

Criteria for Elite Training Grant for Athletes with Disabilities 2025-26

* *Pre-requisite: Paralympic Games and/or Asian Para Games Disciplines*

PARALYMPIC GAMES DISCIPLINES										
Athletes' Categories	Elite A+		Elite A		Elite B		Elite C		Senior Squad	
	Full-time		Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
	Standard	Enhanced								
	\$36,820	\$43,320	\$26,210	\$8,190	\$18,710	\$6,550	\$10,530	\$3,510	\$8,000	\$2,840
Paralympic Games	Medallist (minus-one rule)		4 th – 8 th (minus-one rule)		Qualified for Paralympic Games according to required standard (not including wild card participation)				Minimum requirement: Top 2/3 positions at International events, or higher, according to the requirement of respective NSAs	
World Championships World Cup Finals	Medallist and top 1/3		Medallist (minus-one rule)		4 th – 8 th (minus-one rule)					
Asian Para Games			Medallist (minus-one rule)		4 th – 8 th and top 1/3		1 st – 8 th and top 1/2			
Asian Championships Virtus Global Games World Games National Games for the Disabled World Cup Series					Medallist and top 1/3		4 th – 8 th and top 1/3			
Virtus /IPC Sanctioned Events Special Olympics (Overall results)							Medallist and top1/3			

Remarks: (1) Paralympic Games and/or Asian Para Games (PG/APG) disciplines refer to disciplines which have been competed in or will be competed in at least three editions of PG / APG since 1997

(2) "Minus-one rule" means the athlete/team must have beaten one competitor/team in the event.

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ASIAN PARA GAMES DISCIPLINES								
Athletes' Categories	Elite A		Elite B		Elite C		Senior Squad	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
	\$26,210	\$8,190	\$18,710	\$6,550	\$10,530	\$3,510	\$8,000	\$2,840
World Championships World Cup Finals	Medallist (minus-one rule)		4 th – 8 th (minus-one rule)				Minimum requirement: Top 2/3 positions at International events, or higher, according to the requirement of respective NSAs	
Asian Para Games	Medallist (minus-one rule)		4 th – 8 th and top 1/3		1 st – 8 th and top 1/2			
Asian Championships Virtus Global Games World Games National Games for the Disabled World Cup Series			Medallist and top 1/3		4 th – 8 th and top 1/3			
Virtus/IPC Sanctioned Events Special Olympics (Overall results)					Medallist and top 1/3			

Remarks: (1) Paralympic Games and/or Asian Para Games (PG/APG) disciplines refer to disciplines which have been competed in or will be competed in at least three editions of PG / APG since 1997

(2) "Minus-one rule" means the athlete/team must have beaten one competitor/team in the event.

ETGD Operation Guideline

ETGD applications are made on an annual basis. Applications must be endorsed by the respective National Sports Association (NSA) and submitted to the HKSI before the deadline.

ETGD recipients (Tier A Sports / under IASS) will be granted the status of “HKSI Sports Scholarship Athletes” who are entitled to full support and services at HKSI. For details of support and services, please refer to the HKSI website:

<https://www.hksi.org.hk/support-to-athletes/sports-scholarship-scheme/>

A. Athletes Categories

Athletes Category		Tier A Sports	Tier B Sports	IASS*
Senior	Elite A+	✓	✓	✓
	Elite A	✓	✓	✓
	Elite B	✓	✓	✓
	Elite C	✓	✓	✓
	Senior Squad	✓		
Potential		✓		

*IASS (“Individual Athlete Support Scheme”): Athletes of Paralympic/Asian Para Sports who are not supported under Tier A Sports but meet the IASS funding criteria, are eligible for ETGD support.

B. Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines

1. Elite A+ / A / B / C

Categories of grants will be based on the performance of the applicant in the previous two calendar years, if the result has not been used for previous grant eligibility criteria.

2. Senior Squad (for Tier A Sports only)

Applicants must be 18 or above years old and achieved eligible result in the past calendar year.

In order to provide timely support to athletes who have achieved eligible result after the annual application deadline, new recruits to Senior Squad can be admitted to receive ETGD support anytime during the current year

3. Potential (for Tier A Sports only)

Athletes with talent and potential can be recommended to receive local training at HKSI. Additional support is subject to special approval.

4. Definition of Full-time and Part-time Athletes

Full-time Athletes

- a) Athletes have to follow the elite training and competitions requirements as their first priority.
- b) Athletes do not have full-time job nor engage in full-time study programmes, except where temporary deferment of the full-time study programme has been approved by the school, or arrangements have been made by the school to reduce the contact hours to the equivalent of a normal part-time programme (i.e. not more than 10 hours per week on average). Documentation issued by the school / employer is required under these circumstances.
- c) A minimum of 5 days and 20 hours of supervised training per week
- d) Athletes taking up part-time job/studies must be approved by Head Coaches/NSAs.

Part-time Athletes

A minimum of 4 days and 12 hours supervised training per week.

