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Open Letter: 7th European Deaf Orienteering Championships

Trento, July 11th 2012

The missing of an official assignment by FSSI to the AD Trento Orienteering of the charge to organize the 7th European Deaf Orienteering Championships forces our Organizing Committee to send, to all interlocutors involved, a detailed report of what has happened up to this moment. This way, we want to motivate our decision and preserve the good name of our Sport Organization and our Officers, involved since years in this organization.

In fact, since two years the AD Trento Orienteering is doing its best, in terms of time and economic support, for providing the best possible organization of these European Championships with:

- The visit of two of our Officers to the World Deaf Orienteering Championships in Ukraine in 2011
- The fulfillment of the maps for the competition (20 square kilometers in all)
- The claims for funding and the requests for collaboration with the local institutions

- The involvement of 4 deaf associations and of more than 50 members of our team, who decided to invest their free time and their holidays
- The planning in minute details of the 4 international competitions, turning to federal technicians (competition directors, cartographers, tracers, etc...)
- The accurate planning of accommodations, transports and collateral activities
- The setting up of a brand new internet web site www.edoc2012.it
- The design of an exclusive logo
- The plan of the official poster, the medals and other graphic elements.

All the things above listed have been fulfilled by the AD Trento Orienteering, totally at its own expense, following the guide lines agreed with FSSI (Daniela Mazzocco and Calogero Bonferraro) and with EDSO (Vasyl Sandugei e Marek-Mir Mackiewicz) during the official inspection that took place in Trento from 11 to 13 November 2011.

During a further official meeting on 26 May 2012, the new FSSI Secretary, Daniela Orati, posed some new and unexpected important complications that actually refused what was agreed and minuted in November with her own President and EDSO Officials, pointing out disagreements that, in our opinion, seriously undermine the correct organization of the international event. Among the various novelties, the following stand out: FSSI is not engaged with any contribution nor organizational nor economic; on the other hand, FSSI asks for anomalous financial facilitations for the Italian national team; FSSI claims the control over accounts and budget, but relieves the economic liability to AD Trento Orienteering (this would mean that FSSI would decide which expenses underwrite, and AD Trento Orienteering would only pay the costs); other incomprehensible requests on “trusted” interpreters and photographers of the President Mazzocco on which we prefer to pass over.

Following this unexpected turning point, and considering that some of these requests would heavily bear on the event’s budget in an unjustified way, our Organizing Committee found itself forced to send by mail two letters (on May 31st 2012 and June

07th 2012) asking for appropriate explanations. Following these letters, only answers not clear and misleading (some even incomprehensible) have been received, in addition to some phone calls to our President, posing each time some new request concerning principally the financial aspect.

Considering that FSSI did not seem to understand the urgency of defining technical, organizational and economic issues (at only two months to the beginning of the Championships), the Organizing Committee was forced to formally ask for the assignment of the charge of organizing the EDOC, with a letter, dated 21st June 2012, in which it took totally the management and economic burdens, being this condition necessary to guarantee the feasibility of the event.

After some verbal reminders, disregarded, we decided to give a deadline for having the official assignment of the charge, and the deadline was fixed at 16.30 p.m. of the day July 9th 2012. This deadline has been disregarded as well.

Afterwards, at 22.52 p.m. on 10th July 2012 a letter of charge arrived, giving again incomprehensible conditions which would impose to the Organizing Committee the covering of all expenses (board and lodging, transports, competitions, etc...) of athletes and officials of the Italian delegation (whose number of components is unspecified) against an exiguous contribution.

At this point the AD Trento Orienteering finds itself forced to communicate the decision to withdraw its candidacy for the organization of the 7th European Deaf Orienteering Championships, because it believes there are not the prerequisites for the regular conduction of the event.

From now onwards, we recommend all people interested in the 7th European Deaf Orienteering Championships to contact directly FSSI, who is owner of the event, at the mail address info@fssi.it, because starting from this moment the AD Trento Orienteering is no longer involved, nor even as a collaborator.



In the next days the AD Trento Orienteering will contact all federations involved, to return what has been paid up to this moment to the AD Trento Orienteering for the Social packages.

Best regards.

AD Trento Orienteering

The President

Stefano Demattè

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demattè Stefano".