

For information on  
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**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs**

**Designating and Enhancing Suitable Sports Facilities as Competition Venues**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the plan of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to designate five sports centres in the territory as competition venues.

**Background**

2. Hong Kong has been regularly hosting international and regional sports events, ranging from competitions in single sport to major multi-sport events. In addition, “national sports associations” (NSAs) and schools in Hong Kong also organise many spectacular territory-wide major sports competitions every year. The hosting of major sports events not only helps enhance Hong Kong’s image as a sports event capital in Asia and achieve the objective of developing Hong Kong into a prime destination for hosting major international sports events, but also enables our athletes to play on home soil right before the eyes of Hong Kong people. It would also help nurture a sustainable sporting culture and tie in with the objective of "Sport for All". LCSD has been actively supporting stakeholders concerned in organising sports competitions at different levels and is ready to reserve suitable sports facilities for competition purpose.

**Sports Venues of LCSD**

3. LCSD manages various types of sports venues that can be used to host formal competitions at different levels, such as the staging of international football matches and Hong Kong Premier League matches at Hong Kong Stadium and Mong Kok Stadium, FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix and BWF World Superseries at Hong Kong Coliseum, WDSF GrandSlam Hong Kong and ITTF Golden Series Junior Circuit at Queen Elizabeth Stadium, and various major athletics meets at Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground and Wan Chai Sports Ground. When the above-mentioned venues were constructed, they were already targeted to be venues for hosting major events or performances and therefore were equipped with better ancillary facilities, such as spectator stand, doping control room, official room, conference room, VIP room, press room, etc.

4. Nevertheless, the indoor sports centres of LCSD are generally designed for multi-purpose use. They are used by members of the public for leisure activities, and by organisations for training classes and inter-school competitions as well as by NSAs for national squad training. Hence, the layout and ancillary facilities of the sports centres may not meet the requirements of formal competitions, say the need for large seating capacity, suitable lighting, doping control room and multi-purpose rooms for use by referees and staff for meetings, score keeping and information dissemination, etc.

### **Allocation of Sports Venues**

5. For effective management of the use of public facilities and fair allocation to the public and organisations, guidelines have been drawn up on booking and allocation procedures. Under the guidelines, block booking by organisations (including NSAs) is subject to quota control. Normally, only half of the total peak-hour sessions<sup>1</sup> available in a month and not more than half of the total number of facilities at each venue may be allowed for block booking at any one time (inclusive of the events organised or subvented by the Home Affairs Bureau and LCSD), so that some of the facilities will be available for use by individual hirers. The booking arrangements aim to strike a balance between the needs of different stakeholders to use the facilities for training, competition or recreation purposes.

6. Quite a number of NSAs and schools reflected to LCSD that while major competitions normally have to be held in venues with large seating capacity, the quota control on block booking of venues has caused the same event to be held on different days leading to elongated period of competition, or to be held at different venues simultaneously, thus undermining the flexibility of organisers in arranging competitions.

### **Plan of Designating Sports Centres as Competition Venues**

7. To facilitate NSAs in staging more major sports competitions and events and attract members of the public to watch competitions, thereby fostering a sporting culture in community as mentioned in the Policy Agenda published in October 2017, LCSD will designate and enhance suitable sports facilities as competition venues. LCSD plans to designate one sports centre in each of the four regions (Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, New Territories East and New Territories West) as competition venue as well as another sports centre for staging competitions for organisations of

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<sup>1</sup> Peak hours refer to the period from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays and the whole day of Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

persons with disabilities. The criteria for a sports centre to be selected include accessible location, good traffic network, a main arena at the size of two to three basketball courts and a spectator stand with 1 000 or more seats, and the presence of ancillary facilities (including the provision of doping control room required for event, conference room and multi-purpose room for use by participating teams and referees, sufficient lighting, electronic display panels and broadband facilities etc.) for the staging of major competitions.

8. At present, among the 99 sports centres under the management of LCSD, the main arenas of nine sports centres<sup>2</sup> have a seating capacity of more than 1 000 persons. Having considered the above-mentioned criteria, the following five sports centres are proposed to be designated as competition venues:

*Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre (Hong Kong Island)*

9. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre (SYSMPSC) comprises a main arena with a seating capacity of 1 330, the area of which can be used as three basketball courts. SYSMPSC was the venue for basketball and wushu events (Taolu, Sanshou) of the 2009 East Asian Games. Its facilities include doping control room, conference room, multi-purpose activity room and electronic display panel. Sufficient space is available outside the venue for parking outside broadcasting truck. A number of events are held at SYSMPSC every year, e.g. LCSD Basketball Championship, Kung Sheung Cup Basketball Competition, Hong Kong Silver Shield Basketball Championship, Youth Korfball Championship, Hong Kong Netball League, etc. In addition, SYSMPSC is easily accessible and is close to MTR Sai Ying Pun Station. A total of 53 parking spaces are also available in the carparks at both SYSMPSC and the neighbouring Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park. To further enhance facilities for staging major events, lighting improvement works and installation of broadband facilities, etc. are proposed to be carried out at SYSMPSC.

*Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre (Kowloon)*

10. Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre (SKMPSC) comprises a main arena with a seating capacity of 1 280, the area of which can be used as three basketball courts. SKMPSC was the venue for Judo and Taekwondo events of the 2009 East Asian Games. Its facilities include conference room and a number of multi-purpose activity rooms. The venue is provided with sufficient lighting and sufficient space is available outside the venue for parking outside broadcasting truck. A variety of events are held at SKMPSC every year, e.g. Hong Kong Open Fencing Championships, Hong Kong Korfball League and Hong Kong Korfball Challenge Cup, Hong Kong Junior Judo Championships, etc. In addition, SKMPSC is easily

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<sup>2</sup> The nine sports centres which have a seating capacity of more than 1 000 persons are: Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre in Central and Western District, Siu Sai Wan Sports Centre, Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre, Hang Hau Sports Centre, Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre, Hong Kong Velodrome, Ma On Shan Sports Centre, Yuen Long Sports Centre and Po Wing Road Sports Centre in Sheung Shui.

accessible and is close to MTR Shek Kip Mei Station. A total of 53 parking spaces are also available in the carparks at both SKMPSC and the neighbouring Shek Kip Mei Park. To further enhance facilities for staging major events, replacement of the liquid crystal display panel, sound system improvement works, provision of doping control room and broadband facilities, etc. are proposed to be carried out at SKMPSC.

*Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre (New Territories East)*

11. Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre (TKLSC) comprises a main arena with a seating capacity of 1 150, the area of which can be used as two basketball courts. The main arena is equipped with electronic display panel, while doping control room, conference room and multi-purpose activity room are provided in TKLSC. Sufficient space is also available outside the venue for parking outside broadcasting truck. A variety of events are held at TKLSC every year, e.g Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Fujian and Macau Schools Interport Volleyball Competition, All Hong Kong Schools Jing Ying Basketball Tournament and Hong Kong Open Table-tennis Championships, etc. In addition, TKLSC is easily accessible and is close to MTR Tiu Keng Leng Station. A total of 13 parking spaces are also available in the carpark at TKLSC. To further enhance facilities for staging major events, lighting system improvement works, provision of doping control room and broadband facilities, etc. are proposed to be carried out at TKLSC.

*Tsuen Wan Sports Centre (New Territories West)*

12. Tsuen Wan Sports Centre (TWSC), which is expected to be commissioned in the third quarter of 2018, was targeted to be a competition venue for staging major sports events in its design. TWSC comprises a main arena with a seating capacity of about 1 900 persons and a 200-seat secondary arena which can be used as a warm-up venue. It is equipped with all necessary ancillary facilities such as sports lighting, sound system, doping control room, conference room, multi-purpose room, broadband facilities etc. Space is available outside the venue for parking outside broadcasting truck. Located adjacent to MTR Tsuen Wan West Station, TWSC is easily accessible, providing a car park with 15 parking spaces and fulfilling various requirements as a competition venue.

*Ma On Shan Sports Centre (suitable for staging competitions for organisations of persons with disabilities)*

13. Ma On Shan Sports Centre (MOSSC) comprises a main arena with a seating capacity of 1 250, the area of which can be used as three basketball courts. The facilities of MOSSC include conference room and a number of multi-purpose activity rooms. Sufficient space is available outside the venue for parking outside broadcasting truck. In addition, MOSSC is well-equipped with barrier-free facilities including accessible lift, three accessible toilets, accessible service counter, tactile

guide path and braille tactile layout plan, etc. Many major events for persons with disabilities had been held at the venue such as BISFed Asia and Oceania Championships and Hong Kong Table Tennis Championships for the Disabled, etc. Furthermore, MOSSC is easily accessible and is close to MTR Ma On Shan Station. A total of 36 parking spaces are also available in the carpark at the nearby Ma On Shan Swimming Pool. To further enhance facilities for staging major events, upgrading of electronic display panel, provision of doping control room and broadband facilities, etc. are proposed to be carried out at MOSSC.

### **Adoption of More Flexible Measures for Booking of Facilities**

14. LCSD plans to adopt more flexible measures for the booking of facilities at the designated sports centres mentioned above. These include relaxing the restrictions that the number of hours allowed for block booking should not exceed half of the total peak-hour sessions available in a month and the number of facilities allowed for block booking should not exceed half of the number of facilities at each venue at any one time. These relaxation measures will allow greater flexibility in planning the schedules and issues related to major competitions.

15. When the above-mentioned competition venues are being booked for major events and competitions, a certain number of similar facilities will be reserved in the nearby sports centres in the same district for booking by individual hirers as far as possible. For all sports centres in a district, the number of hours allowed for block booking should still not exceed half of the total peak-hour sessions available in a month so as to strike a balance between the needs of organisations and the public and meet their respective needs. On the other hand, when the above-mentioned venues are not used for competitions, they will be available for hire by the public in accordance with the established booking procedures for ordinary recreation and sports facilities.

### **Consultation**

16. LCSD consulted the Community Sports Committee (CSC) on the above-mentioned plan of designating five sports centres as competition venues on 19 January 2018 and the plan was supported by CSC members. The consultations with the respective District Councils and NSAs have also started.

17. LCSD will also discuss with NSAs with a view to staging major events at respective competition venues. To keep the public informed of the major events to be held at the competition venues and encourage the public to watch competitions so as to foster a sporting culture in the community, LCSD will disseminate the game information of respective competition venues through its website and other promotional channels.

## **Way Forward**

18. LCSD plans to proceed with the plan within 2018-19. Members are invited to note the plan.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
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