



17 October 2022

To: Professor Lo Chung-mau, BBS, JP, Secretary for Health  
Mr Kevin Yeung, GBS, JP, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism  
Mr TK Yeung, Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau

Copy to: Mr John KC Lee, GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM, Chief Executive of the  
HKSAR  
The Hon. Kenneth FOK Kai-kong, JP  
The Hon. Perry Yiu Pak-leung  
Ms Fanny Ho, Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau  
Dr Leung Siu-fai, Director of The Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department  
Mr Kwan Kee, Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Athletics  
Affiliates

Your Reference: FHB/H/16/123/22

Dear Professor Lo,

Re: Abolition of Restrictions on Trail Races

Thank you for your letter dated October 13 in reply to our letter of October 6.

Unfortunately, your reply does not address or acknowledge any of the issues we raised in our letter on behalf of the Trail Running community in Hong Kong. It is extremely disappointing.

We have been in touch with CSTB on this matter before writing to you. They have advised us that it is the Department of Health (not the CSTB) that imposes the anti-pandemic measures currently afflicting Trail Racing in Hong Kong.

Your reply provides no reason for the department's actions which, in the context of Trail Racing, are inconsistent, illogical and disproportionate. We would hope and expect that the Department of Health would be accountable for its actions and decisions. At present this is not happening in relation to Trail Racing. The Health Department's decisions show no understanding of the very low risk of transmission of Covid at Trail Races and how much harm the Health Department's conditions are

inflicting on Trail Racing in Hong Kong and our reputation as a global hub for the sport. If the Department feels that Trail Running poses a risk to public health in Hong Kong, please share those reasons with us for the sake of our understanding and that of the thousands of Hong Kong people involved in Trail Running.

In keeping with the letter and spirit of your reply to "fine-tune relevant requirements to cater for different sports activities" we respectfully urge that the Department of Health take the following, low-risk steps to align the restrictions imposed on Trail Running with those of other sports:

1. Discontinue the requirement for PCR testing as a condition to racing. Currently, many activities in Hong Kong with much higher Covid transmission risk than Trail Racing do not require PCR tests.
2. Allow food to be provided at checkpoints. Allowing runners to drink, but not to eat, is not logical. This restriction is unique to Hong Kong.
3. Allow races longer than 50km. The longer the race the more space there is between participants. Again, this is a restriction which only Hong Kong imposes and is another decision that defies logic and is impossible to justify.
4. Discontinue pandemic-related restrictions on the number of participants. If 8,000 people can safely attend a snooker match indoors, surely a quarter of that number can safely run / hike a long distance outdoors.

Again, in relation to the letter and spirit of your reply we respectfully urge your department to fine-tune the restrictions currently imposed on Trail Racing.

We also respectfully ask again for an urgent meeting with the Department of Health to resolve these issues.

As emphasised by the Chief Executive, it is in the interests of the HKSAR and Hong Kong people that sporting events such as Trail Races return to normal without delay.

We can be contacted on [contact@trahk.org](mailto:contact@trahk.org) .

Yours sincerely,



Trail Runners Association of Hong Kong