



Statement

Monday 2nd February 2009

Today, a Surf Life Saving GB delegation, are attending an International Lifesaving Federation Board meeting in Germany, which represents Lifesaving around the World. Surf Life Saving GB have reported to the ILS Board that they cannot run the full R2010 event as originally proposed.

The R2010 Life Saving World Championships held every two years, is one of the largest multi disciplinary sporting competitions in the World. Competitions take place in a 50m pool, on the beach and in the sea and include; National Teams, Interclub and Masters Lifesaving World Championships.

Surf Life Saving GB bid for, and won, the rights to host the event back in 2007. However, during 2008 encountered major issues around the requirement for a 50m pool, as there is no such facility in Devon or Cornwall, this has been compounded by the huge infrastructure required for an event with 4,000 competitors, all at a time when the economic climate has made generating corporate sponsorship and grant funding difficult.

Surf Life Saving GB have therefore reluctantly informed ILS that it cannot host R2010 in the original format, but have said they would consider hosting a scaled down event with National Teams only.

The International Lifesaving Federation is now considering this and all the other options that have been brought to the Board at this time. A decision will be made by ILS within the next few weeks.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

Surf Life Saving GB is a charity dedicated to making our beaches safer by providing skills and training for lifeguards. During the last 50 years well over 20,000 rescues have been made on our beaches by lifeguards, most of whom have come from the volunteer ranks of the Surf Life Saving Clubs where they learn their patrolling and rescue skills. There are now around 65 Surf Life Saving Clubs, with 4,500 members aged from 7 – 70 years.

Life Saving Sport is a display of the skills developed and used in life saving rescues, and has developed into a major sport in its own right. The Life Saving World Championships held every two years, is one of the largest multi disciplinary sporting competitions in the World. Life Saving Sport is the only sport with a community and humanitarian purpose.

For further information please contact Esther Pearson Fundraising & Communications Manager 01392 218007 epearson@slsgb.org.uk

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