

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of 6th Meeting of Community Sports Committee

Date: 20 April 2005
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Venue: Conference Room I, Home Affairs Bureau, 41/F, Revenue Tower,
5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present

Mr CHAU How-chen, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Mr John FAN Kam-ping, BBS, JP (Vice-Chairman)
Mr CHAN Kui-yin
Mr Norman CHAN Shui-tim
Mr CHAN Tung, BBS, JP
Ms CHAU Chuen-heung, MH, JP
Dr CHEUNG Siu-yin, MH
Mr Cowen B CHIU
Mr Kenny CHOW Kun-wah
Mr Benedict LEE Shui-sing, MH
Dr LO Wing-lok, JP
Mr SUEN Kai-cheong, MH, JP
Mr Kenneth TSUI Kam-cheung
Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung

Department Representatives In Regular Attendance

Mr Frankie LUI Kin-fun, JP	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss Olivia CHAN Yeuk-oi	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LAM Kwoon-sun	Education and Manpower Bureau
Dr Regina CHING Cheuk-tuen	Department of Health
Mr Edmond NG Lup-hung	Social Welfare Department

Absent with Apologies

Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing
Mr Francis CHAU Yin-ming, MH
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, MH
Mrs Laura LING LAU Yuet-fun, MH
Mr PUI Kwan-kay, MH
Mr TONG Wai-lun, MH
Dr LEUNG Mee-lee
Mr Eddie POON Tai-ping Home Affairs Bureau

In Attendance

Ms Anissa WONG Sean-ye, JP	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Lolly CHIU Yuen-chu, JP	Home Affairs Bureau
Mr Alan SIU Yu-bun, JP	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Lawrence CHEUNG Yiu-kong	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mrs Yolanda TONG LEE Yan-yan	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Kelvin LEUNG King-fat	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Stanley CHAIONG David	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Daniel SIN Pak-wing (Secretary)	Home Affairs Bureau
Mr Alfred LAW Kam-fat	Home Affairs Bureau

Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. He said that it was the first meeting for the new term of the Community Sports Committee (CSC) and that he was glad to know that the majority remained as members. He continued that the main task of the CSC was to advise the Administration on the strategies and initiatives to promote community participation in sports. Since members came from various sectors including sports, education, health care, District Councils and the local community, their rich expertise and experience would contribute greatly to implementing the work of CSC. He hoped that members of this term would exert their influence over respective sectors to actively promote community participation in sports, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the work of the CSC.

1.2 The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Drs CHEUNG Siu-yin and LO Wing-lok as new members. Being engaged in sports education for years, Dr CHEUNG was conversant with local sports development and had made many contributions towards training up local sports talents. The Chairman was sure that her inputs would be pivotal to CSC's future promotion of sports among the public, particularly for the youth, while Dr LO, who was devoted to advocating the enhancement of physical fitness of the community, would bring substantial contribution to CSC's implementation of fitness test for the community in future.

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of 5th Meeting of Community Sports Committee

2.1 The Chairman said that the Secretariat forwarded the draft minutes of the 5th meeting to members on 12 April 2005, and tabled at the meeting the summary of proposed amendments according to members' comments. There being no further amendments, the Chairman announced the endorsement of the minutes.

Item 2: Matters Arising

Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-Committee (SSACS)

3.1 The Secretariat reported that in connection with CSC's submission to the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) on the new senior secondary physical education curriculum as mentioned in paragraph 3.6 of the minutes, the Secretariat was preparing a draft letter under the name of the Vice-Chairman to reflect CSC's views on promotion of student participation in sports.

[Post-meeting note: the Vice-Chairman issued the letter to the EMB on 12 May 2005.]

Action: Community Sports Committee Secretariat

Advisory Committee on Fitness Test for the Community

3.2 Regarding the Chairman and composition of Advisory Committee on Fitness Test for the Community as mentioned in paragraph 6.6 of the minutes, the Secretariat reported that the authority concerned had invited Dr LO Wing-lok to be the Chairman and Mr Frances CHAU to be a member. In addition, the LCSD had invited the representatives of the EMB, the Department of Health and the Hong Kong Physical Fitness Association to take part in it. LCSD would convene the meeting as soon as possible.

