

## Press release

Lucerne, 17.06.2020

## Cancellation SwissCityMarathon – Lucerne 2020

**The SwissCityMarathon – Lucerne cannot be held in the desired form this year. Therefore the organizers cancel the event from the end of October. The future of the SwissCityMarathon – Lucerne is guaranteed. The next event will take place on 31 October 2021.**

### No "normal conditions" in 2020

The observance of minimum distances between people (physical distancing), the traceability of personal contacts (contact tracing), the limitation of event sizes or even the uncertainty of a second wave in the autumn entail an indeterminable risk for major events like the SwissCityMarathon – Lucerne. Under these conditions, a careful organisation and execution of the event in the intended form and quality is not realistic.

"It takes courage to cancel an event of this magnitude. But it creates clarity for everyone and gives us the opportunity to minimise the damage, evaluate possible alternatives and start planning the 2021 event today," says OC President Jost Huwyler, explaining the early decision. After all, the health of the more than 11,000 participants, the 60,000 spectators, the 1,500 helpers, the entire OC and all partners involved has top priority.

### SwissCityMarathon is more than just a run

"Our event is characterized above all by the ambience, the support along the route and the entire supporting programme. I am thinking of the distribution of start numbers including the Expo at the Hotel Schweizerhof Lucerne, the free travel by train and boat, the running passages through the FCL Stadium and the KKL or the atmosphere at the finish in the Swiss Museum of Transport. If this folk festival character is reduced or even eliminated, the soul of the event is also missing," Huwyler continues.

### Hosting 2021 guaranteed

The SwissCityMarathon – Lucerne was held for the first time in 2007 and has since established itself as a top running event in Switzerland with an international field of participants. "Thanks to the proactive discussions with our partners and their support, we are able to bridge this year and are pleased that the event is secured for 2021," says Managing Director Reto Schorno, looking optimistically into the future. The entire organizing committee is all the more looking forward to the 2021 event and is motivated to offer the athletes a unique running event in Lucerne once again. The next SwissCityMarathon – Lucerne will take place on Sunday, 31 October 2021.

## Registered runners have the choice

Already registered runners will be contacted by e-mail. They will receive a link where they can choose what to do with their entry fee 2020. They will be able to choose between the options: Free start for 2021, donation of the entry fee, receipt of an online voucher (less CHF 10.00 handling fee) valid for 3 years until SwissCityMarathon – Lucerne 2023 or refund of the entry fee (less CHF 20.00 handling fee). Vouchers issued from the previous year but not yet redeemed remain valid until one day before the SwissCityMarathon the following year.

## Series of events planned

In order to be able to offer loyal fans and enthusiastic runners starting opportunities with a competitive feeling, the organisers and their partners are planning a real (and not digital) series of events in autumn. The idea is to bring the SwissCityMarathon – Lucerne closer to the people and give them a positive goal. It is expected that 10 small runs of 4.2 km each (which makes the total marathon distance of 42 km) will be organized at different locations with the permitted number of participants.