

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Report from the Student Sports Activities Coordinating Sub-Committee

PURPOSE

This paper reports the progress of work that has been carried out by the Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-Committee (SSACS) in the past twelve months.

BACKGROUND

2. As school sports play an important role in the development of community sports, a SSACS has been set up under the Community Sports Committee (CSC) in May 2004 to advise on the framework and specific policy objectives of student sports from primary one to tertiary level. It also advises on the strategies for promoting student sports in the community, implementation of the School Sports Programme of LCSD, co-ordination of the various measures on the promotion of student sports, the use of sports facilities for school sport activities, and the funding arrangements for student sports. The SSACS comprises members from the CSC, representatives from umbrella organizations for primary and secondary schools, Education and Manpower Bureau, and the major organizers for school sports activities. The terms of reference and membership list for the SSACC are at **Annexes A** and **B**.

CURRENT SITUATION

3. Since the set up of the SSACS, two meetings have been held. The following major issues have been addressed:-

- (a) The implementation and planning strategies of the Schools Sports Programme initiated by the Leisure and Culture Services Department (LCSD) were noted and supported by members of the SSACS; and
- (b) the development of student sports as outlined in the Report on “Reforming the Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education” prepared by the Education and Manpower Bureau was reviewed. Comments have been collected and reported to the Community Sports Committee.

4. To gather more information on the student sports activities in Hong Kong, a survey was conducted in mid 2004. Out of the 1,304 questionnaires sent out, 622 questionnaires were successfully collected. The responding rate is 47.7%. Among the respondents, 32% (201 nos.) came from secondary schools, 65% (401 nos.) came from primary schools and the remaining 3% (20 nos.) came mainly from special schools for students with a disability.

5. The findings of the survey presented a thorough picture on the pattern of the student sports activities currently organized by primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong which include:

- (a) *Types of sport activities organized and number of participants taking part in these school sport activities:*
Over 70% of the responding schools reported that they had formed five or more school teams. An average of about 267 students took part in sport activities organized by each school.
- (b) *Funding for student sports activities and expenditure pattern:*
Over 70% of the responding schools reported that less than \$40,000 was used last year to organize sport activities (school team). About 39% to 47% of the schools employed part-time coaches for delivering sport programmes.
- (c) *Preference of sports and frequency of activities:*
Basketball and table tennis were viewed by teachers as the most suitable activities to be held in schools. The time spent on PE

co-curricular activities averaged 19 weeks while for school team activities averaged 24 weeks.

(d) *Future development and needs of school:*

87% of the responding schools indicated that they encountered a number of difficulties in organizing PE co-curricular activities. Key difficulties were: lack of funds and facilities, shortage of qualified coaches and sport administrators, insufficient support from students and parents.

6. The SSACS has the following recommendations to support the further development of student sports in primary and secondary schools:

- (a) To expand the School Sports Programme to provide more sporting opportunities and to serve as a platform to link up the services provided by national sports associations (NSAs) to cater for the needs of the schools;
- (b) To encourage the continued use of sports facilities in schools by students outside school hours;
- (c) To encourage schools to make better use of the “Free Use Scheme” offered by LCSD to organise more sports activities for their students;
- (d) To motivate and support the NSAs to train up more qualified sport practitioners such as coaches, organisers, referees and other sport officials to meet the demand from schools;
- (e) To assist the NSAs to develop attractive packages and incentives for commercial sponsorship through programmes tailor-made for students; and
- (f) To encourage schools to apply for new funding, e.g. Quality Education Fund, that would provide greater support for curriculum based or co-curricular sport activities.

WAY FORWARD

7. In order to have a better co-ordination of the student sports activities territory-wide and to avoid duplication of efforts, the SSACS will launch another study to collect information on student sports activities organised by major stake holders such as National Sport Associations, the Hong Kong Post-Secondary Colleges Athletic Association, the Hong Kong School Sports Federation and LCSD. It is expected that the study would be completed within 2005 and an overall view on the current pattern of student sports activities in Hong Kong will be reported to the CSC with a view to developing a strategic plan for promoting student sports.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to note the progress of work of the Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-Committee as outlined above.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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