



FINA COVID-19 REGULATIONS

MARCH 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

FINA acknowledges the extraordinary nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing difficulties for the organization of safe sporting events.

The aim of these FINA COVID-19 Regulations is to ensure that all steps are taken to mitigate the risk of infection for those involved in competition, understanding the risk cannot be completely eliminated. These Regulations provide a minimum standard for the health and safety of all athletes, staff and officials, with latitude for adaptation to individual circumstances.

The FINA COVID-19 Regulations shall apply to all competitions organized or sanctioned by FINA. FINA recognizes that government COVID-19 regulations and recommendations vary from country to country. Where these are more rigorous, they must supersede the FINA COVID-19 Regulations.

All participants at FINA Events (competitions and non-competitions) must respect these Regulations.

For all FINA-discipline, a discipline-specific document will also be made available.

2. BASIC PRINCIPLE

2.1 General Measures

Each participant is required to comply with the following infection prevention measures. As Participants, you must:



Wash/sanitize your hands frequently



Cough and sneeze into a tissue or the crook of your arm



Keep a face covering (mask) on, and replace it on a regular basis



Avoid shaking hands, hugging, kissing



Keep physical distancing wherever possible

- Immediately notify the LOC COVID-19 Officer and your team/delegation CLO (COVID-19 Liaison Officer Medical Coordinator) or FINA CLO if experiencing any symptoms (The CLO- will decide if these symptoms may be COVID-19 related).
- The athlete is strongly requested to leave the country where the event is being held, 48 hours after the end of their final competition, especially if this country has high numbers of infections.

2.2 Vaccination

FINA is committed to the welfare of all participating athletes and event-related personnel. We also respect our obligation to minimizing the risk of infection for residents of the host country. Therefore we **strongly recommend** COVID-19 vaccination for all attendees, using a vaccine proven effective in reducing infection and transmission of COVID-19 ([see WHO list of approved vaccines](#)).

2.3 Conditions of participation

FINA and the Local Organizing Committee may modify the conditions of participation as necessary taking into account the current/future situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.4 Registration

Each participating team must comply with the maximum number of athletes and accompanying officials allowed per country, to be registered for the Event. Individuals or teams who fail to comply with infection prevention measures and rules of conduct outlined in these Regulations will not be permitted to participate in FINA Events.

2.5 Definitions

The following are definitions of terms used in this document:

Participant: a person who has been accredited for the Event.

COVID-19 Liaison Officer (CLO): a delegation/team member responsible for; monitoring the implementation of COVID-19 countermeasures; acting as liaison to the organizers and FINA; supervising screening tests; and serving as a point of contact in case of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Physical distancing: refers to a distance of at least 1.5-metre between individuals.

Face coverings (masks): NOTE: medical masks (FFP2, N95, KN95 or equivalent) are preferable but surgical masks are also acceptable.

Fully vaccinated: a person who is considered fully vaccinated by her/his national health authority. NOTE: Full vaccination refers to the completed dose regime specific to the vaccine administered, and will vary accordingly. Attendees are recommended to carry official evidence of their vaccination status including dates of administration.

Recognized Vaccines: all vaccines recognized by the WHO.

Sanitizers: a range of disinfectants in liquid or gel form, that satisfying standards of infection control, preferably dispensed via touchless dispensers.

Personal protective equipment (PPE): clothing (gowns, gloves, face shields etc.) worn by individuals to avoid risks of infection.

Body temperature measuring device: A non-contact thermometer used to take body temperature.

COVID-19 PCR testing: polymerase chain reaction test for COVID-19, considered the “gold standard” for detection of COVID-19.

COVID-19 rapid test: an antigen test from a nasal swab producing a result in about 20 mins but with less accuracy than the PCR Test.

COVID-19 symptoms: The most common symptoms include sore throat, cough (usually dry), shortness of breath, chest pain, high temperature, sudden loss of smell and/or taste sensation, headache, general weakness and aching muscles. Gastrointestinal symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, or stomach ache may also occur.

