

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
Provision of Public Facilities for Playing Cricket and Other Sports

Purpose

This paper sets out the current position regarding the Government's provision of public facilities for playing cricket and other sports in Hong Kong.

Public facilities currently available for playing cricket

2. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) currently provides two designated venues for 11-a-side cricket matches, namely the natural turf pitch at Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground, and the artificial turf pitch at Po Kong Village Road Park, both of which are also used as football grounds. The two pitches are available for hire by the Hong Kong Cricket Association (HKCA), which is the "national sports association" (NSA) responsible for developing the sport in Hong Kong, and by other organisations for holding cricket training or competitions.

3. To help meet an increasing demand for venues for playing cricket, LCSD has prepared a set of guidelines for the hire of turf football pitches for playing sports such as cricket, that involve batting. The department has made three artificial turf football pitches available for such hire, namely: Man Tung Road Park in Islands District, Wu Shan Recreation Playground in Tuen Mun, and Kwong Fuk Football Ground in Tai Po. LCSD has produced a set of guidelines on playing such sports at its turf pitches to ensure safety.

4. To promote cricket at the district level, LCSD has also designated a number of hard-surfaced mini-football pitches for free use by organisations to play "tape-ball" cricket. These pitches are at Tin Wan Estate Playground in Southern District, Tin Sau Road Park in Yuen Long, Tung Chung North Park in Islands District, Yeung King Playground in Tuen Mun, Junction Road Park in Kowloon City, Yau Tong Road Playground in Kwun Tong, and Lai Chi Kok Park in Sham Shui Po.

5. In 2011-12, 2,240 hours of cricket activities took place at the above venues, of which 964 hours were activities subvented or organised by LCSD. The remaining 1,276 hours were activities organised by sports organisations, schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Details are at the **Annex**.

Planned new public facilities for cricket

6. We are currently at the preliminary stage of planning a new sports park at Sha Tin on a large site zoned for “Open Space” at Whitehead, Ma On Shan. Given the size of the site, there is ample space for providing a full-sized cricket ground as well as a range of other sports and recreational facilities. We will shortly consult the Sha Tin District Council on the scope of the facilities to be provided at the new park. Pending the development of this project, LCSD will monitor the use of venues that are available for cricket, and work with the HKCA and NGOs to identify more venues suitable for playing “tape-ball” cricket.

Other facilities suitable for cricket

7. Currently, there are four cricket grounds or practice areas operated by clubs that are holders of private recreational leases (PRLs), namely: the Hong Kong Cricket Club (HKCC) in Wong Nai Chung Gap Road, the Kowloon Cricket Club (KCC) in Cox’s Road, the India Club in Gascoigne Road, and the Pakistan Association in Princess Margaret Road. The grounds at HKCC and KCC regularly host local and international cricket matches organised by the HKCA and other bodies.

8. As PRL lessees, the clubs mentioned above are required to allow outside bodies, such as schools, NGOs, uniformed groups and NSAs access to their sports facilities. Information obtained from the clubs concerned shows that they have granted access to their venues for cricket competitions and training to outside bodies for up to 2 300 hours per year.

Promoting Cricket in Hong Kong

9. In addition to providing playing facilities, the Government helps the HKCA to promote cricket by allocating an annual subvention to the HKCA

through the Sports Subvention Scheme. In 2012-13, this subvention was about \$3 million.

10. There are more than 6 000 participants annually involved in cricket training programmes subvented by LCSD, local competitions, international events and community cricket activities. In 2012-13, LCSD organised some 20 “fun-for-all” cricket activities for about 900 participants. With LCSD’s funding support, the HKCA organised 158 school sports programmes and subsidised training programmes in 2012-13, as well as six cricket competitions. The HKCA has also organised cricket training courses at several LCSD venues, including Quarry Bay Park, Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park, Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre, Kwun Chung Sports Centre, Tsuen King Circuit Sports Centre, Yau Oi Sports Centre, Tseung Kwan O Sports Centre and Tai Po Kwong Fuk Football Ground.

11. Since 2007, the Government has provided funding to support the annual Hong Kong Cricket Sixes (the Sixes) under the "M" Mark System. As at 2012, the government subvention for the event over the years amounted to \$7 million. The Major Sports Events Committee under the Sports Commission distributes tickets to people from less privileged backgrounds from ethnic minorities to allow them to watch the Sixes free of charge.

12. We will continue to work with the HKCA and other organisations to promote cricket and encourage participation in the sport.

Public facilities for other sports

13. As regards the planning of public facilities for other sports, we make reference to the general guidance provided by the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG), which set standards for the provision of most popular sports facilities relative to levels of population. The planning of new facilities also takes account of policy objectives for sports development, utilisation rates of existing facilities, the public’s preferences for different types of sports as measured by studies and surveys, and the advice of District Councils concerned.

Home Affairs Bureau
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**Cricket Activities Organised at Leisure Venues of
Leisure and Cultural Services Department in 2011-12**

District	Name of venue	Type of facility	Number of hours used for	
			(a) Activities subvented or organised by LCSD	(b) Other activities organized by sport organizations, schools and NGOs
Kowloon City	Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground	Natural turf football pitch	400	531
Wong Tai Sin	Po Kong Village Road Park	Artificial turf football pitch	489	273
Islands	Man Tung Road Park	Artificial turf football pitch	0	0
Tuen Mun	Wu Shan Recreation Playground	Artificial turf football pitch	0	0
Tai Po	Kwong Fuk Football Ground	Artificial turf football pitch	24	0
Southern District	Tin Wan Estate Playground	Hard-surface football pitch	0	317
Yuen Long	Tin Sau Road Park	Hard-surface football pitch	0	95
Islands	Tung Chung North Park	Hard-surface football pitch	3	12
Tuen Mun	Yeung King Playground	Hard-surface football pitch	0	48
Kowloon City	Junction Road Park	Hard-surface football pitch	0	0
Kwun Tong	Yau Tong Road Playground	Hard-surface football pitch	48	0
Sham Shui Po	Lai Chi Kok Park	Hard-surface football pitch	0	0
		Total	964	1 276
			2 240	