



FIBA RETURN TO BASKETBALL

COVID-19 Protocol for FIBA Competitions – Basketball

COVID-19 Protocol for FIBA Competitions, Version 1.0 (23 September 2020)

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1. Preamble

This document sets out the framework for the safe return to competition in FIBA basketball. The Protocol sets levels of required expertise, infection prevention, hygiene, medical response and compliance for FIBA events.

The COVID-19 virus is new, first identified in Wuhan China during late 2019. The virus quickly spread and was declared a pandemic by the WHO in March 2020. The virus related to the previous Corona viruses MERS and SARS which caused considered illness and death but quickly settled with public health controls. There have now been many millions of infections and hundreds of thousands of deaths globally. Virtually the entire planet has been affected directly by this pandemic. The impact of human activities such as travel, socialising, relationships and education has also been profound. Domestic and international sport has been shut down by the pandemic.

COVID-19 is very infectious and can cause considerable harm to the human body, affecting multiple organs and the immune system itself. While the pandemic continues medical science is discovering new things about the virus. This means that way we manage and contain COVID-19 will evolve over time. While current prevention strategies can be very effective, until we have an effective vaccine or treatment, the pandemic will continue. While we wait for a 'cure' we need effective measures to reduce the risk of infection in sport.

To minimise the COVID-19 risk in FIBA basketball we need thorough planning and a robust set of guidelines or protocols. These will be important and require diligent implementation, guided by expert support. To a large extent we will be relying on the cooperation, behaviour and understanding of the teams, players, officials, technical personnel, venue management, media and spectators. FIBA expects all parties to largely adhere to this Protocol that cover hygiene, biosecurity, testing and medical management. They are in place to protect all participants. Non-compliance with these guidelines may have serious consequences for the staging of the competition and participants so a compliance audit framework is proposed alongside the Protocol.

2. Objectives

The aim of this document is to set out a medical and operational framework that teams and participants can follow to enhance the safety of basketball in FIBA competitions.

Due to the constantly changing knowledge of the COVID-19 virus, this Protocol will evolve and be regularly updated. If there is a disconnect between local public health authorities and these guidelines, the government authority takes precedence.

The present document sets out the procedures necessary for organising FIBA basketball competitions and cover aspects such as games, travel, accommodation and stadium operations. It is a requirement that all event organisers, teams and participants follow this Protocol.

Key components are:

- The appointment of an Oversight committee
- The appointment of a Biosecurity official who will monitor compliance to the COVID-19 plan and promptly report any deviations to the oversight committee and FIBA
- Personal hygiene of participants and the establishment of biosecure team environments
- Limitation on the number of team participants and exposure to non-team personnel

- Pre-competition risk assessment and quarantine by team doctors
- Testing and medical support
- Venue and game management including media and broadcast

Players and support personnel will need to operate in a controlled environment which limits the risk of COVID-19 entry and spread. This will include an assessment of all participants and their risk of infection. It means a medical control environment that manages illness and potential COVID-19 infection. It means a process that manages the management of COVID-19 cases and close contacts.

3. COVID-19 Oversight committee

A FIBA basketball competition requires the formation of a COVID-19 Oversight committee by the event organiser to govern and ensure a safe environment for all participants. This committee requires senior management representation to ensure delegation of resources and implementation of the organisation's plan. It will also need infectious diseases expertise, sports medicine, compliance and project management capability.

The committee should review these FIBA basketball guidelines and interpret them for the unique aspects of their own event.

The committee will need to liaise with local government and public health authorities. Government and public health authorities will have their own restrictions and controls that must be adhered to or navigated around with their consent.

The FIBA Restart Guidelines and FIBA Risk Assessment Checklist, available on the FIBA website, is useful resources that will assist planning (refer to Appendix 1 and 2).

