

Guidance for the use of the WHO Risk Assessment tools in the context of COVID-19 - ICSD version

Guidance for ICSD Event organisers ("OCs") during the current outbreak of COVID-19

In view of the current outbreak of COVID-19, this disease-specific and event-specific risk assessment and mitigation checklist has been developed by WHO for use by host countries and event organizers, to assess the specific risk of COVID-19.

The ICSD has slightly adapted the wording in the document, mainly by replacing the initial term "mass gathering sporting event" by "ICSD Event". Under the ICSD Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic, which applies to all ICSD Events, all OCs of ICSD Events must carry out a risk assessment of their Event in terms of Covid-19 transmission, using the present document.

The following risk assessment and mitigation checklist should be used in conjunction with the "WHO Mass Gathering Sports Addendum Guidelines" - OCs should consider the term "mass gathering" in it as synonym of "ICSD Event" in this context.

In order to accurately provide answers the following risk assessment and mitigation checklist, OCs must be knowledgeable on the current COVID-19 outbreak. OCs should reference the daily global COVID-19 situation reports provided by WHO as well as the national COVID-19 situation reports, if available.

The tool must be completed in this Excel spreadsheet (see following tabs), as the scores are automatically calculated there. Once the tool is completed, the scores received in the Excel spreadsheet for both sections will appear in the decision matrix found on the final tab ("Overall risk scores") for the Event's overall risk score to be determined.

It must be ensured that this risk assessment is conducted with input from local public health authorities and that the necessary personnel with expertise in mass gatherings, risk assessment, epidemiology, and infectious disease control measures are included from the initial stages of planning.

For the final determination, factors under consideration include:

- the current stage of the COVID-19 outbreak and known transmission dynamics
- the geographical distribution and number of participants, and their individual risk profile
- the risk assessment tool
- the mitigation measures that are currently in place or feasible and any discipline-specific guidance issued by the ICSD.

It is important to remember that while mitigation measures can reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections, they cannot completely eliminate the threat. It is WHO's view that all countries with community transmission should seriously consider postponing or reducing sport events that bring people together and have the potential to amplify disease, and support the recommended best practice of physical distancing. Any decision will be supported through the use of WHO tools, in particular this risk assessment tool.

If movement restrictions and further national measures have been established in the country, the risk assessment does not apply.

However, when the process of re-opening/conducting mass gatherings is being considered post movement restrictions, it will be key to ensure any decisions are based on a risk assessment, such as the WHO Mass gatherings COVID-19 risk assessment.

Risk assessment for COVID-19

The questions below will enable OCs to review the additional considerations specific to sports, and thus inform their risk assessment of COVID-19 associated with their Event. This will help OCs understand and manage any additional risk from COVID-19.

The risk assessment should be reviewed and reassessed regularly during the planning phase and updated immediately prior to the transition to the operational phase, especially in light of the rapidly evolving nature of the outbreak. Reference should be made to the latest technical guidance and situation reports on the WHO website.

The risk assessment for COVID-19 associated with the Event must be coordinated and integrated with the host country's national risk assessment for COVID-19. The person completing the questionnaire should include input from the local public health authorities, consult WHO's latest technical guidance and ensure that there is an up-to-date evaluation of the epidemiological situation.

Please answer Yes (1) or No (0) to the following questions to determine a risk assessment score that incorporates factors specific to sporting events

Additional risk of COVID-19 to the sporting event	Yes (1)/No (0)	Score
Will the event be held in a country that has documented active local transmission of COVID-19 (community spread)?		0
Will the event be held in a single venue or multiple venues/cities/countries? (single venue = 0; multiple venues = 1)		0
Will the event include international participants (athletes and spectators) from countries that have documented active local transmission of COVID-19 (community spread)? (NB: if the Events does not involve spectators, please clarify this in the comments to the questions in relation to spectators in the "Mitigation Checklist" sheet)		0
Will the event include a significant number of participants (athletes or spectators) at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease (e.g., people over 65 years of age or people with underlying health conditions)?		0
Will the event include sports that are considered at higher risk of spread for COVID-19 (eg, contact sports)?		0
Will the event be held indoors? (Yes = 1; No = 0)		0
Total COVID-19 risk score		0

Mitigation checklist for COVID-19

Mitigation measures assess the current effort and planning to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 disease for the event. As mitigation measures can reduce the overall risk of the sporting event contributing to the spread of COVID-19, they should be taken into account after the risk assessment has occurred to gain a clearer understanding of the overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19, should the event be held. Together with the risk assessment score, the mitigation measure will contribute to the decision matrix and influence the assessment of the overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the event.

