

## **Why join the Sports Therapists Association of Hong Kong?**

<sup>1</sup> Healthcare professions in Hong Kong have all along observed the principle of professional autonomy. Various healthcare professions are subject to different levels of regulation based on their professional risks and development. There are mainly three modes of regulation:

- **Mandatory statutory** - compulsory for practicing the profession, or else committing such professional actions is not allowed.
- **Registration under accredited schemes** - non-compulsory registration and will not prohibit non-registrants from practicing the profession.
- **Voluntary registration** - under a society-based arrangement.

Sports Therapists Association of Hong Kong is a regulatory and professional body to sports therapy professionals in HKSAR that runs in voluntary registration. If you are a prospective sports therapist who wishes to practice or study in Hong Kong, we strongly encourage you to join us for the best benefit of practicing in Hong Kong. Reasons are as follows:

### ***#1 The only registered organization in Hong Kong that protects the benefits for sports therapists***

The Association is registered as a society in Hong Kong under the Society Ordinance(Cap. 151) and Limited by Guarantee under the Company Ordinance(Cap. 622).

Joining the Association is the best way to protect the benefits between sports therapists and service targets in Hong Kong;

We play a crucial role as a voluntary regulator in HKSAR. For the public aspect, we are the only platform to distinguish the genuine sports therapists practicing in Hong Kong by:

- Establish and maintain the directory of registered sports therapists in Hong Kong that accessible to public;
- Professional title "Registered Sports Therapists(HK)" and "STAoHK-Reg" to registered members and "Student Sports Therapists(HK)" and "STAoHK-Stu".
- Provide a professional indemnity insurance to all registered and student members in Hong Kong

### ***#2 The only official platform that speaks and represents sports therapists practicing in Hong Kong.***

As we do not expect the UK professional bodies can easily intervene for any situation that may raised in Hong Kong, therefore we need a Hong Kong based Association to safeguard our professional in various ways:

- Directory of registered STs for public access;
- Response to the public concerns promptly;
- Any further actions that are necessary and worthwhile to stands up for our members and professional.

### **#3 The official platform for raising the bar of sports therapists practicing in Hong Kong**

As we play as a professional body, to keep our sports therapists practicing in Hong Kong in an up to date manner is one of our purposes of the establishment.

We keep working to the following:

- Provide and import continuing education program that are relevant to sports therapy professionals at the cost rate;
- Continuing Professional Education Programme Accreditation Scheme - will be launched in July 2024.
- Establishment of an editorial platform - 2nd half of 2024;
- Collaborate with local and international organizations/college/universities etc. that aimed to raising the standard and recognition to the sports therapy professionals;

### **#4 The Association owns a professional indemnity insurance that meets the needs of practicing Sports Therapists in Hong Kong**

Our professional indemnity insurance offers to our members the most comprehensive and hassle-free manner in the event you need it - **the masterkey in HKSAR.**

Besides, our insurance is under the HKSAR jurisdiction and the insurer will **take over all necessary procedures, including legal representation for our members in the event of a claim raised.** Unlike the UK's policy, the member is required to arrange the necessary procedures and appoint a legal representative.

Furthermore, our insurance policy is equivalent to the UK's insurance cover for sports therapists (i.e same risk pool) and it is **acceptable as a substitute cover** if members wish to join or renew the UK membership.

Sources:

1 LCQ5: Introducing a statutory registration regime for healthcare professions, November 1, 2023