

## Press release

### **ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS 2023 under the motto "Horse & Rider, Trust, Teamwork, Passion"**

Zurich/Dielsdorf, 19 July 2023 - **The international tournament "ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS" will once again take place at the Horsepark Zurich-Dielsdorf from 23 to 27 August 2023. After last year's successful premiere, the organising committee led by initiator and tournament director Yves von Ballmoos has defined the strategy for the future and made various improvements to the infrastructure and tournament organisation. A particular concern is the development of a sustainability concept under the motto "Horse & Rider, Trust, Teamwork, Passion". The ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS are under the patronage of the Swiss Youth Jumping Academy (SYJA). As a highlight, the Swiss Sport Horse Association (VSS) will once again organise the traditional Suisse Elite Foal Auction on Saturday evening. The announcement, the programme and all information can be found on the ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS website at [www.youth-masters.ch](http://www.youth-masters.ch).**

Preparations for the second edition of the international ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS are in full swing. Over five days, there will be international competitions in four different age groups: Three CSIO series with Nations Cups as qualification for the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Youth Final in the categories Children (U14), Juniors (U18) and now also Young Riders (U21), whose GP also counts towards the international BEMER Young Riders Tour. In addition, the CSI-U25 offers an opportunity for ambitious young riders under the age of 25 to get started. The best riders will again receive wildcards for the CHI Geneva (YR) and the CHI Basel (J). More than 150 riders with more than 300 horses are expected, as well as a large audience from Switzerland and abroad. The announcement is available on the website and the deadline for entries is 26 July 2023.

#### **Creating sustainable structures**

In order to secure the long-term future of the ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS, the Organising Committee (OC), led by initiator and tournament director Yves von Ballmoos, has defined a strategy for the future. The aim is to continuously supplement and replace the OC with young people in the coming years. As the organiser of an international junior tournament, the OC also feels a special obligation to create sustainable and future-proof structures in order to avoid negative impacts on the environment and to increasingly assume social responsibility. To this end, the OC of the ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS has created the "Sustainability" department as part of its new strategy and, in the spring, developed the cornerstones of a sustainability strategy under the motto "Horse & Rider - Trust, Teamwork, Passion". The first step is to collect data and hold discussions with relevant stakeholders.

#### **Promoting and rewarding positive behaviour**

"We want to address the partnership between horse and rider and make the young people aware of this," says initiator and show director Yves von Ballmoos. "In junior sport, mutual trust is even more important than in elite sport. Young riders are more likely to make mistakes. In a team you help and appreciate each other. It creates positive emotions. It is the most beautiful thing in our sport when rider, horse, groom and

parents hug each other and enjoy each other's company. This is only possible with trust, teamwork and passion, hence our motto "Trust, Teamwork and Passion".

The first concrete measures will also be implemented. One of these is the STT Horse Welfare Award, which will be presented during the show and is based on the behaviour of the competitors both in and out of the arena. "It is important for us to put the issue in a positive light for the riders and to promote best practice solutions instead of issuing bans," says Yves von Ballmoos.

### **Improvements planned for infrastructure, travel and gastronomy**

The show management of the ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS wants to optimise three essential points for 2023: The gastronomic offer, the travel of the competitors and their horses and the power supply of the whole site, especially the truck parking areas. A lot of time and money has been invested in these areas to make the show a positive experience for both spectators and competitors. These improvements have been made in close cooperation with the two Zurich Equestrian Masters Tournaments, which also take place at the Zurich-Dielsdorf Horse Park in the weeks leading up to the ZU-RICH YOUTH MASTERS, and provide significant savings in infrastructure costs for both organisations.

### **Reimbursement of customs costs**

Unlike intra-European traffic, crossing the border into Switzerland requires a temporary importation of the horses. The show management of the ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS will reimburse the costs for the necessary customs formalities (ATA carnet or free pass) to participants from abroad. All information on this subject can be found on the ZURICH YOUTH MASTERS website.

### **For questions and further information:**

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