

The 52nd Schools Dance Festival

The precautions and competition arrangements when the Air Quality Health Index of the venue district reaches serious level (10+)

Background

The Environment Protection Department (EPD) has launched the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) to replace the Air Pollution Index since 30 December 2013. AQHI is reported on a scale of 1 to 10 and 10+ and is grouped into five health risk categories. EPD air quality monitoring data in real-time network computing AQHI and publish every one hour on the EPD website, also with a prediction for that afternoon or the next morning the air quality and level of health risk. For details of information, please refer to EPD website:

<http://www.aqhi.gov.hk>

According to the "Safety Guidelines on Physical Education Key Learning Area for Hong Kong Schools" issued by the EDB, school children are advised to avoid physical exertion (including outdoor and indoor physical/sports activities) and to avoid staying outdoors when the AQHI of the venue district reaches serious level (10+) on the competition day. For the activity guidelines of AQHI, please refer to:

http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/kla/pe/references_resource/FAQs_AQHI_Eng_2_2_Jan_2014_final.pdf

Related measures

The competition will be cancelled and the organiser will arrange for rescheduling the competition when the AQHI of the venue district reaches serious level (10+) on the competition day. The participating schools are required to pay attention to the following arrangements:

1. Participating School should refer to the AQHI of the General Air Quality Monitoring Station in the district of the competition venue announced by EPD; the AQHI of other districts will not affect the competition schedule;
2. The competition held at AM section will be **cancelled** when the AQHI reaches 10+ in the district of the competition venue announced by EPD at **6:30 am**;
3. The competition held at PM section will be **cancelled** when the AQHI reaches 10+ in the district of the competition venue announced by EPD at **11:00 am**;
4. The competition will immediately be **halted** when the AQHI reaches 10+ in the district of the competition venue. No competition will be continued on the day even when the AQHI return to lower level later;
5. The organiser will contact all affected schools and announce the arrangement of the competition on the HKSDA website (<http://www.hksda.org.hk>)

Rescheduling of Competition

Queen Elizabeth Stadium is reserved for rescheduling the competition during the last 3 days of the competition (2-4 March 2016) at 7:00-9:00 pm, the arrangements are as follow:

1. The competitions of the same type of dance will only be rescheduled on the same day. The adjudicators will be informed that adjudication should not be affected by using different competition venues;
2. If there is adverse weather/ the EDB announces suspension of classes /the AQHI reaches 10+ in the district of the competition venue on the rescheduled competition day, the competition will be permanently cancelled and no more rescheduling of competition will be arranged. The Overall Awards of the affected type of dance (if any) will be cancelled accordingly for fairness;
3. If the affecting schools are unable to attend the rescheduled competition or the rescheduled competition could not be held by the organiser, the application fee will be refunded to the affected schools

For enquiries, please contact the Hong Kong Schools Dance Association at 3741 2973.