

MCCY COS 2015

LIVEABLE CITY, ENDEARING HOME

Factsheet 2

Building a sporting culture and legacy

More access, opportunities and capabilities for Singaporeans to live better through sport

Two key highlights of the SG50 calendar will rally Singaporeans together as One Team Singapore. After 22 years, Singapore is hosting the South East Asian Games again on home soil. Singapore is also hosting the ASEAN Para Games for the first time.

Beyond the Games, we will further efforts to nurture a sporting culture in Singapore, so that all Singaporeans can Live Better Through Sport.

I. Building a Sporting Culture

The Vision 2030 blueprint for sport envisions a Singapore where individuals and communities are strengthened through a lifetime of sporting experiences. Our efforts to build a vibrant sporting culture is making an impact, with the weekly sports participation rate increasing from 42% in 2011 to above 60% in recent years. The number of events on our sporting calendar has also increased over the years.

Under the Sports Facilities Master Plan, existing facilities will be rejuvenated and new sports facilities will be built in the coming years at regional, town and neighbourhood levels. The aim is to enable the majority of Singaporeans to have access to sports and recreational facilities within 10-minute walk of their homes.

In June 2014, the Singapore Sports Hub became our newest sports facility and national icon. It provides Singaporeans with the opportunity to relive their favourite sporting memories from days of the old National Stadium, but also to create exciting new ones together. Singaporeans can go to the Sports Hub with their friends and families to learn and play sports, and to enjoy the vibrant calendar of sporting events and activities.

Since June 2014, some **62 sporting events** have been held at the Sports Hub, with **close to 700,000** in attendance across all venues. **More than 46,000 participants** have joined in the community sporting activities.

In addition, more school sports facilities will be opened to the public under the Dual Use Scheme. More than half of all schools have already opened their sports facilities to the public after school hours. **15 more indoor sports halls and 10 school fields** will open by end March 2015 and end 2015 respectively.

ActiveSG – A National Movement for Sport

ActiveSG, our national movement for sport, was launched in April 2014 to foster a sporting lifestyle among Singaporeans.

To date, **more than 700,000 have signed up as members**, and 3 in 5 have utilised their ActiveSG dollars to book facilities and sign up for programmes. Since the launch of

MCCY COS 2015

LIVEABLE CITY, ENDEARING HOME

ActiveSG, the utilisation rates at ActiveSG gyms, pools and sports halls have increased by 30%.

ActiveSG has enhanced sporting opportunities and brought them closer to the people. Innovative programmes such as aqua spinning, Nordic walking, Piloxing, inline skating, floorball and flippa ball (modified form of water polo) have been introduced to allow Singaporeans to enjoy sports, whether at our sports centres or other public spaces such as our parks.

II. Rallying together as One Team Singapore

SEA Games and ASEAN Para Games

Our athletes are training intensively for the 28th SEA Games (5 – 16 June) and 8th ASEAN Para Games (3 – 9 December). To help our athletes achieve their full potential in front of a home crowd, we have provided enhanced support to Team Singapore. Under the Final Push Programme, some **400 athletes** are already benefitting from enhanced *spexGrants* to support their training, coaching and equipment expenses so that they can train full-time for up to 12 months prior to the Games. Their training programme support is also enhanced to allow them to participate in additional training camps and competitions. This is over and above what our carded athletes already receive in the form of existing *spexGrants*, training programmes planned by their National Sports Associations (NSAs), as well as sports medicine and sports science support from the Singapore Sports Institute.

Singaporeans can rally together as One Team Singapore to show their support for our athletes. Many have already stepped forward to show their support for our Team Singapore athletes in a unique way. **Nearly 2,000** plush toys have been sewn through the **Make-a-NILA** project by the many supporters in our schools, community groups, Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs), sport centres, and shopping malls. These personalised mascot toys will be presented to each medallist during the SEA Games. Likewise for the ASEAN Para Games, members of the public will be able to pen their well-wishes to our para athletes on a message card attached to the mascot plush toys.

