

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSTB349**

**(Question Serial No. 1402)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

Regarding the usage rates of sports centres, tennis courts and sports grounds, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the reasons for an anticipated drop in the average usage rates of sports centres (arena) and tennis courts in 2024?
2. What have been and will be the average usage rates of sports centres (arena) during peak and non-peak hours for the past 3 years and for 2024 in the estimate?
3. The average usage rate of sports grounds has remained, and will remain, at 99% for the past 3 years and for 2024 in the estimate. What has been and will be the percentage of jogging track users?
4. What has been and will be the number of joggers at the 25 sports grounds for the past 3 years and for 2024 in the estimate?
5. What have been and will be the number of monthly hires, hire duration, uses of, and attendance at the main functions of the 25 sports grounds, as well as their respective percentages to the entire average usage rate of the sports grounds, for the past 3 years and for 2024 in the estimate?
6. Currently, the average usage rate of sports grounds is calculated from the actual usage hours and the total hours available for use. This, however, fails to reflect the actual attendance. In this connection, does the Government have plans to review such a calculation approach by, for instance, separately taking statistics for the main functions and jogging activity of the sports grounds? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
7. Will the Government provide the public with various free sports services by introducing "smart runway" features such as large interactive smart screens, AI data collectors and

outdoor sports Internet of Things platforms? If so, what are the details including the implementation timetable and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) sets the planned average usage rate of respective sports facilities by making reference to the usage rate of existing facilities, the provision of sports facilities, the expected usage trend as well as the policy objective of sports promotion. The actual average usage rates of sports centres (arena) and tennis courts have remained, respectively, at between 85% and 94% and between 75% and 82% over the past 4 years (from 2020 to 2023).

There was a tight supply of sports facilities during the COVID-19 epidemic due to the use of a number of sports centres for anti-epidemic purposes which, coupled with an increased public demand for outdoor sports facilities, contributed to an increase in the actual average usage rates of sports centres (arena) and tennis courts to 94% and 79% respectively in 2022. Following a full resumption of normalcy in society in early 2023, the actual average usage rate of sports centres (arena) has dropped to 91%, while that of tennis courts has remained flat at 79%.

The LCSD has pitched the planned average usage rate of sports centres (arena) at 85% for the past 3 years, while that of tennis courts has been increased from 66% in 2021 to 70% in both 2022 and 2023. The LCSD will continue to pitch the planned average usage rates of sports centres (arena) and tennis courts in 2024 at 85% and 70% respectively.

2. The usage rates of the sports centres (arena) under the LCSD during peak and non-peak hours from 2021 to 2023 are at Annex 1. The LCSD does not have a breakdown of the planned average usage rates for 2024.
3. The percentages of occurrences where the sports grounds under the LCSD were open for jogging activity from 2021 to 2023 are at Annex 2. The LCSD does not have a breakdown of the planned average usage rates for 2024.
4. For years the LCSD has been using the usage rate of sports grounds to assess the usage of the facilities therein. To facilitate the manpower deployment, resource allocation and daily management of sports grounds, the LCSD has since September 2022 kept the statistics on the number of joggers, which for the period from then to 2023 are at Annex 3. The LCSD does not have a breakdown of the planned average usage rates for 2024.
5. Currently, the LCSD only maintains data on the usage rate of sports grounds block booked by organisations. Given that organisations may hire sports grounds for athletic events, other sports activities including football, rugby and archery, or even other undesignated purposes such as carnivals and performances, the LCSD cannot provide data on the usage of sports grounds for their main functions.

6. Currently, both the number of hours used for athletic meets and training activities and those allocated to jogging activity are included in the calculation of the average usage rate of sports grounds. The LCSD has kept separate statistics on the usage rates of sports grounds for block booking and open for jogging activity for calculating the overall average usage rate of sports grounds.
7. Adopting a proactive and open approach to the application of information technology in enhancing service delivery, the LCSD is setting up, on a pilot basis, smart self-test fitness corners at sports centres and smart fitness equipment in outdoor areas. The LCSD will evaluate in an ongoing manner the effectiveness of such initiatives in review, and consider allocating resources to adopt smart technology at other facilities in future.

**Annex 1 to Reply Serial No. CSTB349**

**Usage rates of sports centres (Arena) during peak and non-peak hours  
from 2021 to 2023**

Year	Usage Rate during Peak Hours <sup>1</sup>	Usage Rate during Non-peak Hours <sup>2</sup>	Average Usage Rate
2021	98%	90%	94%
2022	98%	90%	94%
2023	96%	84%	91%

<sup>1</sup> Peak hours: At or after 6:00 pm from Mondays to Fridays, and any time on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

<sup>2</sup> Non-peak hours: Before 6:00 pm from Mondays to Fridays, except for public holidays.