3.3 Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD reported that in addition to the aforementioned representatives, the representatives of Hong Kong Centre for Sports Medicine and Sports Science of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and government departments concerned had also been invited to join the advisory committee. Upon confirmation of its composition, the first meeting would be convened around late April/ early May. LCSD would report the work of the advisory committee and the progress of the fitness test for the community to the Committee regularly. [Post-meeting note: The first meeting was held on 6 May 2005.]

Action: LCSD

Shanghai and Hong Kong Sports Exchange and Cooperation –Sports Summer Exchange Camp 2005

3.4 The Secretariat reported that the CSC had reported its progress of work at the first meeting of the Sports Commission (SC) on 1 February 2005. One of CSC's work plans was to launch a number of exchange programmes with the Mainland, including Shanghai and Hong Kong Sports Exchange Summer Camp 2005. The Chairman invited Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD to report the progress of the Summer Camp to the meeting.

3.5 Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD reported that according to the agreement reached by Shanghai and Hong Kong at the Shanghai and Hong Kong Sports Exchange and Cooperation Joint Liaison Group Meeting held in Hong Kong in December 2004, the Hong Kong delegation would visit Shanghai in July 2005 for sports exchange, while the Shanghai delegation would pay a reciprocal visit to Hong Kong in 2006. LCSD proposed the visit to Shanghai in July be conducted in the form of a 5-day sports summer exchange camp, which includes training, goodwill matches and seminars for the athletes. LCSD had forwarded the proposal to the Shanghai Administration of Sports. Upon confirmation by the Shanghai Administration of Sports, LCSD would recruit around 100 youth players of basketball, badminton and table tennis as participants.

Action: LCSD

3.6 The Chairman invited members to join the Summer Camp. Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD welcomed members to join as leaders (the quota was 2 persons). The Secretariat would need to contact members interested in joining the Summer Camp.

3.7 Ms CHAU Chuen-heung remarked that the Summer Camp could provide the youth from Shanghai and Hong Kong with opportunities of learning from each other. She asked how the participants of the Camp would be recruited. Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD replied that relevant National Sports Associations (NSAs) would select students to join the Summer Camp. It was hoped that the exchange programme would enhance the participants' skills in basketball, badminton and table tennis.

3.8 In reply to Dr LO Wing-lok's inquiry about the participation fees, Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD said that the participants would need to pay around \$2,900 at their own expense. LCSD might consider offering partial fee remission to those participants in need if the Department could secure commercial sponsorship.

Item 3: Report from Student Sports Activities Coordinating Sub-Committee (SSACS) (Paper CSC 05/05)

4.1 The Chairman invited the Vice-Chairman, the Convenor of the SSACS, to report the progress of work. The Vice-Chairman reported the work of the SSACS in the past twelve months and some suggestions on promoting students sports activities for primary and secondary schools.

4.2 The Chairman thanked the contribution of the SSACS in the last twelve months. He said that the SC and the CSC attached great importance to the promotion of student sports. He suggested retaining the SSACS for this term and the Vice-chairman continue to be its Convenor. Members of the

current SSACS might remain in the sub-committee or opt out. He also welcomed other members to join in. The Secretariat would contact individual members to see if they were interested in joining the SSACS, and fix a date for its next meeting. [Post-meeting note: the SSACS consisted of a total of 20 members, including 17 members of the CSC and 3 co-opted members representing the academic sector (all members of the last term remained except the representative of the Private Schools Association). The next meeting of the SSACS would be held on 15 June 2005.]

Action: Community Sports Committee Secretariat

4.3 In connection with various suggestions on promotion of sports activities as mentioned in paragraph 6 of the paper, the Chairman suggested that they should be discussed in details under agenda item 5 (Paper CSC 07/05 on Future Work Direction of the Community Sports Committee – Follow Up on the Brainstorming Session of the Sports Commission).

Item 4: Promoting Community Participation in Sports through Better Use of Sports Facilities (Paper CSC 06/05)

5.1 The Chairman invited Mr Lawrence CHEUNG of the LCSD to present the paper CSC 06/05.

5.2 The Chairman extended thanks to Mr Lawrence CHEUNG. He said that members might not have enough time to consider the paper as they had received it just the day before the meeting. He hoped that papers for discussion in future would be forwarded to members for reference at their earliest convenience.