Prior to the Games, a series of school programmes and community roadshows will bring the excitement of the SEA Games and ASEAN Para Games to our schools and the community residents. More than **120 primary and secondary schools and junior colleges** will be learning more about the SEA Games through modular school programmes. These include guided activities, drama skits, art installations and assembly roadshows.

As the SEA Games draw nearer, Singaporeans can look forward to several community events, including countdown events and Community Sports Festivals. In addition, several Torch Up! Projects, which are creative art installations conceptualised by local artists and put together by various community groups, will be unveiled around Singapore.

Similarly, in the lead-up to the ASEAN Para Games, roadshows will be organised to increase awareness of the different sports. Singaporeans can participate in sport try-outs and spar with Team Singapore para athletes. The roadshows will be held in partnership with schools, Community Development Councils, and Experience Sports weekends at the Sports Hub and ActiveSG Sports Centres. Singaporeans can also look forward to **community torch events** that will be brought across the island through schools, corporations, community clubs and sports centres.

MCCY COS 2015

LIVEABLE CITY, ENDEARING HOME

A series of **ASEAN Invitationals** featuring exhibition matches between our Team Singapore para athletes and their regional counterparts will also take place in the lead up to the year-end ASEAN Para Games.

During the Games, Singaporeans can look forward to attending a range of different events and activities and catch our sporting heroes in action. Ticket prices have been kept affordable, with half the events offering free admission, and the prices for the ticketed events starting as low as \$5, with additional concession for students, senior citizens and full-time National Servicemen. There will also be bazaars, roving acts, performances and sports try-outs at the two key competition clusters at Kallang and Marina Bay. Finally, the public can also take part in community sporting events held alongside the SEA Games sports events, such as a mass community run that will be held in conjunction with the SEA Games Marathon event.

III. Creating a Sporting Legacy

Making Sports a Lifestyle Habit for All

ActiveSG will continue to be the key platform to make sports a lifestyle habit for all. A key emphasis will be to build a sporting habit from young, and ActiveSG will be expanding its collaboration with schools to complement their sports curriculum. This would include exposing students to a range of new sports through the School Holiday Sports Programmes, working with schools to offer sports that are not offered as CCAs in the school, and helping schools to strengthen their existing CCA programmes, expand the participation base and provide more opportunities for recreational and competitive play. ActiveSG will also work with schools and their alumni, so that even after students leave school, they will still have opportunities to participate in the sport.

Building an Inclusive Society through Sport

Sports in Singapore should be without boundaries, and Singaporeans of all abilities should have the ability to lead fulfilled lives through sport. A Committee for Disability Sports, chaired by Minister of State Sam Tan, has recently been formed to map out how to raise awareness of and increase sports participation by persons with disabilities. This committee comprises representatives from the people, public and private sectors.

Through SportCares, we are also activating sport as a force for social good by linking those in need with passionate volunteers and community-spirited donors through sports programmes and life-skills workshops. Since its launch in 2012, **SportCares has raised some \$1.7 million through corporate and community donors**, and programmes have changed the lives of more than 8,000 at-risk children and youths. In particular, the **SportCares' Young Mentors Programme** has taught some 400 upper secondary and tertiary students how to use sport as a means of teaching values and character development to the underprivileged children in primary schools. In 2015, the **programme will be rebranded as the SportCares ChangeMakers Programme**, and see another 300 mentors coming through the pipeline. There will be a deeper focus on developing social empathy and good communication skills, understanding social leadership, using sport for social inclusion.

Robust and Comprehensive High Performance Sports system

MCCY COS 2015

LIVEABLE CITY, ENDEARING HOME

Our High Performance Sports (HPS) System provides athletes with the support and opportunities to develop and maximise their sporting potential.

