



I am extremely pleased to report that it was another busy and rewarding year of 2016/2017 for Hong Kong Baseball Association.

## I. BASEBALL GAMES

### INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND EXPOSURE

As of 8th October 2017, the Association had sent different teams to play in different levels of international and regional tournaments to enhance baseball skills in competitions. Amongst all these competitions, the results of participation of national tournaments of Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) and World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) would affect the overall world rankings of Hong Kong.

Event Name	Date	Place	Representing Team	Team Result
2016 6 <sup>th</sup> Cross-Strait Baseball Invitational Tournament – U12 Division	15th-19th Jun 2016	Taichung, Taiwan	Hong Kong U12 Baseball Team	6th
12th All China University Baseball/Softball Finals	20th-25th Jul 2016	Sichuan, China	The University of Hong Kong	2 <sup>nd</sup> in Division A Group C
26th World Children's Baseball Fair 2016 - International Exchange Games	17th-25th Aug 2016	Toyama, Japan	Hong Kong U12 Baseball Team	8th
XI BFA U18 Baseball Championship 2016	30th Aug-4th Sept 2016	Taichung, Taiwan	Hong Kong U18 National Baseball Team	5th
Taipei International AA Baseball Invitational Tournament 2016	23th-27th Dec 2016	Taipei, Taiwan	Hong Kong U15 Baseball Team	Eliminated in preliminary round
IX BFA U12 Baseball Championship 2016	9th-13th Dec 2016	Zhongshan, China	Hong Kong U12 National Baseball Team	8th
LG Presents WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup 2016	3rd-11th Sept 2016	Gijang City, Korea	Hong Kong Women's National Team	10th
FUKAMATSU International Baseball Cup 2017	24th-27th Mar 2017	Sendai, Japan	Hong Kong Men's Team	4th
13th National Games – Preliminary Round	10th-18th May 2017	Wuxi, China	Hong Kong Men's National Team	8th in the Final Result
PONY League Asia-Pacific Zone Bronco Tournament	2nd-7th Jul 2017	Seoul, Korea	Kwun Tong Pony League	8th
13th All China University Baseball/Softball Finals	20th-26th Jul 2017	Shenzhen, China	The Education University of Hong Kong	5 <sup>th</sup> in the Sports Institute Division
LG Cup International Women's Baseball Tournament 2017	24th-29th Aug 2017	Seoul, Korea	Hong Kong Bravo	7th
2017 I BFA Women's Baseball Asian Cup - Qualifier to the WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup® 2018	2nd-7th Sept 2017	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Women's National Team	4th
XXVIII BFA Asian Championship 2017	2nd-8th Oct 2017	New Taipei City, Taipei	Hong Kong Men's National Team	[5th]



## LOCAL INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND LOCAL LEAGUES

### • **Major Local International Event**

With the support and approval from Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA), it was the great honor of the Association to host the inaugural BFA Women's Baseball Asian Cup between 2nd and 7th September 2017. The tournament provided an excellent platform for the growth and development of women's baseball in Asia, and recorded of over 330,000 live stream views in total in 10 selected games. In conclusion, four top national teams, including Japan, Chinese Taipei, Korea and Hong Kong were qualified to the WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup® 2018.

Our special thanks go to BFA for giving this opportunity to the Association to host such a large scale of international tournament in Hong Kong. We also wish to thank the sponsors to support this historical event, in alphabetical order:

901 Media and Agency, Bastille Post, Brett, Chengxin (Asia Pacific) Credit Ratings Company Limited, Energy Watt, Fancl - Fantastic Natural Cosmetics Limited, Growing Together Baseball Sport Education Fund, Highwealth Construction, HP, Malee, Nagase Kenko Corporation, New Era Hong Kong, SSK, TransGlobe Life, Upower, Yuzhou Properties; and the support from World Baseball Softball Confederation.

Our indebted appreciation also goes to our dedicated volunteers and the performance teams, including "The Thunder-Makers" - Drum Team of Ying Wa Primary School, Dance Crew for New Era Hong Kong and MANIACS, Saxophone Performance Team.

### • **Local International Events**

With the support from Hong Kong Shanghai Alliance and sanctioned by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), the Hong Kong Shanghai Alliance WBSC Hong Kong International Baseball Open 2016 (HKIBO 2016) was held on 17th-20th December 2016. A total of 8 teams from China, Philippines, Russia, Taiwan and Hong Kong participated in the tournament. In conclusion, Ateneo Blue Eagles from the Philippines won the championship of HKIBO Defender Cup. Hong Kong Red Team (Senior) secured the 1st runner-up position while Hong Kong Blue Team (U23) kept 5th place in the tournament.

The Phoenix Cup celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2017. "Phoenix Cup 2017" WBSC Hong Kong International Women's Baseball Tournament (Phoenix Cup 2017) celebrated its 10th anniversary this year on 17th-20th February 2017 with the participation of 10 teams, including teams from Australia, China, Guam, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, and two Hong Kong national



teams (senior team and development team), competing for the championship. In conclusion, Venus Stars Youth Team from Japan won the championship of the tournament while our Hong Kong national senior team and development team secured the 2nd Runner-up and 6th position respectively.

