



COVID-19 Protocol for FIBA Official National Team and Club Competitions

FIBA Competitions taking place from August 2022

**Version 8
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FIBA
International Basketball Federation
Route Suisse 5
1295 Mies, Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 545 00 00
Fax: +41 22 545 00 99

FIBA.basketball

@FIBA

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1. Preamble

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to evolve with new mutations that are more infectious but with roughly the same disease-causing potential. The demographic group with the highest disease risk is the elderly and those with significant comorbidities. The participants in FIBA competitions are rarely in this high-risk group for serious disease or death. Therefore, FIBA has gradually shifted its' COVID-19 control effort onto teams and individuals due to the low risk of severe disease in its' competitions.

During basketball competitions, the main risk of COVID-19 infection, is the loss of playing personnel that could impact on a team's performance. This is another reason why FIBA has shifted the emphasis towards a team's approach to COVID-19 controls. It is in the interests of teams to control their own competition performance factors rather than relying on others.

The main risk for FIBA is the integrity and sustainability of its' competitions and therefore, FIBA's protocols retain some centralised COVID-19 controls.

This latest version of the FIBA COVID-19 Protocol (the "Protocol") builds on the expertise secured delivering FIBA National Team and Club Competitions during the pandemic while addressing recent developments related to COVID-19 and FIBA's response to them.

This version continues to set out the framework for the safe implementation of FIBA Competitions, and sets levels of required expertise, infection prevention, hygiene, medical response, and compliance. This protocol may be used for any basketball competition but, in this case, the organiser/entity in charge will take the role attributed to FIBA.

Throughout the document, the term "Team" incorporates any team taking part in a FIBA Competition, whether a National Team (and its respective National Federation) or a Club, and the respective Team Delegation Members. Similarly, the term "Host" now includes all possible organising entities, whether Host National Federation, Local Organising Committee or Club.

As the availability of vaccines and the number of vaccinated individuals increases globally, this greatly reduces the disease and level of symptom risk related to virus transmission, this Protocol now introduces a **strong recommendation that all Participants in FIBA competitions should be fully vaccinated**, which includes the booster vaccination when applicable by the participant's home health authority.

Finally, as outlined in the next section, this Protocol outlines minimum requirements but are subject to review by the Host local authorities. Differences may apply between this Protocol and its final implementation in each host country, e.g. the acceptance of a vaccine by the local health authorities. Hosts will need to confirm any applicable differences no later than one (1) month before the Competition. FIBA and the Host will then outline and communicate

any specific measures applicable for a Competition for each Team and Participant to take necessary action.

Teams are to take full responsibility for monitoring the health status of their Team Delegation Members before, throughout and up to seven days following the competition, and the implementation of all measures required by this Protocol.

1.1 What is new in version 8 of the FIBA COVID-19 Protocol?

Team responsibility:

1. All members must be fully aware of COVID-19 risks (including risks to team performance) and control measures;
2. Biosecurity arrangements under team management control should commence at least 5 days prior to travel or an event (reduce external mingling, practice social distancing, mask wearing, COVID-19 testing, inclusion of potential back-up team personnel, event control planning and delivery, etc.);
3. A strong recommendation for full vaccination (based on local health authority recommendations);
4. A team doctor with responsibility for COVID-19 prevention and medical management is mandatory;
5. The role of the team doctor is to include team awareness and education, illness surveillance, RAT management, vaccinations, close contact assessment in the case of a positive case, ensure all team participants are medically fit to compete in all individual games and ensure that no team member, who is infectious with any viral illness including COVID-19, participate in a game and
6. The team doctor must notify and certify medical fitness and COVID-19 infection in their team to the FIBA Supervisory Doctor and/or the FMCO.

FIBA controls:

1. FIBA will provide education and awareness training to Teams, referees, and FIBA Technical Officials;
2. FIBA Mandates that all teams, for FIBA competitions have a team doctor who oversees the delivery of the COVID-19 strategy and certifies team participant medical fitness;
3. FIBA mandates that Team management supports FIBA's COVID-19 control requirements;
4. The FMCO may require mandatory arrival COVID-19 testing (PCR or RAT) and other measures for all participants in individual events;
5. FIBA may require additional COVID-19 testing (PCR or RAT) in the event of an episode of a COVID infection in a team or event and
6. All individuals in Zone 1 must practice social distancing and wear a high quality mask (e.g. FFP2 or N95) except players, coaches, and referees when participating in a game.

