

# **Recommendations**

**From**

**Hong Kong Sports Association for the  
Mentally Handicapped**

**To**

**Home Affairs Bureau**

**On**

**S P O R T S P O L I C Y  
I N  
H O N G K O N G**

**Sports for All -  
Athletes Centred ; Coaches Driven**

## VISION

- ⌘ **Substantial facilities for everyone to enjoy life long physical training in sports.**
- ⌘ **Affluent exposure in the World's sports arena.**
- ⌘ **Significant achievement at international level in competitive sports.**

## Funding Policy

Currently, our Association is under the subvention of the following bodies:

### **1. SDB (Annual Block Grant and Elite Training Fund for the Disabled)**

Lots of documents and administrative work are involved such as :

- Submit NSA Yearly Plan (around 20 pages) with programme budget breakdown for each requested subvention
- Shortlist the Programme Plan as only half of all identified in the NSA Yearly Plan would be approved and recognized.
- Submit application (Form 5) to list out all the breakdowns of expense before event.
- Submit evaluation (Form 8) and financial statement upon completion of event.
- Submit annual audit report after completion of every financial year.
- Undergo random internal audit exercise when necessary.

We can hardly find any flexibility in maximizing the limited approved resources. Despite all the procedures we have gone through, yet it does not help much to further develop sports for the mentally handicapped.

### **2. HAB (Special Grant for preparation of Paralympic Games and FESPIC Games)**

A very specific application has to be submitted one year before the event and no flexibility is allowed after approval. In conducting training program and exploring competition opportunities to get well prepared for such a big competition, not much information can be confirmed at the time when application is submitted. Adjustments in all aspects are expected for which we have to provide lots of justifications and hence administrative work is increased.

The rigidity in funding allocation is easily identified no matter the fund is approved by HAB, SDB or LCSD.

**3. LCSD (for sports promotion and provision of grass-root training)**

LCSD adopts a routine pattern in approving training courses proposed by HKSAM. It is difficult for us to introduce new elements as changes of sports in training courses approved will not be entertained.

**Suggestion:**

**a. One-stop subvention mode monitored by a single branch of LCSD**

*We are glad to hear that a single funding authority (LCSD) will hold the responsibility to allocate resources to NSAs and the Sports Committee will be set up to play the leading role to steer the direction of sport development in Hong Kong. We know that according to the new establishment, sports subvention will be classified by 3 categories (elite, community, mass event) and monitored by 3 different branches in LCSD. To facilitate effective communication, we would like to suggest LCSD to adopt a one-stop subvention mode so as to promote efficiency and save administrative cost for NSAs to coordinate with 1 instead of 3 departments. Otherwise it makes not much difference with the previous practice of allocating different funding to NSAs by HAB, SDB and LCSD. Just HAB, SDB and LCSD become 3 departments under LCSD. We still have to triplicate our coordinating work. If one-stop subvention mode monitored by one single department is applied, NSAs can just raise their needs and the overall application will be exclusively considered.*

**b. Lump Sum grant subvention for programme expenses**

Allocate a four-year Lump Sum grant (based on the four year Plan submitted) for annual programme plan with simple and reasonable guidelines to follow. In fact this is what SWD has been executed which allows great flexibility for subvention agencies to use the government money. It is a global development for funding authority to apply Lump Sum Grant subvention system to promote effectiveness and efficiency. LCSD can consider the application of Lump Sum Grant as a lot of manpower in administrative work can be saved for both the funding authority (LCSD) and the subvented units.

