

1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

### Joint statement of the Czech Swimming Federation

The Czech Swimming Federation strongly condemn the invasion of Russian soldiers with the support of Belarus government to sovereign state of Ukraine. The Czech Republic also has the experience of the Soviet invasion in August 1968 which was justified by the similar statements from the Soviet side as of now the invasion to Ukraine.

The Czech Swimming Federation welcomes the decision made by FINA to cancel the FINA Men's Water Polo World League and FINA Artistic Swimming and Diving Series which should have been held in Russian Federation. We also welcome the decision to remove the organization of the World Junior Swimming Championships from Russia. The Czech Swimming Federation also requests relocation of the World Short Course Swimming Championships from Russian Federation.

The Czech Swimming Federation will not attend any events in the territory of Russian Federation or Belarus till the war act end because of the protection of our athletes. The Czech Swimming Federation will also not accept any participation of both Russia and Belarus National Teams or clubs which are members of mentioned countries in the Czech Republic.

Even though, it is a very delicate and difficult topic, the Czech Swimming Federation requests FINA and LEN to suspend Russian Federation and Belarus, even in the form of neutral athletes from all international aquatic events till the war act end by peaceful treatment.

Czech Swimming Federation by this statement offers help to Ukraine Swimming Federation to secure accommodation, meal, material and training conditions for necessary time and cooperation in securing their stay in the Czech Republic.

The Czech Swimming Federation asks the citizens of the Czech Republic not to behave inappropriately to Russians and Belarusians living in the Czech Republic.



Petr Ryska, CSF President