**Percentage of occurrences where sports grounds were open for jogging activity  
from 2021 to 2023**

Year	Overall Average Usage Rate	Average Usage Rate of Jogging Activity
2021	99%	93%
2022	99%	89%
2023	99%	83%

Remark: The running track of a sports ground is open to the public for jogging activity only when the sports ground is not hired for exclusive use, which is the case, for example, when a school does not hire the whole sports ground for holding a sports day. During the epidemic, organisations and schools suspended or held fewer athletic meets and competitions, leading to a higher percentage of occurrences where sports grounds were open to the public for jogging activity. Following a full resumption of normalcy in society in early 2023, organisations and schools gradually resumed hosting athletic meets and competitions, which contributed to a drop in the said percentage accordingly.

**Statistics on the Number of Joggers at Sports Grounds  
from September to December 2022**

	Sports Ground	District	Number of Joggers
1.	Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground	Eastern	72 162
2.	Wan Chai Sports Ground <sup>1</sup>	Wan Chai	-
3.	Causeway Bay Sports Ground	Wan Chai	1 604
4.	Aberdeen Sports Ground	Southern	18 965
5.	Sham Shui Po Sports Ground	Sham Shui Po	70 649
6.	Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground	Wong Tai Sin	126 113
7.	Kowloon Bay Sports Ground	Kwun Tong	88 828
8.	Kowloon Tsai Sports Ground	Kowloon City	28 560
9.	Perth Street Sports Ground	Kowloon City	26 733
10.	Cheung Chau Sports Ground	Islands	6 540
11.	Sai Kung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground <sup>2</sup>	Sai Kung	4 255
12.	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	Sai Kung	87 360
13.	Ma On Shan Sports Ground	Sha Tin	62 107
14.	Sha Tin Sports Ground	Sha Tin	124 771
15.	Tai Po Sports Ground	Tai Po	56 054
16.	Shing Mun Valley Sports Ground	Tsuen Wan	21 830
17.	Kawi Chung Sports Ground	Kwai Tsing	168 660
18.	Tsing Yi Sports Ground	Kwai Tsing	64 667
19.	Wo Yi Hop Road Sports Ground	Kwai Tsing	39 002
20.	Tin Shui Wai Sports Ground	Yuen Long	150 420
21.	Yuen Long Stadium <sup>3</sup>	Yuen Long	-
22.	Siu Lun Sports Ground	Tuen Mun	27 689
23.	Tuen Mun Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground	Tuen Mun	95 706
24.	Fanling Recreation Ground	North	15 564
25.	North District Sports Ground	North	70 973

<sup>1</sup> There is no public jogging time for the running track at Wan Chai Sports Ground.

<sup>2</sup> Sai Kung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground was temporarily closed from September to November 2022 for redevelopment.

<sup>3</sup> Yuen Long Stadium was temporarily closed from 15 August 2022 for redevelopment.

### Statistics on the Number of Joggers at Sports Grounds in 2023

	Sports Ground	District	Number of Joggers
1.	Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground	Eastern	168 617
2.	Wan Chai Sports Ground <sup>1</sup>	Wan Chai	-
3.	Causeway Bay Sports Ground	Wan Chai	5 293
4.	Aberdeen Sports Ground	Southern	67 626
5.	Sham Shui Po Sports Ground	Sham Shui Po	205 380
6.	Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground	Wong Tai Sin	381 627
7.	Kowloon Bay Sports Ground	Kwun Tong	249 823
8.	Kowloon Tsai Sports Ground	Kowloon City	137 000
9.	Perth Street Sports Ground	Kowloon City	82 773
10.	Cheung Chau Sports Ground	Islands	17 880
11.	Sai Kung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground	Sai Kung	75 238
12.	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	Sai Kung	133 819
13.	Ma On Shan Sports Ground	Sha Tin	100 874
14.	Sha Tin Sports Ground <sup>2</sup>	Sha Tin	74 308
15.	Tai Po Sports Ground	Tai Po	183 712
16.	Shing Mun Valley Sports Ground	Tsuen Wan	72 235
17.	Kawi Chung Sports Ground	Kwai Tsing	294 910
18.	Tsing Yi Sports Ground	Kwai Tsing	170 198
19.	Wo Yi Hop Road Sports Ground	Kwai Tsing	130 329
20.	Tin Shui Wai Sports Ground	Yuen Long	337 973
21.	Yuen Long Stadium <sup>3</sup>	Yuen Long	-
22.	Siu Lun Sports Ground	Tuen Mun	78 540
23.	Tuen Mun Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground	Tuen Mun	143 596
24.	Fanling Recreation Ground	North	54 493
25.	North District Sports Ground	North	167 463

<sup>1</sup> There is no public jogging time for the running track at Wan Chai Sports Ground.

<sup>2</sup> Sha Tin Sports Ground was temporarily closed from 3 October 2023 for redevelopment.

<sup>3</sup> Yuen Long Stadium was temporarily closed from 15 August 2022 for redevelopment.