



Press Release 18: WRM 2007 will not be hosted in Qatar

Yesterday it became clear for the ETBF Presidium that Qatar Bowling Federation has decided to cancel the World Ranking Masters 2007.

The cancellation, which comes with a very short notice since the WRM 2007 was supposed to be conducted 30 April - 6 May in Doha, was apparently necessary because the roof of the bowling centre needs a repair in exactly the period, where the WRM 2007 should have been played.

We received the information from the WTBA Secretary General yesterday, who also could inform us that there is no actual solution to this suddenly occurred situation.

Basically there will be two possible solutions; either to cancel the WRM 2007 completely or to locate another host with a very short notice. We were informed by WTBA, that a final decision will be taken at the latest 28 February.

The situation is indeed very regrettable for the sport of bowling in general, for the ranking system in specific and of course not least for the players qualified for the WRM 2007.

Besides being regrettable for many reasons, a cancellation of the final for the three zone tours are far from acceptable for ETBF, and the ETBF Presidium have therefore immediately decided to take action in a number of areas.

Non refundable air tickets

If no WRM 2007 will be conducted, ETBF has requested WTBA to raise a financial claim for Qatar Bowling Federation, with the purpose to fund players who have documented non refundable air tickets, already booked for the WRM 2007 for them selves and eventually companions.

Financial compensation for the 16 players qualified from Europe

ETBF keeps € 20.000, which should have been used for players travel and accommodation support for the WRM 2007 and for Europe's part of the WRM 2007 prize money.

If no WRM 2007 will be conducted, the € 20.000 will be divided equally among the 16 qualified players from Europe and soonest possible after a decision from WTBA is known, each player will receive € 1.250 as a financial compensation for the non conducted ranking final.



EBT Masters as of 2008

The ETBF Presidium wants to eliminate any risk of another similar situation ever to occur again, and it is therefore decided to introduce an independent European Bowling Tour final - **THE EBT MASTERS** - which will be conducted for the first time in 2008, based on the end standing of the women and men divisions of the European Bowling Tour 2007.

Originally the EBT Masters was meant to be played for the first time in 2009, but as a consequence of the very unfortunate situation for the WRM 2007, the ETBF Presidium decided to expedite the conduction of the first EBT Masters with one year.

The creation of an EBT Masters, and following changes, are described in a separate press release concerning the EBT Masters in the future.

We will, naturally, keep you posted about any development in the WRM 2007 situation in the coming period.

Kim Thorsgaard Jensen
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