



香港棒球總會有限公司  
**THE HONG KONG BASEBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### Annual General Meeting 2020

The year 2019-2020 was a testing time for the sport sector.

We have witnessed the impact of social events and the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. In the fourth quarter, most of the training programmes and competitions were cancelled due to the group gathering restrictions. Our elite coaching team delivered training from home programme to keep our elite athletes physically fit. The Board of Directors joined the monthly meeting on the electronic platform to stay close communication and ensure smooth operation.

Here are some of the highlights from the past year.

#### I. Performance of Hong Kong Teams

As of 18 March 2020, the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) announced the baseball world rankings; Hong Kong Men's Team ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Asia, 30<sup>th</sup> in the World. As of 31 December 2019, Hong Kong Women's Team ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Asia, 10<sup>th</sup> in the World.

Sources: <https://rankings.wbcs.org/>

Hong Kong Men's Team ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of 8 teams in the final result of the 29<sup>th</sup> Asian Baseball Championship. Leung Ho Nam was awarded as All-Star Team Catcher.

Hong Kong Women's Team finished at 6<sup>th</sup> place in the II BFA Women's Baseball

Asian Cup, did not qualify for the upcoming WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup. The team also participated in the LG Cup which was held at Korea in August 2019.

Team U12 and Team U18 participated in the 2019 "Panda Cup" Greater Bay Baseball Championship. Team U12 finished at 4<sup>th</sup> place. Wong Kwong Po, a player of Team U18, was awarded the Leading Batter.

The top team in U12, U14, U16 of Hong Kong Youth League were qualified to participate in the PONY Baseball Asia-Pacific Zone Tournament (Bronco, Pony, and Colt division). Participating in international events would benefit the players and coaches to gain experience in games and strengthen their skills.

Hong Kong was first-ever invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Youth Games, our U15 Girls and U15 Boys team got 4<sup>th</sup> place while U19 Men's Team ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the final.

#### II. Local International Events

##### Local International Events

In the reporting year, we are incredibly grateful that we received the donation from our Honorary Presidents namely, Mr. Lester Lam, Dr. Kennedy Wong and Mr. Thomas Lee to support the Association to



host local international events including Hong Kong International Baseball Open, “Phoenix Cup” Hong Kong International Women’s Baseball Tournament and Hong Kong International U12 Baseball Championship.

Due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the Association could only host one local international event out of three planned events. Thank you for the continuous funding support from the Home Affairs Bureau, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and title sponsor Lai Sun Group, Lick Sang and Zun1 Interactive Technology.

Lick Sang Presents 8th WBSC Hong Kong International Baseball Open was held in December 2019, title-sponsored by Lick Sang and sanctioned by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). The tournament mixed with the national team from Hong Kong and Russia and club team from Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan. Team Hong Kong won over Da-Ho Baseball, Taiwan, and Singapore Meerkats, Singapore.

### III. Local Leagues

Because of the long-term shortage of venue supply which could not meet the demand of organizing nearly 300 games in a year. The Hong Kong Open League was forced to suspend in the reporting year. The Association decided to reform the Hong Kong Open League in the next season. The number of teams in one division will be limited to 10, meanwhile, players are not allowed to register more than one division in the same season. We expected the number of teams will be trimmed down to 50-60 teams instead of 90. Men Grade A was moved out from the Hong Kong Open League to release the booking of the Sai Tso Wan baseball

field (our designated National Squad Training Centre) to support the elite training programme for youth.

To promote the game quality of Men Grade A that most of our national team players play in, the Association moved a big step to co-organize with Hong Kong Apex Baseball League Limited to run the first premier baseball league in Shenzhen where an international standard baseball field is available during the weekend and allow the teams to play an official game without setting the game duration.

To strengthen the sport development, the Association kept organizing baseball league for youth under self-sustain programmes.

- ✧ Hong Kong Youth League (HKYL)
- ✧ Coach Pitch League (CPL)

League	Division	Teams	Games
HKYL	U11	6	31
HKYL	U12	7	43
HKYL	U14	3	3
HKYL	U16	7	43
CPL	U10	4	13
<b>Total:</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>130</b>

With support from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), we organized an easy sport game, a one-day event, Baseball SIX Competition in the summer. LCSD also supported us to organize Baseball5™ Competition, a modified game introduced by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), a five-on-five, five-inning street version that can be played anywhere.

### IV. Squad Training Programmes

#### Squad Training

To improve the physical fitness and skill level, whole year training programs were



organized for men, youth, women, youth, and feeder system.

Five-Year Development Programme for Team Sports

The Home Affairs Bureau rolled out the “Five-year Development Programme for Team Sports” (the TS Programme) in January 2018 which covers 8 team sports with a team size of 5 or more featuring in the Asian Games or Asian Winter Games, namely baseball (men’s team), basketball, handball, hockey, ice hockey, softball (women’s team), volleyball and water polo. Apart from the training grant support, members of the Hong Kong team would receive a monthly allowance of HK\$4,000 if their attendance in the scheduled training is more than 80% of the training hours, but not less than 10 hours, in a week. Currently, there are 28 selected male players train intensively under the TS Programme to prepare for the major events.

which was subvented by LCSD, there were 83 training programmes and one competition with 10 games conducted during the year, over 2,500 students enjoyed the training. HKBA was successfully raising the popularity of baseball to the local primary, secondary schools, and special schools. However, affected by COVID-19 in the year 2019-2020 some of the training programmes were suspended or cancelled. The Easy Sport Competition was cancelled after two times of suspension.

