## PRESS RELEASE

## **APITY**

Our statement on IRAN.

## (Over the past few days it has come to our attention that rumours and misinformation have been circulating on the internet and via social media. this statement is a response to those comments)

We had been looking forward to our joint appearance together with the Iranian Football Federation at the World Cup in Brazil. We have been supporting the Iranian Association since 2012 and have maintained a strong relationship, especially via our distributor in the region. The news in the last few days have left us shocked and shaken and we therefore feel required to make our position clear.

uhlsport has been delivering the products to the Iranian Association as requested. The claim that players have not received sufficient soccer jerseys for the tournament is wrong and absurd. None of the soccer jerseys made for the World Cup can be worn for another match, as the national flags of both teams as well as the date of the match are imprinted on the chest. Iran will certainly receive the necessary number of jerseys and apparel for all games. This has been planned since the beginning and we have seen this as to being taken for granted.

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We have used the same standards for Iran as we use for every other association or club that we work with. Based on the designs of our collections, we create individual adaptations using the partner's colors and emblems. This process always takes place in cooperation with the association and this has also been the case with the Iranian Football Federation

The claim that our polyester goods shrink is just as wrong and absurd and is, considering our extensive testing, incomprehensible. We have experienced no shrunking issues with any of our professional football clubs.

Involvement in a partnership can lead to outfitters being faced with various interests. We continue to maintain a partnership-like and constructive relationship with the Iranian Football Federation. Other forces hoped to gain direct personal advantages from our partnership with the Federation. We have clearly stated our clear refusal. We will not allow ourselves to be pressured into accepting the personal demands of individuals. Subsequently there has been an increase in alleged problems with our collection, which have now escalated. Players unfortunately often allow themselves, imprudently, to be misused for this purpose.

(translation of the original German version)

Any further questions? We are happy to help.

Best wishes, PR/ Neue Medien uhlsport GmbH **Angie Seemann** PR@uhlsport.de

