



Championships postponement

18. May 2020

FIPS-Mouche International Sport Fly Fishing Federation

FIPS-Mouche recognises that the member countries have been facing an unprecedented public health crisis as result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Effected countries have issued quarantine orders, shuttered school districts and banned large gatherings in an attempt to curb the spread of the fatal virus.

From the very beginning of these difficult times FIPS-Mouche Board was in a close and intensive dialogue with host countries and its International Organizers, has organized a set of conference calls with aim to monitor the situation in these countries with regard to all local measures, restrictions, COVID spread prognosis and all possible side effects on our sport. Therefor we decided in February not to close immediately the competition season but rather to take a stepwise approach of partial decisions - based on the up-to-dated news from the host countries.

At certain stage we started to consider postponement of the World and Euro 2020 by 1 year, with implication of shifting all consecutive events in our calendar in these categories. Therefor we informed the host countries for 2021 and got their commitment to shift corresponding events too. We have shifted master's to the end of September and Youth to the later years. Statement thereof was circulated to our members and published on facebook page as well.

Meanwhile we have been monitoring the development of pandemic in many our member countries and actions being taken also by other sport international federations, we have been receiving various feedbacks from our members - some of them with regret decided not to take part this year). Our aim was a return to competition if possible, but our priority in all decision-making must be the health and safety of our competitors, officials, the organizing staff and the entire involved fly fishing community. Therefor about beginning of April it appeared an idea to apply the same postponing policy on all other remaining categories. We open-up again a dialogue with approved host countries of next year Youth, Master and Ladies championships and clarified their commitment to be shifted by 1 year too. Our main intention was not to lose any important venue in our competition calendar and the clarification process has been successfully finished just recently.

Based on above mentioned actions and initiatives **FIPS-Mouche Board decided over the past weekend to postpone all 2020 championships in all categories to the year 2021 and to shift all consecutive events by 1 year** (applies to the approved events as well as the bids). Bidding countries will be asked separately to reconsider validity of bids accordingly.

Taking this decision we are pleased to announce that this year organizers will have a second chance to run the championships that they had worked so far very hard to prepare, further on we have not lost any venue in our competition calendar and last but not least **we are glad of having a stable schedule for the competition years 2021-2023.**

We would like to take this opportunity to address our thank to all federations involved into the above mentioned process especially to Spanish, Portuguese, Canadian and Italian federations for their understanding, support and help as it is not easy to convince in such a short notice all involved and contracted parties and sponsors while shifting the championships.

There is also one more point to be emphasized – due to the postponing of the youth championship FIPS-Mouche Boards decided to **accept participation of all youth competitors (who could take part in 2020) to participate in postponed one in 2021.** Our intention is not to shorten their competition time frame in youth category due to COVID measures.

Best wishes, tight lines and stay safe.

Mario Podmanik (President)