5. Athletes receiving grants should meet the three-year residency policy and hold a valid Hong Kong Identity Card.
6. Results should be achieved by athletes who were representing Hong Kong at international events with a minimum entry of four countries/regions, except for the Senior Squad category where the minimum entry criterion does not apply. For medal results at Paralympic Games / Asian Para Games, the minimum entry criterion does not apply.
7. Results achieved from demonstration events would not be considered.
8. Results should be achieved by athletes of National Sports Associations (NSAs) which are affiliated with the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) / China Hong Kong Paralympic Committee (HKPC).
9. “Minus-one” rule will be applied to results achieved at Paralympic Games, Asian Para Games, World Championships and World-level events which require qualification (e.g. World Cup Finals).
10. For athletes not fully meeting the required level of performance, but fulfilling either one of the following three conditions, the same results could be considered for support for a further 12-month period maximum:
 - 10.1 Documented injuries, illness, and/or pregnancy, preventing training or competitions
 - 10.2 Lack of equivalent events due to the intervals of the relevant major competitions (i.e. Paralympic Games, Asian Para Games, World Championships, Asian Championships), on the condition that athletes must have taken part in at least one other competition during the year

10.3 Athletes fulfilling ALL the following considerations:

- (a) Pre-requisite: Recommended by the relevant National Sports Association and Head Coach
- (b) Current full-time athletes
- (c) Athletes with track record (meet either one of the following):
 - (i) Achieved top eight positions in the Asian Championships/equivalent events in the previous calendar year
 - (ii) Achieved top ten Asian ranking/top 30 world ranking in the previous calendar year

(For the condition 10.3 above, athletes would be granted such approval once in their sporting career and funding for these athletes would be fixed at the standard level, in order to maintain parity within the system.)

- 11. Athletes' result which has marginally missed out the "top one-third" rule by only one entry in the competition, could be considered for support under the related category. However, athletes applying to use this condition would only be granted approval once in their sporting career and funding for these athletes would be fixed at the standard level, in order to maintain parity within the system.
- 12. For team events (e.g. relays), athletes who have taken part in the competition (any round) are eligible for grants.
- 13. Full-time athletes at EC or above category would be provided with enhanced support ranging from two years to four years. However, they are required to meet the maintenance criteria as follows:

Athletes Category	Support Period	Maintenance Criteria
EA+ (Full-time)	4 Years	Achieve at least an EA result in the first two years of support AND Participate in at least one competition every year within the support period
EA (Full-time)		Achieve at least an EB result in the first two years of support AND Participate in at least one competition every year within the support period

EB (Full-time)	4 Years	Achieve at least an EC result in the first two years of support AND Participate in at least one competition every year within the support period
EC (Full-time)	2 Years	Achieve at least a Senior Squad result in the first year of support

14. For athletes achieving EB category due to achieving the Paralympic Games (PG) qualification, their grant will start from the confirmation of the qualification until the end of the financial year in which the PG is held.

C. Adjustment of Grant Levels

1. To ensure steady grant for athletes in a year, athletes' approved grant categories should remain unchanged throughout the year.
2. Elite A+ athletes should receive the standard grant as a starting grant. NSAs/Head Coaches could recommend the grant levels for their athletes within the enhanced grant of the respective categories, taking into account the following considerations:
 - Past grant levels
 - Significant result improvements
(e.g. Results which qualify athlete for a higher funding category or Multiple medals achieved at respective grant categories)
 - Number of years at high performance level
(For full-time athlete only)
 - Other considerations, as appropriate

D. Suspension/Forfeiture/Termination of Grants

1. NSAs could suspend/forfeit/terminate grants for athletes if:
 - Athletes cannot fulfill training/competition requirements
 - Misconduct/disciplinary problems of the athletes.
(Please refer to Annex I, showing an example of Disciplinary Procedures)
 - Athletes withdraw from the Elite Training Programme
2. One month's notice will be given to the athlete in general, with respective NSAs' endorsement.

E. Appeal Channel

1. For Adjustment of ETGD Categories

Step 1: In case of queries on the ETGD Category, athletes should approach the respective NSA to understand the situation.

Step 2: If athletes wish to make an appeal, it should be applied in writing via the respective NSA to the High Performance Administration Department of the HKSI before the designated deadline. Appeal cases will be reviewed by the HKSIL Board.

Step 3: The decision of the HKSIL Board will be final.

F. Performance Assessment

1. Performance appraisal reports for all grant recipients have to be submitted twice a year, one interim report in October (for April to September) and a full-year report in the following April.

2. Head Coaches/Coaching Supervisors will complete the standard report form which will be endorsed by the respective NSAs.

G. Payment Method

1. Monthly payment will be made within 7 days of the following month.

2. Grants will be paid to athletes' designated account.

H. Administration Procedures and Annual Timetable

October - Invite ETGD applications from NSAs for the coming financial year

November - Close applications

March - HKSIL Board to approve the list of grant recipients

- Inform NSAs/athletes of the levels of support for the coming financial year

- NSAs to finalise the level of grants for each athlete

- Athletes to sign Athlete Agreement

- Deadline for NSAs to adjust grant levels for athletes, if any.

October - Interim report

Next April - Full-year report and overall evaluation

(Updated in March 2025)

Example of Disciplinary Procedures