The oversight committee will appoint a Biosecurity official whose role is to ensure compliance to the COVID-19 plan, protocols and restrictions and report any deviations to the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer

4. Pre-competition quarantine for participating teams

Prior to leaving for a FIBA competition, teams are required to have a 10 day relative isolation and undergo a testing regime of 2 PCR tests (refer to 7. COVID-19 testing: Pre-travel training period). This relative isolation can mean living in normal residences with social contact restrictions or the team living in a biosecure hotel.

Teams may compete in official competition and train during this period. Teams must facilitate and oversee the relative isolation procedures including a limitation of contact from non-team members, limiting the number of participants to those that have essential team roles and compliance oversight.

During this time all participants must undergo awareness and education regarding the FIBA Protocol. This should include:

- Roles of various officials including a biosecurity official which may be a dual role
- Daily health screening and personal hygiene requirements
- Transport and accommodation arrangements
- PCR testing

Basic personal hygiene guidance should include:

- Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Augment this with an alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- Maintain at least 2m distance between yourself and anyone else including at training except actual participants in the team such as players and coaches
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Wear a face mask when in public
- Follow good respiratory hygiene - covering the mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when coughing, or sneezing, followed by its disposal
- Shower at accommodation before and after training and games
- Clean training equipment before and after individual use
- Stay home if unwell (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat or difficulty breathing) and call for medical advice
- Avoid public places and transport

All teams will be expected to travel with a Team Doctor and COVID-19 Biosecurity Compliance official. The Compliance official's role is to ensure compliance to FIBA and team requirements and restrictions. The Compliance official must attend all training sessions, oversee entry restrictions (limited to team personnel who have no symptoms), that all team members have daily health checks and there is a record of attendees with times of entry and exit.

During this time the team doctor must assess all team members for infection and potential COVID-19 harm risk if infected. Any player who has had a prior COVID-19 infection should be cardiac screened. During this assessment all risks of COVID-19 infection and control requirements must be explained and the individual consent to participation knowing the requirements and risks. This medical intervention must be fully documented by the team doctor.

5. Training requirements

The training facility shall be appropriately cleaned prior to every use and then secured.

Players should shower and change at their accommodation immediately prior and after training. Players should have their own individual towels and drink bottles. Support personnel should also respect social distancing and wear a face mask.

Weight room training is permitted but the number of players and officials limited to the local distancing requirements (e.g. 1 person per 4sqm limitation) and management of sanitisation of equipment prior to and on competition of use.

There will need to be a process for sanitising basketballs and other shared equipment.

6. Referees and Game officials

Prior to leaving for a FIBA competition, referees and game officials are required to restrict social contacts for a 2-week period. If the individual undertakes high risk employment (e.g. healthcare worker) this shall be declared to FIBA. This is to limit the risk of COVID-19 infection.

Individuals may exercise during this period but be cognisant of COVID-19 infection risks and take precautions.

Referees and Game officials must utilise personal hygiene measures:

- Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Augment this with an alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- Maintain at least 2m distance between yourself and anyone else including at training
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Wear a face mask when in public
- Follow good respiratory hygiene - covering the mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when coughing, or sneezing, followed by its disposal
- Stay home if unwell (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat or difficulty breathing) and call for medical advice
- Avoid public places and transport.

7. COVID-19 testing

FIBA requires COVID-19 testing of all participants in a team. Only reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests ("PCR") from an accredited laboratory will be recognised as a valid test. This includes all players and support personnel or any other individual that has contact with the team and should be funded by the team. The testing mandated is:

Pre-travel training period

- a. Two (2) PCR tests in the week of the pre-travel training isolation period leading into the pre-departure week
- b. The two (2) tests shall be at least 5 days apart.
- c. Participants shall obtain at least two (2) copies of the results of these two (2) tests, which shall be in English language and must be negative.
- d. Any participants that have a positive test results from these tests shall not travel.

