

**For discussion on
9 April 2024**

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports

**Preparation of Hong Kong athletes for
Paris 2024 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on progress of the preparation of Hong Kong athletes for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games (OG) and Paralympic Games (PG), and the related publicity work.

Background

2. The OG and the PG are among the most significant and highest level major international sports events. The Paris OG and PG will take place from 26 July to 11 August 2024 and from 28 August to 8 September 2024 respectively. Hong Kong elite athletes are gearing up in full swing. In addition to their own efforts, support from different sectors of the community, including the Government is equally instrumental.

3. The Government is committed to supporting elite sports development. The Elite Athletes Development Fund (EADF) was established in 2011-12 to provide annual funding to the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) for providing comprehensive training and a wide range of support services to local elite athletes. The HKSI currently has 20 Tier A and 13 Tier B sports, as well as six Tier A and three Tier B disability sports. The Government allocated HK\$863 million from the EADF to the HKSI for the 2023-24 financial year.

4. With HKSI's professional support, Hong Kong athletes have attained outstanding results in the Tokyo OG and PG, and various World and Asian Championships in recent years. The HKSI is now focusing on preparing athletes for the Paris OG and PG.

Progress of Preparation

5. With the postponement of the Tokyo OG and PG due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the upcoming Paris OG and PG will take place only three years after the previous edition, and less than one year following the Hangzhou Asian Game (AG). Many athletes have to strategically adjust their training programmes to ensure peak performance at the Paris OG and PG. To step up training, the HKSI has provided additional resources to the athletes of Tier A sports for hiring extra high performance coaches and training partners, organising additional overseas training and competitions, as well as utilising various sports science technologies and support services. For Para Tier A sports, the Sports Association for the Physically Disabled of Hong Kong, China and the Hong Kong, China Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability have also been provided with additional funding to strengthen training for para athletes.

Qualification status

6. Hong Kong athletes have started participating in qualification tournaments of different sports since 2022 in order to compete in the Paris OG and PG. The qualification periods for the Paris OG and PG will respectively end in June and May 2024. As of 26 March 2024, five sports (Cycling, Sailing, Swimming, Table Tennis and Windsurfing) have obtained qualification in 15 events in the Paris OG, while three disability sports (Boccia, Equestrian and Swimming) have obtained qualification in 12 events in the Paris PG. The events with quota secured¹ are listed below –

Sport	Event	Athlete
Qualifications obtained in 2024 Paris OG (as of 26 March 2024)		
Cycling	Men's Road Race	Athlete nomination TBC ²
	Women's Road Race	Athlete nomination TBC
Sailing	ILCA 7	HALLIDAY Nicholas Bezy (貝俊龍)

¹ Based on the announcement made by the international federation of the respective sports.

² The quota has been secured. The national sports associations will decide which athlete to be nominated to the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China / China Hong Kong Paralympic Committee for consideration.

Sport	Event	Athlete
Swimming	Women's 50m Freestyle	Siobhan HAUGHEY (何詩蓓)
	Women's 100m Freestyle	
	Women's 200m Freestyle	
	Women's 400m Freestyle	
	Women's 100m Breaststroke	
	Women's 200m Backstroke	CHEUNG Sum Yuet Cindy (張心悅)
	Women's 4x100m Freestyle Relay	Athlete nomination TBC
	Women's 4x100m Medley Relay	Athlete nomination TBC
	Men's 50m Freestyle	HO Ian Yentou (何甄陶)
Table Tennis	Women's Team	Athlete nomination TBC
	Women's Singles (2 quotas)	Athlete nomination TBC
Windsurfing	Women's iQFoil	Athlete nomination TBC
Qualifications obtained in 2024 Paris PG (as of 26 March 2024)		
Boccia	Men's BC3 Individual	Athlete nomination TBC
	Women's BC3 Individual	Athlete nomination TBC
	Men's BC4 Individual	Athlete nomination TBC
	Women's BC4 Individual	Athlete nomination TBC
	Mixed BC3 Pairs (2 quotas)	Athlete nomination TBC
	Mixed BC4 Pairs (2 quotas)	Athlete nomination TBC
Equestrian	Individual	Athlete nomination TBC
Swimming	Men (2 events & quotas)	Athlete nomination TBC
	Women (3 events & quotas)	Athlete nomination TBC

7. In addition to the events above, according to HKSI's analysis, six more sports (Athletics, Badminton, Fencing, Gymnastics, Rowing and Triathlon) will likely be able to obtain qualification in the Paris OG. As for the Paris PG, the China Hong Kong Paralympic Committee (HKPC) assessed that Badminton, Table Tennis and Wheelchair Fencing should also be able to obtain qualification.

8. In line with past practice, the respective national sports associations (NSAs) would nominate athletes for inclusion in the Hong Kong, China Delegation based on established criteria. These nominations would then be submitted to the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) as well as the HKPC for consideration.

Result Target

9. Ensuring consistent medal performance in each OG and PG is one of the primary goals of the HKSI. It also provides a foundation for the sustained achievements of Hong Kong athletes. The Hong Kong, China Delegation captured one gold, two silver and three bronze medals at the Tokyo OG held in 2021, as well as two silver and three bronze medals at the Tokyo PG in the same year. Taking into account various factors including our track record in previous OG and PG editions, athletes' potential and their preparation status, the HKSI and HKPC have formulated preparation plans and targets for Hong Kong athletes to strive for their best performances.