#### • Local Leagues

The Association organized local leagues at different levels. In the reporting period of 2016/2017, a total number of 124 teams was recorded, with 6% increase in number of team compared with the last report period. For the Hong Kong Baseball Open League, there were 7 teams in Men Grade A, 12 teams in Men Grade B, 25 teams in Men Grade C, 6 teams in Women Grade A, 11 teams in Women Grade B, 6 teams in Kenko (Mixed) Grade A, 12 teams in Kenko (Mixed) Grade B, 15 teams in the beginners groups. As subvented by the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, the Samsung 60th Festival of Sport 2017 was held in April to July 2017 and 30 teams from local universities and schools participated in the tournament.

To further build the population in baseball, the Association officially launched a modified game called Baseball Six in the reporting year, basing on the traditional Tee ball and concepts drawn from Hand Hit Ball and Korean Tee ball. The innovative game consists of 6 players instead of 9, to play in a smaller area (a triangle-shape field instead of diamond-shape) with modified and safety equipment, simplified game practices by using Coach Pitch or Rolling Tee to speed up the game and make it more exciting and enjoyable to new players.

## II. INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- (i) Mr. Philip Li, President of the Association, Mr. Allan Mak, Secretary General and I represented the Association to attend the Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) Congress and elect the new BFA Executive Board and discuss the baseball development in Asia in Yilan, Taiwan on 4th July 2017.
- (ii) On behalf of the Association, I attended the PONY Asia Pacific Zone Meeting in January 2017 to discuss the baseball development in the coming two years with nearly 30 representatives from 11 countries/regions attended.



- (iii) Mr. Allan Mak, Secretary General of the Association, being re-elected as member-at-large of the Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) in 2017, and attended the BFA Executive Committee meetings on 4th September 2016 in Taiwan, 14th February 2017 in Japan and 4th July 2017 in Yilan respectively.

### III. TRAINING

(i) Squad Training

To retain the physical fitness and skill level, whole year training programmes were organized for men, youth, women, youth and feeder system.

Elite Athlete Category	No. of Registered Athletes
Men's Senior (age 24 and above)	12
Men's Youth (age 13-23)	44
Women's Senior (age 24 and above)	21
Women's Youth (age 13-23)	14
Men's Feeder (age 13-26)	33
Women's Feeder (age 11-21)	41

Hui Lok Hang, an Elite Athlete in Women Squad, was granted direct financial support by the Sports Aid Grant (SAG) of Hong Kong Sports Institute. The SAG provides direct financial support to elite athletes of non-Elite Vote-Supported Sports not under the Individual Athletes Support Scheme, and elite athletes of Elite Sports (Tier A) not under the HKSI Sports Scholarship Scheme. It would provide further funding support for "Team Only Sports" to prepare for international events.

(ii) Pilot Funding Scheme for Youth Sports Exchange

Through the subvention from LCSD to organize international sports exchange programmes for the youth, it aims to raise the sports skill level of the youth, broaden their horizons; and establish their network with counterpart country/city. HKBA organized two events in the reporting year.

1. The Association selected 30 male athletes to join the Exchange Programme Between Hong Kong U23 Men Baseball and Taitung Chii Lih Coral Baseball Team in Ksohsiung, Taiwan on 23rd-28th December 2016; and
2. 16 female athletes were selected to participate in the Hong Kong Youth Women's Baseball Japan Exchange Programme in Saitama, Japan on 13th-18th April 2017.



(iii) District & School Promotion

• District Promotion

The development Programme was structured in three stages with elementary level and intermediate level. We also organised baseball for all age groups for those who were new to baseball and 1,757 enrollment applications in 51 classes were recorded.

• School Promotion

Through the introduction of Joint Schools Sports Training Programme in the School Sports Programme with 96 LCSD subvented training programmes conducted, HKBA was successfully raising the popularity of baseball to the local primary, secondary schools and special schools. An increase of 21 training programmes from the previous year.

#### IV. COACH, UMPIRE AND SCORER TRAINING

To improve the knowledge, skills and competence to carry out the professional coaching role in the respective areas, the Association organized Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for its registered coaches, umpires and scorers.

With the subvention from Hong Kong Coaching Committee, four programmes was delivered to serve different purposes.

Training Programme	Date	Conducted by
Baseball Coach Workshop - To review the current practice and introduce new policies and upcoming new programme to be launched	28th Nov 2016	Ms. Yeung Kit Ling Former Director of HKBA Coaching Committee
Continuous Professional Training - To review Official Baseball Rules	8th Feb 2017	Mr. Johnathan Wong Umpire-in-Chief of HKBA
Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Compliance Seminar cum Coach Annual General Meeting	23th Mar 2017	Speakers from the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and the Association
Workshop for Elite Training Coaches - To review the application of offensive tactics and defensive strategies	31st Mar 2017 – 2nd Apr 2017	Mr. Charles Yang Technical Committee of Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA)
Baseball Six Workshop - To introduce Baseball Six equipment, train the coaches how to deliver Baseball Six	13th Aug 2017	Ms. Yeung Kit Ling Founder of Baseball Six

Umpire Academy of the Association organized Level 3 (Elementary) Umpire Training Course and Level 3 (Elementary) Scorer Training Course in the year with an aim to train up more qualified officials to deal with uprising local games.