Topic	Key consideration	Score Yes/Completed (2), Maybe/In progress (1), No/Not considered (0)	Weighting	Total score	Comments
Understanding of the overview of the current COVID-19 situation by the OC	Have the relevant OC and responsible staff been informed about the latest available guidance on the COVID-19 outbreak (official web resources available from WHO, CDC, ECDC, UN, local public health authorities)? And are the OC and staff concerned committed to following the available guidance?		1	0	
	Is the OC aware of global and local daily situation reports as provided by WHO or local public health authorities?		1	0	
	Do the OC and responsible staff understand the risks and transmission routes of COVID-19, the steps that Event attendees can take to limit spread, the recognized best practices (including respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, physical distancing, etc.), and the travel restrictions adopted by different countries that may affect the Event?		1	0	
Event emergency preparedness and response plans	Has a contingency medical response plan for COVID-19 been developed for the Event?		3	0	
	Does the contingency medical response plan include information about how attendees should interact with the host country healthcare system (e.g. hotline/helpline telephone number, medical teams and first-aid points for the Event, local health care system)?		3	0	
	Is there an Emergency COVID-19 Outbreak Response Coordinator/Team in the OC or other structure structure for the Event with defined roles and responsibilities, coordinating the health preparedness and response planning for the outbreak?		2	0	
	Has the host country or OC requested support from WHO and/or local public health authorities ?		3	0	
	Has the OC acquired the following supplies to help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19?				
	Personal protective equipment (e.g. masks, gloves, gowns) for onsite medical personnel		3	0	
	Hand sanitizer and alcohol rubs/gels, tissues, frequently replaced soap canisters and closed bins for safe disposal of hygienic materials (e.g. tissues, towels, sanitary products) in washrooms and changing rooms		3	0	
	Hand sanitizers and alcohol rubs for all entrances and throughout the venue		3	0	
	If a person feels unwell/ shows symptoms of an acute respiratory infection during the Event:				
	Is there a procedure for athletes or spectators to clearly identify whom to contact and how to do so if they or other Event participants feel unwell?		3	0	

	Is there a protocol on whom the OC should contact in the host country to report suspected cases and request testing and epidemiological investigations?		3	0	
	Are first-aid services or other medical services in-place and equipped to support patients with respiratory symptoms?		2	0	
	Are there isolation rooms or mobile isolation units available onsite?		2	0	
	Are there any designated medical facilities that manage patients with COVID-19 infection in the host country?		2	0	
	Are there transportation services with trained medical professionals available to transport critically ill patients with severe acute respiratory infections to a hospital or to evacuate them from the host country, if necessary?		2	0	
	Has a cleaning schedule been developed to ensure the venue is clean and hygienic – wiping surfaces and any equipment regularly with disinfectant is strongly recommended (before, during and after the event and between each round of competition)?		3	0	
	Are there established screening measures , including temperature checks in place for participants at the point of entry, venues, routes and on-site medical facilities (first-aid points)? (Please specify in Comments what these screening measures include)		3	0	
	Is the host country conducting COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic tests ? (If Yes, please specify in comments the type of COVID-19 diagnostic test used)		3	0	
	Does the host country have a national public health emergency preparedness and response plan that can address severe respiratory diseases, including COVID-19?		2	0	
	Is there a preliminary agreement by the host country to provide care for any COVID-19 cases connected with the Event?		3	0	
	If the Event is for a duration of 14 days or longer, does the medical response plan for the event include resources and protocols for managing all public health interventions that would be necessary and supporting the national public health authorities if participants are infected and become unwell at the Event? (If the event is for less than 14 days, please score 0)		3	0	
	If the Event is for less than 14 days, does the medical response plan include protocols for OCs to notify all participants of possible exposure to COVID-19 if the OCs are made aware of any suspected or confirmed cases that attended the Event? (If the event is for 14 days or longer, please score 0)		3	0	
Stakeholder and partner coordination	Is there an established mechanism for collaboration and coordination between the health and security sectors , which is considered as crucial?		2	0	
	Are there agreed, clear and easily understood processes in place for reporting to external multi-sectoral stakeholders (including surveillance authorities, WHO, CDC, ECDC, etc.) and disseminating risk communication messages (Media)?		2	0	
Command and control	Is there a decision-making authority/body and an agreed procedure to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel the Event related to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak?		3	0	
	Are there arrangements to activate a strategic health operations centre if there are suspected COVID-19 cases in connection with the Event?		2	0	
	Have the OC and staff undergone training and exercises on personal safety procedures and emergency mitigation measures (including those specifically listed in this checklist)?		3	0	
Risk communication	Is there a risk communication strategy for the Event in regard to COVID-19?		3	0	

