

February 26, 2020

Lausanne, Switzerland

ISU Statement Coronavirus – ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2020, Seoul

The ISU is closely following the coronavirus developments. The ISU stands by all those who have been affected and threatened by this situation and wishes success to all those fighting to overcome the crisis, with the expectation and hope that the situation will be restored to normal as quickly as possible. The ISU expresses condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones due to this contagious disease.

In view of the planned ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships in Seoul/South Korea on March 13-15, 2020, the ISU was especially monitoring the situation in the Seoul area. The ISU was informed through the Korea Skating Union that the competent authorities of the city of Seoul ordered the closing of the Mokdong Ice Rink and the cancellation of all planned competitions.

The ISU therefore is unable to hold the ISU World Short Track Speed Skating Championships 2020 at the above-mentioned planned date. The ISU thanks the Korea Skating Union for their efforts to prepare for this Event and for their cooperation during the critical monitoring phase leading up to this decision.

Taking into account the uncertain world-wide development of the coronavirus, the limited and uncertain available time slots during the coming weeks and the logistical challenges of potential organizers and participating teams, a postponement and/or relocation of the Championships would be difficult to achieve. Nevertheless, a postponement and/or relocation of this Championships might be considered if the circumstances would allow so in due time. Before taking a final decision, the ISU will remain in close contact with the Korea Skating Union and ISU Members.

The ISU regrets that the most important annual Short Track Event cannot be staged as planned but believes that under the current circumstances ISU Members, Skaters and fans will understand this decision.