

Dates 2020 to 2022

– A fact update and considerations about open appointments –

1. The Indoor World Championships - canceled due to the corona virus - have already been rescheduled. As the World Athletics Association announced in Monte Carlo on March 12, the Indoor World Championships are now to take place from March 19 to 21, 2021 in Nanjing, China. This means that the date for the European Indoor Championships in Torun is finally confirmed: The new date for the World Indoor Championships will be two weeks after the European Indoor Championships, which will be held in Torun, Poland from March 5 to 7 next year.

2. "Due to the increasing number of countries affected by Covid-19, the first three meetings of the 2020 Wanda Diamond League season cannot be held as planned." With this announcement, the organizers of the meeting series announced the postponement of events in Doha (Qatar; April 17) and in China (May 9 and 16). For the meeting in Shanghai, which was scheduled for May 16, August 13 is targeted as an alternative date. The second event location in China had not yet been announced, this meeting could take place like the one in Doha following the Wada Diamond League final in Zurich (Switzerland; 9 to 11 September).

3. Also the "World Half Marathon Championships in Gdynia" (originally March 29, now October), the "World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships in Minsk" (originally May 02 - 03, now postponed indefinitely) as well as the "World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi" (originally July 7th - 12th, postponed indefinitely) are already postponed.

Moreover, the traditional all-around meeting in Götzis at the end of May has already been canceled ...

4. After the (provisional) cancellation of the Olympic Games, it is currently completely open as to whether Olympia will continue to rise in late summer 2021 - or will become spring games. But no matter which scenario the International Olympic Committee chooses with the Japanese hosts, the consequences on the sports calendar will be immense - even as far as Germany (and the other supporter countries) are involved. The European Football Championship have also already been postponed to 2021 (June 11 - July 11). In core Olympic sports such as swimming (July 16 to August 1 in Fukuoka) and Athletics (August 6 to 15 in Eugene), important world championships are currently still planned for the coming year. The German Basketball Federation also hopes that the Olympic relocation will have no impact on the European Basketball Championship (September 2-19, 2021) with the final round in Berlin. Particularly serious for Germany: if the World Championships in Athletics and the World Swimming Championships will be moved to 2022, there would be a conflict with the European Championships in Athletics 2022 in Munich (15.08. - 21.08.2022)!

The sporting year 2022 is already planned to be big, in addition to the European Athletics Championships (and another 7 sports!) in Munich there are also the Olympic Winter Games (February 4th - 20th, 2022) in Beijing, and the World Cup in Qatar (by chance / fortunately in late autumn, November 21 - December 18, 2022) already scheduled.

(In initial talks with the IOC and Tokyo, FINA and World Athletics have already signaled that their World Championships may have to be moved to 2022 ...).

Side note: The World Indoor Championships in Belgrade / Serbia from March 11th to 13th, 2022 was not explicitly mentioned in the above explanations, because it plays a rather subordinate role in the context of these scheduling conflicts (because in spring). And the 22nd Commonwealth Games are still planned in Birmingham from August 27 to September 7, 2022 ...

5. And finally, there are already discussions of a postponement of this year's European Athletics Championships in Paris (if the Olympic Games in Tokyo are too dangerous until the first week of August because of the corona pandemic -- why should it be save to held European Championships only 14 days later in Paris?). A meeting (as a conference call) of the European Athletics Executive Board is currently taking place (March 24-25) in which, among other things, advice will be given on the consequences of the postponement of the Olympic Games. CEO Christian Milz told L'Equipe in an interview on Monday evening that a cancellation of the EM will not be an option - but it is already discussed, among other things, whether the European Athletics Championships would be postponed to a later date in 2020 or to June or September 2021! A press release will probably be issued in the next 2-3 days.

Wilfried Walter

(as of March 26, 2020)