



Hong Kong Athletes Fund (HKAF)

(Enhanced Support Measures 2020/21)



Background

Objective of the HKAF

The Government established the HKAF in 1996 to provide grants to support the dual career development of athletes, so as to encourage them to pursue sports excellence and education at the same time and lay a good foundation for building a career after retirement from sports.



Hong Kong Athletes Fund (HKAF)

The HKAF currently provides three main areas of support namely :

Education Grant	➢ Education grant for eligible athletes
Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme (EAPRS)	➢ One-off cash grants at the time of retirement from sports for eligible retired athletes
Youth Athletes Scholarship Award (YASA)	➢ Cash incentives to Junior athletes participating in major sports events (such as : Youth Olympic Games)



Enhanced Support Measures

In the 2019-20 Budget, the Government announced the injection of \$250 million into the Hong Kong Athlete Fund (HKAF) for enhanced support measures under the HKAF.



Education Grant

- Increase scholarship awards in support of the dual career development of athletes.

EAPRS

- Provide more cash incentives for full-time athletes when they retire from sports.

Ref: www.budget.gov.hk/2019/eng/budget37.html



(1) Education Grant

	Existing Support measures	Enhanced Support Measures	
		Education Grant	Sports Certificate Grant
Application Eligibility	(1) Current athletes and (2) Retired athletes (within a grace period of 2 years following the retirement from sports) With EV point 4 or above at senior level of sporting results	With EV point 3 or above at senior level of sporting results	
Qualification of Study Programmes	For all post secondary study programmes up to Bachelor degree only	For all post secondary study programmes including master's and doctor's degrees	Short-term sports certificate programmes



(1) Education Grant

	Existing Support Measures	Enhanced Support Measures	
		Education Grant	Sports Certificate Grant
No. of Study Programmes	One	One/Two*	Up to Two sports certificate programmes
Additional Study Programme*	N.A	*Athletes with four or more years of full-time training : 1) Eligible to apply for a second study programme 2) The grant support of the 1 st and 2 nd study programmes are the same under the enhanced education grant	

(1) Education Grant

Amount of grant	Existing Support Measures	Enhanced Support Measures	
		Education Grant	Sports Certificate Grant
	Long term programme (1 year or above): HK\$42,100 per year , with max. total grant capped at HK\$252,600	A maximum of HK\$70,000 per year for a maximum of 6 years , subject to the length of the study programme The ceiling will be capped at HK\$300,000	The maximum grant per programme is HK\$20,000 for up to 2 sports certificate programmes
	Short term programme (less than 1 year): HK\$10,000 at max		

(1) Education Grant

Existing Support Measures	
Subsistence Allowance	Eligible for retired athletes only: Retired athletes who are undertaking <u>long-term full-time study programmes</u> may apply a subsistence allowance up to a maximum of HK\$40,000 per year with a maximum six years, subject to the length of study programme

(2) Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme (EAPRS)

Application Eligibility	EV Scores and Number of FT training Years
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scheme was set up for retired athletes who officially retired on or after 1.1.2015 Eligible athletes have been retired from its sports, at the time of application and can submit applications within 2 years following the retirement from sports With EV point 4 or above at senior level of sporting results Completed at least 8 years of FT training* <p><small>* definition of Full time training: 1) at least 5 days and 25 hours of supervised training per week (for able-bodied athletes) 2) at least 5 days and 20 hours of supervised training per week (for disabled athletes)</small></p>

(2) EAPRS

Elite Vote Score attained	Level of Cash Grant <small>(Based on the number of months of the highest ETG per months (the current level is \$41030 per month))</small>					
	Existing Support Measures Grant Levels			Enhanced Support Measures Grant Levels		
	Full-time training 8-9 years	Full-time training 10-11 years	Full-time training 12 years or above	Full-time training 8-9 years	Full-time training 10-11 years	Full-time training 12 years or above
4 points	6 months (\$198,240)	8 months (\$264,320)	10 months (\$330,400)	6 months (\$246,180)	9 months (\$369,270)	12 months (\$492,360)
5 points or above	8 months (\$264,320)	10 months (\$330,400)	12 months (\$396,480)	12 months (\$492,360)	18 months (\$738,540)	24 months (\$984,720)

Major timeline for Applications

Jun-Jul/ Nov-Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HKSI Head Coaches/ NSA officials / athletes will be notified for application for the 1st vetting and 2nd vetting cycles of the year for education grant and EAPR Scheme. All applications together with necessary documents submitted no later than application deadline.
Jul-Aug/ Jan-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vetting and verification of athletes' EV Scores/no. of full-time training years (where applicable) for all applications. Application papers for education grant and EAPR Scheme will be presented to the Committees concerned for vetting and final approval.
Sep/ Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful and non successful applicants will be notified of their application results after Committee's approval.
After approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having completed application for the reimbursement of tuition fees, education Grant recipients will receive the tuition fee grant twice a year i.e. around October and March. EAPR Scheme recipients will receive approved grant normally within two months after approval.