Pre-departure week

- a. All participants shall take at least one (1) PCR test within the seventy-two (72) hours prior to departure to country of the Host.
- b. Participants shall obtain at least two (2) copies of the result of this test, which shall be in English language and must be negative.
- c. Any participant that has a positive test result will not be permitted to enter in the country of the Host by the border officials and shall not attempt to travel.
- d. The relevant institutions in the country of the Host may require online registration (travel card) before arrival for all travellers connected with the Event. The Host will timely provide links for e-registration to all participants.

Arrival in country of the Host

- a. Border officials may randomly select travellers to undergo screening at the airport.
- b. All participants shall be prepared to present results of the PCR test to border officials or to the local medical staff at the airport, if requested.

Participants already located in the country of the Host

- a. Participants located in the country of the Host shall also perform two (2) PCR tests in the week leading into the pre-departure week and one (1) PCR test within the seventy-two (72) hours before entry into the official team hotel.

Arrival at the Hotel

- a. All participants shall be prepared to present all the PCR test results to the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer, upon arrival at the dedicated hotel.
- b. Participants that fail to present these results to the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer shall not be permitted to participate and will not be able to access the venue or hotel.

Pre-game

- a. After arrival, participants may be requested to undergo a pre-game PCR testing(s) by FIBA at any time before the game day.
- b. The Host will be responsible for arranging such tests upon FIBA's request and ensuring twenty-four (24) hours of testing turnaround time at a local laboratory.

At other times at least weekly PCR testing, in addition to the above requirements, is strongly recommended.

Referees and technical officials must have a negative PCR test from a sample collected not more than 72 hours prior to departure to a competition.

8. International travel procedures

1.1. Team players and support personnel

Teams and game officials are encouraged to travel by chartered flights. If this is not possible then procedures should be in place to reduce the risk of infection during travel on commercial flights.

Teams should liaise with the airport authorities at both departure and arrival airports to determine whether special arrangements can be made to minimise contact with the general public, such as the use of a VIP customs and transfer service. Teams must also be prepared to comply with any COVID-19 testing by airlines but FIBA requires that all team members have a negative COVID-19 PCR test from a sample collected not greater than 2-3 days prior to the travel time so that team members can travel with a verifiable negative test.

If the flight is on a commercial aircraft empty seats either side should be sought. If an entire team is travelling, book the group together with the above distancing and book an empty row of seats on either side of the group. Team members should wear face masks and wipe down their seat and its' surrounds prior to use.

With a chartered flight, the plane should be thoroughly cleaned before boarding and entry should be separated, away from public exposure.

All participants need to have a health check before they leave for the airport and no individual should travel with the team if they are unwell. It is the responsibility of the team Compliance official to ensure these measures are adhered to.

The host organisation must make every effort to facilitate the arrival and transfer of the visiting team, including the direct collection in a private bus at the aircraft and private passage through the airport to avoid public spaces.

All team transport by bus requires that the vehicles are thoroughly disinfected shortly before collecting the team. The bus driver shall be negative to a COVID-19 PCR test from a swab collected within 48 hours of contact with the team.

The bus driver must wear a mask and maintain 2m social distancing even if there is a separate cabin or isolation by glass partition.

If possible, team members shall enter and leave the bus by a middle door.

The team Compliance official shall notify the organisers and the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer if these requirements are not complied with.

1.2. Referees and Game Officials

The referees and game officials must take maximum care to maintain strict social distancing at all times while travelling, use a hand sanitiser regularly and wipe down their seat and its' surrounds prior to use.

If a referee or game official is unwell, they shall not travel.

The local organiser is responsible for ensuring that FIBA referees, technical delegates and game officials have safe transfer and transport.

All vehicles must be thoroughly disinfected before use. The driver of the vehicle has the same requirements as for bus drivers, namely, a negative PCR test, strict maintenance of social distancing and the use of a face mask.

