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Swiss Eastern Selects – a brand is being buried

For 40 years, the Swiss Eastern Selects organisation (formerly Team Zurich) has been a platform for peewee talents from German-speaking Switzerland and Ticino to compete in the best peewee tournament, the International Peewee Tournament in Quebec. For 40 years, the team put together by our organisation has successfully taken part in this tournament in Quebec every year. During this time, our travel group has spent in Quebec around CAD\$ 200,000 annually on hotels, buses, excursions, meals and shopping.

In July 2024, we were refused participation in the 2025 tournament in writing but without justification.

This after CEO Patrick Dom had already verbally excluded us from further participation in the tournament without justification on 12 February 2024 and had refused us any kind of communication several times.

His intervention was triggered by our tournament game against the Ukraine Selects. Because we were already leading 5-0 after the first period, the OC President and the CEO asked us not to score any more goals. Because we were unable to do that during the second period, Patrick Dom immediately excluded us from future participations when the score was 7:0.

From that moment on, we were refused any kind of communication

During the break before the third period, with the score at 9-0, we instructed our team not to score any more goals and we won 9-0. A few days later, a Canadian team defeated the Peewee Lions from Zurich 12-0. However, no sanctions were imposed on the Canadian team! Politics in action!

The way in which the tournament management publicly discriminated against us in all tournament games is absolutely unacceptable. In this case, politics were clearly put before sport and tournament games were influenced. This clearly shows a demonstration of power and, above all, weakness when communication is refused!

We are still puzzling over possible reasons that could have led the tournament OK to take this step and who might have influenced Patrick Dom..

For years, Swiss Eastern Select had always organised its participation independently and worked very well with the tournament organisation. We were always welcome everywhere and respected by everyone.

Over time, this has brought certain advantages, such as additional free services in the hotels, at Swiss, in the restaurants, from the pin manufacturer and, last but not least, from Autobus Laval, which has always provided us with the Peewee bus for the last 10 years.

However, our independence and privileges have also been a thorn in the side of some, including travel agents, some participating team organisers and associations, and not least the Peewee organisation.

What is interesting from our point of view is that all this happened after Swiss Eastern could no longer count on the support of EHC Kloten, the Zurich association formed a separate cantonal team with the ZSC, the HCD was trying to get a place in the tournament and Patrick Dom was already well informed about everything before I arrived in February 2024.

Well, nevertheless, at least the Zurich U-13 talents still have the opportunity to participate in the tournament with the Zurich Peewee team.

The talents from Ticino and the other German-speaking Swiss cantons (except Graubünden) will certainly miss our platform.

Because our organisation was completely geared towards participating in the Quebec International Peewee Tournament and we can no longer participate, we are forced to disband Swiss Eastern Selects.

For the Swiss Eastern Selects

Bongo Stauffacher,