

FIS Covid-19 Media Guidelines

Protect Yourself, Protect Others

Introduction:

The International Ski Federation has the goal to allow as many journalists to cover its World Cup competitions as possible in accordance with National Government Regulations and the capacity of Local Organizing Committees.

The health and safety of all stakeholders on site is the number one priority of FIS.

The following are guidelines for those working in media operations at FIS events. It is important to note that the local and national government regulations will always take precedent and all individuals working in media operations should respect all regulations in place at every venue.

This document is meant to provide all stakeholders with guidelines and best practices on how to cover the various World Cup competitions. As the pandemic continues to evolve, so too will these guidelines. Anyone with any feedback is welcome to email communications@fisski.com

Respect the Rules

FIS is counting on all stakeholders to act responsibly and to maintain a high level of personal hygiene, including constant and thorough handwashing, minimising physical contact with others and using common sense in all daily interactions.

It goes without saying that should any journalists experience any symptoms of Covid-19, these should be reported immediately to the medical team on site.

Pre-Event Testing:

All stakeholders will be required to show proof of a negative Covid-19 test. Details of the FIS Covid-19 World Cup Risk Management and Testing Protocol can be found [here](#)

Important: If the Pre-Testing Protocol is not followed, it will result in either an accreditation not being issued, or revoked.

For Journalists:

Before the Event:

Accreditation will be limited at all venues. Priority will be given to agencies, followed by major national newspapers, industry publications and so on. If space is limited, freelance journalists will need to provide a full list of clients to be considered for accreditation. For photographers, the procedure will be the same. In Alpine, those on the A1 list will have first priority.

No season accreditations will be granted. All journalists must apply on a venue-by-venue basis.

Should there be a venue that does not permit any journalists or photographers, FIS will publish rights-free photos and sound cloud audio clips for use by all media. The links to these resources will be communicated via the discipline WhatsApp channels.

All journalists must follow the Pre-Testing protocol. Failure to do so will result in accreditations not being granted or revoked

Journalists are expected to keep themselves up-to-date with each destination's travel regulations. FIS and the LOC take no responsibility for any quarantine measures in place for travel between two nations, nor for any measures that arise while an event is ongoing.

On site:

General

- If possible, media should attend the event using their own transport.
- Masks must be worn by journalists in all indoor accredited areas when not seated at a working station. The wearing of masks in outdoor accredited areas is subject to national regulations and those communicated by the LOCs. All journalists should bring enough masks to last through any event. The mask needs to cover both the nose and mouth.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided by all LOCs, however it is recommended that each journalist travel with his/her own supply.
- Journalists should limit their movements between the official accredited areas and their hotel only. In some venues, not following these regulations and going outside the 'bubble area' may lead to an accreditation being revoked.
- The paths at venues might change significantly and it is likely that the shortest routes may not be available since the various groups cannot mix.
- Media will not be able to have direct access to athletes, competition areas or team zones (except Mixed Zone) as per the group designations in the Testing Protocol.

Mixed Zones

- The mixed zone will have double fencing of at least 1 meter between athletes and journalists.
- On the journalist side of the fence, social distancing should also be obeyed, however to allow freedom of movement in the mixed zone, barriers will not be built on the journalist side of the mixed zone, Journalists are expected to respect social distancing guidelines amongst each other.
- Athletes should wear masks everywhere except the Field of Play (finish area). This includes leader boards, live interviews and mixed zones.

Interviews

- All in-person interviews must be conducted in the mixed zone, or as agreed by the teams. Availability of mixed zone slots will depend on the space available on-site.
- Due to the increased distance between the athletes and journalists, it is recommended that journalists invest in a 'selfie stick' or boom stick to get the recording device close enough to pick up the athlete's voice during mixed zone interviews.
- All microphones should have a plastic cover over the foam that is replaced after each interview. The microphone should stay only with the athlete and the journalist should not speak into it as well.

Photo Zones

- A decision about designated photo positions on the courses will be made individually for each event. If social distancing cannot be maintained for on-course positions, masks will need to be worn.
- Photographers will not be able to enter the finish areas to take photos of the ceremonies. Instead, the podiums will be placed in such a way that photos of the ceremony are possible from the photo stands in the finish.