9. Medical Equipment and Personnel

The COVID-19 Oversight committee must ensure that there are adequate medical facilities and equipment to prevent COVID-19 infections and manage any suspected infection. This will include, but not limited to:

- Adequate PPE, including an emergency PPE supply, face masks, gowns, face shields and gloves

- Appropriate medical equipment, including pathology collection and swabs (this may be delegated to a pathology provider)
- Medical cleaning equipment
- Medical waste and disposal
- Appropriate isolation and transport facilities

The COVID-19 Oversight committee must ensure there are event medical personnel sufficient and qualified to manage a COVID-19 infection case. The committee should also have hospitalisation and specialist medical support available if required.

The COVID-19 Oversight committee must arrange team and officials transport that reduces the risk of infection.

10. Hotels

Ideally, an exclusive hotel must be reserved for the sole use of teams, referees and game officials and arrangements are in place to limit contact between event participants and hotel staffs. If this is not possible, team(s) and game officials must have arrangements that prevent or reduce the risk of close contact between other hotel guests and staff.

All participants must be accommodated in single rooms. Dining arrangements should be in a private area with no public access. A dining area should be for the exclusive use of one team or group at a time (with cleaning between team use if a shared room).

Participants must keep their room clean and make their own bed to avoid maid service requirements. If this is not possible the issue should be discussed with the event organiser.

Participants must stay at the hotel at all times unless for training or competition purposes. Visitors are not permitted. Public areas such as a public bar are off limits while at the hotel. Team social functions may be arranged but these are exclusively for team members and safety protocols must be maintained at all times.

When moving around a hotel, event participants must wear face masks and maintain social distancing. If practical, the stairs should be used and sharing of lifts avoided.

The local/event organisers must have an agreement with the hotel that delivers the above requirements as well as ensure:

- Facilitated check-in and check-out to limit contact
- Full disinfectant cleaning of rooms prior to use
- Regular cleaning of team areas, meeting rooms, corridors, lifts and stairs
- Staff wear face masks, maintain social distancing restrictions and not attend the hotel if unwell
- Security control the entry to the hotel or secure floor
- Quality food service which is freshly cooked
- Regular cleaning of the dining areas with restricted access to essential hotel staff while in use

11. Arena Operations

The local oversight committee is responsible to ensure the training and competition areas are safe and compliant with local public health authority restrictions and FIBA requirements.

All basketball venues should have a risk assessment for teams, game officials, media, broadcast and spectators. The FIBA Risk Assessment will assist with this assessment (refer to Appendix 2).

1.3. Arena entry and exit

Temperature and symptom checks are required at all entry points along with social distancing marking for queuing, use of face mask and hand sanitiser. Arrangement must comply with local public health authority requirements.

The arrival of team members and the game officials must be staggered to avoid mixing and crowding in the corridors. During team arrivals, the presence of any staff along the internal arena route should be kept to a minimum, with stewards in place to temporarily stop any other transit.

Participants must go straight to their change room or designated area.

Teams may perform a court inspection and warmup but must keep this to a minimum and should maintain separation during this time.

Team members and game officials must exit the venue in a similar fashion to their entry.

It is the responsibility of the team and event Biosecurity Compliance officials to ensure that these requirements are followed.

1.4. Face masks and hand sanitiser

All team members and game officials must wear face masks except direct participants during the game. All others must wear a face mask, including operational staff, arena stewards, security, caterers, cleaners, broadcast staff, media (except commentators during the game), photographers, operational staff, bench officials (except the official game commentator) and independent medical staff.

Hand sanitiser must be provided at all access points to the arena.

1.5. Cleaning

In general, all areas of the arena that are in use for the game must be cleaned prior to use following local public health authority guidelines and requirements. These areas include media working areas, seating (depending on use), offices, meeting rooms and sanitary facilities.

The event Biosecurity Compliance official must make sure a process in place that ensures compliance.

