAs proposed that the number of training hours should be increased to over 30 hours, in a bid to enhance the competitiveness of athletes/teams in an effective manner.

- b. Some reflected that the attendance to the training sessions was not satisfactory, in particular among those athletes of individual events who generally had a fixed training schedule.
- c. Some proposed that, in the light of the increase in the number of trainees due to the introduction of age groups, new resources be allocated on a pro-rata basis to swimming and athletics events, in a bid to hire additional instructors/ assistant instructors for the sake of adequate guidance and athletes' safety. It was also proposed that the number of assistant instructors for the volleyball event be increased.
- d. It was proposed that the method of calculating instructors' remunerations be adjusted. Given that instructors needed to conduct reviews with athletes after competitions, their remunerations should be calculated up to 30 minutes after the end of the competitions. There were also districts expressing concerns that some of their instructors did not lead the team in every match, leading to failure to fulfil job responsibilities. It was therefore proposed that the requirements including those regarding instructor attendance rate be set out by NSAs.
- e. It was proposed that the instructor qualifications for 3-on-3 basketball be relaxed to allow Level 1 instructors to lead the team, increasing the available pool of basketball instructors.
- f. It was proposed that the approval process of instructor qualifications be expedited for early confirmation of coaching arrangements, allowing the districts to hire instructors and finalise the training arrangements as soon as possible.

- g. It was proposed that DLSOs staff or team captains be allowed to lead the teams in competitions in the absence of instructors.

IX. Uniform Arrangements and Competition Uniform Guidelines set out by the Organiser

- a. Some reflected that the “Guidelines on Procuring Competition Uniforms” did not align with the relevant requirements as set out in the badminton and tennis competition prospectuses. It was proposed that the Organiser should work closely with the NSAs to update those requirements on competition uniforms. In addition, the Organiser should also provide the “Guidelines on Procuring Competition Uniforms” to districts early, with photos illustrating the requirements including those about competition socks, in a bid to facilitate the districts to procure competition uniforms in a timely manner.
- b. It was proposed that competition uniforms be provided by the Organiser altogether, lest those athletes with outfit failing to meet the relevant requirements should be disqualified.
- c. It was proposed that clear guidelines on competition uniforms for team events be issued by the Organiser as soon as possible.
- d. It was proposed that the sizes of athletes’ competition uniforms in the event be finalised only after the district athlete selections, so that procurement of uniforms in right quantity could be arranged.
- e. It was proposed that the requirements and regulations on competition uniforms as set out in the prospectuses be strictly enforced by referees.
- f. Given that referees of the Basketball Association of Hong Kong, China (BAHKC) wear grey uniforms, the BAHKC should remind districts to avoid procuring grey competition uniforms.
- g. The Badminton Association of Hong Kong, China proposed that same fonts and typography should be adopted when printing the names of districts for easy identification by spectators and audience in broadcasts, thereby enhancing the professional image of the event and underscoring the active district participation.

X. Opening Ceremony

- a. It was generally agreed that the venue for this year's Opening Ceremony at the Hong Kong Coliseum was conveniently located and appropriately timed, with a satisfactory programme rundown. However, some reflected that consideration should be given to reviewing the seating arrangements to see if the audience's views might be obstructed by the stage design. It was proposed that only spectator stands on three sides be open to use;
- b. It was proposed that proactive ticketing assistance be offered by the venue/event staff to district personnel as necessary. The option of e-tickets could also be considered;
- c. Some districts reflected that performing cheerleaders could only have lunch and shelter themselves from rain in outdoor tents in inclement weather, which was considered undesirable;
- d. It was proposed that the event rundown and programmes of the Opening Ceremony be announced to districts as early as possible;
- e. It was proposed that an event backdrop be placed at the piazza outside the Hong Kong Coliseum for district delegations to take photos.

XI. Closing cum Prize Presentation Ceremony

- a. It was generally agreed that the arrangements for this year's Closing cum Prize Presentation Ceremony held at a conveniently located venue were satisfactory. Despite the suggestion that more performances should be staged during the ceremony, it was proposed by some districts that the programme be streamlined to avoid prolonging the event;
- b. It was proposed that the event rundown and programmes of the Closing cum Prize Presentation Ceremony be announced to the districts as early as possible, so that adequate time could be allowed for district staff to inform the winning athletes to prepare for the event;
- c. It was proposed that the competition results be provided to district staff for checking and filing prior to the Closing Ceremony.