LOC event measures to be implemented:

1. All participants in Zone 1 and with face-to-face roles with team participants must be fully vaccinated (as recommended by the home health authority of the participant);
2. All participants in Zone 1 must wear a high-quality mask;
3. All LOC who have direct contact with the Teams and the Team Officials (e.g. Team attachés and FIBA Official attaché) must undertake daily RAT prior to attendance to their engagement in the event; and
4. LOC must provide general medicine support to LOC, TO, and referee individuals.

2. Objectives

The aim of this Protocol is to set out a medical and operational framework that Hosts, participating Teams, FIBA Game Officials and Representatives, as well as any other staff or personnel involved in delivering the Competition (the “Participants”) must follow to ensure everyone’s safety at FIBA Official National Team and Club Competitions (see FIBA Internal Regulations, Book 2, as well as other Zone Competition Regulations) and the smooth operation these Competitions.

Due to the constantly changing knowledge of the COVID-19 virus, this Protocol continues to evolve and may be subject to updates which will be promptly communicated to all concerned parties. **Local public health authorities may also require stricter measures than those outlined in this Protocol. Where applicable, these would take precedence in the governance of a Competition.**

The present document sets out the requirements necessary for organising Competitions during this COVID-19 pandemic and covers aspects such as game management, travel, accommodation, and venue operations. It is a requirement that all Competition hosts and all participants strictly adhere to this Protocol.

Key components are:

- The appointment of a Host Medical Doctor in charge of monitoring the compliance to this Protocol and promptly reporting any deviations to FIBA;
- Personal behaviour of participants and the establishment of biosecure team environments;
- Limits on the number of Team Delegation Members and exposure to non-team personnel;
- Testing and medical support; and
- Venue and game management including media and broadcast.

For the avoidance of doubt, all health and safety measures in this Protocol shall remain valid and be fully implemented by the Host until the day after the end of the Competition, with the departure of the last participants from the Official Hotels.

3. Implementing the Protocol

The correct implementation of this Protocol lies with FIBA, the Host, and each of the participating Teams but requires the full compliance and cooperation of each participant. Appropriate roles – each with specific responsibilities – as well as clear reporting processes are crucial for the successful implementation of the Protocol for a FIBA Competition.

3.1 FIBA Event Management or FIBA Technical Delegates (as applicable)

A FIBA Event Manager or, where applicable, an appointed FIBA Technical Delegate or another FIBA representative will be responsible to oversee the on-site delivery.

Their responsibilities in relation to the implementation of this Protocol will include:

- a. Maintaining relations with all Team Heads of Delegation during the Competition;
- b. Supporting the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer in monitoring on-site implementation of the Protocol and addressing any violations;
- c. Supporting the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer in ensuring the venue set-up is carried out in accordance with FIBA requirements, particularly in relation to special measures related to COVID-19 implementation;
- d. Supporting the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer in ensuring that hotel and transportation arrangements are planned and carried out in accordance with FIBA requirements, particularly in relation to any special measures related to COVID-19 implementation; and
- e. Ensuring the safety & security measures are respected in all official event sites.

They will also oversee the reporting to the FIBA Crisis Management Board – where applicable via the respective Competition or Events department – on any crisis situations, including possible suspected infections or positive COVID-19 cases reported by the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer, and coordinating all on-site crisis management procedures. They should be fully vaccinated or have valid exemption.

3.2 FIBA / FIBA Medical Compliance Officer

The **FIBA Medical Compliance Officer** will be appointed by FIBA and shall be the main contact person for all COVID-19 Protocol issues prior to, during, and after the Competition. In principle, the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer should be onsite for tournaments, however, will be working remotely for Home and Away games. They should be fully vaccinated or have valid exemption.