1.6. Arena zones

A zoning system will be implemented (and overseen by the Biosecurity Compliance official) in order to prevent any uncontrolled or indirect contact with the teams, namely:

Zone 1 – ‘team zone’ which includes changing rooms, referee area, medical room, doping control, access corridors, scorers’ table, team bench, court and court surrounds with a clear surround access control (e.g. LED boards or signage). This zone is for the exclusive access of team members, game officials, security and essential operational staff. The total number of individuals in this zone should not exceed 80 or other restrictions of the local public health authorities. Broadcast positions are excluded from this zone.

Consideration needs to be given for post-game media interviews by team members such as players and coaches which sits between Zones 1 and 2. Entry points and access needs to be provided that maintains the separation but allows media access to team members that maintains safe social distancing.

Zone 2 – ‘tribunes and arena interiors’ are the seating sections and includes hospitality, media, broadcast, technical table and photographer areas. The ‘venue interiors’ include all indoor areas at the arena other than Zone 1. This area may be used for manned camera positions excluded from Zone 1.

Zone 3 – ‘arena exterior’ extends from the outer limits of Zones 1 and 2 to the outer boundary of the arena environments (fence, turnstiles, gate etc.) as well as the broadcast compound.

All access points between zones must be clearly marked and have security control. An accreditation system must be in place that facilitates appropriate access. The host is responsible for overseeing the movement of people between different zones.

12. Accreditation

The event organiser is responsible for an accreditation system that allows access to team and official accommodation, arena and arena zones. This must be strictly enforced with appropriate biosecurity arrangements.

13. Team and referee facilities

Changing rooms for the teams and referees must optimise social distancing and air circulation. Depending on the actual size of the changing room, additional nearby rooms or spaces may be required. Ideally, a room or area should be set aside for the team's support and medical personnel and lockers should be spaced in a way to enhance social distancing.

Specific optional requirements:

- Any saunas, ice-baths, pools or jacuzzies must be closed or drained
- All fitness equipment must be disinfected before and after use and located either within an area of the changing room or completely separate particularly if space is required for warmup and stretching
- Physio equipment and massage beds must be disinfected before and after use
- Participants must have individual drink bottles and towels

- Doping control facilities must align with FIBA Protocol with cleaning and restricted access to individuals who have undergone isolation and testing procedures. This includes the doping control personnel

The same principles apply to the referee changing room and warmup area.

The changing rooms, team and game officials access routes (corridors, door handles, handrails, etc.), team benches and officials bench (including any additional seating used to maintain social distancing) must be thoroughly disinfected prior to the arrival of the teams and game officials. Once the changing rooms have been disinfected prior to team arrivals no one may enter other than designated game officials who have undergone the same isolation and testing procedures as the team members.

14. Development of symptoms during an event or at a game

Anyone involved in a FIBA competition who develops any symptoms indicative of a potential viral infection, including COVID-19, must immediately isolate themselves at the hotel and contact the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer for guidance and testing.

Each team doctor shall check any potential viral infection and COVID-19 symptoms on all Players on a daily basis. The team doctor shall report findings to the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer.

Any Participants exhibiting symptoms of viral infection or COVID-19, which must be honestly declared, will not be permitted to enter the Venue and will be immediately reported to the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer, who will decide whether the Participant shall be submitted for testing. If tested, the Participant shall self-isolate in their hotel room until the results of the test are known. Testing Results shall be handled in accordance with the below.

Key indicators of a viral infection, including COVID-19, include high fever, dry cough, tiredness, sore throat, runny or blocked nose, breathlessness or loss of sense of taste and/or smell.

A list of symptoms of COVID-19 can be found here: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_3

In the case of game officials and other non-team members, contact the designated Event Medical officer or their personal doctor. The Event Medical officer should attend the game and be available to support teams and game officials.

The Host must ensure that the Venue and the Hotel have the appropriate isolation facilities to manage such a situation.