5.3 The Chairman said that this agenda item arose against the background that while the community organisations encountered the shortage of suitable venues in organising community sports activities, the usage rate of certain sports venues remained unsatisfactory out of a number of reasons. Therefore, the Government suggested adopting a two-prong approach, i.e. implementing measures to encourage better use of the existing sports facilities by the public while converting the under-utilized venues to provide the facilities where there was a stronger demand from the public. He stressed that improving the mode of governance of LCSD venues and converting some facilities into other use should serve to enhance the accessibility of the facilities by the public and attract their participation in sports, and not just to focus on boosting the usage rate of the facilities. He then invited members to comment on the paper.

5.4 Mr Norman CHAN welcomed the LCSD's proposal of relaxing the period for block booking of the facilities. Taking basketball as an example, he pointed out that all basketball game held in Hong Kong, be it local or international, must be coordinated by the Hong Kong Basketball Association,

including the booking of venue with the government. However, some sports clubs or groups, though went without any prior advice from the Hong Kong Basketball Association (HKBA), managed to obtain the Government's approval to their application for venues to host open games. Those games, without the coordination of the HKBA, often failed to comply with the rules laid down by the Asian Basketball Federation or the International Basketball Association, and thus gave rise to a lot of controversy. Mr Norman CHAN remarked that any international event held at the government venues must comply with the rules laid down by the HKBA. For better coordination, he asked if the government would seek advice from relevant NSAs before approving block booking for holding open games.

5.5 Dr CHEUNG Siu-yin pointed out that in the Mainland, Taiwan and Malaysia, it was stipulated by law that any game attended by overseas participants must be endorsed and approved by relevant NSAs. However, there was no such requirement in Hong Kong.

5.6 Ms Anissa WONG of the LCSD said that the public facilities managed by the LCSD were mainly for group and individual use. Since Mr Norman CHAN's suggestion concerned endorsement of international games, she suggested referring the matter to the Sports Federation and Olympic of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) for follow-up. After discussion, the meeting concurred with Ms Anissa WONG's suggestion.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat referred the matter to the SF&OC for follow-up on 29 April 2005.]

Action: Community Sports Committee Secretariat

5.7 Mr Kenneth TSUI said that currently the LCSD offered a great variety of facilities and adopted every possible approach to boost the usage rate. He suggested changing the mode of governance, for instance, conferring the governing right to the NSAs, non-government organisations or commercial institutions. The Chairman replied that the issue would be further discussed under agenda item 5.

5.8 Dr LO Wing-lok said that the fitness rooms should be provided with fitness equipments for aerobic and anaerobic exercises in order to attract more users. He took the view that members of the general public seldom used the fitness equipments in LCSD's fitness rooms with their Fitness Gold Cards for anaerobic exercise, and preferred joining the private fitness clubs instead. He also pointed out that as the average usage rate of the fitness rooms could not reflect the actual situation, the LCSD should provide figures on the opening hours of the fitness rooms and the usage rate during the peak hours and non-peak hours for members' reference.

5.9 Mr Lawrence CHEUNG replied that the opening hours of the fitness rooms were from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm and the peak hours were between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. The information on the usage rate during the peak hours and non-peak hours would be submitted to members after the meeting. [Post-meeting note: The information provided by the LCSD was at annex.]

Action: LCSD

5.10 Ms Anissa WONG of the LCSD added that in general the usage rate of the fitness rooms managed by the Department remained low even though in peak hours. Such fitness rooms, as a kind of community facilities, had to meet the needs of all public users. She thus suggested opening the fitness rooms to the public at their liberty to use. It was the Department's aim that fitness equipments should suit the need of family use so that users of all ages could use them even without special training.

5.11 In response to Mr Benedict LEE's inquiry, Mr Lawrence CHEUNG of the LCSD replied as follows:

- (a) converting squash courts into activity rooms had boosted the average usage rate by 70%;
- (b) the two squash courts converted into a golf driving range had an average usage rate of 40%;
- (c) the televisions procured for the fitness rooms were large ones, instead of small ones for personal use;
- (d) written or video guides to demonstrate the fundamental skills in using the anaerobic fitness equipments were available in the fitness rooms without residential trainers.

