



Press release

Gstaad, May 11th, 2021

The Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad 2021 is cancelled

Following the announcements of the cantonal authorities of the canton of Bern, the Organizing Committee of the Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad tournament unfortunately had to take the heavy decision to cancel the 2021 edition.

"We waited until the last moment before incurring significant expenses to decide if we could organize our next tournament which was to be held August 19th-22nd. It is with great regret that we have to cancel it for the second year in a row. This is totally beyond our control", announces Pierre E. Genecand, President of Polo Gstaad.

The Bern cantonal authorities only granted a very limited authorization to reception possibilities, despite the "special COVID" versions presented to them. An event welcoming only partners' guests, limiting the audience, and thus allowing a tracking system, had been proposed. But catering is prohibited during the tournament, which is a major handicap for the organizers.

Indeed, the Swiss regulations are specially designed for events taking place in stadiums with numbered seats and for shorter shows or matches. *"It was inconceivable to accommodate our guests in small tents and ask them to stay strictly in their place, without the possibility of eating, while they spend an entire day next to the polo field,"* said the President.

If the Committee had to decide so quickly, it was also because it was given a deadline of May 15th for the repair of the field which has suffered greatly from snow and frost over the past two winters. It is essential to have a perfect soil with a well-planted grass to withstand the gallop of the horses.

"It was a very difficult decision to make but unfortunately we had no choice. The tournament must keep its standards, the announcements received make it impossible to hold the event. However, we look forward to working on the 2022 edition to find all our partners, players and people involved in the organization. I would like to thank my Committee again for having worked relentlessly over the past months to try and find organizational solutions that we hoped would be compatible with Swiss regulations", confides Pierre E. Genecand.

The public and players will be able to meet again at the tournament from August 18th to 21st, 2022, hoping that this pandemic, still so present today, will be behind us.

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