

ITE students to assist with sports safety plan

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IN A move to improve safety measures and practices, student volunteers from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) will be deployed to national sports associations (NSAs) by next March to check on their respective systems, including risk assessment.

There are 60 NSAs in the country and the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) revealed that the students would be deployed to those that need assistance to review safety practices and plans and see if they are workable.

Speaking at the Sports Safety Plan presentation yesterday at Jalan Besar Stadium yesterday, SSC chief executive officer, Oon Jin Teik, said: "Our main objective is to champion sports safety practices and facilitate cross agency cooperation to find workable solutions to implementation issues.

"One of the issues identified is the lack of resources and expertise amongst NSAs in developing and implementing a safety management system.

"To address this, we have secured a tie up with ITE to assist NSAs with their safety plans."

The first to welcome the students will be 10 watersports NSAs, including Singapore Sailing, Singapore Dragon Boat Association and Triathlon Association of Singapore. Said Oon: "Water safety is highlighted because it is higher risk, therefore we needed more emphasis and detailed focus and better study of each environment."

Last November, tragedy struck the dragon boat fraternity when five members of the national team drowned when their boat capsized after a race at Cambodia's Tonle Sap River. Eight months later, Singapore Management University student Levin Angsana drowned after falling off a keelboat during a training session.

Under the SSC-ITE partnership, sports management students will undergo a three-day course with SSC's Sports Safety Division's deputy director, Delphine Fong.

Students will learn about developing safety policies, identifying steps taken to control risk and preparing for emergencies.

SSC expect to roll out the programme in the next three to six months. Details on the number of students and duration of the deployment will be revealed at a later date. SSC are expected to sign an Article of Agreement with ITE soon.

The SSC also revealed their Sports Safety Working Committee yesterday. It is a 14-member working group made up of men and women from the public, private and health sectors and it will be tasked to develop and execute the Sports Safety Plan.

One of the first initiatives was the installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) at all SSC facilities around the country. There are 60 housed at facilities like swimming pools, sports halls and gymnasiums. All SSC frontline staff are Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED certified.

One initiative about to be launched is the new CPR Personal Kit. Consisting of an inflatable CPR manikin (life-sized doll) and a skills practice DVD, the self-instruction kit is designed as a learning tool for children, families and



All SSC frontline staff are trained in CPR and the use of defibrillators, which will be installed in all SSC facilities around the country.

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the public.

Said Singapore Heart Foundation CEO, Ho Sun Yee: "We want to equip Singaporeans with the knowledge of CPR... the kit will be launched on World Heart Day on Oct 12 and will be readily available in January next year.

"We'd like to work with Ministry of Education and encourage

schools to adopt this programme. Our target is to train all Secondary 2 students and we'll need to train about 30,000 kids in 180 to 190 secondary schools each year."

With the price of each kit estimated at \$40 to \$50, Ho said that community partners and sponsors would be roped in to help defray part of the cost.