Scientific support

10. Adequate scientific support is conducive to optimising athletes' performance in competitions. The HKSI has adopted a multi-disciplinary biopsychosocial model to formulate science-based, athlete-centred strategy to support elite training. With athletes' physiological, nutrition and biochemistry parameters being closely monitored, the HKSI has implemented biomechanical and technological support in the training programmes of the selected sports (e.g. Cycling, Windsurfing, Swimming etc.). After the Hangzhou AG, the HKSI has also set up multi-disciplinary task forces to provide targeted support for athletes.

11. The HKSI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the High Council of Sports of the Kingdom of Spain in 2022 to allow Hong Kong athletes to use facilities in Spain as their training base when they travel to Europe for competitions in preparation for the Paris OG. In addition to the medical support provided by the SF&OC, the HKSI will collaborate with the SF&OC to provide high-performance scientific support on site at the Athletes' Village and competition venues in Paris, including performance analysis, recovery services, sports psychology and on-site conditioning programmes. Similarly, the HKSI

will provide on-site scientific support in collaboration with the HKPC to complement its medical support for athletes with disability. The Institute of Sport, Expertise, and Performance, the National Institute of Sport in Paris will support the HKSI in making the relevant logistical arrangements. Additionally, anticipating the hot weather and the absence of air conditioning in the Athletes' Village, the SF&OC will arrange for the provision of coolers to ensure athletes' comfort.

Publicity work

12. The flag presentation ceremonies of the Hong Kong, China Delegation to the Paris OG and PG will be held in July and August 2024 respectively. To drum up Olympic enthusiasm in the community and show support for our athletes participating in the Games, the Government will step up publicity efforts for the events. This will also generate greater interest in sports among members of the public, and help foster a stronger sporting culture in Hong Kong.

13. Subject to the final competition schedule and time difference, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will set up focal sites with live/replay broadcasting arrangement at designated sports centres during the Paris OG and PG where feasible. Reference would be made to the live zone arrangement at designated sports centres of 18 districts in previous major games. A launching event of the Olympics Focal Site at LCSD venue is tentatively scheduled for July 2024. LCSD is also considering other complementary publicity activities as appropriate.

14. To further enhance the atmosphere in the community, in addition to sports demonstrations and a wide range of free activities to be held at designated sports centres in 18 districts on the Sport For All Day 2024 on 4 August 2024, there will also be thematic promotion throughout the territory for selected Olympic sports.

15. In addition, noting the introduction of some new urban sports in the Paris OG, including 3-on-3 basketball, breaking, skateboarding and sport climbing, LCSD has stepped up promotion of these sports in order to broaden fan base and generate wider community interest. In 2024-25, LCSD has set

aside about \$9 million under the Sports Subvention Scheme for the relevant NSAs to promote these urban sports.

The HKSI

16. The HKSI has created a three-phase media campaign. Apart from enhancing publicity for the games, the HKSI would like to suitably manage public expectation on the results of the Paris OG and PG, taking into account the target results. From March to May 2024, the HKSI will focus on highlighting athletes' preparation for the games on its social media platforms, such as reporting athletes' results at the qualification tournaments, as well as announcing details of the Jockey Club Athlete Incentive Awards Scheme for the Paris OG and PG. From June to July 2024, the HKSI will organise meet-the-media events for coaches and athletes in collaboration with the relevant NSAs, during which they will be able to share their preparation and expectation on the results. From July to September 2024, the HKSI will promote the Paris OG and PG through its social media platforms, featuring athletes' achievements. It will be concluded with the award presentation ceremony of the Jockey Club Athlete Incentive Awards Scheme in September 2024.

The SF&OC

17. The SF&OC will continue its publicity efforts for the Paris OG through launching a four-month campaign from April 2024, aiming to garner public support for Hong Kong athletes and to build momentum for the games. The SF&OC will, in collaboration with the Alliance Française de Hong Kong, organise a series of language and cultural experience sessions for the athletes and journalists participating in the Paris OG. To promote sporting spirit in the community, roving promotions, such as roadshows at shopping malls with sports-themed exhibition, will be arranged. Panel exhibitions will be set up at schools, public libraries etc. Additionally, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations and charities, the SF&OC will organise athletes sharing session, game watching and sports experience activities for underprivileged groups. Besides, various media initiatives have been planned, including the launch of a dedicated website on the Hong Kong, China Delegation, as well as the production of a video series featuring interviews with athletes.

The HKPC

18. As for the Paris PG, the HKPC plans to enhance public knowledge about the PG through its school and community education programmes and courses for coaches from April to September 2024. An inclusive para sports day cum countdown ceremony will be held in mid-May to invite para athletes to share their experiences with teachers, students and parents from special schools. To create further excitement for the Paris PG, the HKPC will collaborate with the Radio Television Hong Kong to organise special events and produce interviews with the athletes in August 2024 to rally support for para athletes. The HKPC will also mount a social media campaign from July to September 2024.

Advice sought

19. Members are invited to note and offer views on the content of this paper.

**Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau
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