5.12 The meeting noted that users should receive prior guidance and training when using anaerobic fitness equipments as they could be hazardous. LCSD would offer relevant training and required users of such equipments to be holders of Fitness Gold Cards (i.e. those who had already taken and passed the assessment test). Mr Benedict LEE pointed out that as all exercise involved certain degree of danger, it might not be necessary for users of all fitness equipments to obtain certificates or pass assessment tests. In some cases clear user guides or instructions would suffice as too many restrictions would pose inconvenience to users, thereby discouraging their use of fitness rooms. He asked if the Department would minimise restrictions posed on the use of fitness rooms (for instance, users needed not be Fitness Gold Card holders when using certain types of fitness equipments). Mr LAM Kwoon-sun of the EMB concurred with Mr Benedict LEE's suggestion.

5.13 Mr CHAN Kui-yin found it vital to ensure the proper use of the equipments in fitness rooms, and that loosening the restriction on usage might

lead to insurance or legal liability. Therefore emphasis must be put on the safe and efficient use of the equipments. He suggested the LCSD to consider exempting the qualified sport teachers of the qualification for fitness coaches in using the gymnastic equipment to teach their students.

5.14. Both Dr LO Wing-lok and Mr Kenneth TSUI held the view that the fitness equipment could facilitate other sports. For instance, the fitness rooms might be provided in a swimming complex or ball game venues so that athletes could work out in the room before taking other exercises, and vice versa. Its facilitation for sport might boost the usage rate of the fitness rooms.

5.15 Miss Olivia CHAN of LCSD said the Fitness Gold Card was issued after negotiation with Hong Kong Physical Fitness Association. Members of the public who did not have the card might join the training programme concerned. It was the principle of the LCSD to balance safety with public access to the equipment. Ms Anissa WONG of the LCSD suggested arranging a visit for the Members to the fitness room before deciding on which equipment could be exempted from the Gold Card, so as to introduce flexibility to the service. The Department would study the proposed exemption of qualified sport teachers from the qualification for fitness coach in the use of the fitness equipments. It would also study ways to achieve sport facilitation to ensure that sport organizations could make better use of the fitness rooms.

[Post-meeting note: The Members paid a visit to the fitness rooms located in two sports centers in Fat Kwong Street and Ho Man Tin on 27 May 2005.]

Action: LCSD

5.16 In response to Dr CHEUNG Siu-yin's inquiry on the allocation of four million dollars for demolition of the squash courts building in the Victoria Park for construction of an outdoors basketball court, Ms Anissa WONG of the LCSD said that the idea was floated because the usage rate of the squash court was only 9% while that of the outdoors basketball court in the Park was 90%. Mr Kenneth TSUI pointed out that there were three tennis courts in the vicinity of the squash courts building. The conversion of the squash courts into outdoors basketball courts would affect the tennis events there because the noises of basketball games would distract the tennis players and therefore affect their performance. As the Park was the only place in Hong Kong provided with a tennis centre court, he suggested the LCSD consider converting the complex into a media room and interview room so as to provide the centre court with more facilities. Miss Olivia CHAN of LCSD remarked that the improvement to the tennis centre of Victoria Park was one of 25 municipal projects proposed for priority treatment. The Department would contact the Hong Kong Tennis Association on arrangement of improvement works and the issue could be brought up later.

Item 5: Future Work Direction of the Community Sports Committee - Follow Up of the Brainstorming Session of the Sports Commission (Paper CSC 07/05)

6.1 The Chairman invited the Secretary to present the Paper.

6.2 The Chairman stated that during the Brainstorming Session of the SC held on 2 April 2005, the Vice-Chairman and he reported the development of community sports to the SC. The meeting drew up three future tasks for the Committee: (1) to improve the physical fitness of the community; (2) to promote student sports; and (3) to attract the public participation in sports by increasing their accessibility to sport facilities.

6.3. The Chairman added that the three pragmatic directions of works could provide the framework and priority of work for the current Committee and give it a clear objective. He proposed the Members support the directions. Members might raise other matters with the Committee at any time. But he stressed that the Committee, as a policy-making institution, should focus on the overall strategies, and avoid involving too much with the details of implementation. The Chairman then invited the Members to advise on the ways to take forward and implement the major work directions proposed by the SC.

