

Dear IDO-friends!

Dear friends of the IDO-World Show- and Tap dance Championships in Riesa, Germany!

First let me explain a bit more about the circumstances which I think I owe to you.

The FVG Riesa mbH, TAF-Germany and I personally have done all to make these wonderful Championships 2021 in Riesa possible and to find solutions to run them. Believe me, we discussed any "mouse hole" possible.

The detailed Hygienic Plan has been accepted by the very supportive Health Authorities in Meissen, Saxony last Tuesday, October 5, 2021 and by our great partner, the FVG Riesa. All was set and ready. In a way we were "ready to go".

Differently than a national championship where everybody is from the same country speaking the same language and relying on the own country's health service an INTERNATIONAL event is totally different.

There are different rules in the various countries about vaccination and testing. Some countries are rated "High Risk" or in other words "red signed". The testing may be different and the treatment of the restrictions to avoid infection from person to person.

To have round about 400 – 700 dancers per day plus supporters in one hall could only be possible if everybody can be sure each person around her/him is also safe, which means they have to be vaccinated, cured or tested. This brings a safe feeling to everybody in the hall and prevents infection of others.

But – and unfortunately - we must not forget, even vaccinated or cured people can bear the virus and possibly infect others – without feeling any pain.

The Health Authorities in Meissen strictly demanded to create something what they called an "arena-bubble" where everybody is on the same safe level. This means EVERYBODY in the hall has to be tested each day before entering the hall. The dancers, judges, technical persons, the caterers, Christa and Michael Wendt, Ralf Josat, Seamus Byrne, EVERYBODY!

This would also create more daily expenses for the dancers and supporters, additionally to your tests at home for crossing the border or boarding your busses.

If you test many people you will have some positive results.

This is an experience from the Olympic Games 2021 in Tokyo where everybody was tested every day and though some of the athletes were tested positively. They had to go into immediate quarantine or to return home at once. These extra expenses were paid by the national Olympic federations. Here and now in Riesa they would be paid by the dancers, better to say by the families. In my eyes this is not possible for the families.

And now we come to the question: What shall be done with the positive results? Immediately it will be traced whom this person might have been with in the last time and possibly infected: the room mates, the whole bus, a formation...?

They all have to go into quarantine of 10 or 5 days (if they can "test them-selves free").

Shall we send the whole bus home so the whole trip was in vain? Horrible thoughts and lost money.

And what happens if somebody gets really ill and has to go into hospital in Germany?

And what about the money spent to come to Riesa and now you have to return possibly without having even participated, or not being able to dance in the next round though qualified? Is this fair or acceptable? No!

What happens if we have to stop the whole event and send everybody home – even the ones who are tested negatively?

This whole issue of “positive testing” is the “killer-argument” for us because nobody can foresee this.

I – Michael Wendt - and the FVG Riesa and TAF-Germany do not want to bring anybody from any country who is our dear and beloved guest in Riesa in such an unfortunate situation! I see it as my personal responsibility as organizer (and grand-father☺) to take this into consideration – together with the City of Riesa.

And believe us, we were so excited to get “IDO-in-Riesa” going this year! Same as you who prepared yourselves for many days and weeks at home to come and dance on the great stage in the SACHSENarena with a roaring crowd. And also to finally escape out of the unlucky and frustrating lock-downs everywhere.

I hope you all have followed my foreseeing advice since months: “Don’t book anything before you get a “Go” from me!” So no money was spent in vain.

Anyway and anyhow “Riesa 2021” will not be possible.

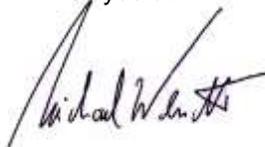
From the bottom of my heart I hope we can see you all in Riesa in 2022. Many German virologists predict the COVID19-pandemic will be over in the (Northern Hemisphere) summer next year.....

Let us hope for the best to we meet again – healthy and happy - and dance and gain for the next rounds, the finals, for gold!

Best regards from your “pretty sad”

MW

I miss you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Wendt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Wendt