

## **4<sup>th</sup> nationwide sports league for people with disabilities sees participation soars to over 630 participants**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

12 May 2009

The opening of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Disability League 2009 was held today at SAFRA Tampines Orchid Bowl and was graced by Ms Jessica Tan, Member of Parliament for East Coast GRC.

The League kicked off with the first rounds of bowling (singles). To date, 657 registrations have been received for the league in total. Entries are still open for the various sports due to overwhelming responses. The Singapore Disability Sports Council aims to surpass the participation of 687 in 2008.

The high participation strongly signifies the increasing number of persons with disabilities who are keen in taking up sports and it also confirms the proven popularity of this league structure.

The National Disability League (NDL) was introduced by the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) in 2006, to replace the National Disability Games which was an annual event from 2002. The original games functioned as a series of sports challenges held over seven days, to promote sports and nurture healthy lifestyles amongst persons with disabilities while providing local competitive opportunities.

The current league format allows participants to compete over a three-month period, increasing their opportunities for exposure and social interaction. The 3<sup>rd</sup> NDL consisted of 12 sports. It saw encouraging participation from 687 athletes with disabilities from 9 organisations and 7 special schools.

This year, the league has increased to 18 sports: archery, badminton, basketball, boccia, bowling, chess, equestrian, goalball, futsal, handcycling, lawn bowls, powerchair football, powerlifting, sailing, shooting, table-tennis, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair tennis. The new sports offered this year include handcycling, powerlifting and powerchair football.

The 4<sup>th</sup> National Disability League will last from 12 May to 26 July 2009. Prize monies are awarded to the top three associations and special schools with the highest participation and achievements.

The first sport to begin is bowling (singles) and will see 213 participants, ranging from persons with intellectual disability, physical disability and hearing impairment. They will be participating in the three game series competition. The first match was held today at SAFRA Tampines Orchid Bowl.

The next sports in the 4<sup>th</sup> NDL are boccia and table tennis. Both will commence on 16 May 2009 and will be held at Republic Polytechnic. Boccia, a sport for people with severe disabilities, will see a participation of 25, and table tennis will see a participation of 23 athletes with disabilities.

Bowling, boccia and table-tennis boast the greatest increase in participation as compared to 2008. Bowling (singles) has 213 athletes participating this year, as compared to 117 in 2008. Boccia has 25 athletes participating as compared to 5 athletes last year. Table tennis has 23 athletes this year compared to 15 last year.

For media visits or interviews, please arrange with Mr Nolan Ovinis at 91817774.

### **About Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC)**

SDSC is the national sports body for the disabled in Singapore. It is the only local organization that caters sports for persons across all kinds of disabilities. It aims to help the disabled lead full and independent lives through sports. Besides providing sporting opportunities for them to realize their potential, SDSC trains talents to represent

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