



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Annual General Meeting 2021

The year of 2020-2021 was another challenging year for the sport sector - the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic continue to cast a long shadow on our industry. As a result, most of the inbound or outbound international events were postponed due to travel restrictions and strict preventive measures. Nevertheless, our Hong Kong Men's Team overcame all challenges, including undergoing a 21-day quarantine and participated in the 14th National Games Final during 1-10 September 2021 in Shaanxi, China. It was a memorable and valuable experience for each and every one of our team members.

The Association focused on further developing our social media platforms including, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WeChat Official Account and YouTube, to strengthen awareness, build the association brand and enhance audience engagement.

Here are some of the highlights from the past year.

I. HKBA Board

23 October 2020, the 2-yearly board elections conducted by the HKBA according to its Articles of Association, resulted in the election of myself as Chairman and Mr. Andrew FAN, JP as

President. The following directors were elected as Board members:

- Mr. AU Hok Leung, Vice-chairman (Elite Training)
- Mr. LEUNG Tak Kwong, Vice-chairman (Promotion & Project)
- Mr. NG Kwong Yuen, Vice-chairman (Games)
- Mr. Stanley CHONG, Secretary-General
- Dr. LAM Ho Yi, JP, Treasurer
- Mr. LUI Chun Pong, Financial Controller
- Mr. AU Wing Leung, Director of Coach Development
- Mr. CHAN Tsz Yeung, Director of Men's Development
- Mr. CHIU Chi Kam Kenneth, Director of Youth Development
- Ms. LAU Tsz Chin, Director of Women's Development
- Mr. LEUNG Ka Ho Sam, Director of Schools Sport Promotion
- Mr. LEUNG Wai Hung, Director of Open League
- Mr. MAN Chin Wing, Director of Facilities
- Mr. WONG Ki, Director of Umpire Academy (Umpire-in-Chief)
- Mr. YIP Chun To Adrian, BBS, MH, JP, Director of Community

II. HKBA Honorary Advisory Board

I would like to welcome Mr. Lester Lam, Mr. Thomas Lee and Mr. William Choy to join our Honorary Advisory Board as Honorary President, and convey our appreciation for their support to the Association.

III. Performance of Hong Kong Teams

As of 11 August 2021, the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) announced the baseball world rankings; Hong Kong Men's Team retained 6th out of 20 in Asia and was promoted to 28th from 30th out of 85 in the World. Countries in Europe and the Americas continued their baseball events in 2020 and 2021, resulting in dropped rankings for some other nations. Luckily, it did not impact the Hong Kong Men's Team.



Hong Kong Women's Team retained 4th out of 8 in Asia but dropped to 11th from 10th out of 20 in the World. Hong Kong Women's Team faces the challenge of countries that are newly developing Baseball Women's such as China, Guam, Mexico, Philippines and Puerto Rico.



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

According to the final standing in the 13th National Games 2017, Hong Kong Men's Team was qualified to participate in the 14th National Games Final on 1-10 September 2021 in Shanxi, China; a four-year interval major competition that the Men's Team targeted in the year. Quarantine requirements set out by the local organizing committee, and the HKSAR Government for inbound travelers was a key factor that prevented many players from participating due the extended absence from work or school. But in the end, we were able to assemble a team of 16 players and 4 officials to participate in the National Games. Despite the short bench and player rotations, all the players made an outstanding effort to compete at the highest level. Unfortunately, we did not qualify for the final round against professional teams including Guangdong, Shanxi, Sichuan and Tianjin; However, we served Hong Kong proud with our fighting spirit and resilience, which won the hearts of many, myself included. A heartfelt appreciation to the players and coaching team for your sacrifices and overcoming the challenges to participate in the games.



Delegation list of Hong Kong Men's Team

- ◇ Team Leader: Dave HO
- ◇ Head Coach: AU Hok Leung
- ◇ Coach: AU Wing Leung
- ◇ Pitching Coach: Cola YEH
- ◇ Players:
 - CHAN Cheuk Kiu
 - CHAN Chun Lai Fergus
 - CHAN Sze Yue
 - CHENG Hoi Ting

- FONG Man Hay
- KWOK Ching Connor
- LAM Lai Him
- LAM Wing Hei
- MOK Chun Lam
- MOK Chun Pui
- MOK Wing Tung
- NG Yan Ching Joshua
- TAM Ho Ki Bryan
- TSUI Chak Pui
- WONG Sze Chun
- WONG Yui Fung

An extended thanks to the Shenzhen government and various departments for their assistance during the Men's Team quarantine period as well as the subsequent training arrangements that allowed us to have a few formal training sessions before the competitions. It was vital to the coaches and for the players to regain competitive form before the high intensity competitions. Thank you again to all the parties involved.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Baseball Competition Commission of the 14th National Games (十四運會棒球賽事競委會), who also arranged a Farewell and Cultural Exchange event for the Hong Kong Men's Team together with the 14th National Games Local Organizing Committee head and officials, including a meeting with President Chen Xu of Chinese Baseball Association. Heartfelt thank you for the support during the games.





IV. Local International Events

In the reporting year, the Association cancelled the plan to host local international events due to COVID-19 issues and travel restrictions related to the pandemic, including Hong Kong International Baseball Open for men, “Phoenix Cup” Hong Kong International Women’s Baseball Tournament and Hong Kong International U12 Baseball Championship.

As the pandemic and its preventive measures continue to improve, we look forward to hosting tournaments and meeting the overseas teams soon in Hong Kong.

