



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

NOC Relations Department

Ref. No. 2020/JML
By e-mail only

Presidents
Secretaries General
National Olympic Committees

Lausanne, 08 May 2020

Dear NOC Presidents and Secretaries General,

In our discussions with many of you, we are aware that a number of National Olympic Committees have published COVID-19 prevention guidelines for event organisers in your respective territory or similar guidelines directly for athletes and National Federations related to the steps to return to training and event preparation.

In this regard we, along with the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission and its Chair Prof. Uğur Erdener, are pleased that these documents are based on the WHO guidelines which we have previously highlighted. Please see again the link to the WHO Risk Assessment for Sport Events and Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/points-of-entry-and-mass-gatherings>.

This document provides a COVID-19 risk assessment and mitigation checklist for use by host countries and mass gathering organizers. It also includes an operational tool which offers guidance for organizers holding meetings during the COVID-19 outbreak and which should be accompanied by the WHO COVID-19 Generic Risk Assessment Excel file. It should be read in conjunction with WHO's key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak (Interim guidance).

As noted previously, it is WHO's view that all countries with community transmission should seriously consider postponing or reducing mass gatherings 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 the Risk Assessment for Mass Gatherings during COVID-19.

If movement restrictions and further national measures have been established in the country, the WHO 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.

The detailed links to the various WHO tools are noted below:

- [Access the publication](#)
- [Access the tool](#)
- [Access the decision tree](#)
- [Access the publication for sports federations / sports event organizers](#) (uploaded 15 April 2020)
- [Access the tool for sports federations/sports event organizers](#) (uploaded 15 April 2020)

You can also have this information in [NOCnet](#).

The IOC, and in particular the Medical and Scientific Department, would be very happy to support you in the development of any guidelines, following a number of discussions and guideline review with both NOCs and also IFs. This can help ensure that any guidelines reflect international standards and best practice can be shared among stakeholders, which is very important in providing clear and appropriate information to National Federations and athletes. Please contact the undersigned for further information on this.

In this regard we are also currently aggregating a reference library of guidelines on Athlete365, including those of the WHO, NOCs and IFs. This will be available and communicated to all NOCs, athletes and IFs shortly and will be available through NOCnet.

The IOC Medical and Scientific Department is also currently creating an additional dedicated section of the IOC website to collate scientific papers and articles on COVID-19 and sport. This web page will act as a credible clinical and scientific source for medical teams involved in athlete care. We will confirm the details of this once it is launched and it will also be linked through NOCnet.

We greatly appreciate your attention to the WHO guidelines as a reference and look forward to supporting you in any guidelines you may be planning to create. Please pass on to us any documentation which you have produced and also let us know of your plans to produce any such document so we can provide maximum support to you.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership during this challenging time.

Many thanks and very best regards,



James Macleod
IOC NOC Relations and
Olympic Solidarity Director



Richard Budgett
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Director