

Position Statement by the Lausanne Hockey Club Following the Federal Council & National League's Recent Decisions

The Lausanne Hockey Club understands, respects and applies the measures set forth in order to combat the Coronavirus Pandemic. Along with its peers, the Club has invested significant amounts towards expenses and personnel costs for the establishment of a protection plan which was validated by cantonal health authorities, and which proved successful as several matches were held safely at the Vaudoise Arena.

The Lausanne Hockey Club's business model is based on **income derived from games played in front of spectators at a rate of 90%** (60% from ticketing and catering, and 30% from sponsoring), while it is based on **income derived from television rights at a rate of only 10%**. We have contractual obligations towards our **supporters**, our **partners** and all of our **employees**, including our **players**, who form the core of our main activity, and who have already accepted financial concessions. As professional hockey careers are relatively short, and players benefit on average of only 5 years to maximize their abilities and their earnings, it would be unfair to consider further reductions of player salaries as a politically imposed emergency solution.

Accordingly, the Lausanne Hockey Club awaits **a financial aid plan** from the authorities providing compensation to an entire sector of activity currently deprived of the vast majority of its income. Similar to the event, the catering and the hotel industries which are also in a critical state, professional sport represents thousands of direct and indirect jobs which face a serious threat without federal support, as does the social and cultural impact that sport has on our communities.

The reasons exposed above have led the Lausanne Hockey Club to recommend **a temporary suspension** of the Championship to the League. In our view, the continuation of the National League Championship is only viable **under two conditions**: either the safety of the sanitary situation improves sufficiently to allow the return of a minimum of two thirds of seating capacity; or, a government aid plan comprised of subsidies rather than loans compensates the loss of income generated by the absence of spectators.

The Lausanne Hockey Club intends to maintain all its efforts to ensure the continuation of the National League Championship under economically acceptable conditions, including a schedule that can be adapted until the summer of 2021, if necessary. The survival of the National League and of its clubs depends on it, and must receive absolute priority.