

Class : 4A

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Topic: Opening Schools' Sport Facilities

Opening Schools' Sport Facilities: a curse or a blessing?

There has been a lot of discussion lately concerning whether schools should open up their sports facilities to the public. Due to the lack of recreational facilities, the authorities have been contemplating opening up schools' sports facilities for public use. However, as a student, I hold a firm belief that schools should not open up their sports facilities.

There are three main reasons why schools should not allow the public to use their sports facilities after school hours. First and foremost, opening up sports facilities incurs monitoring costs or agency costs. Schools are not familiar with the operation of the facilities, so using recruitment agencies is a must. As a result, schools have to face a huge financial burden. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for schools to handle the cost of the maintenance of sports facilities without subsidies from the government. Frankly speaking, no one will question the benefits of opening up sports facilities to our society, but it is unreasonable for schools to pay for the extra costs.

Another reason is that it is risky for schools to allow unknown citizens to enter their premises. As long as schools open up their sports facilities, there will be more people entering the school campus, increasing the likelihood that the facilities in the campus will be damaged. Worst still, staff's properties may get stolen. It is impossible for schools to supervise every user and distinguish whether the users comply with the regulations. In other words, the safety of staff and students is not guaranteed. Under such circumstances, it is unwise of schools to open up their sports facilities.

A further reason for not opening up schools' sports facilities for public use is that it will cause controversy if users get hurt when using the sports facilities. Opening up schools' sports facilities is not a commonplace practice in Hong Kong. Therefore, related laws are not yet established. While it is possible that users may get hurt when using the facilities in an inappropriate way, schools cannot

avoid legal liability. The controversy over liability may cause disputes between schools and citizens. Thus, it is not a wise move for schools to open up their sports facilities.

Based on the above-mentioned drawbacks, we can all see that opening up schools' sports facilities does more harm than good. So before the government makes the move, it is really crucial for schools to consider whether they would give the green light to shared use of their sports facilities.