

23 September 2021

For Immediate Release

**Statement by the Competition Commission regarding
*Volleyball Association of Hong Kong, China's decision on membership***

In response to media reports about *Volleyball Association of Hong Kong, China* (VBAHK)'s decision on the membership status of its five members, the Competition Commission (Commission) issued the following statement today (23 September 2021):

The Commission is aware of the concern over VBAHK's decision to exclude *ALPS Beach Volleyball Association, Aspiring Volleyball Team, Green Dragon Volleyball Club, Kwai Tsing Women's Volleyball Team* and *Yan Chai Volleyball Team* from the status of "Full Membership" of VBAHK. The Commission is looking into the matter, in particular on whether the issue may give rise to competition concerns under the Competition Ordinance (Ordinance). The Commission is seeking information from relevant parties and calls on all parties who may have information on the subject to contact the Commission at 3462 2118 or enquiry@compcomm.hk.

Pursuant to an [Advisory Bulletin](#) published earlier, the Commission would like to reiterate that the rules for admission to membership of a trade association should be *transparent, proportionate, non-discriminatory, based on objective standards, and subject to appeal in the event of a refusal to admit a party to membership*. These criteria are equally relevant to the suspension, expulsion and withdrawal of existing members. A member should only be expelled by a trade association on the basis of transparent, proportionate, non-discriminatory and objective criteria and procedures, and the member should be provided with reasons for the expulsion and have the possibility of appeal. The Commission may view rules for admission and expulsion which do not satisfy these requirements as having the object or effect of harming competition.

The Commission once again calls on all trade, sporting, professional and industry associations to actively review their admission and expulsion criteria and procedures, and to make changes where needed to ensure compliance with the Ordinance.
