

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the details and latest progress of the “Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme” (the Scheme) jointly launched by the Education Bureau (EDB) and the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) from the 2017/18 school year.

Background

2. It has been the Government’s policy to encourage schools to open up their facilities for hire by community organisations as a means to fostering collaboration between schools and the community. According to a territory-wide survey conducted by EDB in 2016, more than 80% of schools had opened up their facilities in 2014/15 school year during non-school hours to various groups and organisations, including parent-teacher associations, alumni associations and non-profit-making organisations for organising different types of activities.

3. To encourage public sector schools to further open up their facilities, EDB and HAB jointly launched the Scheme at the beginning of the 2017/18 school year to provide additional subsidy to those public sector schools which open up their facilities for organising sports activities by sports organisations. Apart from providing incentives to schools to open up their facilities, the Scheme also enhances the sporting culture in schools, encourages students to develop a healthy sporting habit, with a view to promoting sports development.

The Scheme

4. Public sector schools (i.e. government, aided and caput schools) are encouraged to open up their facilities, such as school hall, activity room, covered or open playground with ball court, sports ground,

classroom and soccer pitch, from 1 October 2017 to 31 August 2018, for use by “national sports associations”, their affiliated club members, District Sports Associations and sports organisations to organise sports activities during non-school hours. To ensure cost effectiveness, each programme under the Scheme should consist of at least 24 hours of content, such as 12 sessions of 2 hours each.

5. To facilitate the cultivation of a strong sporting culture in schools and increase students’ participation in sports activities, sports organisations using school facilities under the Scheme are required to reserve one-fourth of the places in each programme for priority enrolment of students, teachers and/or parents of the school concerned, subject to their fulfilment of the qualification(s) of that activity, if any.

6. Upon EDB’s approval to hire out their facilities, participating schools will receive a subsidy of \$20,000 for accommodating the first programme and \$15,000 for each subsequent programme, up to a maximum amount of \$80,000 per school in each school year. The subsidy can be used for hiring extra manpower, strengthening security measures, defraying additional utility costs, and carrying out urgent minor repair works.

Funding Arrangement

7. The funding resources required for the Scheme are equally shared between EDB and HAB. The subsidies would be disbursed by EDB to the participating schools in October 2017 and April this year.

Implementation of the Scheme

8. EDB first issued a circular memorandum in June 2017 to invite schools to join the Scheme. After coordinating with applicant organisations and relevant schools, around 30 squad training programmes, young athletes training programmes and district sports activities have been arranged in schools in the 2017/18 school year.

9. With regards to the positive feedback from stakeholders, in November 2017, EDB and HAB invited a second round of applications for the 2017/18 school year to encourage more schools and sports

organisations to participate. As at mid-December 2017, a total of over 130 schools have indicated willingness to open up school facilities to sports organisations.

10. HAB has forwarded the information of participating schools to sports organisations for their consideration to hire facilities and contact with schools direct. Sports organisations interested in the second round of the Scheme for the current school year are required to submit applications by early February. Upon confirmation of the eligibility of the relevant sports organisations, schools are required to confirm their acceptance of the applications. The second round of sports programmes are expected to commence in March 2018.

11. EDB and HAB will collect feedback from participating schools and sports organisations to further enhance the Scheme. We expect to see more sports activities could be organised utilising school facilities.

Advice Sought

12. Members are invited to note the implementation and the latest progress of the Scheme.

Home Affairs Bureau
January 2018