**c. Evaluation of funding allocation criteria for elitism**

*Funding allocation for elite training based on results achieved imparts great burden for NSAs before good results can be achieved. It is a long path for potential athletes to become elite which means NSAs have to be self-financing if they want to train up the potential athletes. For NSAs to train athletes from elementary level to elite level, major of fund is required as a type of investment.*

**d. Allocation of funding for long-term sport development for all**

*Sufficient funding is allocated to NSAs respectively for focusing in a sport. Funding is also designated to NSAs exclusively for any beneficial sports development for the mentally handicapped so as to achieve quality of life. Without secured funding guaranteed by funding authority, it is difficult for NSAs to consider any long-term projects for both the able-bodied and the mentally handicapped.*

**e. Allocation of equal / more subvention for the mentally handicapped**

*The disabled should be fairly treated in funding allocation as coaching and equipment cost a lot in coping with the special need for the mentally handicapped in order to acquire skills and knowledge of sports. For any sports with good results achieved by the mentally handicapped athletes for a period of time, the sport(s) should be accredited to the Association with more funding granted for further development.*

**f. Long term grant for Paralympic and FESPIC Games**

*Allocate long term grant for Paralympic and FESPIC Games. For successful training with medal rewards, we need 12 years for training up an athlete to participate in these Games :*

*3 years : fundamental training*

*3 years : train-to-train*

*3 years : train-to-compete*

*3 years : train-to-win*

**g. Allow amply flexibility in utilizing all programme expenses**

*Put the trust in NSAs provided that the total expenses do not exceed the approved amount. Any misuse of money can be easily indicated in the audited report. Allow NSAs to take up responsibility to monitor their own sports development. Administrators of NSAs are required to update their sports information, scene and view at international standard to ensure their efficient running of NSAs. If they are proved to be incompetent, the funds allocated to these less efficient NSAs would be reduced and vice versa.*

**h. Simplification of administrative procedures**

*Reduce documentary procedures so that staff can spare more time in developing focus sports. Encourage NSAs to take up responsibility for sports development in Hong Kong.*

## **Sports Development System for the Mentally Handicapped**

Currently, respective NSAs are responsible for a specific sport with grass-root training aided by LCSD while elite training by SDB. With the new sports structure introduced by HAB, there will be a Sports Committee leading 3 Committees : Elite Sports Committee, Community Sports Committee & Major Sports Events Committee. Which Committee(s) should our Association (HKSAM) belong to as we get involvement in both elite sports and major sports events ?

### **Suggestion:**

#### **a. Open eye to the world**

*All parties involved in sports, be it PE teachers, trainers, coaches, officials, judges, administrators and policy makers are required to open their eyes widely to the outside world for any new trend in sports. Hong Kong sports development should be speeded up and stay ahead to international level.*

#### **b. Coach Education / Coach & Athletics ratio**

*Training courses should be provided to coaches so that they can be well equipped with advanced and high technical skills to train the athletes (including the able-bodied and the disabled) at all levels so as to enhance the skills they learn. High demand is expected on coaches, judges, PE teaches and administrators to explore ways of developing sports or physical activities for the mentally handicapped. They require more education in sports skills and knowledge to stimulate the ways to use sports to improve the quality of life for the mentally handicapped.*

#### **c. Elaborated efforts in sports development for the mentally handicapped**

*Sports development for the mentally handicapped required the joint efforts contributed by EMB, HAB, SWD and DH. 3 different levels are identified :*

##### **i) School Level :**

*Recruit well trained PE teaches with different sports skills and knowledge. Enrich PE syllabus with substantial sports elements Advocate the setting up of sports teams for special school team development.*

##### **ii) Community Level**

*Provide well-planned physical and leisure activities to the mentally handicapped so as to enhance the integration of the mentally handicapped into the community after school. Coaches and administrators of NSAs as well as LCSD can play a leading role in the promotion of sports and social integration for the mentally handicapped*

**iii) National/International Level**

*Select potential elite at school levels and refer to HKSAM for training to national level. With Head Coaches provided by NSAs.*

**d. Education & Accreditation system for teachers, trainers, coaches, officials and judges**

*PE teachers, trainers, coaches, officials and judges are given opportunities to refresh/update their professional skills and knowledge. A centralized accreditation system for the qualifications of trainers, coaches, officials and judges should be available which is locally recognized.*

**e. NSAs act as a specific sport promoter for Hong Kong**

*Each NSA is responsible for focusing on a specific sport. Sports training and competitions are provided to both the able-bodied and the disabled.*

