



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部勞工及福利局
Labour and Welfare Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref: LWB T4/18/48
Your Ref: CB1/F/1/1(4)B

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15 April 2014

Mr Derek Lo
Clerk to the Finance Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lo,

**Written response to queries raised by Members at the Meeting of
Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 21 February 2014**

I refer to your letter of 25 February 2014. On item FCR(2013-14)64, the consolidated reply of the Home Affairs Bureau and Social Welfare Department (SWD) in response to questions raised by Members at the meeting is set out below:

(a) Funds with Investment Managed by SWD

Funds with investment managed by SWD are listed below –

- (i) Education Trust Fund;
- (ii) Elder Academy Development Foundation;
- (iii) Emergency Relief Fund;
- (iv) Hong Kong Paralympians Fund;
- (v) Kwan Fong Trust Fund for the Needy;
- (vi) Social Work Training Fund;

- (vii) Tang Shiu Kin and Ho Tim Charitable Fund;
- (viii) Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund; and
- (ix) Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

(b) Criteria in determining the levels of subsistence grants for athletes with disabilities vis-à-vis elite athletes

Sports Aid Grant for Athletes and Elite Training Grant

In general, both athletes with disabilities and athletes without disabilities under training in the Hong Kong Sports Institute are eligible to apply for direct financial support which aims to give them a stable environment to undergo training and compete in major competitions.

Under the existing systems, while Sports Aid Grant for Athletes with Disabilities (SAGD) is provided to athletes with disabilities, Elite Training Grant (ETG) is provided for athletes without disabilities.

A table comparing the eligibility criteria of SAGD and ETG is set out at **Annex A**. The sets of eligibility criteria and guidelines of the direct financial support provided by the HKSI are set out on its website (http://www.hksi.org.hk/hksdb/front/e_sa1_dfsa2.html).

The difference in funding support received by athletes with disabilities and athletes without disabilities, is not due to the differences in their physical or intellectual conditions but to reflect the different levels of participation and competitiveness of different sporting events. These considerations are generally accepted by the sports sector and are based on the assessments of actual circumstances.

Hong Kong Paralympians Fund

SWD provides subsistence grants to athletes with disabilities under the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund (HKPF). The grant is open to applications by athletes with disabilities who have outstanding international performance, and those with such potential, as recommended by well-established sport organisations in Hong Kong.

The selection criteria of the subsistence grants includes –

- (i) whether the applicant is support-worthy in terms of his/her performance record in the previous two years at international competitions such as the Paralympic Games or the World Championships;
- (ii) whether the applicant is committed to participating in the training programmes;
- (iii) whether the applicant has recommendations from his/her coach;
- (iv) whether the applicant has given up his/her wages/jobs or deferred his/her education to pursue sporting excellence. Applicant with a job or is pursuing education can still apply for the subsistence grant and be considered by the Grants Sub-committee; and
- (v) the applicant participating in events that require more than one team member according to the rule will be assessed with the same weighting as other individual events when considering his/her achievement.

Based on the performance of athletes with disabilities in different sports competitions and the levels of those sports competitions, each eligible athlete with disabilities will be allocated a monthly grant at a rate of \$2,080, \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$667. The details are set out at **Annex B**.

Yours sincerely,


(Fanny CHEUNG)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare Bureau

- cc. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn: Ms Alison Lai)
Secretary for Home Affairs
(Attn: Mr Vincent Chiu)
Director of Social Welfare
(Attn: Ms Quinnie Ng)

