



INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION

COVID-19

To: *The ILS Patrons
The ILS Founding President, Past-Presidents, Life Governor, Life Members
The President of ILS
The Vice-Presidents of ILS
The Members of the ILS Board of Directors & the Observer to the Board of Directors
The Regional Secretaries
The Member Federations/Organisations: Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretary
Generals, Treasurer Generals, Board Members, Delegates
The Commission Chairs and Members, Committee Chairs and Members
The ILS Grand Knights/Grand Dames, Knights/Dames and Guests
The ILS Partners*

Leuven, 19/03/2020

Dear friends,

Facts

1. *The world is facing a pandemic situation which affects nearly all countries, including all ILS Member Organisations.*
2. *Italy, and especially Northern Italy has recently been heavily affected by Covid-19 with no respite in sight and the region around Riccione is one of the most affected.*
3. *There is a widespread restriction on International travel and a massive cancellation of flights, and we do not know when that situation will be normalised.*
4. *There is a lack of available travel insurance. Because Covid-19 is known, no insurance company will cover people that become infected in at-risk zones.*
5. *The social distancing requirements and the decreasing number of people that can constitute a mass gathering will not allow spectatorship and will therefore reduce or even remove the world-wide impact of the World Championships.*
6. *Many national lifesaving championships are cancelled, which results in no possibility to select teams and to prepare them.*
7. *Many swimming pools are closed, which affect the training and the preparation of our competitors.*
8. *The age of many of our technical officials and delegates (35% is older than 60) is high and this group is identified as the high-risk group.*
9. *The economic impact of Covid-19 on our National Federations is significant. Many will be in recession as a result of the virus outbreak, particularly our low- and middle-income Nations.*
10. *We do not know what the impact of Covid-19 will be in 6-12 months' time, given it did not exist 4 months ago. It is predicted by scientists that the peak crisis in Europe will be in the spring of 2020 and that the peak crisis in many African, South American and Asia-Pacific countries will be in the summertime and autumn 2020. It is foreseen that the situation will*

be “normalised” at the start of 2021 if we count a possible re-appearance of Covid-19 in some countries where the disease was passed. It might be possible that medication or a vaccine is available in early 2021.

Concerns

The main concern of the ILS is the health and well-being of our members, delegates, technical and team officials, competitors, volunteers, workforce, spectators, etc.

Crisis Management Group

The Covid-19 Crisis Management Group was created urgently yesterday to take on the work of a smaller group that was monitoring and managing on a daily basis the Covid-19 issues since January 2020. The Group is composed of the ILS Chancellery, the Hosts of the LWC 2020 and 2022, the ILS Sport Commission Chair and Secretary, the ILS Executive Director, the ILS Events Director, the ILS Legal Advisor and the ILS Financial Advisor.

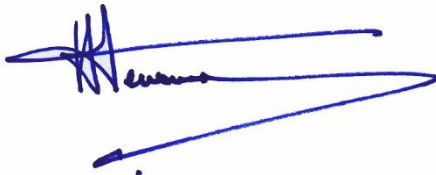
Conclusion

The 2020 Lifesaving World Championships (LWC) will not take place in September 2020 and is postponed to 2021 (or 2022). More details will be provided by the Crisis Management Group as soon as possible. Cancellation policies will be honoured.

The ILS installed a contact point: please address any questions you have to John Martin MBE, ILS Event Director at j.martin@ilsf.org

We hope that all our members understand the above decision and that you all keep safe.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dr. Harald Vervaecke', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Harald Vervaecke PhD
Secretary General
On behalf of the Crisis Management Group