They are responsible for:

- a. Communicating with the Host Medical Doctor prior to, during, and after the event in order to ensure smooth preparations and delivery of all measures foreseen in the FIBA Protocol;
- b. In the case of requiring mandatory arrival COVID-19 testing (PCR or RAT), collecting

- and monitoring the results for all individuals;
- c. In coordination with the responsible FIBA Event Manager or FIBA Technical Delegate, monitoring on-site implementation of the Protocol;
- d. Advising the Host Medical Doctor on any issues related to COVID-19 or any medical issues;
- e. Advising the Host Medical Doctor on any potential issues related to the implementation of the sanitary and hygiene measures;
- f. Checking any potential health/safety issues from teams (e.g. clinical symptoms of COVID-19, other health and safety issues during team activities, etc.) with Team Medical Doctors;
- g. Overseeing the management of any suspected infections or any participants exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 during the Competition by:
 - o Ensuring that the participant will not be permitted to enter the venue and deciding whether the participant shall be submitted for testing;
 - o If tested, managing all test results on-site and liaising with FIBA via the responsible FIBA Event Manager in case of issues; and
- h. Reporting any deviations to the responsible FIBA Event Manager.

3.3 Host / Event/Game Director

The **Event/Game Director** is appointed by the Host to oversee the planning and implementation of the Competition in the host country. They are ultimately the main authority in the Host and the counterpart for the FIBA Event Manager (or appointed Technical Delegate, as applicable). As such, they are responsible for planning and supervising the implementation of the respective games, including ensuring adequate budget, staffing, and coordinating everyone's work.

In the context of COVID-19, they are responsible for implementing the FIBA Protocol (by ensuring appropriate staffing, resources, and communication) in close coordination with the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer and promptly reporting any deviations to FIBA.

This person should be fully vaccinated or have valid exemption.

3.4 Host / Medical Doctor

The **Medical Doctor** shall be appointed by the Host. It is recommended that they are fully vaccinated or have valid exemption.

They must be a Doctor of Medicine, speak fluent English and is responsible for:

- a. Ensuring implementation of the medical service plan of Host;
- b. Making all necessary arrangements with local medical service providers for rapid provision of required medical services;
- c. Providing medical information fact sheet for all Participants;
- d. Confirming all medical and organisational requirements for all participants (e.g. advice on how to obtain prescriptions in the host cities, insurance requirements, instruction on payment procedure for treatment, etc.);

- e. Advise the visiting team doctors of COVID-19 requirements of the host health authority including vaccination and test requirements;
- f. Organising the anti-doping controls in cooperation with FIBA following the general hygiene protocols;
- g. Preparing all medical facilities and train relevant personnel;
- h. Being present in the venue(s) during games and prepared to manage or support any medical emergency from the moment the first participants arrive on site until the latest departure;
- i. Regularly communicating with the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer on the participants' health and safety issues and
- j. Managing all medical care and anti-doping matters prior, during and after the Competition (e.g. following up on possible COVID-19 cases who are required to remain in the host country).

3.5 Team / Team Doctor

A **Team Doctor** shall be appointed by the respective Teams and shall travel with the Team Delegation. Every team must have a team doctor. They should be fully vaccinated or have valid exemption.

All Team Doctors shall:

- a. Practice evidence-based medicine in accordance with the highest standards of ethical behaviour as determined by their licensing authority or the FIBA Medical Commission;
- b. Follow all medical guidelines developed by the FIBA Medical Commission, which may include the management of bleeding and non-bleeding wounds, concussion, player collapse, medical evacuation and any other basketball-relevant urgent medical matters as determined by FIBA;f and
- c. Ensure that only medically fit players are permitted to compete in a Competition of FIBA and in particular ensure no infectious participant be permitted to play.

Also, in the context of COVID-19, they are responsible for:

- a. Include team awareness and education around COVID-19, vaccinations and close contacts;
- b. Monitor on a daily basis the health status of all Team Delegation Members;
- c. Isolating immediately and arranging a COVID-19 test on any team member with symptoms of a viral illness during training period;
- d. Communicating with the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer when Team Delegation members undergo testing during an event, and the results of these tests;
- e. Being aware of wellbeing and mental health risks within the team; and
- f. Ensure no viral infectious individual of their team is permitted to play.

4. Testing and risk prevention/ Pre-Competition

4.1 Pre-competition test requirements

All team members must be asymptomatic prior to travel.

Although there are no longer any testing requirements prior to travelling, unless required by the local authorities or by the specific airlines, it is highly recommended that the Teams perform pre-travel PCR or Rapid Antigen tests in order to confirm the health status of the Team Delegation members prior to travel.

