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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 part of FIS World Cup events to minimise any risk of Covid-19 infection. This protocol is subject to updating as scientific knowledge and best practices develop. **The latest update is delivered based on the spread of the latest Variant of concern (VOC) “omicron”.**

National Health Regulations are paramount. The FIS Protocol has been established to support the measures defined in the respective nations 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 minimum FIS requirement standard.

The 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 participants to review before travelling.

Ideally, each LOC will offer an online information session for the Stakeholder’s C19 Liaison Officers prior to the event. Additionally, FIS has prepared a summary template for easy reference so participants can review the details of the LOC protocol (entry to the country, Test details, etc).

There are five **population groups** (respectively parts of these population groups) that are subject to compulsory adherence of this protocol.

1. Athletes, Team Support Staff, Equipment Service
2. FIS Officials
3. Media¹
4. Other Accredited Groups (identified through close working relationships with Group 1 and 2): Broadcasters, Rights Holders, Sponsors and Partners, Event Management, Timing & Data Service, Suppliers, Event Service Teams, etc.
5. Local Organising Committee (identified through close working relationships with Group 1 and 2): Officials, Personnel, Workforce, Volunteers²

¹ Individuals not working in close contact with the red group will be exempt from the mandatory PCR Testing, which is at the discretion of the LOC Covid Officer on site in collaboration with FIS. (e.g. having more than 1,5 m distance during all operations)

It is of the utmost importance that the groups do not mix amongst each other, but stay separate in their own bubbles (inside and outside the competition areas!).

Especially with the situation where “tourists” are accommodated in team hotels, **STRICT SEPARATION OF RED BUBBLE AND OTHER GUESTS** must be implemented.

This includes at a minimum: meals without buffet style; eating rooms separated for red bubble; if possible assign separate floors.

Furthermore, the LOC should make all efforts to make sure the hotel personnel is subject to a certain testing and hygiene protocol (whereby minimum standard masks are used at all times, ideally testing prior to the FIS event, as well as show proof of vaccination).

All side events, such as bib draws, shall be kept to an absolute minimum and whenever red bubble participants are requested to attend, the bubble going to and from the event venue must be maintained. Numbers of participants at indoor events may become restricted on short notice, so backup solutions should be considered and should be rolled out as required.

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, 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, such as going to locations with others present that are not subject to the protocol, i.e. bars, hotspots during the Event, as well as incomplete or false information for the FIS passport accreditation will lead to undisputable withdrawal of the accreditation. The FIS Event Task Force can also suggest further sanctions subject to approval by the FIS Council.

USE OF MASKS

Masks (Medical/Surgery masks or FFP2/KN95 masks as the preferred choice) are mandatory in all accredited areas (with a special focus on indoor spaces, as well as crowded outdoor areas), as well as official event related areas (including accommodation, side events etc).

Masks should be worn (covering mouth and nose) by all accredited individuals regardless of immunity and vaccination status.

TESTING PRIOR TO ARRIVAL at Event / Venue (“Pre-entry”) 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 result carried out **not more than 48 hours** prior to arrival/accreditation, uploaded to the FIS Passport as soon as the result is available (for the LOC to check your status) and complete a Health Questionnaire (see Annex 1 as example).

² The majority of the LOC will most probably be subject to local hygiene protocols dependent on local development and pandemic situation. However, all LOC personnel working closely with groups 1 and 2 must be subject to the same FIS standards outlined in this document.

The above pre-testing requirement is mandatory for all accredited individuals (as identified in population groups above) regardless to immunity and vaccination status.

