

# FIS Covid-19 Ceremony Guidelines

## Celebrate Safely

### **Introduction:**

As the second season with Covid-19 protocols in place begins, FIS fully understands the frustration of stakeholders to get back to 'normal'. Unfortunately, Covid-19 is proving to be a tough adversary and entering the 2021-22 season, the majority of the safety protocols from the previous season will need to remain in place to ensure the safety of all stakeholders and the maximize the chance that the entire season can take place uninterrupted.

The goal remains to portray the emotions of succeeding in World Cup competitions while keeping athletes safe 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 everyone involved in ceremonies at FIS events. All people involved in ceremonies should respect all regulations in place at every venue.

**These guidelines need to be followed by all stakeholders, regardless of vaccination or immunity status.**

This document is meant to provide all stakeholders with guidelines and best practices on how to carry out ceremonies at World Cup competitions. As the pandemic continues to evolve, so too will these guidelines. Anyone with any feedback is welcome to email [communications@fiski.com](mailto:communications@fiski.com)

## **For Athletes & Teams:**

From the time athletes leave the exit gate/field of play, masks should be worn. This includes leader boards and, mixed zone, changing areas and restricted areas.

During live TV interviews, athletes should keep their masks on. Under no circumstance should an athlete feel obligated, if asked, to remove a mask for an interview.

*\*Note: the FIS Athletes' Commission has stated that it feels that it sends a better example to viewers at home if athletes wear masks during the such interviews.*

Athletes should wear a mask at all times during official ceremonies. If the last athlete down the course is a part of the ceremony a mask will be handed to them once they have had a chance to catch their breath.

Athletes should not shake hands, hug, etc. with the other athletes on the podium. Of course, safe gestures of respect: elbow bumping, nodding, bowing etc. are encouraged. Athletes should maintain all social distance guidelines until they leave the ceremony area.

The leader bib will be handed to athletes on the podium, or before the ceremony, for them to put on themselves.

There will be no joint pictures on the top step of the podium, all athletes should remain on their step through the ceremony.

If requested by the Chief of Photography, the athletes may briefly remove their masks after the anthems for a photo opportunity, while remaining on their own podium step. Should an athlete not wish to remove their mask for the photo op, their decision will be fully respected.

The athlete should continue to wear the mask through the rest of the accredited zones.

## **For the Organisers:**

All ceremonies should be staged inside the finish area as this is a secure 'red zone' that the athletes can freely enter.

Any personnel involved in the ceremonies must wear a mask at all times and must enter the finish area before the athletes have been lined up for the ceremony.

Team personnel cannot enter the ceremony zone, nor can there be any team celebration pictures after the ceremony.

There should be at least a meter of space between the podium steps to allow for proper social distancing. In the case of Team Event podiums, staggering the steps is also recommended.

If there are any Presenters, they must be accredited in the same bubble (red) as the athletes and may not at any time come into the green bubble zone.

All presenters must be approved by FIS and should be implemented only when absolutely necessary. Presenters should be in place before the athletes are lined up on the opposite side of the finish area from the athletes and must wear masks and protective gloves if handing off a prize.

Ideally, there should be a second entrance to the finish/ceremony area for the presenters, however, it is clear that this option is not always possible. Should there be no second entrance, all ceremony personnel should have no contact with any athlete.

Any prize should be sanitized directly before the ceremony presentation.

If there are no presenters, the prizes can be placed on each podium step before the ceremony starts.

There should be a maximum of three presenters. Presenters may not physically contact any athlete and all prizes should be placed on the podium step and not handed off directly.

Any additional people involved in the ceremony must be approved by FIS (honour guard, mascots, etc.) and may only be located on the opposite side of the finish area from the athlete entrance. Unless it is a sponsor obligation, such individuals should not be located in the finish area during the ceremony and should be kept to a minimum.

No one other than people directly working with the ceremony, may enter the finish area during the ceremony, including team staff, LOC representatives not involved in the ceremony, etc. This includes photographers, who must shoot from their assigned platforms.