

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups**

***Allowing Person(s) in School Uniform or Person(s) under the Age of 16
Years after 8:00 p.m. to enter a licensed billiard establishment***

Background

Section 22C of the Places of Amusement Regulation (Cap 132BA) stipulates that unless expressly permitted by the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services in writing, the licensee of a billiard establishment shall not -

- (a) permit any person under the age of 16 years to enter the licensed premises between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.; or
- (b) permit any person in school uniform, whether in full or in part, or whether wholly or partly covered, to enter the licensed premises at any time during the business hours of the licensed premises.

Trade's concerns

2. At the previous Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings for billiard establishments, public bowling-alleys and public skating rinks, the trade expressed that billiard was a healthy sports activity and the Government should not place any restrictions on the admittance of students and youngsters to billiard establishments which in turn would restrict the nurture of young athletes and the business opportunity of the trade. They requested the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to consider waiving the above two restrictions.

Administration's response

3. LCSD subsequently put forward two business facilitation (BF) measures without compromising public interests. Under the new BF measures, licensee of billiard establishment could apply for (a) permission of person(s) under the age of 16 years to enter the licensed premises accompanied

by parent/instructor/guardian after 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of training or competitions; and (b) permission of person(s) in school uniform to enter the licensed premises at any time during the business hours of the licensed premises for the purpose of physical education classes, extra-curricular activities or competitions etc. LCSD would approve the applications on a case-by-case basis.

4. To further facilitate the trade, LCSD has recently introduced standard application forms for the above BF measures. The forms make it clear to the trade all the necessary information for the applications including a Parent/Guardian Consent Form for the application for permission of person(s) under the age of 16 years to enter the licensed premises after 8:00 p.m. The administrative burden for the trade is thus reduced as it is no longer necessary for them to draft an application letter and/or provide supplementary information regarding the application. The standard application forms have been posted on LCSD's website for easy access of the trade.

Way Forward

5. Members are invited to note the above business facilitation measures.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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