Close contact : A close contact is defined as the roommate, or anyone who, within the previous 24 hours, has spent more than 15 minutes within a distance of 1.5 m from any person confirmed as COVID-positive, without undertaking appropriate infection prevention measures. Each case of suspected “close contact” will be investigated comprehensively, taking into account factors including surrounding environment and circumstances of contact, before making any decisions regarding isolation.

3. COVID-19 COUNTERMEASURES AND RESPONSES

All accredited Participants are subject to COVID-19 screening tests before and during FINA Events. Everyone must adhere to all COVID-19 countermeasure and responses described within these Regulations in addition to testing requirements. Individual details will be found in the specific event bulletin.

3.1 Bubble format

During FINA Events and until a major reduction in the pandemic, we will adopt a “Bubble format” where athletes and all accredited participants, plus any event-related persons are physically separated from those in the local community outside the bubble. Those within the designated “bubble” must:

- Monitor their health before entry to the host country (do not fly if you have any symptoms)
- Undergo pre-entry testing(s),
- Have periodical screening tests during the event,
- Use event-dedicated vehicles for travel,
- Limit daily activity to their accommodation, training facilities and competition venues.

3.2 Entry to the organising country (= Day 1)

3.2.1 Fully vaccinated participant

- 1 PCR before arrival (< 48 hrs, at own cost)
- No quarantine necessary
- Proof of vaccination

3.2.2 Non-vaccinated participant

- 1 PCR before arrival (< 48 hrs, at own cost)
- 1 mandatory PCR on arrival, at their own cost.
- Strict hotel room quarantine until a negative PCR result is reported.
- Approval to join “bubble” only on the official approval of the event CLO.

3.3 COVID-19 screening tests

To be adjusted based on the duration of the Event

3.3.1.1 Fully vaccinated participant

- Day 3 rapid antigen test
- Day 7 PCR
- Day 10 rapid antigen test
- Day 14 PCR

Organised and covered by LOC

If a PCR test before departure is required, the participant shall contact the LOC for assistance. **The costs will be covered by the participant.** (See point 3.4.5)

3.3.1.2 Non-vaccinated participant

- Day 3 rapid antigen test
- Day 5 rapid antigen test
- Day 7 PCR
- Day 10 rapid antigen test
- Day 12 rapid antigen test
- Day 14 PCR

Organised and covered by LOC

If a PCR test before departure is required, the participant shall contact the LOC for assistance. **The costs will be covered by the participant.** (See point 3.4.5)

3.4 If you are confirmed positive for COVID-19

3.4.1 Confirmatory Test

If your test results are unclear or positive, you will need to take a confirmatory nasopharyngeal COVID-19 (PCR) test.

If you are already experiencing symptoms

Please inform the LOC and your CLO. A dedicated vehicle will be organised to take you to the confirmatory test at a designated hospital. Wait for your result at the hospital.

If you are not experiencing symptoms

Immediately go to an isolation room at your accommodation or at the testing venue (as indicated by your CLO) to take the confirmatory test. A dedicated vehicle will be organised to take you if required. Wait for your result in your hotel room.

3.4.2 PCR test results interpretation

If a PCR (= PCR#1) is reported positive, the CT value shall be included in the report:

- **If CT < 30:** this is probably a true new (re)infections. The person shall stay in isolation and the close contact monitored (as defined in the protocol),
- **If the CT-value is between 30-32:** Keep the person in quarantine, determine if this person has any pain, has been vaccinated or has had a recent infection. If this person has had a recent infection, perform a test to determine serum-antibody status and repeat a PCR (PCR#2). If the antibody test is positive and the CT value of the 2nd PCR is of the same value, the person remains in isolation (this can either be a reinfection or a rest of the old infection but this person is considered infectious), A new PCR shall be done 5 days later.
If the new PCR (PCR#2) is positive but the CT value > 32 and the antibody is positive, then probably rest of previous infection. The participant is free to compete/or perform is role (if the antigen/rapid test is also negative), unless local authorities decide otherwise Any case of positive antigen test is considered as true infection.
- **If CT value on the PCR#1 (or on PCR #2) is > 35** the test result is considered negative and the person is free to compete or to work.

