



香港網球總會

Hong Kong Tennis Association

香港銅鑼灣掃桿埔大球場徑1號奧運大樓1021室
Room 1021, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path,
So Kon Po, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

30 July 2020

Mr. Yeung Tak Keung, JP
Commissioner for Sports
Home Affairs Bureau
13/F, West Wing
Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar
Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Yeung,

Reopening of Tennis Courts under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and on Sites Granted by way of Private Recreational Leases

Hong Kong is facing an on-going pandemic and this current third wave of infections is particularly severe. Under the leadership of the government, organisations from all sectors as well as individual citizens must play their part in controlling the spread, so that society may continue to function with some semblance to normality. As such, the latest measures being imposed by the government, including the temporary closure of all sporting facilities, can be understood.

However, on behalf of the National Sports Association for Tennis in Hong Kong, I appeal to you to strike a balance between maintaining safety and other important needs of the communities.

Tennis is a sport but also a livelihood for many. Without access to tennis courts, coaches' incomes plummet and most are still suffering financially since the initial closures back in March. The summer holiday is traditionally a peak season for them, but with the current measures put in place due to the resurgence of infected cases, many families are not be able to make ends meet.

I understand we are up against a pandemic and that safety must be the primary concern, but the government needs to evaluate the risk profile of each sport individually. In my previous letter to you dated 3 April 2020, I have highlighted that tennis is an outdoor non-contact sport played over a relatively large area which provides natural distancing. As of 27 July 2020, Hong Kong is one of the 159 International Tennis Federation member nations to have guidelines in place that permit the use of tennis facilities under a safe and manageable protocol, such as following strict hygiene and social distancing measures. In fact, the vast majority of countries around the world, except in the most severe cases, have kept their tennis courts opened as they recognise the relative safeness of practicing the sport recreationally. (Reference:

<https://www.itftennis.com/en/news-and-media/articles/return-to-recreational-tennis-27-july-update/>)

I urge the government to re-open all tennis facilities as well those of other sports with similar risk profiles so that coaches in our community can return to work again as soon as possible. It is also critical that the government provides further financial relief to those who are fighting to stay afloat during these difficult times. While the last round of financial relief was helpful, it was insufficient and many coaches were not covered in the



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scheme. Therefore, I ask the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) to widen your support in this regard.

At present, our coaches are enduring financial hardship and the gravity of the situation is weighing heavily on us. I am appealing to HAB for immediate assistance and hope that you can respond favourably to our crisis.

I remain at your disposal should you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Mok
President, Hong Kong Tennis Association