**Eligibility Criteria for Sports Aid Grant for Athletes
and Elite Training Grant**

	Elite Training Grant (SAGD)	Elite Training Grant
a.	Applicant should have resided in Hong Kong for at least three years and hold a Hong Kong Identity Card.	Same as SAGD
b.	Applicants must have proven capability and achievement in sports competitions, and can maintain or improve their performance in the next 12 to 18 months.	Same as SAGD
c.	The categories of grants are based on performance of the applicants at major competitions in the previous two years.	Same as SAGD
d.	Athletes are required to continue training and competing with full dedication and commitment throughout the grant period.	Same as SAGD
e.	Competitions involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Paralympic Games● World Championships● World Cup Finals● Asian Para Games● Asian Championships● World Games● INAS - Regional Championships● National Games for the Disabled● World Cup Series● INAS/IPC Sanctioned Events● Special Olympic (Overall	Competition involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Olympic Games● World Championships● World Cup Finals● Asian Games● Asian Championships● National Games● World Universities Games● World Universities Championships● Asian Cup Finals● World Cup Series● East Asian Games● Asian Cup Series● National Championships

	results)	
f.	<p>Amount of Grant (Annual) – Elite A: \$69,600 Elite B: \$41,700 Elite C: \$20,900</p>	<p>Amount of Grant (Monthly) – Elite A*: \$29,600-\$34,800 Elite A (Full Time): \$23,600-\$27,800 Elite A (Part Time): \$8,350-\$13,900 Elite B+ (Full Time): \$17,700-\$20,900 Elite B+ (Part Time): \$6,260-\$10,400 Elite B (Full Time): \$12,700-\$15,000 Elite B (Part Time): \$4,490-\$7,490 Elite C (Full Time): \$9,100-\$10,700 Elite C (Part Time): \$3,210-\$5,350 Senior Squad (Full Time): \$5,910-\$6,960 Senior Squad (Part Time): \$2,090-\$3,480</p>
g.	<p>We are given to understand that there is no specific requirement on full-time training for athletes with disabilities. In general, the average training period of squad members is about 8 hours per week, subject to the actual training needs of the sport concerned.</p>	<p>The requirement for full-time athlete is a minimum of 5 days and 25 hours of supervised training per week.</p> <p>The requirement for part-time athlete is a minimum of 4 days and 15 hours of supervised training per week.</p>

Annex B

**Eligibility Criteria for Subsistence Grants to Athletes with Disabilities
under the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund
(with effect from 2012-13 onwards)**

	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D
Annual Grant	\$24,960 (\$2,080 per month)	\$18,000 (\$1,500 per month)	\$12,000 (\$1,000 per month)	\$8,004 (\$667 per month)
Paralympic Games	Medallist (minus-one rule) ¹	Medallist; or 4 th – 8 th and top 1/3	4 th – 8 th and top 1/2	-
World Championships (on at least a two-year cycle)	Medallist (minus-two rule) ¹	Medallist; or 4 th – 8 th and top 1/3	4 th – 8 th and top 1/2	-
Asian Paralympic Games		Medallist and top 1/3	Medallist; or 4 th – 8 th and top 1/3	4 th – 8 th and top 1/2
Regional Championships				
World Cup Series				
World Games / Global Games				
Special Olympics World Games (overall results)				
Special Olympics Regional Games (overall results)			Medallist and top 1/3	Medallist; or 4 th – 8 th and top 1/2
All China Games for the Disabled				Medallist (minus-two rule) ¹
Open / International				*(athletes

Championships				cannot use the same result to apply for the grant in the second year)
Invitational Special Olympics (overall results)				

¹ “minus-one rule” requires the medalist to surpass at least one athlete and “minus-two rule” two athletes in the same competition.

Notes to Eligibility

- (1) Ranking (Asian and World) and team results (with medals) will both be considered where necessary.
- (2) Only sporting achievements in the previous two years would be considered.
- (3) Discretion will be exercised where special consideration is warranted. Flexibility will be applied in determining category C and category D.
- (4) Where appropriate, regard will be given to the types of sports and number of participants in the All China Games for the Disabled and Open/International Championships when determining the category of support above category D.
- (5) If available funds fall short of the required amount of grants, recipients may have to receive a pro-rata amount instead of the maximum level of support.
- (6) If the grant received by the recipient is suspended for whatever reasons, no new nominations for replacement will be considered.
- (7) World Cup for Bocci is a quadrennial event, which is organised prior to the Paralympic Games year and is of the same level of competitiveness as World Championships.