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Le Président

Object: Cancellation European Juniors and Seniors Championships Lignano Sabbiadoro October 2020.

Mr. President, Dear friend,

Regarding the situation we are currently in and to try to keep some activities alive and prevent an empty year of activity for our athletes and national federations, CMAS attempted to rebuild a calendar on a different scale and to schedule European Championships.

Unfortunately, as of today, the world health situation has not progressed as well as expected and does not show positive developments. This has consequences for the proposed CMAS projects, and we see that even with the significant effort of our partner, the Italian Federation and the will of CMAS to reintroduce activity, it currently remains impossible to have real championships.

With only one month before the beginning of the Championships, and with very few countries confirming their presence for Juniors and Seniors, presenting with just a few numbers of swimmers and additionally, the five top countries could not register.

The sanitary conditions are different depending on the countries with different rules or strategy but many apply a quarantine period on departure or return. Moreover, it's also a problem with the countries outside the Schengen zone. They cannot get visas, the borders are closed, and they cannot book flights. Also, we cannot forget that the rules are constantly changing in order to stem the spread of the virus, travel that is deemed possible today may not be possible tomorrow.

The medical opinion received is unfavorable with holding these projects, so as not to put the teams at risk. They also advise CMAS and the organizers not to take legal forensic risks by hold these competitions, risks that may have to be answered later through the legal system, should there be problems. The barriers measures have limits and at any moment can be in default.

Consequently, CMAS has no other option but to announce with regret the cancellation of the European Juniors and Seniors Championships scheduled at LIGNANO SABBIADORO in October 2020.

I warmly thank FIPSAS, all its technicians and the local organizing committee for the efforts made to try to maintain the championships but the unprecedented situation facing the world does not allow a favorable solution to be found.

Renewing my warmest thanks and hope in the future for other collaborations and success.

Best regards,

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Anna Arzhanova
President of CMAS