



Schweizerischer Verband für Pferdesport
Fédération Suisse des Sports Equestres
Federazione Svizzera Sport Equestri
Swiss Equestrian Federation

Papiermühlestrasse 40 H
P.O. Box 726
CH-3000 Bern 22
Tel. +41 (0)31 335 43 43
Fax +41 (0)31 335 43 58
info@fnch.ch, www.fnch.ch

Press release

Bern, 08. April 2016

No world championship of the Endurance elite in Dubai (UAE) 2016

Despite all efforts of the Equestrian Federation of the United Arab Emirates (EEF), several serious problems emerged in the past months at multiple endurance races on national and international level. The office of the International Federation for Equine Sports, Fédération Equestre Internationale FEI, has therefore decided at their meeting on April 6 - 7, 2016 to withdraw the organization for the upcoming world championship Endurance in Dubai. The Swiss Equestrian Federation SEF, which already asked for such measures on February 10, 2016, is relieved about this bold decision and is committed to support measures regarding the well-being of the horses and the compliance of the rules at international level.

After getting criticism from interested parties, the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) has adjusted and reinforced the regulations for competitions in Endurance to ensure a better protection of the horses and an improvement in the equality for athletes. In spite of several agreements between the FEI and the Equestrian Federation of the United Arab Emirates (EEF), and after the latter had been suspended in 2015, several races couldn't take place as planned and multiple serious cases of animal abuse were detected. The Swiss Equestrian Federation SEF is relieved to take note of the decision of the FEI, which takes the ethics of the sport as well as a better integrity for the well-being of the horses into consideration and corresponds with the claims that had been communicated in February.

This decision enables the Swiss delegation to prepare the world championship calmly and to defend their bronze medal from the world equestrian games WEG 2014 in Normandy. The SEF will continue their fight for ethical equine sports and the corresponding protection of horses.

Additional information:

Dr. Claude Nordmann, International affairs at the Swiss Equestrian Federation for equine sports, Tel. +41 79 353 75 54, E-Mail: claudio.nordmann@bluewin.ch