6.4 Mr CHAN Kui-yin said that in the previous meeting the Members generally supported improvement of the community's fitness as a major task. But the Committee needed to review if the sampling of 8 000 people was broad enough. He pointed out that similar tests conducted in the Mainland sampled over 300 000 people. Miss Olivia CHAN of LCS D explained that, statistically speaking, a sample basing on 8 000 people was big enough to reflect the actual situation. The Department would strike a balance between "depth" and "breadth" of the sampling number. She noted that the advisory committee to be set up later could discuss about the number of sampling. Dr LO Wing-lok remarked that, while in comparison with the Mainland, 8 000 should be a big number, the ways of sample selection (to achieve even representation) and test were of great importance. The Advisory Committee would draw the attention of the commissioned professional agent to those two points.

6.5 As regards which organizations was to be responsible for encouraging and promoting student participation in sport activities, Mr CHAN Kui-yin noted that, whether in encouraging student to participate in sports or personal network, Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation (HKSSF) was in a better position than the LCS D to serve as a coordinator. Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung stated that the LCS D and EMB had been very supportive of the promotion of student sports. He hoped that the LCS D would do more to meet the needs of

the HKSSF for venues.

6.6 Miss Olivia CHAN of LCSD said that the Department was conducting a survey on participation of sports by primary and secondary schools students. Pending the findings of the survey, the SSACS would hold further discussion on the division of labour and coordination over promotion of student sport activities.

6.7 Mr LAM Kwoon-sun of the EMB remarked that there was a clear division of labour among the government departments and sport organizations in promotion of student sports: HKSSF, by holding inter-school sport competitions, identifies the potential students to join regional or international games so as to enhance their interests in sports and provide opportunities for promoting elite sports in schools; LCSD, by organizing various promotional and training programmes, offers students more choices and chances to participate in sports; and the EMB, by passing on basic sport knowledge during the class, encourages students to take part in sport courses and training programmes held by the NSAs and LCSD. Government departments and sport organizations were in close contact with each other and their division of labour was satisfactory. He proceeded to respond to the proposals on student sports raised in the brainstorming of the SC as set out in the Annex, and drew reference to the proposal of a sport for each student raised in the curriculum guide for sports in Primary One to Secondary Three issued by the EMB in 2002. In its latest reform on sport curriculum of senior secondary schools, the EMB emphasized sport should take up at least 5% of school hours and PE should be added to the list of elective subjects in university entrance examination. As to the number of students participating in inter-school sport competitions, as far as he knew, there was about 10%-15% of annual increase in students taking part in the competitions held by the HKSSF since 1997.

6.8 Concerning the SC's proposal of giving due credits for students' performance in sports in considering their applications for admission to universities as raised in the brainstorming session, Mr Benedict LEE said that in the case of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, its current entry policy of gave students credit for their achievement in sports. But each tertiary educational institution and sport institution had its own entry criteria. Whether such criteria should be standardized was beyond the scope of discussion of the Committee. He believed that it would help develop student sports if resources were concentrated.

6.9 Ms CHAU Chuen-heung suggested opening the school premises to encourage the public participation in sports. Ms Lolly CHIU of the HAB voiced her support in principle for the idea, but said that a mechanism was needed to tackle technical issues like security and management. Mr LAM Kwoon-sun of the EMB stated that the Bureau was always in support of opening the school premises for the public to participate in sport activities.

While the technical issues could be solved, the result might still fall short of expectation as the public might find the ancillary facilities of the schools not on a par with those under the LCSD. The public's attitude towards using school facilities for sports must be changed if such a proposal was to be feasible. After deliberation, the Committee agreed to follow up with the item of opening up the school premises.

Action: Community Sports Committee Secretariat and EMB

6.10 Regarding the proposal of management of sport venues by the government in collaboration with the private sector (e.g. the NSAs), Mr Kenneth TSUI agreed with the approach. However as it involved many issues, he suggested convening a special meeting for further deliberation. The Committee consented to hold a special meeting prior to the next meeting for discussing the issue. Members might offer any comment to the secretariat prior to the special meeting.

Action: Community Sports Committee Secretariat

Item 6: Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting

7.1 The Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting and offering their valuable comments. The next CSC meeting was scheduled for 10:30 am on 22 June 2005.

7.2 The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Community Sports Committee Secretariat
June 2005

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Opening Hours and Usage Rate of the Fitness Room

Number of Fitness Room: 64

Opening hours: 7 am to 11 pm

Usage Rate (Fitness Rooms in the urban areas)	Peak Hours	Non-peak Hours
Weekdays	5 pm to 11 pm	7 am to 5 pm
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays	Full day	---
Usage rate	18%	17%
Average usage rate	17%	