

Brief summary of concerns from the Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled in regard of the new administrative structure for sports development.

1. *Sports Facilities for Disabled Sports*

- It is hoped that the existing training facilities/venues, provided by HKSI and LCSD for disabled sports will remain unchanged
- If feasible, it is highly recommended that a designated multi-purpose sports complex with related supporting services be built or modified for the disabled to enhance training effectiveness of elite level athletes and also caters for the needs for the development of disabled sports at various levels as well as foster sports participation among the disabled in the territory. As the disabled athletes may not be able to use the facilities throughout the year, our able-bodied counterparts are welcome to share the sports facilities.

2. *Funding for Disabled Sports*

- It is hoped that the amount of funding allocation and level of support given by SDB, LCSD and HAB remain unchanged under the new sports structure. Hopefully, additional resources with higher flexibility should be made available to disabled sports on a need basis e.g. hosting of major sports events. The Inaugural FESPIC Youth Games to be held in December 2003 in Hong Kong is a good indication that a sum of money be preferably made available for NSAs' applications, if any.

3. *Integration of Disabled Youth into Mainstream School Sports Programme*

- A school sports program should be implemented to cater for disabled students integrated into mainstream schools and among special schools in order to encourage more disabled students to participate in sports activities
- In view of lack of appropriate adapted-coaches for normal and special schools respectively, resources should be allocated to provide appropriate training for adapted-PE teachers/coaches so that more qualified personnel are available to conduct training sessions for disabled students from both the normal and special schools.

4. *Full-time Coaching Support for Disabled Athletes*

- "Full time coach" has been visualized and identified an essence for the success and achievement in coaching disabled athletes. This is well exemplified in our current practice of employing a full-time wheelchair fencing coach in looking after the training and development of the sport. It is hoped that similar arrangement could be offered to other focus disabled sports in the near future.

5. *Positioning of Disabled Sports in the Local Sports Structure*

- In order to get in line with the worldwide trend, it is very important that disabled sports are properly positioned in the sports structure in Hong Kong. Disabled sports should be integrated into every aspect, from the grassroot to elite levels, of the structure.

6. *Representation of disabled association(s) in the Sports Commission and/or the 3 Committees*

- Since the needs of disabled sports are unique and different from those of their able-bodied counterparts, it is necessary to have representative from the Associations concerned to sit on the Sports Commission and/or the three Committees to ensure that their needs are properly addressed and catered for.

7. *Role and Status of Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI)*

- HKSI should maintain its role and status as the designated training centre of Hong Kong elite athletes with comprehensive supporting services including coaching, sports science, sports medicine, athletes' hostel, etc.
- Being the sole designated training centre for elite athletes in the territory, all the facilities in HKSI should be designated for the said purpose only and be professionally managed. Definitely, the facilities there should not be opened to the public for commercial purposes.
- Additional resources should be allocated to strengthen the facilities and supporting services in HKSI.
- With its multi-disciplines nature, disabled sports needs different kinds of support and expertise from HKSI in order to maintain and enhance the existing level of achievement in the international arenas.

Submitted by the Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled
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