



## **Official ERSO Statement on the subject of Vivien Vajda's false starts in the 30 Seconds Speed and 3 Minutes Speed events of the EM2010.**

The combination of the following unfortunate circumstances during the EM2010 has created a very unpleasant situation:

- Vivien Vajda's 30 Second Speed event was judged by internationally qualified judges from Belgium, Denmark and Hungary. Two of the three judges agreed that they had both seen a false start. The 3rd judge was busy with Vivien Vajda at the time that the score and the False Start was written on the score sheet.
- The unofficial scores displayed by BRSF directly after the 30 Second Speed event did not include the deduction for a false start. This meant that no one was aware of a possible problem until the final results were distributed after all events.
- Apparently members of Vivien Vajda's club did not see the official results in the time between them being handed out to the heads of delegation and the medal ceremony. This resulted in Vivien Vajda and her club being first confronted by the official results during the medal ceremony.

Upon receiving a complaint from Vivien Vajda's club during the medal ceremony, ERSO showed the original score sheet including the False Start to the people complaining and requested three different internationally qualified judges to independently watch the spectator video that was submitted as evidence. After watching the video separately, these judges each came individually to the conclusion that, although it was a close case, Vivien Vajda had in fact made a false start in the 30 Seconds Speed event.

Concerning the spectator video of the 30 Second Speed event that is presently available in Internet, ERSO would like to point out that this video is NOT the same video that was presented to ERSO as evidence during the event in Antwerp. The original video shows the skipper from the front, which allows the total movement of Vivien Vajda's arms to be seen. The Internet video shows Vivien Vajda from behind and consequently does not show the situation as clearly as the video that the judges watched on the spectator's camera directly after the medal ceremony. However, a frame by frame video analysis of the internet video still clearly shows that Vivien Vajda's arms start moving before the word "Go" has been completely called out. This can also be seen when viewing the Internet video using the slow motion mode of windows media player.

The conclusion is: According to Chapter 2, Article 7 of the official international rule book, Vivien Vajda made a false start in her 30 Seconds Speed event.

Concerning Vivien Vajda's false start in the 3 Minute Speed event: After checking the video evidence directly after the medal ceremony, the additional judges agreed that Vivien Vajda's start in the 3 Minute Speed event was NOT a false start. The results published on the ERSO Website have been adjusted accordingly.