Press Conferences, Written and Audio Statements

- Athletes will not attend press conferences in the media center. They will be live streamed on a GoToMeeting channel that will be communicated at each event. Journalists will have the opportunity to type in any questions for the athletes.
- If media numbers are greatly restricted, audio statements will be distributed by the FIS Media team. Information about the services in different disciplines can be obtained in the discipline-specific WhatsApp groups and media guides

For the Organisers

Before the event:

- All accredited zones should be measured and the number of available accreditations determined based on the social distancing guidelines at the given venue.
- Tables in the press center should not face each other unless a barrier is installed.
- Should there be a larger main press center and smaller sub-press center at the finish area, accreditations may be separated into two categories and marked with journalists who are permitted to access the smaller sub-press center.
- Should the mixed zone also have restricted space a similar marking system (sticker or otherwise) may be implemented to grant access to priority journalists.
- If a journalist does not have access to the sub-press center and/or mixed zone, it should be communicated to them when they are granted their accreditation as this may have an impact on their decision to attend the race – and will allow them to pack enough clothing should they not have indoor access at the finish area.
- Accreditations should be pre-printed and available for pick-up in the press center and/or media hotel. Where security allows, photos should not be on accreditations to avoid unnecessary contact at the accreditation center.
- Catering and journalist working areas should be separated to reduce interaction
- Ideally, media representatives should be accommodated in separate hotels or on separate floors from the other groups listed in the Testing Protocol.

During the event

- While each journalist is expected to have their own mask, organizers should be prepared to have extras on site should they be needed.
- Hand sanitizer should be provided at every entrance to accredited zones (mixed zone included) and kept filled throughout the day.
- All catering should be either 'grab and go' ex: sandwiches or served by one designated person to the journalists. There should be no self-serve food to avoid spreading of germs on items such as serving utensils.
- Organizers should be prepared to provide a room for post-race press conferences with a moderator and camera man (normally a TV commentator box should have the space). The link for the live stream will be provided to each Chief of Press.
- Organizers are strongly encouraged to set up a non-venue mixed zone where teams can book times for interviews with various media. The mixed zone should follow all social distancing guidelines, while giving media a more relaxed chance to interview athletes outside the finish area mixed zone.
- When possible, volunteers should stay at the same post throughout a given event weekend to help with any necessary contact tracing.
- All working areas should be disinfected and cleaned throughout each competition day.
- Should a shuttle transport system be necessary, plan extra shuttles with more space to allow for social distancing. When this is not possible, all passengers must wear a mask.
- Temperature and privacy permitting, doors to indoor venues and bathroom facilities should be left propped open to minimize unnecessary contact with door handles, etc...
- Since there is increased distance between the journalists and athletes in the mixed zone, music after the event should be turned down or off completely.

Covid-19 Communications Guidelines

Communication flow due to Covid-19 positive test

Should an individual directly involved with any FIS World Cup competition test positive for Covid-19, the following procedures should be followed to allow for a clear communication flow.

These procedures involve all stakeholders associated with the World Cup competitions. The servicemen, LOCs, rights holders, etc. are should follow these procedures.

Upon receipt of a positive test, the team/individual shall immediately inform the FIS personnel on site (in most cases the Race Director). The Race Director will inform the FIS Event Task Force of the situation, who will assess the next necessary steps.

At this time, no external communication should be made by the team/individual until the FIS Event Task Force can assess the situation.

Once the assessment is made, official information will be communicated via the FIS Official Communication system for the given discipline. The Official Communication will not contain names of individuals involved, or details. It is meant strictly to inform that a person has tested positive and any necessary next steps involved.

Should timing permit and all parties agree, the information can be communicated by the FIS Race Director at the Team Captains Meeting to facilitate faster communication. Following any announcement at a TCM, the Official Communication will still be sent.

At this time, the teams/individuals may also put out information to the media with more detail about the positive case, if desired.

Following the Official Communication, FIS will only answer media inquiries that pertain directly the competition and any impact on the calendar. All health and team-related questions will be referred to the teams/individuals involved.

Please note these guidelines refer only to the external communication of a positive test. Informing the local authorities should follow the government guidelines in place at the time and in the region.

Communication flow due of change to the calendar due to Covid-19

Should there be a change to the calendar due to Covid-19 (cancellation, change of date, change of venue, etc.) this will be communicated via the FIS Official Communication system for the given discipline once the change has been confirmed by the FIS Race Director.

Local Organising Committees, National Ski Associations and any other involved stakeholders should not make any public statements about any calendar changes until the FIS Official Communication has been sent.