V. Local Leagues

After reforming the Hong Kong Baseball Open League (HKOL), the number of teams in one division was limited to 10; no players were allowed to register in more than one division in the same season. 39 teams were divided into four divisions, the number of games reduced from nearly 300 to 85.

The Association continue to organize baseball leagues for youths under self-sustainable competition scheme, Hong

Kong Youth League (HKYL), to strengthen and connect sport development.

Due to the group gathering restrictions, both HKOL and HKYL cancelled half of the games.

With support from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the Association organized two fast-paced and safe sport games, Hong Kong Baseball5 Competition and Hong Kong Baseball SIX Competition; both games can be played on hard grounds (indoors or outdoors), with each game span around 30 minutes.

Baseball5 is a new discipline in the next Youth Olympic Games, that the Association has been making a conscious effort to further promote and develop amongst community and schools.

League	Division	Teams	Players
HKOL	Men B	10	155
HKOL	Men C	10	173
HKOL	Women	9	142
HKOL	Mixed	10	163
HKYL	U11	4	69
HKYL	U12	7	92
HKYL	U16	8	97
Baseball5	Youth Mixed	3	23
Baseball5	Open Mixed	6	46
Baseball SIX	Youth Mixed	7	64
Baseball SIX	Open Mixed	4	36
Total:		78	1060

VI. Squad Training Programmes

Squad Training

To improve the physical fitness and skills level, the Association organized whole year training programmes for men, women, youths and feeder system.

Five-Year Development Programme for Team Sports

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) rolled out the “Five-year Development Programme for Team Sports” (the TS Programme) in 2018, which covers eight team sports, including baseball (Men’s Team) to prepare for the Asian Games and major events in the funding period. Apart from the training grant support, players with no less than 80% attendance could be granted Athlete Grants of HK\$4,000 a month. There are 28 selected players attending the training regularly.

The Team is preparing for the 19th Asian Games to be held in September 2022 in Hangzhou, China.



VII. Development Programmes

District Promotion Programmes

The Development Programme was structured in three stages. In the reporting year, two stages were cancelled while one

stage partially held due to venue closures under the group gathering restrictions. The Association organized 18 training courses with 571 participants enrolled in the promotional training programme.

Division	Courses	Participants
Kids & Parents	3	79
Children	4	89
Youth & Adult	9	356
Baseball5 & Baseball SIX	2	47
Total	18	571

School Sports Programmes

With most of the school classes changed to distance learning in the past academic year, all the planned School Sports Programmes were fully cancelled.

Community Sports Club Programmes

At the end of the reported period, there were 20 HKBA affiliated clubs registered under LCSD Community Sports Club Projects. The clubs planned to organize 58 activities in total; some of the activities were fully/partially cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19.

VIII. Official Training Programmes

For the reporting period, 133 registered coaches provided their services in the training classes with players in local baseball activities and school teams at different levels. In addition, 39 umpires and 27 scorers provided their professional services in local competitions. The umpire and scorer registration rate dropped by 15% and 29% respectively due to the shortened baseball season.

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

IX. Supporting Events

Jockey Club Community Sustainability Fund – Baseball5 School Promotion Programme

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust had set up a “Community Sustainability Fund” (the Fund) to provide time-limited funding for eligible organisations to carry out service programmes to support the community with positive energy, demonstrate the resilience and recover together with different sectors in this challenging period.

The Association provided Baseball5 School Promotion Programme with the Fund to local schools, nearly 6,500 students were benefited.



Olympic Fun Day

To cheer for the Hong Kong Team for participating in the Tokyo Olympics, the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) invited the Association as one of the exhibitors in the Olympic Fun Day to provide sports trials at West Kowloon Cultural District. The 3-day event attracted more than 5,000 public to enjoy game booths and live broadcasting by local artists and athletes.



X. Membership and Affiliated Clubs

As of 31 March 2021, there were 530 Full Members, 64 Associate Members, 357 Student Members, and 28 Affiliated Club Members.

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

To promote Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for directors to strengthen board competence in responsibilities of corporate governance. In March and April 2021, the Association organised director CPD whereby directors completed a Board Training Programme conducted by The Hong Kong Institute of Directors (HKIoD). The Board Training Programme was subvented by the LCSD under the Outreaching Corporate Governance Programme. Our selected topics included PR Crisis Communication and Best Practices and Cyber Security & Technology Crime Prevention.



The Association held another two sessions in August 2021, Deep Dive Understanding of Articles of Association (AoA) and its

impact to NSA; and Value Creation by Directors.

The administrative staff were encouraged to attend the above training sessions to build their awareness of the importance of good corporate governance practices.

The Association has been publishing our self-funded biannual publication "RUN". Digital copy is available on our website. Meanwhile, a new post of digital officer responsible for digital marketing helped boost audience engagement on various social networking platforms.

XII. Exploring Potential Lands for Constructing a Baseball Field

Last July, the Association applied for usage of a water service reservoir rooftop to develop as a baseball training ground and competition venue for the youths. The application is in progress, and we look forward to receiving approval soon.

XIII. Growing Together Baseball Sport Education Fund

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

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.

XIV.Appreciations

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our in-kind sponsors namely, Telford International Company Limited and Germagic, and all Honorary Presidents for their financial support and the guidance from Honorary Life Presidents, the advisory members over the years; we are 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 least, I wish to thank all directors, committee members, and volunteers for their continuous support, and office staff of the Association for their dedication and commitment to work.

Dave HO

Chairman

The Hong Kong Baseball Association Limited

October 2021