It is expected that the stakeholders make their own arrangements to have an up-to-date RT-PCR test result prior to arrival at the event uploaded to the FIS Passport system, to facilitate their access and accreditation. Should this not be the case, the LOC ideally will have on-site testing in place to fulfil the pre-arrival requirement in exceptional cases.³

RETURN TO COMPETITION after an INFECTION

Scenario 1 – **8 days** after positive result and a negative PCR prior to the event – permitted to participate in event

Scenario 2 – **8 days** after positive result and a positive PCR prior to the event – **Exemption request** for individual assessment of the entire C19 infection history and complete testing results (incl CT values if possible) by completing the exemption request [form](#)

(Day 1 = Date of sample collection)

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Positive PCR Test	Quarantine	Quarantine	Quarantine	Quarantine	Quarantine	Quarantine	Request FIS for an Exception
PCR test							

TESTING DURING THE EVENT (training and competition days) or C19 PREVENTION PROOF (vaccination)

In addition to pre-entry testing, an on-site testing programme/Covid19 Prevention proof must be put in place by the LOC.

This includes testing in case of symptoms and testing **after every 48 hours** for non-vaccinated (details to be found in the LOC protocol as agreed with FIS, the on site-testing date/time is set within the LOC programme, and not calculated on individual arrival/departure days).

In other words, Covid19 vaccinated (valid vaccination status) persons do not need to undergo on-site testing after providing the initial PCR test upon arrival.

The LOC is requested to find the best solution to balance costs, convenience, quick results and quick follow-up testing if required. The guidance is:

- As a minimum, easy access to testing for symptomatic persons with fast turnaround analysis, PCR (only PCR!)
- Consider offering saliva testing instead of nose/throat swab (convenience)

³ This does not implicate an obligation for the LOC to have pre-arrival testing options available, but assistance to testing options should ideally be provided since these must be available for e.g. symptomatic cases on site.

- PCR testing is preferred, and rapid testing/Antigen should be considered only in cases where logistics does not allow otherwise⁴. **Should Antigen method be chosen, those tests are only valid for 24 hours**
- 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

Vaccination Status, Results Recording and Monitoring

Vaccination status, testing dates, results and other medical documentation will be self-recorded by the person in the “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 Administration 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 and regulations for isolation will be applied:

Event Task Force action

- The FIS Event Task Force which consists of a representative from FIS (e.g. Race Director, Admin representative), a representative from the the LOC, the NSA Covid19 Liaison Officer (of the respective NSA is applicable), (if available ideally a member or manager of the FIS Covid19 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, respectively in line with the additional FIS LOC Guideline). All persons in contact with the positive test carrier must undertake a PCR test and isolate/self-quarantine until their result is received.
- In case more than 1 infection is detected during an event, all persons in the red bubble must be tested. Repeated tests at 3-5 days after the initial detection of the onsite infections must be performed to detect a possible mass infection during the event. The details of this situation (date when initial infection was detected, when subsequent tests

⁴ The FIS C19 Medical Support Group strongly advocates for PCR testing only

need to be performed in whom) needs to be communicated to FIS and the LOC of the next FIS event.

- 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.

LOC Support to affected persons

- Prepare for isolation rooms and logistical support
- Prepare for medical and mental support for persons being sent to isolation/quarantine
- Support with communications to Local Health Authority
- Continue support after the event until the person has left isolation/quarantine

Support of FIS

FIS expertise is always available to the Local Organising Committee, as well as all other stakeholders in regard to the FIS World Cup Risk Management Covid-19 Testing Protocol through the FIS Covid-19 Experts. 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 Example

Pre-event Health Questionnaire

	NO	YES
Have you had any cold symptoms (cough, runny nose, sore throat, difficult breathing) 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 - Loss of taste or smell 		
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 (excluding quarantine based on travel regulation/boarder crossing)?		
Have you tested positive to the PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) test during the last 14 days?		

Daily Health Questionnaire (optional)

	NO	YES
Do you have a fever of 38.0 degree Celsius or higher?		
Are you coughing more than usual, especially dry cough?		
Do you have shortness of breath?		
Do you have loss of taste and/or smell, stuffy nose, unusual aches, abnormal fatigue, unusual headache, or nausea/vomiting and diarrhea?		
Have you tested positive to the PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) test during the last 14 days?		