

HUP WEI GOING TO VIETNAM

High jumper delays retirement after MAF submitted his name for Sea Games

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JUST a few days ago, high jumper Lee Hup Wei announced his retirement after he did not make the athletics team for the Vietnam Sea Games on May 12-23.

However, the 35-year-old has decided to delay his retirement after the Malaysian Athletics Federation (MAF) made a U-turn by submitting his name to the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) for registration purposes for the biennial Games.

With this new development Hup Wei, a four-time Olympian, will now get to defend his Sea Games title in Vietnam.

Hup Wei was initially not on the list as he did not meet the 2.15m qualifying mark for the Sea Games at last weekend's Malaysian Open. The heavy rain in Bukit Jalil made it difficult for Hup Wei, who had just recovered from an ankle injury.

Newcomer Eizlan Dahalan, who defeated Hup Wei on countback after both recorded 2.10m at the

Malaysian Open, was initially given the nod to compete in Vietnam under category B (self-funded).

Kajang-born Hup Wei will accompany Nauraj Singh Randhawa, who had qualified on merit under category A.

However, he indicated the Sea Games will be his final swan song as he does not intend to compete in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games (July 28-Aug 8) and the Hangzhou Asian Games (Sept 10-25).

"I have to thank OCM and MAF for giving me the chance to defend the gold medal.. this is something that I didn't expect, to be honest," said Hup Wei, who is now recovering from a foot injury.

"The Sea Games will be my last competition. I will retire after that.

"I want to end my career with a bang by winning a gold medal in Vietnam.

"Nauraj will be competing as well in Vietnam, so I hope we can both finish top two.

"I will not compete in the Commonwealth and Asian Games. It will be too tough as both Games will have world-class athletes. My



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body just cannot cope competing at that level anymore."

Hup Wei said he will need about a month to recover from his foot injury.

"I hope to recover in a month and return to training to work on

my technique.

"I do not feel any pressure ahead of the Sea Games as it will be my last competition.

"I am confident of my abilities, and I believe I can fight for the title," he added.