4.2 General principles

Prior to leaving for a FIBA Competition, it is recommended individuals reduce any possible risk of infection for at least 5 days by following basic personal hygiene and risk-prevention requirements which include:

- Regularly and thoroughly washing your hands with soap and water for twenty (20) seconds;
- Augmenting this with an alcohol-based hand sanitiser;
- Avoid mingling with others and maintaining at least 1.5m distance between yourself and anyone else including at training except actual Participants in the team such as players and coaches;
- Wearing an effective face mask (e.g. P95) when travelling or indoors with others;
- Following good respiratory hygiene - covering the mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when coughing, or sneezing, followed by its disposal;
- Cleaning training equipment before and after individual use; and
- Staying home and not travelling if unwell (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, or difficulty breathing) and seeking medical assistance.

It is the team doctor's responsibility to ensure that all team members are aware of these COVID-19 prevention measures and check all team members prior to travel.

5. Testing and risk prevention / On-site

5.1 Teams, FIBA Officials and Representatives

Rapid Antigen testing (RAT) or PCRs on-site are no longer mandatory for asymptomatic individuals. However, FIBA may require COVID-19 testing (PCR or RAT) upon arriving and the FMCO will notify the Teams and Individuals if testing will be necessary.

Individuals who report COVID-19 symptoms must isolate and undertake PCR testing as soon as possible.

Team Doctors are responsible for monitoring the health of their Teams. If tests are undertaken, the results shall be communicated by the Team Doctors to the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer, who will be responsible for coordinating any required measures in the case of positive results.

Assumption of costs

The costs of PCR tests performed on individuals displaying symptoms or on close contacts as decided by the FMCO should be covered by the respective Teams or individuals.

All costs related to COVID-19 testing of the LOC staff and testing that is mandated by the Local Governments shall be covered by the Host.

All costs related to COVID-19 testing upon arrival if mandated by FIBA for asymptomatic individuals shall be covered by FIBA.

5.2 Host Staff, volunteers, and suppliers – Home/away and Tournaments

All Host staff, volunteers, and suppliers, who are appointed to work in the Competition in the vicinity of individuals who belong to “Zone 1” (e.g. participating Teams, FIBA Game Officials and Representatives), are required to be fully vaccinated.

All LOC Volunteers and Staff who will have direct contact with the Teams and the Team Officials (e.g. Team attachés and FIBA Officials attaché) must undertake daily RAT prior to their engagement in the event.

6. Venue setup and operations

In both home & away and tournaments, the Host is responsible to ensure that the competition venue is safe and compliant with local public health authority restrictions and the FIBA COVID-19 Protocol requirements.

9.3 Venue zoning and accreditation

The implementation of the required zoning concept is vital for the successful implementation of this COVID-19 Protocol.

A zoning system shall be implemented and overseen by the Event Manager. It shall be tied to a personalised accreditation system in order to prevent any uncontrolled or indirect contact with the teams and FIBA Game Officials/Representatives.

The following zones shall be identified:

- **Zone 1 – “Team Areas”** which include team entrance, access corridors, changing rooms for teams and referees, first aid room, doping control room, Scorer’s Table,

Technical Table, team benches, court and court boundary lines, with a clear delimitation and access control (e.g. LED boards or signage). A participant tribune, easily accessible from the team areas and preferably not in camera view shall also be included.

Zone 1 is for the exclusive access of:

- Team Delegation Members;
- FIBA Game Officials and Representatives (including FIBA Photographer and BOVM);
- Essential game operations staff (e.g. Table Officials, Statisticians, Public Announcer, etc.); and
- Required Zone 1 security personnel.

The total number of individuals in Zone 1 at any given moment should not exceed one hundred and fifty (150) or follow other restrictions of the local public health authorities. Broadcast and manned camera positions are excluded from this zone. Appropriate access rights shall be implemented via accreditation devices and mask usage remains mandatory in this Zone.

The Host shall ensure that all access points to Zone 1 are staffed and secured and only authorised accredited personnel are allowed to enter.

All individuals that may have contact with Zone 1 (TV, Media) will need to ensure they maintain a 1.5m distance from any participants in Zone 1.