Programme	Courses	Participants
Sport Demonstration	29	1,035
Easy Sport Programme - Baseball Six	20	518
Outreach Coaching Programme (Non-School Team)	13	365
Outreach Coaching Programme (School Team)	21	538
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2,456</b>

**V. Development Programmes**

District Promotion Programmes

The development Programme was structured in three stages with elementary level and intermediate level. In the reporting year, we organized 49 training courses with nearly 1,600 participants enrolled in promotional training.

Division	Courses	Participants
Kids aged 5-8 & parents	7	154
Children aged 7-14	12	313
Youth & Adult aged 13-64	30	1,120
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1,587</b>

School Sports Programmes

Through the School Sports Programme

Community Sports Club Programmes

As at end of the reported period, there were 20 HKBA affiliated clubs registered under LCSD Community Sports Club Projects. The clubs organized 57 activities in total with the subvention from LCSD. To enhance the standard of baseball at the community level, we will continue promoting and strengthening the development of the sport for young players and encourage lifelong participation in sports.

**VI. Official Training Programmes**

For the reporting period, there were 122 coaches actively to conduct training classes with players in local baseball activities and school teams at different



levels. 45 umpires and 35 scorers provided their professional services in local competitions.

The Association organized an elementary training course for umpire and scorer to expand the official pool; and also continuous professional training to enhance their skills.

The following officials were appointed in the international events organized by the Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) and PONY Baseball and Softball.

- Cheung Sui Man, 29th Asian Championship
- Miyoshi Masanori, BFA U15 Baseball Championship
- Moo Yee Wah Eva, II BFA Women's Baseball Asian Cup
- Yip Ka Leung, II BFA Women's Baseball Asian Cup
- Cheung Wing Yan, PONY Baseball Asia-Pacific Zone Bronco Tournament
- Sun Lun Yum, PONY Baseball Asia-Pacific Zone Pony Tournament

## **VII. Membership and Affiliated Clubs**

As of 31 August 2020, there are 526 Full Members, 48 Associate Members, 123 Student Members, and 31 Affiliated Club Members.

## **VIII. Administration and Publication**

The Association holds monthly executive directors' meetings, quarterly directors' meetings and monthly staff meetings to ensure the smooth progress of activities and monitoring of the administrative system. Respective executive committee meetings have also been held on a need

basis, to attend the meeting physically or using a conference call or video call.

To promote the best practice in corporate governance and response to the advice by LCSD to all National Sports Associations, our directors and senior management staff attended the Symposium on Corporate Governance in National Sports Associations - Governance, Leadership and the Future Development of Sports that organized by the Leisure & Cultural Services Department. To deal with the business and activities in an open, fair and impartial manner, we have set out the basic standards and Codes of Conduct of National Sports Associations for our Officials and Staff as work principles and guidelines

To support environmental protection and saving the expenditure of the Association, with effect from January 2018, our publication quarterly "RUN" changed to biannual publication, a digital copy is available on our website. HKBA updated its website and posted the news on its Facebook pages. Members' pro-active suggestions and comments demonstrated their enthusiasm for promoting baseball together with the Association.

## **IX. Exploring Potential Lands for Constructing a Baseball Field**

We have been communicating closely with the relevant departments to express our demand of venues to support baseball activities, no matter increases the number of sessions, opening up other facilities, or apply to use of vacant land.

In July, we submitted our application to the Lands Department to use a water service reservoir rooftop to develop as a baseball training ground and competition venue for young; looking forward to receiving the approval.



## **X. Introducing the post of Honorary Life President**

To recognize the contributions of the former Presidents and Chairmen, I proposed to introduce the post of the Honorary Life President and officially laid down in the Articles of Association. The Board may invite any former President and Chairman of the Association who has served such role for at least six years in the Association to be the Honorary Life Presidents of the Association.

The Honorary Life Presidents shall have the duty to oversee proper fund allocation of the Growing Together Baseball Sport Education Fund (the "Fund") and endorse the appointment of President and Chairman of the Association.

## **XI. Growing Together Baseball Sport Education Fund**

The Association was appointed by the Growing Together Baseball Sport Education Fund (the Fund) to keep and handle the Fund application.

Dr. Adam Lee, one of our Honorary Presidents, contributed additional money to boost the pool. The Fund aims to provide financial assistance for technical officials training, administrative staff further education, and women's baseball development. The Fund Committee comprises of the Association's Honorary Life Presidents, Counselor, President, Chairman, and Secretary General.

## **XII. Appreciations**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all Honorary Presidents for their financial support and the guidance from the advisory members over the years; also grateful to the Home Affairs Bureau,

Leisure and Cultural Services Department for their subvention and continuous support; and thankful to Environmental Protection Department, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, Hong Kong Sports Institute and the relevant District Councils for their advice and support too.

Last but not the least, I wish to thank all directors, committee members, and volunteers for their continuous support, as well as office staff of the Association for their dedication and commitment to work.

**Andrew Fan**

Chairman

The Hong Kong Baseball Association Limited

24 September 2020