XII. Community Participation Programmes

- a. The community participation programmes were generally considered

effective to promote the HKG;

- b. It was reflected that “The Jockey Club Vitality Run”, supposed to be about 3 km in race distance, actually turned out to be less than 3 km;
- c. It was reflected that the arrangements for “The 18 Districts’ Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition” were below satisfaction. It was proposed that an appropriate number of tents for rest areas and that athlete warm-up areas and items of supplies be provided to individual participating teams in the light of their team size. Besides, it was proposed that the relevant event information be made available in English to participants from international schools, that convenient lunch boxes be offered, and that ample time for dining be allowed. Moreover, rehearsal time should be shortened to prevent participants from standing for a long time. It was also proposed that cheerleaders could serve in the parading squad during the pledging ceremony;
- d. It was proposed that, as far as “The 18 Districts’ Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition” was concerned, the requirement that the parading squad in the pledging ceremony must comprise cheerleaders instead of district delegates be clearly stipulated in the prospectus;
- e. It was proposed that the requirement that all competing teams must attend rehearsals, the failure of which would lead to disqualification be clearly stipulated in the prospectus of “The 18 Districts’ Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition”, and that team leaders be reminded of such a requirement at the team leaders’ meeting;
- f. It was generally agreed that the “Hong Kong Games Run and Exercise Together” was conducted in a great manner. It was proposed that districts be notified of the particulars of participating schools on their enrolment, so that preparations could be made by sports grounds in advance to facilitate the conduct of the event. This would also enable districts to keep abreast of the enrolment situation, thereby helping launch publicity campaigns for the HKG across schools in the community;
- g. It was generally agreed that the “Fun for All@ Hong Kong Games” on the final competition days were conducted in a great manner to enhance the atmosphere at the venue. It was therefore proposed that this activity be retained. That said, it was proposed that publicity efforts be stepped up

to raise public awareness of this activity, including reminders for participants to dress in proper sports attire. It was also proposed by some NSAs that the time of the activity be adjusted to better engage the on-site audience.

### XIII Promotion Efforts and Effectiveness

- a. It was generally agreed that the promotion campaign for the HKG was conducted in an adequate and effective manner, which proved to successfully augment the public's understanding of the event;
- b. It was proposed that the display of the contents regarding the medal chart and competition schedules on the HKG website be refined. The search function should allow users to search by either "competition events" or "districts" to directly display all relevant competition schedules. In addition, it was proposed that "Competition Date" be removed as a mandatory search criterion, as members of the public might not be aware of the imminent competition dates. Besides, given that the current medal chart only displayed the rankings of the top ten districts, it was proposed that its coverage be expanded to all 18 districts;
- c. It was generally agreed that elite athletes and sports ambassadors played a crucial role in promoting and publicising the HKG, thereby enhancing its appeal and influence, while encouraging more members of the public to attend and support the athletes. Their efforts would be conducive to promoting the event. It was therefore proposed that elite athletes be invited to serve as sports ambassadors for the next HKG;
- d. It was generally agreed that the HKG promotional video clips, including those featuring athletes' preparations and highlights of the finals, as well as a series of other related activities, enhanced the public's understanding of how athletes from their districts geared themselves up for the competitions. It was proposed that interviews with athletes be included in the video highlights of 18 District squads' preparation for the HKG to draw public attention. It was also proposed that the details of such video highlights be finalised as early as possible, so that sufficient time could be allowed for districts to invite interviewees and prepare the interview content;
- e. It was generally agreed that the live broadcasting of the HKG finals on the Internet and the Radio-Television Hong Kong (RTHK) TV32 was

welcome, which proved to promote the event and enhance the public's interest in the competitions in an effective manner. Besides, sports commentaries by professionals could further enhance the viewing experience of the competitions, thereby fostering a sense of belonging and cohesion to the community. It was proposed that media coverage on the finals be widened for enhanced promotional effectiveness. Some districts, however, reflected that, given the relatively low viewership on RTHK TV32, consideration be given to broadcasting the competitions live on diverse media platforms.

#### XIV Sponsorships and Financial Arrangements

- a. It was proposed that specific guidelines on the use of sponsorship funds be issued for proper budgeting and arrangements by districts with sponsors or stakeholders;
- b. It was proposed that more sports-related sponsorships be sought and the provisions on awards for athletes be introduced;
- c. Individual districts reflected that they were unable to open bank accounts due to the current terms of banks' policies. It was therefore proposed that the funds from district sponsors be first deposited into the HKG's sponsorship account, followed by their allocations by the Secretariat for district use;
- d. It was proposed that the funding for district cheering teams be increased to cover the costs of tailor-making costumes and coaching fees;
- e. Given that "The 18 Districts' Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition" was held at the end of February, it was proposed that the funding to cover the relevant expenses be earmarked for the districts in the next financial year.