Today, **70 elite athletes** train full-time with financial and programmatic support under the Sports Excellence (*spex*) Scholarship programme. Many other athletes benefit from *spex*Grants, sports medicine and sports science expertise, and career support under the HPS system.

To ensure that National Sporting Associations have more fiscal certainty in planning for their Multi-Year Sports Plans, we have moved NSAs to a baseline block funding approach under the New Partnership framework. For FY15, **almost all NSAs will get a higher baseline funding**. NSAs can also tap on flexible programme funding to develop new initiatives and focus areas. They can also tap on the Innovation Grant to pursue innovative and game-changing initiatives. Overall, funding for NSAs will increase by close to 10% in FY15 compared to FY14.

Strengthening Youth Athlete Development

The ongoing review of the Singapore Sports School has identified the need to **extend the development pathway for student athletes**, so that they can continue to benefit from a supportive environment that would enable them to study, and train and develop as an athlete, beyond their secondary school years. The post-secondary years are critical, as athlete development often spans late adolescence and early adulthood. One idea is for the Sports School to **offer predominantly 6+ year through-train programmes** within the school, and to work with Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) to provide a range of athlete-friendly academic pathways student-athletes can articulate to. The Committee will release its full recommendation report later this year.

Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
6 March 2015

For media queries, please contact:

Mr Ephraim Loy
Tel: 6837 8984
Email: Ephraim_Loy@mccy.gov.sg
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Ms Yan Minru
Tel: 6837 9840
Email: Yan_Minru@mccy.gov.sg
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

MCCY COS 2015

LIVEABLE CITY, ENDEARING HOME

ANNEX A

Key facts and figures

- More than 700,000 have signed up for ActiveSG, Singapore's national movement for sport
- 30% increase in utilisation of ActiveSG gyms, pools and sports hall over the last year
- More than half of schools have opened their sports facilities to the public under the Dual Use Scheme
- 70 Team Singapore athletes have been awarded *spex*Scholarships since 2013

Dual Use Scheme

The following list of 15 indoor sports halls will be opened by end March 2015.

- Bendemeer Primary School
- Bukit Panjang Government High School
- Cantonment Primary School
- Dunman High School
- Edgefield Secondary School
- Hougang Secondary School
- Jurongville Secondary School
- Juying Secondary School
- North Vista Secondary School
- Northoaks Primary School
- Palm View Primary School
- Queenstown Primary School
- Radin Mas Primary School
- Boon Lay Secondary School
- Sembawang Primary School

Sports Hub

In the first six months since its opening, the Sports Hub has seen:

- **62 sports events** and close to **700,000 in attendance** across all venues, including nearly **120,000 visitors** at the National Stadium
- **More than 26,000 visitors** to the OCBC Aquatic Centre and Water Sports Centre
- More than **46,000 participants** participated in community sports activities
- More than **16,000 hours** of courts booked at OCBC Arena
- **5.6 million** visitors at Kallang Wave Mall

28th SEA Games

- More than 10,000 athletes and officials are expected to participate
- 36 sports
- 402 events
- 17,000 volunteers for the Games
- 6,000 performers for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- To date, the over 100 community outreach and engagement activities have involved more than 500,000 people. Activities include modular school programmes, Make-a-NILA campaign, and Torch Up projects.

MCCY COS 2015

LIVEABLE CITY, ENDEARING HOME

8th ASEAN Para Games

- Singapore's first time hosting the Games
- More than 3,300 athletes and officials are expected to be involved
- 15 sports
- About 500 events*
- A series of school and community roadshows and ASEAN Invitationals has been planned for the public to learn about and experience para sports.

**To be confirmed upon entry by numbers*

Committee for Disability Sports

The following agencies are represented on the Committee:

- Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
- Ministry of Social and Family Development
- Ministry of Education
- Sport Singapore
- Singapore Disability Sports Council / Special Olympics Singapore
- National Council of Social Service
- National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre
- Deloitte & Touche Management Services Pte Ltd