15. Test Results Management

Negative Results

A Participant presenting negative results to the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer shall be permitted to participate in the Competition. This shall likewise apply to Participants that have displayed symptoms and have undergone testing in the Host country in accordance with the above and been cleared.

Positive Results

A participant returning any positive tests in the Host country shall:

- Not be permitted to participate in the event and shall be immediately hospitalised unless this individual does not need to be hospitalised.
- Not be permitted to participate in the event and designated rooms will be made available at the Hotel for a participant to be isolated.

In the event of a positive COVID-19 detection, either the team doctor if it is a member of the team or the event medical officer, if it is a non-team member, must:

- Notify the individual, immediately isolate and arrange a PCR test in consultation with the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer
- Assess for any close contacts (15 minutes cumulative face to face within twenty-four (24) hours or two (2) hours in the same room), arrange testing and isolation
- Any casual contact may be tested in consultation with the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer
- The medical circumstances of the test results should have expert infectious diseases input in order to interpret the results and determine the required responses
- Local public health management protocols followed.

16. Game Operations

1.7. Team benches, technical bench and other officials seating

Substitutes, coaching and other support or technical personnel must remain at least 1m apart when seated on the bench during the game. Additional space for the bench seating will be required. Seating should, where possible, respect social distancing requirements. Technical seating must also be appropriately separated. During a timeout, closer contact between participants will be accepted.

Medical personnel must utilise the appropriate PPE and follow local authority and FIBA medical guidelines.

There must be no individuals in the bench area who do not have an active role in the game, (e.g. players who are not suited up).

The team Biosecurity Compliance official must be in the bench area and ensure that the safety measures are complied with.

Game officials must have designated seating according to their accreditation which should correspond to their isolation and testing requirements and therefore zone access.

1.8. Team warmup

Warmup and practice shooting will be limited to specific access times. Players are not free to warmup or shoot outside of these times.

1.9. Team introductions and pre-game line up

Players must go directly to the bench from the changing rooms for the start of the game. Players will then be located on the bench for introductions and not in the corridor. On introduction, players must

line up with 1m spacing and return to the bench following the presentation of the teams and other requirements, e.g. following national anthems.

Players and referees must not shake hands, 'high five' or make unnecessary contact with others.

Additional activities in the introductions such as entertainers, mascots, dancers or musicians must be with the approval of FIBA.

1.10. Game time

Players and bench officials are not required to wear face masks, must retain 1m social distancing as far as is practical, avoid unnecessary contact with others and use only their own personal identified drink bottles and towels.

Following the half-time break teams should again avoid congregating in the tunnel and must instead go directly to the court according to the timings indicated in the countdown to tip-off.

Players and referees should liberally use hand sanitising gel prior to and entry from the court and at breaks in the game.

A match official is responsible for the sanitisation of the ball.

1.11. Post game

Players may go through the usual post game acknowledgement of opposition players and coaches but must not make physical contact, e.g. no handshaking. All participants must exit the court in a timely way on completion of the game. Players should not congregate unnecessarily post game.

17. Broadcast, media and technical suppliers

1.12. General principles

All broadcast, media and technical personnel present in zone 2 must comply with the local public health and FIBA requirements including the wearing of masks (except when commentating), maintaining at least 2m social distancing with others, avoiding any unnecessary physical contacts (e.g. handshakes, hugging or kissing as a greeting) and gathering restrictions. However, there is no reason why additional requirements may not be introduced by service and media providers to support the safety of their personnel. Specific risk mitigation measures for medical operations shall be referred to Appendix 3 in this Protocol.

It is the responsibility of the event Biosecurity Compliance official to ensure these requirements are in place and adhered to. Any non-compliance should be reported to the FIBA Medical Compliance officer who will investigate the matter.

1.13. Staffing, facilities and broadcast positions

Broadcast, media and technical supplier organisations must only appoint the minimum number of participants which will be approved and accredited for access purposes. FIBA reserves the right to restrict numbers of such accreditations.

1.14. Post game media conference

Will be conducted in such a way that maintains social distancing and FIBA requirements. There will need to be entry and exit points, with security control, to both Zones 1 (for players and coaches) and 2 (for media representatives). Wide separation of both parties needs to be maintained during the press conference.

1.15. Broadcast

The television compound and truck must be arranged in a way that allows sufficient space for the movement of people without congestion e.g. vehicles appropriately spaced apart, clearly marked corridors and movement lanes.

Camera positions will only be permitted in Zone 2 unless approved by FIBA. Any approval of camera positions in Zone 1 will require separation from the team participants, referees and game officials and maintain social distancing of 2m. Any interviews of participants in Zone 1 must have FIBA approval, maintain social distancing and be subject to conditions.

Bench and time-out camera will not be permitted.

A plan for all camera positions must be approved by the event organisers and FIBA.

1.16. Photographers

Game photographers are limited to 6 at each end of the court. The photographer locations must be clearly marked, preferably on a bench behind the basket. There must be a minimum of 2m between each photographer positions and maintenance of 1 person per 4sqm.

1.17. Media

The distribution of media in the stands must allow a 2m spacing. Media personnel must wear face masks except commentators during the course of the game only.

Post-game interviews may be organized on/around the court once the teams have left the area or in a suitable pre-approved location. The allocated area must allow for 4sqm per person. The reporter and camera crew must stay at least 2m from the player or coach. All such arrangements require prior approval of the team, local organiser and FIBA.

During a post-game press conference media personnel must wear face masks and maintain 3m separation from the team personnel. Team participants must have a separate entry from Zone 1. As the press conferences will be conducted in an enclosed room, the number of participants will be limited to 1 per 4 sqm. Therefore, the local event organiser should allow adequate space for press conferences bearing in mind the likely number of participants, including team personnel. A large room with significant attendee capacity is recommended. Recording devices (dictaphones, mobile phones, etc) must not be placed on the press conference podium

Access for media personnel including photographers will be controlled by a designated Press officer with oversight by the Event CO.

Post-game press conferences may be conducted remotely.

The Event CO and FIBA will oversee compliance to event and COVID-19 prevention requirements regarding media, broadcast, photographer activities, including social distancing, mask and gathering restrictions.

18. Games with spectators

The presence of crowds will be determined by the local public health authorities and their restrictions that exist around public gatherings. There will be a number of aspects to venue and game management that will need to be implemented that will add a significant complexity to managing a safe environment.

There should be a double barrier between zones 1 and 2 in crowded areas that facilitates a 2m separation.

Access, movement and seating arrangements will be impacted and require careful planning according to local requirements.

19. Compliance

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the world with many infections and deaths. Sport, including basketball, has been significantly impacted. The successful delivery of a basketball competition will require significant planning and resourcing.

It is essential that all levels of this Protocol have oversight and compliance processes. In particular, event organisers must have access to appropriate medical experts for guidance and appropriate governance arrangements to ensure successful implementation

FIBA requires that all event organisers, teams and participants follow this Protocol. If there are practicality issues for which a commonsense approach is not obvious, FIBA should be consulted. Any non-compliance must be reported to the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer.

Appendices: Supporting Resources

1. FIBA Restart Guidelines
2. FIBA Risk Assessment template
3. Specific risk mitigation measures for media operations



Appendix 1. FIBA Restart Guidelines

<https://www.fiba.basketball/documents/restart-guidelines-for-national-federations-en> (English)

<https://www.fiba.basketball/documents/restart-guidelines-for-national-federations-fr> (French)

<https://www.fiba.basketball/documents/restart-guidelines-for-national-federations-esp> (Spanish)



Appendix 2. FIBA Risk Assessment template

<http://fiba.basketball/documents/risk-assessment-mitigation-checklist>

Appendix 3. Specific risk mitigation measures for media operations

SPECIFIC MEDIA AREAS RESTRICTIONS

Media Tribune/Commentary Tribune

- Should be located on an upper ring, when possible (not courtside, but elevated from team areas, far from players, benches and court). If this is not possible, add an additional 3m distance from regular courtside distance
- Keep 1 out of 2 positions or at least 2m between seats, to guarantee social distancing between members of the media when sitting in the tribune
- Sanitizer dispensers should be made available at each access point of the tribune
- Media representatives should have an assigned position for the entire duration of the tournament and be escorted to it by members of the staff
- Staff/volunteers must also wear masks

Photographers Positions/Benches

- Maximum 20 accredited photographers (including FIBA crew) evenly spread out at both ends of the court
- A distance of 2m between photographers must be respected on the photo benches
- Photographers should have an assigned position for the tournament and not move during the game.
- Photographers should wear their mask at all times.
- Staff/volunteers must also wear masks.

Flash Interview Positions/Mixed Zone

- Microphones for interviews must be on a long boom pole/stick, to avoid getting too close to the players (distance of 2m minimum to be guaranteed)
- All microphones must be covered with plastic or other material that can be cleaned after each interview unless use of a mask is mandatory
- Doubled set of barriers to make sure the 2m distance with players is physically respected in the mixed zone
- In the Mixed zone, assign positions to media outlets in the mixed zone to make sure distance of 2m is respected between media outlets.
- Doubled set of barriers to make sure the 2m distance with players is physically respected in the mixed zone
- Camera persons, media and staff must always wear masks.

Press Conference Room

- Limit seats in the room (remove chairs) and max-out distances between media (2m minimum): 1/2 out of 3 positions should be empty to guarantee social distancing between members of the media while sitting
- A limited number of accredited media will be allowed to access the room (SADs if necessary) and not more than 1 person per 4sqm (ideally a large room will be required)

- The moderator, as well as players and coaches accessing the room, must wear a mask to reach their seat. They can remove their mask during the press conference.
- On the stage, the distance between moderator, player and coach must be minimum 2m
- The media must be 3m from the players and coaches
- If applicable: the translator should not take place at the table but remain on the side, respecting security distance of 2m with the other persons (and wearing a mask).
- Media and staff/volunteers must also wear masks.
- All microphones must be covered with plastic or other material that can be cleaned on after each press conference.
- Ideally there should be separate entrance and exit points for media and game participants.

Media Working Room

- Limit seats in the room (remove chairs) and max-out distances between media (2m minimum): 1/2 out of 3 positions should be empty to guarantee social distancing between members of the media while sitting and not more than 1 person per 4 sqm (a large room required)
- Media and staff must always wear masks.
- No food or drinks available as buffet: only pre-packaged meal/snacks available with vouchers (times to be arranged to avoid queues to eat). Ideally, a volunteer should oversee the distribution.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION LIMITATIONS

- A limited number of overall accreditations (including allocation for each team or club) should be distributed, depending on the capacity of the venue's media areas in covid-19 set-up
- Only a selected number of media should be able to access specific zones (for ex. Mixed Zone; Press Conference) through the form of special access devices (SADs)
- Specifically, media could be divided into five access categories to limit numbers:
 - all areas
 - media tribune only
 - media tribune + press conference
 - media tribune + mixed zone
 - courtside (photographers and crews)
- **Accreditation Center:** must be organized to avoid waiting queues.
- **Health Declaration Form:** after an accreditation approval is issued, the media accredited must complete a Health Declaration Form that needs to be signed before entering the competition venue (procedure and template to be defined).

CIRCULATION & FLOWS IN THE COMPETITION VENUE

- In addition to classic signage to guide media to the media areas, a clear circulation path must be established to avoid crossing, with arrows and additional signals
- Entrance and exit separated to all rooms and areas of the venue
- Temperature taken at venue media entrance
- Sanitizer dispensers available at all access points of the different media areas