



UNION SPORTIVE DES POLICES D'EUROPE
Molenvest 23, 2200 Herentals - Belgium

Luc Smeyers

Voorzitter
Präsident
President
Président

USPE Member countries and partners

Mobile: +32 478 555 119

E-Mail: Luc.Smeyers@police.belgium.eu

by E-Mail

Koningshooikt, April 14th 2020

COVID-19 Crisis: Impact on European Police Sport

Dear colleagues,

As stated in our letter on March 20th the COVID-19 health crisis has an enormous impact on our everyday life. All over Europe drastic measures have been proclaimed to protect our health.

Some of the problems that seemed important to us yesterday have become less important today.

Postponement of sports events

On 24 March 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games by one year due to the Corona pandemic.

According to the current situation in many European countries, championships are prohibited and training is very limited.

It can be assumed that the situation will continue for a longer period.

Therefore we believe that we have to provide our member countries timely information to prevent unnecessary costs and to prepare adequate for our programmed sports events.

We are convinced that the **postponement of the 2020 USPE EPC Football Women in Trondheim** in June will help to break the chain of infection. We must now reduce social contacts, but also look ahead and create scenarios for the future.

Our Executive Committee took this decision in close concertation with our Norwegian colleagues. They will investigate if it would be possible to organize this EPC next year.

Health before business

The USPE considers the health of our athletes, attendants, organizers and spectators as its highest priority!

We believe that decisions on far-reaching measures, such as the postponement of EPC or the exclusion of spectators, must strictly comply with the orders and guidelines of the competent authorities and health experts. Due to the fact that our national organizers have the best overview of the current and rapidly changing domestic situation, the USPE will stay in close contact with them to make appropriate decisions.

We will inform the member countries timely and **at least three months before the EPC**. We ask you to postpone booking travel arrangements for the USPE EPC planned in 2020.

Solidarity and challenges for the police forces in Europe

Solidarity and renunciation are now needed, especially in the interests of those at risk. The USPE also understands the important duties and challenges of the police forces in the crisis management and the enforcement of the health measures like social distancing and travel restrictions.

We all need to stick to the rules in order to gain time in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus. Police sport is currently taking a step back.

Creative and flexible solutions

Undoubtedly police sport stays important for the physical and mental wellbeing of police officers, especially in crisis situations. We need to find the right balance and creative solutions for these current extraordinary circumstances. How can we continue our work in the future?

Early this month our USPE Secretary General organized the **1st Videoconference** for our Technical Commission and our Executive Committee. I am very pleased that all members have attended these meetings.

Our response to the Covid-19 crisis was, of course, high on the agenda. Both USPE organs are doing everything they can to preserve European police sport.

The USPE Office will follow up and coordinate closely with the national organizers. This should provide further insight on the dynamic situation and how to proceed. The USPE Office will examine all conceivable **scenarios for the four upcoming EPC** (Basketball Women, Cycling, Cross Country and Wrestling). The USPE Executive Committee will evaluate whether the planned EPC will be able to continue in 2020 in safe conditions.

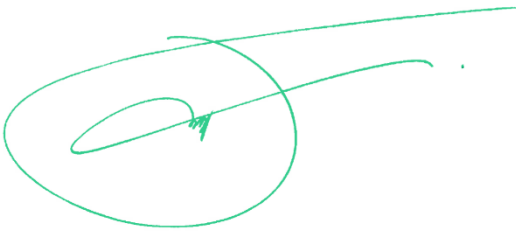
At present, however, it is not possible to assess if these events can be organized in 2020 in compliance with the orders and guidelines of the competent authorities.

Therefore the USPE will decide **step by step** on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the USPE sports calendar for 2020.

This will undoubtedly also have implications for the USPE sports calendar 2021 and 2022. The USPE wants to inform the national police sports federations and the organizers in due time to avoid unnecessary costs. We will therefore prepare **scenarios for the USPE Sports Calendar** to ensure the USPE's competitive sport in the following years.

As a caring, responsible and professional organisation the USPE we will keep you informed. We thank you for your understanding, cooperation and friendship.

Stay healthy!

A handwritten signature in green ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'L' followed by a long horizontal stroke that extends to the right and then loops back down to the left.

Luc Smeyers

President USPE