

## SWEDISH HISTORICAL EUROPEAN MARTIAL ARTS FEDERATION

19<sup>th</sup> November 2013

On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013, we received information about the suspension of the member of the Polish Federation of Historical Martial Arts FEDER – Mr Jan Chodkiewicz – from participating in events organised or co-organised by the Swedish Federation of Historical Martial Arts for the period of one year. This document presents the stance of the Polish HEMA Federation on this surprising decision.

Although we condemn the words and threats used by Mr Chodkiewicz, we would like to point out to the context of the exchange (see the attached video) between Mr Chodkiewicz and Mr Reinier van Noort. Mr Chodkiewicz's actions were caused by indignation at the attitude of Mr van Noort, whose behaviour towards the cheering audience, coaches, and competitors during Swordfish 2013 was disgraceful. Mr Chodkiewicz's actions were the result of civil courage and moral objection to the crude assault of the Referee, to which even the organisers and other participants of the incident did not react, even though the agitation of the official Polish representation was equal. We regret that the level of the exchange was improper, but we are also aware of the fact that it was caused, apart from the above-mentioned reason, by language barrier and unfamiliarity with the context of the phrase "shut the fuck up," used in a Facebook post by Mr van Noort. We would like to emphasise that our aim is not to attack Mr van Noort, although his behaviour did not escape our notice (including the physical assault on Mr Chodkiewicz and his verbal aggression towards the cheering audience), but in our opinion punishing only one of the participants of the incident publically is simply not fair, especially as the image of Polish HEMA has suffered due to the situation.

HEMA attracts more and more people every day. One of the reasons is the fact that HEMA gives a sense of community and friendship. Therefore, we are asking for lifting the suspension of Mr Chodkiewicz, while assuring our good will and the desire to develop positive relations with the Swedish HEMA Federation and the global HEMA society.

**Barbara Chlebowska**

*President of the Board*

**Piotr Paprzycki**

*Vice-President of the Board*

**Anna Stępień**

*Vice-President of the Board*