	Is there a designated person(s) to lead media activities and tasked with managing all external communications with national and international government officials, the general public, and the media? (If yes, please identify the spokesperson in comments)		2	0	
	Has there been monitoring of national and international media and social media established for rumours to be able to counter them early? (Please explain in the comments what protocols are in place for counter messaging)		2	0	
	Has coordination been set up with major official media channels and social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram so that messaging can be coordinated with, and assisted by, the platforms to provide targeted messaging from OCs (including messaging to counter fake news and rumours, and proactive messaging about the status of the sporting event, including changes)?		2	0	
Public health awareness of COVID-19 before and during the event	Has public health advice on clinical features of COVID-19, preventive measures, especially respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene practices, and physical distancing, been shared with all staff involved in the Event, athletes, the public, and personnel of all relevant stakeholders?		3	0	
	Has information on the at-risk populations been provided to all athletes, the public and others so they may make an informed decision on their attendance based on their personal risks?		3	0	
	Has public advice included information on the meaning of the following measures: quarantine, self-isolation and self-monitoring ?		2	0	
Surge capacity	Are there any surge arrangements in place in the event of a public health emergency during the Event - (i.e. suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19?				
	Do these surge arrangements include funding for mitigation measures?		3	0	
	Do these surge arrangements include stockpiles of equipment (e.g. personal protective equipment, etc.)		3	0	
	Do these surge arrangements include training of extra staff?		2	0	
	Do these surge arrangements include volunteers?		2	0	
Specific mitigation measures	Will there be daily health checks of athletes/competitors?		2	0	
	Will the athletes be separated from other groups , such as officials, support staff and spectators, to limit transmission?		2	0	
	Are there measures in place to limit the sharing of equipment, water bottles, towels, etc.?		3	0	
	Will athletes be given closed containers to allow for the safe disposal or storing of all hygienic materials (e.g. tissues, towels, etc.)?		3	0	
	Will the Event have designated seating for all spectators?		3	0	
	Does the designated seating provided allow for physical distancing between spectators (minimum of 1 metre)?		2	0	
	Have pre-travel health checks been performed on all athletes to ensure underlying co-morbidities, medications, allergies, etc. are documented?		2	0	

Sum of mitigation measures	0	0
Total mitigation score (%)	0	

Event overall risk score

The decision matrix takes the risk score and the mitigation score to provide a colour determination. This colour determination identifies the total risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the Event. The "Colour Determination" key below the decision matrix describes the total risk for each colour.

Total COVID-19 risk score (from "Risk Assessment" Tab)	0
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Total mitigation score (from "Mitigation Checklist" Tab)	0
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Risk Vs. Mitigation Matrix

Total Risk Assessment Score	Very Prepared to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts (76-100)	Somewhat Prepared to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts (51-75)	Somewhat Unprepared to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts (26-50)	Very Unprepared to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts (0-25)
0 - Negligible	Very low	Very low	Very low	Very low
1 - Very Low Risk	Very low	Very low	Low	Low
2 - Low Risk	Low	Low	Low	Moderate
3 - Moderate Risk (low-moderate)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
4 - Moderate Risk (high-moderate)	Moderate	Moderate	High	Very High
5 - High Risk	High	High	Very High	Very High
6 - Very High Risk	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

KEY FOR COLOUR DETERMINATION OF OVERALL RISK	
VERY LOW	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the Event is considered <u>very low</u> .
LOW	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the Event is considered <u>low</u> . Recommend checking whether mitigation measures can be strengthened.
MODERATE	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the Event is considered <u>moderate</u> . Recommend <u>significant</u> efforts to improve mitigation measures or reduce risk of transmission (decrease risk assessment score).
HIGH	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the Event is considered <u>high</u> . Recommend <u>significant</u> efforts to improve <u>both</u> mitigation measures and reduce risk of transmission (decrease risk assessment score).
VERY HIGH	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the Event is considered <u>very high</u> .