Laser sailor qualifies for Beijing despite back, hand problems and strong winds

BY JEANETTE WANG

NATIONAL sailor Koh Seng Leong’s gritty performance in the strong winds off the central coast of New South Wales, Australia, secured Singapore another slot at the Olympics yesterday.

The 24-year-old’s consistency saw him finish 77th among 157 sailors at the week-long Laser World Championships in Terrigal, Australia, started last Thursday and had 157 sailors from 55 nations competing — 25 of which had not yet qualified and were vying for the 10 remaining Olympic slots.

Koh Seng Leong’s 77th-place finish ranked Singapore fifth among these 25 nations, thus qualifying the Republic for the Olympics.

However, the Laser sailor who will represent Singapore in Beijing — which may not necessarily be Koh — will be decided by Singapore Sailing through selection trials.

Beijing qualifiers
Singapore athletes who have qualified for the Olympics:

- Athletics: Zhang Guirong, age 30 (shot put)
- Sailing: Koh Seng Leong, 24 (Laser); Ray Tay, 24, and Chung Fenising, 25; Xu Yden, 22, and Terence Koh, 19 (470)

Note: With each country allowed only one slot per class, the two pairs, along with Tew Wee Chin, 20, and Benjamin Tan, 22, will fight it out among themselves to represent the nation.

- Shooting: Lee Weng Yew, 41 (trap)
- Swimming: Quah Ting Wen, 15 (400m individual medley), Tao Li, 17 (100m butterfly), Brynn Tay, 19 (200m freestyle), Nicolette Teo, 21 (100m and 200m breaststroke)
- Table tennis: Gao Ning, 25 (open singles), Yang Zi, 23 (men’s singles), Li Jiewei, 26 (women’s singles), Wang Yuegu, 27 (women’s singles), Feng Tianwei, 21 (women’s singles)

All qualifiers are subject to Singapore National Olympic Council approval.