



SUBMISSION by the Hong Kong Tennis Association (“HKTA”) to the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs in connection with its Meeting to be held on Friday, 11 May 2007.

Redevelopment of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (“HKSI”)

The HKTA is surprised to see the proposed reduction of tennis facilities in the most recent redevelopment plan of the HKSI. In the previous proposal of November 2005, 14 tennis courts had been allocated. The current proposal has only allowed for 6 courts. We feel that Tennis is being severely compromised. Unless alternative arrangements are specifically provided (please see under) we query the rationale behind the HKSI facilities reduction to only 6 tennis courts when originally 15 courts in the old HKSI (using about 500 court hours per week) were utilised for Elite and Pre-Elite training by HKSI and HKTA. We also feel that cutting off sports facilities at the HKSI may contradict the direction given by our Chief Executive in his 11 October 2006 Policy Address and the provision of an additional \$70 million for sports development.

In the paper dated 26 March 2007 prepared by the Home Affairs Bureau for the Legco Panel (“the Paper”) it is mentioned in paragraph 10(C) Off site facilities that “in line with the Government’s sports development strategy featuring the promotion of training-based venues with district characteristics, **some of the facilities originally planned in the JTF report for elite sports training will be provided off-site.** These include -

(a) Tennis Courts:

A project is underway to **invite non-profit making sports organisations to operate a tennis training base** at the existing tennis courts of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the Kowloon Tsai Park. **Thus, there would be fewer tennis courts in the redeveloped HKSI Facilities.”**

The last sentence quoted above and the phrase “some of the facilities originally planned in the JTF report for elite sports training will be provided off-site” **would only make sense, in conjunction with reducing the number of tennis courts at the HKSI, if all the 8 tennis courts at the Kowloon Tsai Park are to be handed over exclusively to the HKTA/HKSI and maintained by the Government to provide training for elite/pre-elite players.** The HKTA would like to ask the HAB if this is indeed its intention as the Bureau has only indicated that non-profit sports organizations would be invited to operate the facilities.

If the Kowloon Tsai Park facilities are not going to be earmarked as an exclusive off-site elite/pre-elite tennis training base to reinstate the tennis facilities lost due to the staging of the Olympic Equestrian Event, then the HKTA would like to raise its strong objection to the reduction of 8 tennis courts in the latest redevelopment proposal of the HKSI.



香港網球總會

HONG KONG TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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The HKSI Elite Training Funds Allocation

We would like to query the criteria applied by HKSI in funding the 13 Elite sports under its umbrella as there are big diversities in the total amounts allocated to each of the 13 Elite sports. (see Appendix 1 attached) It is apparent from looking at the HKSI figures of 2006 that the sports receiving the least fundings are the ones that are suffering or are likely to lose Elite Sports status.

It appears that the amounts of HKSI funding allocated to the various Elite sports are only dependant on the number of the medals won by each sport, or on the potential of the sport to win medals. It also appears that HKSI has given none or only little consideration on **the relative costs of each sport in training at the elite level**, nor of **the relative prize-monies each sport is commanding at the professional level as a yardstick for resources required** (Tennis is one of the 3 highest prized individual sports, along with golf and motor-racing). One other important funding criterion HKSI has not applied is **the total number of full-time professional sportspersons competing worldwide in the sport**, as this would have a large impact on the competitiveness HKSI will confront to produce elite athletes. If the foregoing factors are taken into consideration, Hong Kong would not end up pouring exorbitant fundings into the least popular or least competitive sports at the expense of other much more competitive and more popular sports in its quest to achieve sports excellence.

We feel that the present elite sports funding criteria and indeed the elite sports development policy of Hong Kong show a deficiency in the system in placing unreasonable emphasis on medal-winning sports and cannot be conducive to the popular and overall development of sports in Hong Kong.

We propose that the future elite training funds allocation should either take into consideration of the above, or have all the 13 elite sports being allocated equal funding in order that each sport can be given equal opportunity to groom its own elite athletes.

Sports facilities

Hong Kong is sadly lacking in the provision of sports facilities, especially those for major sports events. We are far behind many capital cities in Asia; and in China, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Nanjing, Chengsha, Beijing and Shanghai to name a few. All these cities have far superior facilities, including indoors stadia, to run major sports events. Hong Kong does not even have at the present time a large indoor sports arena/stadium.

In the case of tennis if a major professional (ATP or WTA) tour event were to be staged in Hong Kong the only facility available is in the Victoria Park, which Centre Court was built 26 years ago in 1981. Even with the proposed new improvements, the Centre Court will still not be of an international standard with regard to seating capacity and players/officials/media areas (Victoria Park Centre Court has a seating capacity of only 3,611, as compared with the standard capacity requirement of 5000 for ATP or WTA events), and it is probable that were Hong Kong to be in a bidding position with another city in Asia to buy and host a professional event, we would lose out due to these shortcomings.

Where major cities in the world take pride in modernizing their sports facilities wherein major sports events are hosted to enhance their city profiles, this is one area Hong Kong is severely lagging behind. We urge the HKSAR Government to seriously revamp its policy, and utilize sports to enhance the profile of Hong Kong as a modern city.

Hong Kong Tennis Association
May 2007

The training budget of 13 coaching departments in 2006/07 excluding Personnel Expenses

<u>Sports</u>	<u>*Programme expenses</u>		<u>Capital</u>	<u>#Reprovisioning</u>	<u>ASDF</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>*Stipend (As at Feb 07)</u>	<u>Total (06/07)</u>				
ATH - Athletics	284,000.00	908,055.56	36,000.00	0	380,000.00	1,324,055.56
BDM - Badminton	704,895.00	1,957,860.53	0	442,592.53	596,500.00	2,996,953.06
CYC - Cycling	497,300.00	2,286,000.65	650,000.00	581,431.00	924,000.00	4,441,431.65
FEN - Fencing	508,400.00	1,672,728.09	0	175,400.00	1,295,900.00	3,144,028.09
ROW - Rowing	303,800.00	1,420,294.78	224,000.00	144,000.00	840,600.00	2,628,894.78
SQU - Squash	354,000.00	1,322,471.90	0	254,500.00	650,000.00	2,226,971.90
SWM - Swimming	135,000.00	700,000.00	438,650.00	67,350.00	447,000.00	1,653,000.00
TBG - Tenpin Bowling	381,900.00	1,078,138.62	0	239,760.00	700,000.00	2,017,898.62
TNS - Tennis	38,000.00	899,000.00	15,760.00	170,710.00	600,000.00	1,685,470.00
TRI - Triathlon	316,600.00	1,378,737.19	184,050.00	275,040.00	628,000.00	2,465,827.19
TTS - Table Tennis	783,300.00	2,346,306.04	18,000.00	491,000.00	920,000.00	3,775,306.04
WSF - Windsurfing	282,900.00	1,545,681.12	450,000.00	240,000.00	900,000.00	3,135,681.12
WUS - Wushu	363,500.00	1,069,647.00	129,704.39	278,462.00	724,000.00	2,201,813.39
Total:	4,953,595.00	18,584,921.48	2,146,164.39	3,360,245.53	9,606,000.00	33,697,331.40

* - Programme expenses include accommodation, meal, local training, equipment, nutrition, stipend, overseas training/competition, overseas on field support, uniform and miscellaneous

- Reprovisioning budget include additional coach, training partner and overseas training (CYC only)