Our technical officials were appointed in the international events to gain related experience.

Date	Name of Event	Place	Appointed officials
9th-13th Dec 2016	BFA Asian 12U Baseball Championship	Zhongshan, China	Chan Yat Chung, Umpire
8th Aug-5th Sep 2016	BFA Asian 18U Baseball Championship	Taichung, Taiwan	Cheung Sui Man, Umpire
14th-17th Jul 2016	PONY Baseball Asia-Pacific Zone Bronco Tournament	Seoul, Korea	Ng Kwong Yuen, Umpire
29th Jul-7th Aug 2016	WBSC U15 Baseball World Cup	Fukushima, Japan	Chan Sin Yee, Cindy, Scorer Wong Pak Wah, Scorer
3rd-11th Sep 2016	WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup	Gijang City, Korea	Lui Yiu Yin, Umpire Moo Yee Wah Eva, Umpire Nicky To, Technical Commissioner

In the reporting period, there were 112 coaches actively to give training classes for players of local leagues and school teams at different levels; 33 umpires and 29 scorers provided their professional services in local competitions.

## **V. INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

With the subvention from the Commission on Youth (CoY), the Association firstly applied for the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland and organized 2016/17 Baseball Exchange Programme with Mainland for Youth with 22 youth participants to exchange with students from University of International Business and Economics, Beijing Sport University, Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture and Beijing Jiaotong University in Beijing on 22th-17th April 2017.

## **VI. MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATED CLUBS**

In addition to the publication of quarterly "RUN", HKBA updated its website and posted news in its Facebook pages. Members' pro-active suggestions and comments demonstrated their enthusiasm in promoting baseball together with the Association.

As at end of the reported period, there were 16 clubs out of 45 registered affiliated clubs registered under LCSD Community Sports Club Projects. The clubs organized 77 activities in total with the subvention from LCSD, a remarkable increase of 26 activities from the previous year. To enhance the standard of baseball at community level, we will continue promoting and strengthening the sports development for young player and encourage lifelong participation in sports.



In the period of 1st April 2016-31st March 2017, the accumulated number of members is 773, including 459 Full Members, 78 Associate Members and 236 Student Members. More than 1,900 players registered in our local league players

## **VII. ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLICATION**

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

To keep the best practice in corporate governance and in line with the market practice, our office-bearers and senior management attended the Corporate Governance in National Sports Associations: Promoting Sports Development through Leadership Excellence seminars organized by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

The Hong Kong Team Selection and Appeal Mechanism, Accounting Procedure and Procurement Guidelines, Code of Practice of National Sports Associations for our Officials and Staff as work principles and guidelines are available on the Association's website for public's information and allow the involved parties to read the laid down guidelines from time to time to deal with the business and activities in an open, fair and impartial manner.

The Association has been enhancing its online registration system to provide better services to our participants; with online registration, members can view program list, register for programmes, check current registrations and view their account history online.

The Association shall continue publishing its quarterly magazine, "RUN", to earn high reputation locally and abroad. The "RUN" captures reports and news of the local and overseas activities organised by the Association, at the same time it also provides a platform for players and baseball lovers to voice out their opinions and comments. For those baseball lovers who do not have the opportunity or time to play baseball, the "RUN" is an alternate baseball field for them to connect with baseball.

## **VIII. BASEBALL FIELDS**

The Association is well aware of the uprising number of teams in the local league and teams from overseas showing interest to come and play in our local international events. The Association is



keen to look for more venues for baseball, including building it on the landfill areas. Although, we failed in the last application to the "Restored Landfill Revitalization Funding Scheme", we will keep working on the next batch application and explore other opportunities.

## **IX. INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE BY DIRECTORS**

Mr. Allan Mak, Secretary General of the Association, has been re-elected as Member-at-Large of Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) Committee, to take part in the baseball development within a short-term and long-term framework in Asia.

## **X. 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. The Fund was set up to provide financial assistance for technical officials training, administrative staff further education and women's baseball development. Committee members comprise of the Association's Counselor, President, Chairman and Secretary General.

## **XI. APPRECIATIONS**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Honorary President, Mr. Andrew Yao, BBS, JP., Honorary Vice Presidents, Dr. Raymond Chan, JP and Mr. Jackie Chan, SBS., and all Honorary Advisers for their financial support and guidance over the years; are also grateful for 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. Last but not 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 over the past years.

Dr. Felix Yip  
Chairman  
The Hong Kong Baseball Association Limited

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