

08 NOV. 2016

Jiří Řezáč  
Skrétova 48  
30100 Plzeň  
Czech Republic  
extremni.plavani@seznam.cz

Mr Cornel Marculescu  
Executive Director  
FINA Headquarter

Avenue de l'Avant- Poste 4  
1005 Lausanne  
Switzerland

October 14, 2016

Dear Mr. Marculescu,

First of all, let me express to You the warmest wishes from Your longtime colleague František Štochl, my lasting team mate and functionary.

I would appreciate, if You could help us in some questions concerning to long distance pool swimming. Mr. Štochl assisted me with my effort to solve these questions with Czech Swimming Federation. At last he proposed to contact personally You through my first letter from april 11, 2016.

With reference to that letter, I devote to the long distance pool swimming with my contingent wards. Our team has established large amount of czech national records in all age categories and using all swimming styles. We consider couple of our achievements so considerable and so unique, that we wish to discover if these endeavours could be recognized as the world records.

With this aspiration we contacted the Guinness World Records, as the official register of all world's "best". Our confusion from this organization must be expressed. Not the rejection of our claims, but the process of justifications is the reason of our dissatisfaction. Our young swimmers team with average age 10 years 7 months holds the czech national record in 24 hours relay. Guinness World Records rejected this effort and declared that claims of people younger than 16 years are not registered, although my own Guinness Book of Records 1988 (published: Olympia, Prague, Czech Republic, 1990) registeres a trial (14 hours 37 minutes) of the youngest swimmer ever crossed the La Manche Channel (age 12 years 53 days) in the category "Long distance swimming". Simultaneously our further endurance swimming achievements in butterfly, back stroke, breast stroke, freestyle and medley were not accepted, because the Guinness World Records does not categorize swimming, as the rest of the world, into 4 swimming styles - butterfly, back stroke, breast stroke, freestyle, but concentrates only on the fastest lap ever. The slowest stroke - breast stroke and the most strenuous stroke - butterfly are automatically disqualified from the records, although all the other sport sectors are coupled into several categories and sections.

Because our claims either with youngest swimmers group or with swimming in all 4 strokes were not accepted, we have focused our interest only to the world's largest relay. Neither age of the swimmers nor the swimming style, but only the distance 1000 km broken in small group became the goal of our achievement. Although similar relay of 20 athletes at distance 601 km 180 m performed between 17.2.1987 and 26.2.1987 is registered in the Guinness Book of Records 1988 (published: Olympia, Prague, Czech Republic, 1990), our achievement has been again rejected.

Because the official standpoint categorizes our proposal as "a little too specialised for a body of reference as general as Guinness World Records", we recognize the only way for our success in direct contact and cooperation with the International Swimming Federation FINA. Despite the personal support of Mr. Štochl, we were not able to obtain any statement from the Czech Swimming Federation, as the national FINA member, until the summer 2015. As the result, Mr. Štochl initiated our letter from april 11, 2016 to contact directly You, as the FINA Executive Director and the supreme swimming instance.

I would be most obligated if You could inform us whether FINA registers world records for 24 hours, 100 km, 1000 km relays and 50 km individual butterfly swimming. We would be grateful if You could send us more detailed information about current records, rules and conditions of these achievements.

Thanking you in advance for Your assistance in this matter.

Respectfully Yours

Jiří Řezáč

