

Advisory Committee on Sports Dispute Resolution of DoJ discusses development direction of sports dispute resolution with SF&OC (with photos)

The Advisory Committee on Sports Dispute Resolution of the Department of Justice (DoJ), chaired by the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, met with Vice-President of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) Mr Kenneth Fok and the Honorary Secretary General of the SF&OC, Mr Edgar Yang, today (February 18) to discuss the direction of development of promoting sports dispute resolution in Hong Kong.

At the meeting, both sides had in-depth exchanges on the latest developments in sports dispute resolution. They also discussed ways to encourage the sports industry to widely adopt alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for handling sports disputes in the spirit of embracing change and boldly pursuing reforms.

Dr Cheung said that, with a view to enhancing the local sports dispute resolution landscape, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has been actively engaging with key stakeholders and understands that the industry is keen to have a neutral, fair and efficient mechanism to handle and resolve sports disputes. As announced in "The Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address", the Government will explore establishing a sports dispute resolution system to promote the sustainable development of sports in Hong Kong.

Dr Cheung was pleased to learn that the SF&OC fully supports Hong Kong to leverage its institutional advantages in dispute resolution to develop sports dispute resolution, thereby further consolidating Hong Kong's status as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region.

He said that the Government and the Advisory Committee are carrying out the preparatory work for a pilot scheme on sports dispute resolution at full steam. He sincerely thanked the SF&OC for its valuable advice on the implementation of the pilot scheme, especially regarding the specific requirements for selecting dispute resolution institutions, the fields of disputes suitable for resolution through mediation or arbitration, and the fee structure. The two sides also exchanged views on the potential for future collaboration, including promoting awareness and providing education to national sports associations and local athletes on the use of alternative dispute resolution in handling sports disputes, as well as encouraging retired athletes to participate in sports dispute mediator and arbitrator training.

Dr Cheung said that the Advisory Committee will continue to actively engage with major stakeholders, gathering and listening to feedback from all sectors of the community, with a view to formulating a specific mechanism and arrangement for the pilot scheme. He expressed hope that the pilot scheme will be launched within this year to promote the wider use of sports dispute resolution in Hong Kong.

Ends/Tuesday, February 18, 2025