**f. HKSAM acts as a sports promoter for the Mentally Handicapped and coordinates with NSAs to provide different sports events to the Mentally Handicapped**

*As the only sports Association available providing sports activities to the mentally handicapped, HKSAM concentrates on the promotion of different sports in a mass base to the mentally handicapped with the assistance of specific NSA's technical support. As HKSAM is involving in 13 sports, a mechanism to link HKSAM with NSAs of specific sports should be established so as to provide the best coaches and training to athletes with intellectual disability. In the long term, we target full integration of the mentally handicapped in sports environment.*

## **Facilities Provision and Management**

Currently, most sports facilities are run by LCSD while Sports Institute is run by SDB. Respective NSAs would have priorities in utilization while schools, organizations and the public would have different priorities as well. A phenomenon is identified that lots of sports venues are left idle while some venues are hotly demanded.

### **Suggestion:**

- a. *Maintain the unique identity for Sports Institute(SI) as it serves as an elite training centre for national teams and exchanged training centre for overseas national teams. It is important for SI to be exclusively used by elite athletes of NSAs and the best training facilities and equipment should be set up in SI.*

- b. Identify and allocate venue for a specific sport development through NSAs, regional sports clubs and community clubs.*
- c. Facilitate long term training to the public by allocating venues to well-organized sports clubs by which the public can receive proper training. It is a more beneficial way of regional sports training for the public rather than open booking system. This practice implies the joining of a club for the public before they can access to the use of government venue.*
- d. Open all facilities for NSAs and reserve venue with simplified booking procedures.*

### **Training of Athletes**

Currently, athlete sponsorship is based on the competition results they have achieved. For athletes with good potentials but not yet gained good results, the burden of training expenses fall onto the shoulder of NSAs.

#### **Suggestion:**

- a. Provide professional coaching, facility back up, scientific training back up e.g. nutrition, medicine, scientific testing, psychology...etc. to committed athletes with potentials.*
- b. Set clear targets for athletes to achieve to further their potentials*
- c. Provide clear career path and further education support to athletes so that they can fully commit in sports.*
- d. Demand and induce athletes of their growing commitment to the society during and after their sports career.*
- e. Train up potential retired athletes to coaches for sports development in Hong Kong.*
- f. All we are talking about is more money for investment. Open wider carrier opportunities for the youth.*

### **Role of Paid Staff**

Currently, only 3.5 staff (SSE, SE, 1.5AA) are aided by SDB. With the aid by SDB, it is by no means possible for us to fulfil the above tasks. Without the additional allocation of human resources, a stagnant development of no progress can be predicted. As a sports Association providing 13 sports to the mentally handicapped, the 3 staff have to discharge the following duties:

1. HKSAM is a multi sport NAS with multi sports to look after.
2. Sports promoter for the Mentally Handicapped
3. Identify specific training need for MH from time to time towards elite level
4. Monitor the sports development of multi sports for the Mentally Handicapped

5. Co-ordinate with NSAs for each individual sport's development
6. Monitor the several funding from government for multi sports
7. Close co-ordination with sports coaches of different sports
8. Organise training and competition programmes for the Mentally Handicapped
9. Explore overseas competition opportunities for athletes to gain competition experiences

**Suggestion:**

- a. *To allocate more professional staff (additional SEs and AAs are required to look after the 13 sports) for the development of sports.*
- b. *To upgrade the existing SSE to ED level, the SSE position can be considered as a promotion post for the senior SEs to compete*
- c. *To recruit full-time head coach for each sport if we have to make a good progress*
- d. *To allocate one SE for each focus sports in the long run*
- e. *Until the full integration of the mentally handicapped into the community, more support of manpower is required for good quality sports development for the mentally handicapped.*

**Conclusion**

It is our great pleasure to have this opportunity to express our views after being aided by SDB, HAB and LCSD throughout these years. We are indeed grateful for the support rendered to us so far, especially when we notice that both the public and the government have gradually recognized the achievement made by our athletes. We strongly wish that our recommendations would be seriously considered so that all our mentally handicapped would be immensely benefited.

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