3.4.3 What you are required to do

If you have a confirmed positive test:

- You will not be allowed to provisionally compete/continue your role
- If you are symptomatic, you will be asked to stay at your designated hospital for treatment
- If you are asymptomatic, you will be asked to stay in the dedicated isolation facility.

A dedicated vehicle will be organised to take you.

If negative, you may resume competing or continuing your role, however you may be required to undertake additional tests as determined by your CLO.

3.4.4 Isolation Facility (this will depend on each FINA Event)

The costs of hospital/isolation facilities are still to be determined.

There will be English-speaking personnel at the facilities who will monitor your health.

- Three meals will be provided each day, catering for a variety of dietary considerations.
- Free WIFI will be available, enabling communication with your CLO and team.

- Your CLO, supervisor (for minors) and team will have limited access to the facility to provide support on a case-by-case basis, ensuring personal welfare or informing medical personnel of specific health considerations. This will be in agreement with hours set by the LOC.

Where feasible and with LOC agreement, isolation facilities should allow :

- Access to training equipment.
- Daily access to fresh air, either in a controlled outdoor setting or via opening windows.
- Mental health support.

3.4.5 Being discharged from isolation

This matter will be country specific and in strict accordance with Local Health Authority mandate. However, support for appropriate discharge will be available through the LOC and the FINA COVID-Task Force Representative on site.

3.4.6 Close contact identification

The local public health authority of the jurisdiction (or FINA CLO) in collaboration with the FINA COVID-19 Task Force Representative on site shall investigate each case to decide if an individual falls into the category of 'close contact' as defined in Section 2.5 based on the information provided by the LOC.

If you are confirmed as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive case, you may not be able to compete or continue your role in the FINA Event given the need for quarantine in your hotel room (single occupancy).

If you are confirmed as a close contact and have an upcoming competition (as an athlete or technical official), you will be able to participate provided you:

- Quarantine in a single room
- Use LOC dedicated vehicles between your quarantine location and your venue.
- Dine alone in your hotel room.
- Limit your physical interaction with others unless necessary to perform your role or for welfare reasons (e.g., receiving daily care)
- Check your temperature daily.
- Have a daily antigen test, which if negative on two consecutive occasions, will enable your return to full competition or technical duties.
- Leave the hosting country immediately after your last competition.

3.5 Athletes who have recovered from COVID-19 prior to the Competition

It is recognized that those who have recovered from COVID-19 may still be at risk of returning a positive PCR test, despite no risk of contagion or symptoms.

To be permitted to take part in subsequent competition any athlete who has recovered from COVID-19 must submit medical documentation to FINA which confirms full recovery from COVID-19. This information will be reviewed confidentially by a delegation of at least two appointed FINA physicians who will decide the Athlete's eligibility/safety to participate.

3.6 Consequence of multiple positive cases within a delegation (e.g., water polo team, swimming delegation, artistic swimming team, divers from the same country, etc.)

If three or more positive cases are declared within a delegation, then this delegation shall be excluded from the competition.

- ⇒ A full review of the circumstances will be performed before confirming this decision

4. VENUE MANAGEMENT

4.1 Basic infection prevention practices at the venues

- Zones for athletes and coaches etc. will be clearly separated from those for the general public; thorough prevention measures will be in place taking into consideration the characteristics of each zone.
- Prior to entering the venues, visitors will have their temperatures taken at the entrances to the venues. Anyone who records a temperature above 37.5°C will not be allowed to enter the venue. If this involves an athlete scheduled to compete/train, they must follow instructions of the FINA CLO.
- All high-touch surfaces including doorknobs and handrails will be disinfected regularly.
- Hand-sanitizers will be provided at entrances/exits of the venues, waiting rooms and athlete waiting spaces during training and competition.
- Regular hand washing will be encouraged at all venues.
- Droplet prevention measures such as acrylic shields will be installed in the press rooms etc.,
- Face masks will be worn at all times (except for athletes during training and competition).
- Spectators are encouraged to show support by clapping instead of cheering or chanting.

