

## PRESS RELEASE

Hypomeeting Götzis / Vorarlberg – March 25, 2020



### Hypomeeting Götzis 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19 developments

The organizing committee of the Hypomeeting Götzis herewith informs that this year's Hypomeeting Götzis is cancelled due to the current situation and developments around the coronavirus (COVID-19). It was scheduled to take place from 30 to 31 May 2020.

First and foremost, the health of the athletes, spectators, volunteers (over 400) and all other partners involved is of highest priority. As of today, this cannot be guaranteed at the end of May. In addition, Hypomeeting Götzis falls under the category of a major big sports event. Due to the measures initiated by the Austrian authorities and the government, which will not be loosened or abandoned in the near future, it can be assumed that Hypomeeting 2020 could only take place as "ghost meeting" without any spectators, if at all. Apart from the fact that this is not possible for various reasons, it would not be an option for the organizers since the event, in many ways, lives from its visitors.

As an international event, athletes from over 30 countries of the world are invited. As of today, there will still be many travel restrictions in place at the end of May. Therefore, since a large part of the international field of athletes would arrive by plane, many athletes would be forced to cancel.

Additionally, more and more athletes all over the world have been severely restricted in their training possibilities and preparations for some time already due to the developments of the coronavirus (e.g. lockdowns, closure of training facilities and gyms). Götzis is usually the first highlight of the season for many heptathletes and decathletes, but they would need to pass a serious competition preparation. This is currently not given, many athletes even had to cancel their training camps recently, and therefore the risk of injury would be too high.

Further, it is not possible to postpone the Hypomeeting to a later date this year. It is part of the World Athletics – Combined Events Challenge and therefore the organizers have to consider the World Athletics events calendar. We do not want to compete with organizers who have scheduled their combined event meetings at a later stage after May 30 / 31, 2020. Also, it cannot be assumed that all service providers involved (timekeeping, TV / live broadcast, videowall, etc.) will not have other obligations at later stages this year.

All side events ("Schnellster Montforter", Mösle Relay Challenge) and qualification runs prior to Hypomeeting are cancelled too. Spectators who have already purchased tickets for Hypomeeting 2020 in advance will be automatically refunded the ticket prices from 16 May onwards.

For the same or similar reasons many other major international events have already been cancelled. These include the French Open (24.05. to 07.06.), the F1 Grand Prix of Monaco (24.05.) and Baku (07.06.), the European Football Championships (12.06. to 12.07.), the Ibero-American Games (22.05. to 24.05.) and last but not least the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, which were just postponed by one year to 2021.

Therefore, the organizing committee is convinced that a cancellation is the only right decision. Sport is important - but there are more important things right now!

We are looking forward to an even more successful and historic 46<sup>th</sup> edition of Hypomeeting Götzis in May 2021.

### More Information

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