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FIS Covid-19 World Cup Risk Management and Testing Protocol

Introduction

The FIS Covid-19 World Cup Risk Management and Testing Protocol defines the procedures, requirements, roles and responsibilities for the persons who are an integral part of carrying out FIS World Cup events to take measures to the best extent possible to minimise any risk of Covid-19. This protocol is a lively document and might be subject to updating as scientific knowledge and best practices are developing.

National Health Regulations are paramount. The FIS Protocol has been established to support the measures defined in the respective nations in order to provide guidance for implementing consistent standards and procedures in all countries staging FIS World Cup events, **and at the same time set a mandatory FIS minimum requirement standard.**

The respective FIS World Cup Event Health Regulations/Hygiene Concept for each Organiser/Event established in accordance with the respective national health regulations will be published on the FIS website with the overall event and programme information for the participants to check in advance of travelling. **Ideally, each LOC will offer an online information session to the assigned C19 Liaison Officers prior to the event to present its concept.**

There are four population groups who are subject to compulsory adherence to this protocol who are closely interacting in the staging of FIS World Cup **and selected other FIS Events.**

1. Athletes, Team Support Staff, Equipment Service
2. FIS Officials
3. **Other** Accredited Groups: Broadcasters, Rights Holders, Sponsors and Partners, Event Management, Timing & Data Service, Suppliers, Event Service Teams, etc.
4. Local Organising Committee: Officials, Personnel, Workforce, Volunteers

Targeted intelligent test protocols will be defined for each population group. For example, some LOC personnel and some members from other groups (group 3) will be allowed exemption from the FIS minimum testing requirements if they do not interact with members of the other groups. In such cases, it is of utmost importance that the groups do not mix amongst each other, but will stay separately within their own bubbles (inside and outside the competition areas!).

Responsibility and Discipline of all Persons

In order to ensure the FIS World Cup and an event is not placed at risk from a Covid-19 outbreak and consequences, it is the responsibility of every person to adhere to this policy, follow all procedures and instructions and behave in a disciplined manner at all times.

A breach of discipline protocol will lead to withdrawal of accreditation, such as going to locations with others present that are not subject to the protocol, i.e. bars, hotspots during the Event. **The FIS Event Task Force can also suggest further measures for approval by the FIS Council.**

Testing prior to arrival at Event / Venue and Health Questionnaire

Every person who wishes to access a FIS World Cup Event must have and present a negative Covid-19 RT-PCR Test (saliva/swab test) result carried out prior to arrival/accreditation (72 hours) and complete a Health Questionnaire (see Annex 1).

Exceptions are normally a proof of a previous infection. The type of proof has to be clearly outlined by the LOC in its protocol.

Testing on arrival and during the Event (training and competition days)

It is expected that all population groups and persons make their own arrangements to have an up-to-date RT-PCR test result on arrival at the Event, to facilitate their access and accreditation. **Should this not be the case, the LOC ideally has an option in place for on-site testing to fulfil the pre-arrival requirement in exceptional cases.**

In addition, to pre-arrival testing, an on-site testing programme must be put in place by the LOC. This might include full-field testing, testing in case of symptoms, testing in case of returning from certain countries with high incidence rate etc. The LOC is requested to find the best and most intelligent solution to balance costs, convenience, quick results and quick follow-up testing if required. Following guidance is given:

- **As a minimum, easy access to testing for symptomatic persons with fast turnaround analysis**
- **Consider offering saliva testing instead of nose/throat swab (convenience)**
- **Consider rapid testing/Antigen**
- **Consider self-testing kits that are being administered under close supervision of a medically qualified person**
- **Review different options: contracting a local lab, international sample collection providers, local medical set-up solution and compare costs to choose the best option between quality and costs**

Results Recording and Monitoring

Testing dates, results **and other medical documentation** will be self-recorded by the person in the “Covid-19 FIS Passport”.

The data will be stored in the FIS centralised platform that conforms to GDPR personal data privacy regulations. It will be used by the LOC C19 Health Coordinator and FIS Covid-19 Expert to monitor and determine any further actions which may arise in the event of a positive case.

Test Execution

Costs for Testing

Costs for pre-arrival and on-site SARS-CoV-2 testing arranged by the Organiser and national health authorities are carried by the person or responsible group (i.e. Teams, FIS, Organiser for workforce, Stakeholders as groups and/or individual persons i.e. journalists, etc.)

Covid-19 Positive Sample

A positive result will automatically be reported to the national authorities and national procedures for isolation will be applied in accordance with the national regulations:

Event Task Force action

- The FIS Event Task Force which consists of one representative from FIS (e.g. Race Director, Admin representative), the LOC and NSA C-19 Liaison Officer, (ideally a member of the FIS C-19 support group), and the LOC Health Coordinator representing the national health authorities to instruct the person of their obligations and to decide on eventual further mitigation measures. In accordance with the national authorities' procedures, this will require immediate isolation and self-quarantine and declaration of contact persons during e.g. the past 72 hours (as defined locally). All persons in current contact with the positive test carrier must undertake a PCR test and isolate/self-quarantine until their result is received.
- The positive PCR sample shall also be sequenced for the SARS CoV-2 variant.
- Communication of the positive test and consequences, notably in the case of an athlete, e.g. non-eligibility to compete for a defined number of day/s will be communicated in accordance with the FIS Covid-19 Communications Policy (annex 2 below).