4.2 Zoning & Operations at the venue

The zones for athletes and coaches etc. shall be clearly separated from the general public. Please refer to the specific document for each sport.

4.3 Training at the competition venue

The training sessions will be adjusted to limit the number of athletes and coaches in the same area.

5. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

All accredited Participants are only allowed to use the transport designated by the LOC.

Use of public transport (including regular city taxis) is not permitted. You will only be allowed to travel in dedicated FINA-event transport.

You may not travel to destinations outside your designated “bubble”.

5.1 At the airport

The OC must facilitate arrival and transfer procedures for all accredited participants.

For airports with border controls, a dedicated lane should be available to FINA-accredited personnel. This should also include direct collection in private buses avoiding public spaces where possible.

When possible, the return flight should take place immediately after the competition (within 48 hours).

5.2 Local transportation

The accredited participant (except LOC Staff and volunteers) shall only use the dedicated shuttle buses and/or taxis arranged by the LOC, between hotels and training facilities/competition venues.

For large team/delegation (>20 athletes), each team/delegation may request at its own costs a bus for the entire duration of the Event.

In Water Polo, each team will have its own bus. (This must be covered by OC).

The bus driver must wear an appropriate mask and always remain at least 1.5m from athletes (e.g., middle door to be used by swimmers and staff to enter/leave the bus). The driver's area of the bus may be isolated from the rest of the bus. The row behind the driver shall remain unoccupied.

The bus capacity must not exceed 50%. An empty seat should be kept between persons (unless they are members of the same team).

In waiting line areas, passengers must maintain agreed physical distancing.

6. ACCOMMODATION

All accredited Participants must stay at the hotels designated by the LOC. The LOC will coordinate with the hotels, team room assignment to ensure, where possible, that each team occupies rooms in a cluster. Contact with other guests in hallways and lifts should be avoided.

Single occupancy is recommended.

Ideally the hotel shall be booked for the FINA Event only.

6.1 Measures to be taken at designated hotels

- In principle, LOC shall secure rooms for delegations by renting entire floors.
- The use of hand sanitizers, available at hotel entrances/exits is to be encouraged strongly.
- Face masks must be worn in common spaces at all times except when eating and drinking.

6.2 Dining areas/restaurant

Only FINA-accredited personnel are allowed to eat in restaurants designated by the LOC, either in the designated hotels or, if enough space is not available, at designated near-by restaurants that meet infection prevention requirements.

In the dining room itself the following issues are highlighted:

- Contact with hotel staff in the dining area should be minimized
- Hotel staff should distribute all cutlery and plates
- Chairs at tables must ensure physical distancing is maintained

For teams

- Team designated tables must be used and respected by all delegations

For other participants

Other participants are encouraged to eat alone or to limit their interaction with other participants.

7. SPECTATORS

The presence of spectators will be decided by local authorities.

8. VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers and staff who come into direct contact with athletes or officials must undergo the same COVID-19 testing program as FINA-accredited participants (zone -1)

Other working force not in direct contact with participants will follow the regulations imposed by the local authorities.

9. MEDAL CEREMONIES

Only fully vaccinated presenters can be part of the medal ceremony

Award ceremonies shall respect the physical distancing of 1.5 meters.

No hand shaking or hugs are permitted between any ceremony Participants (medallists or presenters).

Medals are presented on a plate by the FINA Representative or another delegate. The athlete must put the medal around his/her neck by himself/herself.

Same procedure for Mascots/Flowers presentations.

A reduced number of people shall participate in Award Ceremonies.

Athletes shall stay on their individual podium/platform until the ceremony is over.

For photography, 30 seconds without the mask will be permitted on the podium and on the different flashing zones.

All arrangements for award ceremonies and podium set-up must be discussed and approved by the FINA Delegates. The FINA COVID-19 / Medical & Doping Control Delegate along with the host OC COVID-19 Officer should approve the ceremonies from a health and safety perspective.