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Subject: English

Should universities admit and provide scholarships for student athletes?

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my agreement with the policy of some universities in Hong Kong that admit and provide scholarships for student athletes who meet the basic university entrance requirements. Indeed, I think this policy is beneficial and worthy to the student athletes. The following are a few reasons behind why I agree with it.

Above all, admission should be offered to the outstanding student athletes. As far as I am concerned, student athletes may lack motivation and self-confidence in academic studies. A majority of universities in Hong Kong are more focused on the student's academic results. However, it is important that we should also focus on the effort behind the student athletes but not just concentrate on how outstanding their examination performances are. Therefore, athlete admission is without doubt a major benefit for the student athletes.

In the meantime, financial support can be also given to the student athletes. As most of the time of the student athletes is used for training, some of them may need to attend tutorial class which a large expenditure is required. Consequently, the provision of scholarships from the universities can alleviate the problem.

Apart from giving the financial support to student athletes, the admission and provision of scholarship also provide a psychological support to the student athlete. In this prosperous city, most of the people tend to work all the time, they want to take a rest rather than watching any sports tournament. As a result, student athletes may be ignored. Therefore, the scholarship provided for the student athletes can raise their self-esteem and self-assurance as the importance of sports is raised.

Although some people consider that this policy may contribute to an unfair situation, I believe that student athletes' effort and determination should be appreciated, not merely their academic performance.

The aforementioned are the reasons why I am supportive to the policy. The admission and provision of scholarships to student athletes who meet the basic university entrance requirement is worthy to advocate in today's society. Student athletes make every endeavor in all competitions and they should be highly appreciated and recognized.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong