



RETURN TO PLAY 3.0

2021-22

Response to the Covid-19 pandemic

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1. Preamble

This document sets out the framework for the safe competition in the Basketball Champions League (BCL). The various protocols define levels of required expertise, infection prevention, hygiene, medical response and compliance during this exceptional period.

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 is 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 hundreds of millions of infections and millions of deaths globally. The entire planet has been affected directly by this pandemic. The impact of human activities such as travel, socialising, relationships and education has been profound. Domestic and international sport has been shut down or severely affected by the pandemic.

COVID-19 is very infectious, has many mutations causing changes to the infectivity of the virus and can cause considerable harm to the human body, affecting multiple organs and the immune system itself. While the pandemic continues medical science is constantly discovering new things about the virus. This means that way we manage and contain COVID-19 will evolve over time. While current prevention strategies, including vaccination, can be very effective the pandemic will continue for some time. While we wait for the pandemic to be controlled, we need effective measures to reduce the risk of infection in sport.

To minimise the COVID-19 risk in the Competition, we require thorough planning and a robust set of guidelines and protocols. These will be important and demand 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.

BCL expects all parties to adhere to this Protocol that covers 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 for Participants so a compliance audit framework is proposed alongside the Protocol.

The responsibility of implementing the requirements and guidelines set out in this Protocol lies with the organising club.

Non-compliance with the obligations set out in the BCL Protocol may lead to disciplinary measures in accordance with the BCL Competition Regulations.

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 the BCL.

These protocols will evolve and be regularly updated. Amendments to these protocols will follow the growing knowledge about COVID-19 and the changing government public health responses to the pandemic. If there is a disconnect between local public health authorities and these guidelines the government authority directives take precedence and we require teams to inform us of any non-alignment or discrepancies.

The present document sets out the procedures necessary for organising Basketball Champions League training, games, travel, accommodation and venue operations. It is a mandatory requirement that all teams and participants follow these protocols and that all teams have an audit activity that ensures compliance.

Key components of these protocols are:

- Oversight Committee with sufficient expertise and operational control
- Personal hygiene
- Bio secure team environments – including hygiene zones, contact restrictions, cleaning, health monitoring and entry conditions
- Limitations on the number of team participants and exposure to non-team individuals
- Pre-competition risk assessment and quarantine
- Structured pre-competition training
- Testing
- Medical support and response

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

3. Roles and responsibilities

Oversight Committee [team or event]: each club to establish an Oversight Committee that understands local COVID-19 infection prevalence and is in charge of developing the unique COVID-19 prevention and response plan for that organisation, event and teams and oversee its delivery. Appoint an Event Medical officer [that maybe the local team physician or Chief Medical Officer [“CMO”]]. Any emerging issues or non-compliance should be reported to the BCL Medical Compliance Officer and BCL Technical Delegate [TD].

Team physicians: must support the development of the organisation and team’s plan, undertake health risk screening, oversee the daily health checks, pathology testing including PCR testing, ensure all the appropriate medical equipment is available, contribute to participant education, have medical management protocols for infectious diseases in place, have a contact tracing plan with the compliance official, be aware of COVID-19 related mental health risks and raise any matters where there is a belief that safety is being compromised whether in the plan or not. They must report emerging issues to the BCL Medical Compliance Officer. Must report COVID-19 detections to the local health authorities and the BCL Medical Compliance Officer. The team physician may also assume the duties of the Event Medical officer.

Team Compliance officer (TCO): is the team appointed individual responsible for team safety by ensuring compliance to the team COVID-19 prevention. They must oversee all aspects of the plan, assist the team physician in the delivery of COVID-19 awareness education, oversee the delivery of hygiene measure to prevent infections, oversee the travel and accommodation requirements, oversee the entry requirements to a venue and report in a truthful manner to the Oversight Committee any behaviour that represents non-compliance.

BCL Technical Delegate (TD): is overall responsible for checking that the BCL Return to Play Protocol and hygiene measures are implemented at the venue and must review all entry and exit procedures, zone management and access controls of the arena. The TD reports to the BCL Medical Compliance Officer any failure to implement the Protocol, as well as on any breaches of the operational measures, to ensure the optimum protection of all stakeholders at the venue.

BCL Medical Compliance Officer: oversee the implementation of this BCL Protocol and verifies all certificates and test results.

FIBA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group: advises the BCL on any medical questions related to COVID-19. The FIBA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group may, at the request of the teams and their organisations, provide consultation or advice regarding the medical aspects of these protocols such as testing, medical management of test results, contact tracing in the case of a COVID-19 detection, medical management of unidentified viral illness and the management of positive cases. However, this is only advisory in nature and does not override any decisions made by legally empowered local health authorities. The FIBA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group is composed of virologists, laboratory experts and medical doctors, all experienced in the management of COVID-19.

For the avoidance of doubt, teams must have individual Compliance officers who are responsible for the delivery of the BCL, local authority and relevant organisation COVID-19 prevention requirements. These compliance officials must work collaboratively with each other and report non-compliance to their respective Oversight Committees and the BCL.

To ensure that the BCL Return to Play protocol is properly implemented the Oversight Committee must receive reports from team medical personnel, the Compliance Official and venue representative.

4. Formation of a COVID-19 Oversight Committee

The first step before commencing the preparation of the competition is the formation in each club of an Oversight Committee that will be able to oversee the accomplishing a successful season 2021/22 for the team, support personnel, administration or event. This Committee should have senior management representation to ensure implementation of the organisation's plan. The Committee should also have the presence of the team physician, an infectious diseases expert (if the team physician's experience is not sufficient), an appointed biosecurity compliance officer (which could be the team manager in the case of a team organisation), venue representative and a player's representative.

This Committee should review these BCL protocols and interpret them for the unique aspects of their own organisation and team in order to draft a locally applicable plan. The role of the Committee is to ensure delivery of the program and compliance with the behaviours that are required to ensure a bio secure environment.

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

The FIBA Risk Assessment Checklist, available [here](#), is a useful resource to list most risks and mitigation initiatives.

The Committee should receive reports from the Compliance Officer and the Team Physician. In particular, the Compliance Officer's role is to ensure team and organisation members are implementing the hygiene and physical distancing requirements. The Team Physician should report on health surveillance, individual risk assessments, mental health requirements, response plan for a COVID-19 detection, contact tracing and the required medical Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE").

5. Social distancing and hygiene principles

All participants in any BCL game or event shall be aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which is available on the [WHO Website](#) and through national and local public health authorities.

Respective local governments or health authorities will have provided specific instructions on how to prevent the infection. This is likely to include restrictions on gathering of groups of individuals, the maintenance of social distancing, testing for the virus, tracking of case contacts, restrictions for schools, work and sport. It is essential that parties concerned follow the guidance provided by their relevant government authority.

The other means of preventing infection is to follow basic personal hygiene:

- Regularly and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water for twenty (20) seconds
- Augment this with an alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- Maintain at least a two (2) metre distance and even further if they are coughing or sneezing
- The two (2) metre social distancing must be observed in a basketball training facility and game arena
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Wearing a face mask when you in public or if instructed by local health authority or personal physician
- Follow good respiratory hygiene - covering mouth and nose with bent elbow or tissue when coughing, or sneezing followed by its disposal
- Shower before and after training and games
- Clean training equipment before and after use
- Stay home if feeling unwell (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat or difficulty breathing) and call for medical advice
- Keep up to date on the latest COVID-19 hotspots (cities or local areas where COVID-19 is actively spreading)

It is expected that team participants (players and support personnel) will maintain a high level of 'self-isolation' from the general community to support all COVID-19 prevention strategies. This means that in all aspects of a participant's lifestyle another level of protection is required.

It is strongly recommended that teams agree on behaviour requirements by all members.

6. COVID-19 Testing

The BCL requires COVID-19 testing of all members of a Team Delegation that participates in a BCL game. This includes all players and support personnel or any other individual that has contact with the team. Similar requirements are imposed on all Referees and Technical Delegates, Venue Managers, Statisticians etc. that will be nominated to officiate games of the BCL.

A full cycle of vaccination or a recent positive serology test showing IgG levels due to a previous COVID-19 infection may reduce requirements for onsite testing in the BCL.

Vaccination certificates and serology test results, as applicable, will need to be submitted to BCL no later than seven (7) days before the game day. For positive serology tests, these must display, amongst other information, the date the sample was taken on and the IgG levels and shall be uploaded together with medical history on the infection and the previous positive PCR tests.

Only reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests ("PCR") and rapid antigen tests from a laboratory accredited by its government or national public health authority to perform testing will be recognised as a valid test.

The testing mandated is:

- a. Testing of any participant who reports symptoms of a viral illness (and will be subsequently isolated until the symptoms resolve, and the test is negative for COVID-19);
- b. Pre travel testing is only required if the entry regulations of your destination states to do so;
- c. Onsite rapid antigen test for all participants, except:
 - Individuals who have completed a full vaccination cycle no later than two (2) weeks prior to the respective BCL game;
 - Individuals with recent COVID-19 infection and positive serology result issued within the three (3) months from the game day.
 - Any other viral or immunological pathology testing or COVID-19 investigations as determined by the BCL, the team physician or the local health authorities.

The onsite rapid antigen test results must be provided to the BCL Technical Delegate and hosting club have to additionally upload the results in the provided online platform directory.

In case a member of the Team Delegation has previously tested positive for COVID-19 and has undergone full recovery since the infection, positive results from antibody testing may be accepted to determine whether the individual has developed antibodies against the virus. Date of antibody [serology] testing shall not be older than 2 months prior to travelling and the testing is not recommended until at least fourteen (14) days after the onset of symptoms.

A request in this respect shall be sent to BCL in advance and medical history report shall be submitted for review no later than seven (7) before the BCL game. Upon medical evaluation, this individual may be exempted from pre-game test[s].

7. Pre-Competition Medical Screening (PCMS)

All participants in BCL competition as a team member or have exposure to team members must undergo pre-competition medical screening (PCMS) and examination prior to participation.

This will be conducted by the team physician who must assess and clear participants being particular mindful of:

- Previous COVID-19 infection
- Risk of COVID-19 infection [e.g. travel, work or other high-risk exposure, etc]
- High risk of harms from potential COVID-19 infection [e.g. age, chronic illness, obesity, etc] who may then be counselled regarding the risk and consent to participation knowing the risk
- Cardiac screening
- The need for any pathology or medical investigations

8. Medical preparation

The CO and team physician 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
- Mental health support

9. Development of symptoms at an event or game

Anyone involved in a BCL game who develops any symptoms indicative of a potential viral infection, including COVID-19, must immediately isolate themselves at their hotel or home and contact the team physician for guidance and testing.

In the case of game officials and other non-team members, contact the designated Event Medical officer or their personal physician.

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](#).

10. Games behind closed doors

The BCL may commence without spectators and effective control of all attendees. There should be an effective barrier between a team and other non-team personnel such as the media, security and venue personnel [requirements are listed in section 18].

Only officials, persons with a working function and accredited broadcast personnel, media and journalists are permitted in the arena.

There may be local public health authority attendee restrictions. This will depend on size of the space as well as the available space for media and broadcast requirements. If there are local gathering restrictions, there will need to be a head count system in place alongside the health checking and participant documentation at entry. If this function is to be delivered by the venue personnel, the compliance official must ensure that all requirements are delivered.

The staffing level must be adapted to arena layout and competition needs. In all cases, the number of staff required to operate the arena, organise the game and deliver the commercial and broadcast obligations must be limited to an absolute minimum.

11. Games with crowds

The presence of crowds will be determined by the local public health authorities and the relevant 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. See details under the section 'Arena Operations' (section 18).

12. Neutral venue competition

In the event of games organised at a neutral venue, the host organisation should have an Oversight Committee that will report to the BCL and the following officials:

- Venue Compliance Officer, to ensure cleaning, participant controls, be aware of the local COVID-19 infection levels and public authority restrictions, work closely with the BCL TD and facilities are delivered according to BCL protocols
- Venue Medical Officer, to ensure support for team physicians and advise the Compliance officer
- Entry and exit official, to ensure health checks and full participant documentation is completed and only essential individuals are permitted entry
- BCL liaison individual

13. International travel procedures

13.1. *Team players and support personnel*

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 SARS-CoV-2-RNA testing before travel or at the airport that is required by the relevant local authorities.

All participants must ensure safe boarding of planes, avoiding contact with the general public, wear face masks at all times, maintain social distancing, use hand sanitisers liberally and wipe down their seat and surrounds with antiseptic wipes. 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.

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

All participants must have a health check before they leave for the airport and no individual should travel with the team if they are unwell.

Summary of requirements for teams when travelling:

1. Only essential members of the team should be travelling
2. Use of face masks in all public areas during travel
3. Social distancing with anyone outside the group of players and technical staff who have been tested
4. Regular use of hand sanitiser
5. For charter flights, the plane must be fully disinfected before the flight
6. Wipe down seats with an antiseptic wipe prior to use
7. NOT TRAVEL IF UNWELL OR WITH SYMPTOMS

The host team/host/event 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.

The transfer bus should be cleaned and large enough to allow social distancing.

The team CO is responsible to ensure these requirements are strictly followed and alert non-compliance to the Oversight Committee, the Team Physician and the BCL.

13.2. Team official delegation

The team's official delegation (e.g. club president, board of directors, etc.) travelling with the players and support personnel must be kept to an absolute minimum and not more than 10. BCL retains the right to further define the number permitted.

Ideally, the team's official delegation should travel separately from the team unless they follow the same social isolation, testing and COVID-19 prevention controls. If separate travel is not possible, they should be separately located on the plane with social distancing restrictions.

Any bus transfers must be separate from the team.

Attendance at games requires maintenance of the social distancing and separation from the team. Under no circumstances should non-team individuals visit the locker rooms, enter Zone 1 or connect with the team in any way during the event.

The TCO is responsible for ensuring that these requirements are strictly followed and alert non-compliance to the Oversight Committee, the Team Physician and the BCL.

13.3. Referees, Technical Delegates and venue staff

The referees, BCL TD and venue staff must take maximum care to maintain strict social distancing at all times while travelling. They must wear face masks (for mouth and nose) throughout their journey whenever social distancing is not possible, or expected to be impossible, and use sanitiser regularly.

14. Local travel procedures

14.1. Team players and support personnel

All team transport by bus requires that the vehicles are thoroughly disinfected shortly before collecting the team.

The bus driver must have a valid Covid Certificate, must wear a mask and maintain two (2) metre social distancing even if there is a separate cabin or isolation by glass partition. If possible, team members should enter and leave the bus by a middle door.

The TCO is responsible for ensuring these requirements are strictly followed and alert non-compliance to the Oversight committee, the team physician and the BCL.

14.2. Referees, Technical Delegates and venue staff

The local organiser (host team or event) and the BCL Technical Delegate are responsible for ensuring that referees, referee observer, technical delegates, BCL officials, FIBA officials and venue personnel have safe transfer and transport.

All vehicles must be thoroughly disinfected before use. The driver of the vehicle has the same Covid Certificate requirements as for bus drivers, always implementing a strict maintenance of social distancing and the use of a face mask.

The only exception to these transport requirements may occur with technical delegates and venue managers who, under such circumstances must wear a face mask and maintain good social distancing practices. Under no circumstances should these individuals travel by public transport (taxis are permitted). The BCL TD is responsible to ensure these requirements are strictly followed and must alert non-compliance to the Oversight committee, local CO and the BCL.

15. Hotels

Ideally, an exclusive hotel should be reserved for the sole use of the visiting team[s] during their stay. If this is not possible, the visiting team[s] must make arrangements to prevent any close contact between the team and other guests or staff.

All team members must be, if possible, accommodated in single rooms on the same floor or area of the hotel. Team dining should be in a private area with no public access. The dining area should be for the exclusive use of one team at a time [with cleaning between team use if a shared room]. Team members 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 BCL.

Team members must stay at the hotel at all times unless for training or competition purposes. Team members are not permitted to have visitors while at the hotel. Team members must not use public areas, such as the bar, 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, team members must wear face masks and maintain social distancing. If practical, the stairs should be used and the 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 that wear face masks, maintain social distancing restrictions and not attend the hotel if unwell
- Security control at the entry to the hotel or a team floor
- Quality food service which is freshly cooked
- Clean the dining areas only after they have been vacated by a team

The TCO is responsible for ensuring that these requirements are in place and ensuring team compliance with the BCL COVID-19 prevention protocols. Any hotel non-compliance must be reported to the Oversight Committee through the local event CO.

16. Arena Operations

The local Oversight Committee is responsible for ensuring that the training and competition areas are safe and compliant with local public health authority and BCL restrictions.

All basketball venues should have a risk assessment for both teams, game officials, media, broadcast and spectators and this will include:

- Entry and exit points for all attendees but separate arrangements for teams
- Local public health control requirements including crowd control, attendee control, cleaning and infection control procedures
- Processes in place to restrict access for individuals who are COVID-19 positive or have an acute viral illness
- Movement and access controls to facilitate social distancing and gathering restrictions
- Signage that reinforces the public health prevention requirements
- Security to ensure zone access restrictions
- A robust cleaning plan

16.1 Arena entry and exit

Entry controls may apply mandated by the local authorities and must be strictly respected.

The arrival of each team 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 route should be kept to a minimum and with stewards in place to temporarily stop any other transit. Any stewards must maintain a minimum two (2) metres distance from the team. Teams must go straight to the locker room and may perform a court inspection and warmup but must keep this to a minimum. Both teams should maintain separation in the inspection and warmup times. Teams must exit the venue together in a similar fashion to their entry.

16.2 Face masks and hand sanitiser

Face masks and hand sanitiser are a requirement. To facilitate this hand sanitisers can be widely distributed throughout the arena and face masks provided at the entry points. For the avoidance of doubt, all attendee and participants must wear face masks except direct participants during the game, players, head coach and referees. 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, scorers' and technical table officials [except the official game commentator] and independent medical staff. Referees must wear face mask during the IRS check at IRS position.

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

16.3 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.

Team areas such as court, team benches, game balls and locker rooms must be sanitised prior and after every usage [for practises and games]. These includes further areas such as media working areas, seating [depending on use], offices, meeting rooms and sanitary facilities.

There must be a process in place that ensures compliance.

16.4 Arena zones

A zoning system will be implemented in order to prevent any uncontrolled or indirect contact with the teams, namely:

Zone 1 – 'team zone' which includes locker 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 eighty (80) or other restrictions of the local public health authorities. Broadcast positions are excluded from this zone.

Anyone entering Zone 1 will need to present vaccination certificate, fulfilling the following criteria:

- a) Individuals that have undergone a full vaccination cycle
- b) Individuals with recent COVID-19 infection and positive serology result issued within the three (3) months from the game day.
- c) Individuals that can present a negative PCR test not older than 72 hours or a rapid antigen test not older than 48 hours prior to tip-off.

The BCL Technical Delegate is responsible to check the vaccination certificate or test results for all above-mentioned persons in the Zone 1.

Should spectators be permitted in the venue, a minimum of 2 [two] rows behind the team benches should remain empty and without spectators.

Furthermore, a minimum of 5 meters should remain empty from the end of the further boundary line on the basketball court, to the first seating row on the main stand [below the main camera].

Should the 5 meters rule opposite the Team benches not be possible or should the venue have court side seats, those Guests will need to present either a vaccination certificate, positive serology result or a negative COVID Test as per the rule described above.

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

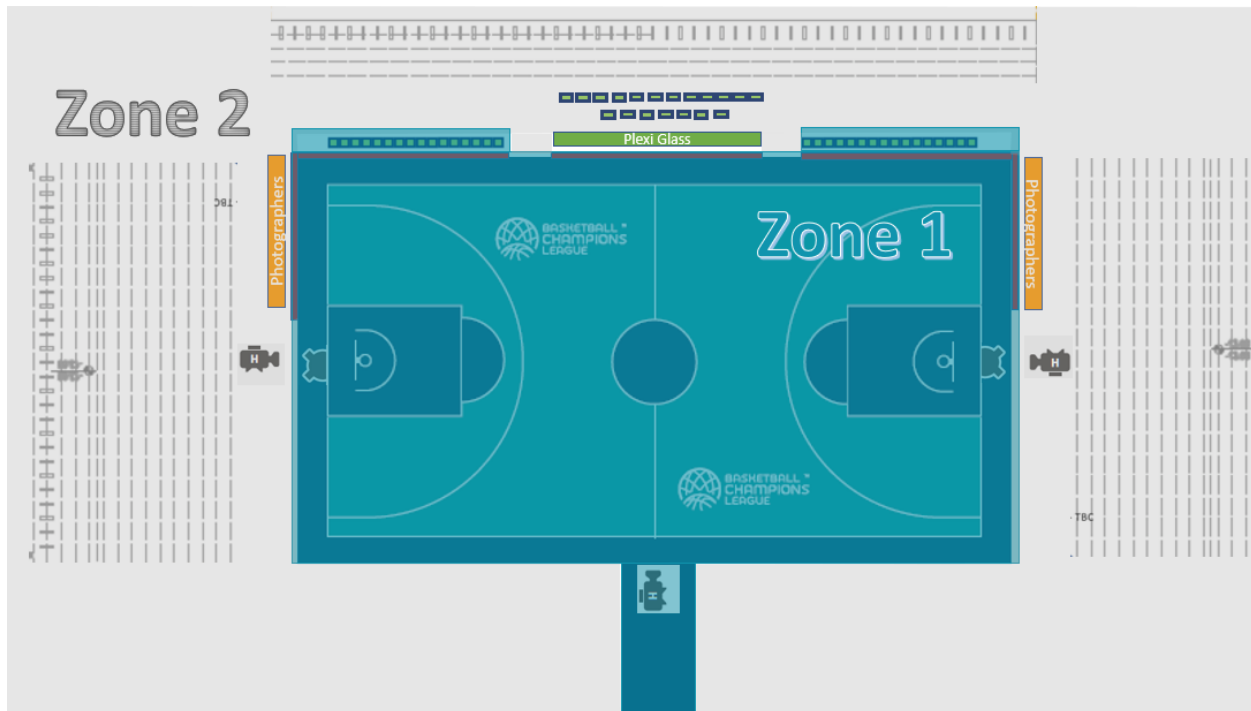
Consideration needs to be given for the Host Broadcaster rigging and unrigging of cameras in Zone 1 [i.e. Basket mini cameras, video and audio cabling around the court] Specific time slots will be accorded to this important part of the Broadcast Plan in coordination with the sanitisation/cleaning plan.

Zone 2 – ‘tribunes and arena interiors’ are the seating sections and includes hospitality, media, broadcast and photographer areas. The ‘stadium interiors’ include all indoor areas at the arena other than Zone 1. It includes any team offices and working rooms, offices, media and photographer working rooms. 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. The Event CO is responsible for ensuring compliance and must report any deviation to the Event Oversight Committee and BCL TD.

The above-mentioned zoning system will be activated as soon as one of the two teams is in the arena [incl. practises on GD-1] to ensure maximum safety for all participants.



17 Accreditation

The event organiser or host team is responsible for an accreditation system that allows access to team and official accommodation, arena and arena zones.

18 Team and referee facilities

Locker rooms for the teams and referees must optimise social distancing and air circulation. Depending on the actual size of the locker room, additional nearby rooms or spaces may be required. Ideally, a room or area should be set aside for the team's support personnel, medical and equipment.

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 locker 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 and located either within an area of the locker room or completely separately
- Individual drink bottles and towels
- Doping control facilities must align with the BCL protocols 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 dressing room and warmup area.

The locker rooms, team access routes (corridors, door handles, handrails, etc.), team benches, Scorer's and Technical table (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 locker 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.

19 Game Operations

19.1 Team benches, Scorers' & technical table and other officials seating

Each team bench area shall have sixteen (16) chairs, ideally positioned by respecting distances. However, no further measure imposed by BCL unless the local rule imposes stricter rules, then these have to be followed.

No plexiglass must be installed in the surround of the scorers' & technical table to separate from close contact with teams during games, IF the members of the technical table can present a Covid Certificate (vaccination certificate, positive serology result or negative Covid Test).

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

Up to ten (10) additional seats must be earmarked in the tribune next to the benches for members of each team's tested pool who are not part of the gameday Zone 1 delegation e.g. suspended, injured or unlisted players or technical staff who are not part of the game day group. Alternatively, these individuals could be seated in a specifically designated and controlled place.

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

Broadcast GFX position and operator should be located at the Technical Table, behind the Scorers Table [zone 2]

IRS [Instant Replay System] or VSR [Video Support for the Referees] can be located at the Scorers Table [zone 1] since the operator should be a referee [nobody from the HB or GFX is involved in the operation].

If there is an Instant Replay system, the Instant Replay Host Broadcast operator may require depending on each case, additional isolation, testing requirements and entry restrictions matching those of the teams and officials.

19.2 Team warmup

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

19.3 Team introductions and pre-game line up

Players must go directly to the bench from the locker 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.

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 the BCL.

19.4 Game time

Players and a head coach not required to wear face masks, must retain 1m social distancing as far as practical, avoid unnecessary contact with others, 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 exit 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. The host is responsible for providing hand sanitising gel at court entry points and bench area.

The host of the game is responsible for the sanitisation of the game balls.

19.5 Post game

Players may go through the usual post-game acknowledgement of opposition players and coaches but must avoid making physical contact, e.g. handshaking. All participants must exit the court in a timely way on completion of the game. Players should not congregate unnecessarily post-game.

During the course of the game the clubs' Team Compliance Officers must oversee compliance with the local public health and BCL COVID-19 prevention requirements and restrictions.

20 Broadcast, media and technical suppliers

20.1 General principles

All broadcast, media and technical personnel present in Zone 2 must comply with the local public health and BCL requirements including the wearing of masks (except when commentating), maintain social distancing and gathering restrictions. However, there is no reason why such organisations cannot have additional requirements to support the safety of their personnel.

20.2 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. The BCL reserves the right to restrict numbers of such accreditations.

20.3 Post game media conference

Conducted in such a way that maintains social distancing and BCL restrictions. 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.

20.4 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 otherwise approved by the BCL. Any approval of camera positions in Zone 1 will require separation from the team participants, referees and game officials and maintain social distancing of two (2) metres. Any approval for camera positions in Zone 1 [i.e. Locker Room, Steady Cam] may require depending on each case, additional isolation, testing requirements and entry restrictions matching those of the teams and officials.

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

Any interviews of participants in Zone 1 must have BCL approval and maintain social distancing.

Bench and time-out camera will not be permitted. However, the audio can be captured thanks to a boom microphone on a 3-4 meters stick that will allow a minimum 2-meter distance between the audio operator and the first team member in the huddle.

20.5 Photographers

Game photographers are limited to 4 at each end of the court. The photographer locations must be clearly marked, preferably on a bench behind the LED Boards. There must be a minimum of two (2) m between each photographer positions and maintaining one (1) person per four (4) m².

Broadcast Partners ENG camera positions must also be clearly marked behind the LEDs at an adequate distance next to the photographers' positions.

20.6 Media

The distribution of media in the stands must allow a two (2) metre distance to be maintained. Media personnel must wear face masks except commentators during the course of the game only.

Post-game interviews may be organised on/around the court once the teams have left the area, or in a suitable pre-approved location. The allocated area must allow for four (4) m² per person. The reporter and camera crew must stay at least two (2) metres from the player or coach at all times. Common sense must prevail in terms of location and access. All such arrangements require prior approval by the team, local organiser and BCL.

Should there be an 'open' media or mixed zone, media personnel must wear face masks and maintain two (2) metre separation from the team personnel.

During a post-game press conference media personnel must wear face masks and maintain two (2) metre 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 one (1) per four (4) m². 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 BCL TD will oversee compliance to event and BCL COVID-19 prevention requirements regarding media, broadcast, photographer activities, including social distancing, mask and gathering restrictions.

21 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 these protocols 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

The BCL requires that all event organisers, teams and participants will follow these protocols. If there are practicality issues, deviations, approvals or the need for clarification, the BCL can be consulted.

22 Essential Contacts

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