

Dear IOF officers!

The COVID-19 outbreak has hit Austria massively and drastic governmental measures have been taken. A curfew has been ordered nation-wide, affecting our national team in its entirety. Our clubs and ourselves as a federation are bound to refrain from conducting any training, and all sport facilities remain off-limits. Our athletes are in constant contact with our trainers to evaluate the situation and discuss upcoming international competitions.

We are obliged to cancel all competitions in Austria until the end of May, respectively delay as many as possible to autumn. Therefore, it is simply impossible for our athletes to partake in any form of orienteering training or competition until further notice and judging from our point of view, at least for the next few weeks or months. International comparison is impossible at this point. This applies to orienteering as well as mountain bike orienteering. In addition, we are absolutely not able to conduct qualification races.

Based on this presentation of the current situation we would like to pose important question to the IOF.

At what point in time will the decision be made which international competitions are delayed or cancelled? Has the IOF considered delaying ALL international competitions in the near future?

Additionally, we would like the IOF to consider that nationally different governmental limitations lead to an uneven starting position at upcoming international competitions!

Furthermore, we cannot know how long train- and air- traffic to and from Austria will be limited or even suspended. Consequently, further planning from our side is impossible. Our athletes' unsettledness is additionally very high, since it is unknown if they will be able to participate in international competitions and if they will even be able to conduct a minimal amount of training.

We are convinced, that you as officers of the IOF will find the best solution on behalf of the athletes and in view of fairness. Therefore, we would suggest cancelling or delaying the upcoming international events for athletes from all countries in a timely manner, so that everyone will be able to take adequate and equal measures for preparation.

Kind regards, the Austrian Orienteering Federation

President, Mag. Elisabeth Kirchmeir