Support of FIS

FIS expertise is permanently available to the Local Organising Committee, as well as all other groups and persons in regard specifically to the FIS World Cup Risk Management Covid-19 Testing Protocol through the FIS Covid-19 Expert. For other Covid-19 medical and health-related matters the members of the FIS Medical Committee Covid-19 Project Group are at disposal. For non-specific matters other persons will manage the question including the FIS Competition Management and FIS Administration and a network of expertise in a wide range of areas.

Annex 1 - Health Questionnaire

	NO	YES
Have you had any symptoms (cough, runny nose, sore throat, difficult breathing, loss of taste or smell) during the last 14 days?		
Have you had any of the following symptoms during the last 14 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fever - Chest pain - Headache - Nausea/vomiting - Diarrhea 		
Have you been in contact with someone with a proven infection with Covid-19 during last 14 days?		
Have you been in quarantine during the last 14 days?		
Have you tested positive to the PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) test during the last 14 days?		

Signature: _____

If there is evidence of an acute infection you will be provided with a mask, the medical personnel are equipped and isolation will be required. The local public health authority will be notified, and their protocols will be followed. An accreditation will not be issued until you have been cleared by the local public health authority.

Athletes and accredited persons should be reassured that declaring travel from high risk area will not preclude participation, but that they should expect to be more closely monitored.

The personal information provided is treated strictly confidentially by the Local Organising Committee and FIS. It will only be used for the purpose of assessing whether the applicant can be granted or maintain accreditation in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local and global public health requirements will determine the length of time the data is retained.

Annex 2 - FIS Covid-19 Communications Policy

FIS World Cup Communications flow for a Covid-19 positive test

Should an individual directly involved with any FIS World Cup competition test positive for Covid-19, the following procedures will be implemented to assure the communication flow.

This applies to all stakeholders: team support personnel, equipment technicians, broadcasters and rights holders, event service support, etc.

Upon receipt of a positive test, the team/individual shall immediately inform **the LOC C-19 Health Coordinator. The LOC C-19 Health Coordinator will confidentially inform the FIS contact on site (e.g. Race Director) as well as organise a FIS Event Task Force online call** (one representative: FIS, LOC, NSA **C-19 Liaison Officer** and the LOC Health Coordinator, FIS C-19 med group rep) of the situation, who will assess the next steps necessary.

No external communication may be made by the team/individual until the FIS Event Task Force has assessed the circumstances.

Once the assessment is made, official information firstly to the designated contact for the positive case to inform about the communication flow. The first external information will be made through the FIS Official Communication system. It 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 be appropriate and all parties agree, the information can also be communicated by the FIS Race Director at the Team Captains Meeting to facilitate additional communication to the key stakeholder group, namely the athletes. Following any announcement at a TCM, the FIS Official Communication will still be sent and if cleared information about the person involved if this is cleared.

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 team/individual/group 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.

Annex 3 – How to deal with persons with a previously diagnosed C-19 infection?

Return to Competition Policy/Individual Review – Responsibility by LOC C-19 Health Coordinator

The LOC shall be prepared to be faced with requests on how to deal with previously with C-19 infected individuals.

It will be necessary to include this (as well as the definition of “contact persons”) in the discussion with the Local Health Authority prior to the event.

It is strongly recommended to have such policies (at least internal policies for individual case reviews) in place well before the event to be able to give clear information, decide quickly and to be supportive to participants as best as possible.

The main issue seen recently by scientific studies is that previously infected persons have a large chance of producing another positive PCR result still within weeks after having completed the isolation period, as well as being symptom free (for at least 3 days), (Reference is made e.g. to the german-based “Robert-Koch Institut” www.rki.de). Such a situation would cause an obvious and significant disadvantage for this individual.

Layer 1 – National rules of C-19 positive results

Should an individual test positive for Covid-19, the individual needs in first instance to follow the national rules that apply. (in most cases this is immediate isolation for a specified period of time; in some cases this includes follow up testing after a specified time etc).

FIS has no authority to interfere with nationally applied quarantine rules (also when it comes to “contact persons”).

Layer 2 – Reporting of C-19 positive results to FIS Passport

The individual is kindly asked to report a positive result immediately also to the FIS Passport so follow-up actions can be implemented. (e.g. result after having left from a recent FIS event; as well as for future event participation review).

Layer 3 – Return to Competition & Individual Review by LOC C-19 Health Coordinator

After the individual has completed isolation/quarantine, the individual must consult the LOC C-19 testing protocol and requirements for participation.

Scenario 1 – the LOC has a **general policy for return to competition** in place, e.g. has identified that every person who can show proof of a previous positive C-19 infection between **e.g. 6 months and 2 weeks** prior to arrival, as well as at least 3 days symptoms-free, will be allowed to participate (**without another test**). **This normally follows the regulations of the Local health Authority.**

Scenario 2 - the LOC does not have a general policy on return to competition in place, the individual shall have the opportunity to ask for an **individual review by the LOC C-19 Health Coordinator** of her/his status for participation.