

NSC help Johnathan stay trigger happy

SEA Games champion Johnathan Wong nearly quit competitive shooting two years ago, but thanks to his coaches and the National Sports Council (NSC), he hasn't put away his gun.

Johnathan graduated from Universiti Putra Malaysia with a degree in aerospace engineering (first class honours) in 2019. But after a difficult outing at the Manila Sea Games that year, the shooter felt that he had reached a crossroads.

"During the start of the Movement Control Order (2020) I was in a dilemma. I didn't know whether I should continue in sport or move on and find a job.

"I studied aerospace engineering which is actually a combination of aeronautical and astronautical (engineering). If I was to pursue a career in that (engineering), it was now or never. I could not wait until older because I would be left behind by others.

"It was a perplexing situation because at the time we were told that only medallists from the 2019 Sea Games would be retained in the programme. I had finished only fourth at the Manila Sea Games, so I was stuck."

Johnathan, 29, thanked his coach and NSC for helping him find a solution which allowed him to continue shooting.

"I discussed my situation with my coach and the manager for



Johnathan Wong

shooting and they helped get me a job with NSC as the shooting range manager," said Johnathan.

"As the manager, my responsibilities are to oversee the maintenance and planning of the facility in Bukit Jalil.

"They have said that they will help me develop my career in sports (administration). This way I am able to work while remaining as an athlete."

NSC's decision to help Johnathan remain in the sport led to him

reclaiming the men's 10m air pistol individual gold at the Hanoi Sea Games last month. Johnathan previously won the gold in the Kuala Lumpur edition in 2017 but finished off the podium in Manila. He aims to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

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