It is mandatory to wear a high-quality mask (e.g. FFP2 or P95) at all times in Zone 1. Players, coaches, and FIBA Officials are exempt from wearing a mask when participating in a game.

- **Zone 2 – “Operations Areas”** include the remaining field of play area around the court, any broadcast and photographer areas as well as – where required - sport presentation positions and some Host offices (Administration Areas). The “Operations Areas” shall include all manned camera positions.
- **Zone 3 – “Tribunes, Concourse and Venue Exteriors”** extends from the outer limits of Zones 1 and 2, including the media tribune and any spectator tribunes, to the outer boundary of the arena environments (fences, turnstiles, gates, etc.) as well as the broadcast compound.

All access points between zones must be clearly marked and have security control, and the Host is responsible for overseeing the movement of people between different zones.

If the FIBA accreditation system is not used, the Host is responsible for implementing an accreditation system that enables personalised accreditation as a minimum for all

individuals requiring access to Zone 1 and who have been subject to testing according to the requirements of this Protocol. This must be strictly enforced with appropriate biosecurity arrangements.

The Host shall submit to FIBA for review its venue zoning as part of its COVID-19 Protocol Implementation Plan and inform well in advance on any local protocol requirements related to additional mandatory testing.

All Zone areas are required, at a minimum, to follow local protocols in regard to social distancing, the wearing of masks and sanitisation.

Accreditation distribution and management

Accreditations shall only be provided to individuals who comply with the FIBA COVID-19 Protocol.

In addition to setting up an Accreditation Centre at the Venue, in the case of tournaments, the Host shall make all necessary arrangements to provide accreditation badges directly at the official Hotel for all individuals accommodated there.

In case positive PCR or Rapid Antigen tests leading to an individual being excluded from the Competition, the information shall be escalated to the FIBA Accreditation Coordinators, where present, or the Host Accreditation Coordinators, in order to take necessary action related to the individual's accreditation (e.g. withdrawal of the accreditation).

7. Measures in case of symptoms or positive cases

Anyone involved in a FIBA Competition who develops symptoms indicative of a potential viral infection, which must be honestly declared, must immediately isolate, and contact the FIBA Medical Compliance Officer for guidance and testing.

In case of positive cases the local authorities are to be contacted and local protocols are to be followed. The FIBA Medical Compliance Officer must also be notified immediately.

7.1 Responsibilities in case of positive results and quarantine measures

Each Team is responsible for covering possible medical costs for its Team Delegation Members as well as – where applicable - possible accommodation and service costs in Isolation Housing.

In the case of Teams, the team doctor must immediately isolate the individual and not permit them to participate in training or competition, arrange or undertake COVID-19 testing and medically manage the individual.

It shall be noted that the insurance policy that FIBA provides for players competing in its Competitions only covers injuries due to accident and excludes illness. Therefore, it will not be possible to grant salary protection insurance should any player test positive to COVID-19.

The Host must continue to provide assistance to any visiting Team Delegation member or FIBA Game Official/Representative who is required to remain in quarantine or hospitalised in the host country after the last day of the Competition. A release protocol of infected individuals must be prepared by the Host and submitted to FIBA in advance.

FIBA

8. Appendix 1. Participant Declaration

FIBA COVID-19 Protocol for National Teams and Club Competitions v 8 (From August) Participant Declaration

I affirm that I have read and understood the FIBA COVID-19 Participant Protocol for FIBA Official National Team and Club Competitions v 8 and understand my obligations as a Participant in the Competition.

I acknowledge the risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic and that even with the protocols implemented by FIBA, the Host and/or the Local Authorities, there is still a risk. I confirm my understanding that my participation in the Competition is at my own risk.

I expressly agree that neither the Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA) nor the Host shall have any liability whatsoever if I contract COVID-19 during the Competition.

I will honestly declare to the Team doctor when I have symptoms of a viral illness and will follow their instructions as to my medical and competition participation management.

I acknowledge and agree, as a member of my National/Club Team, that testing and daily health monitoring for COVID-19, including, but not limited to screening for body temperature, may be performed on site and that any and all results or other related health data including pathology and specialist reports, vaccination or exemption documentation, in consultation with medical experts and Team Doctors, may be collected by FIBA or medical personnel engaged by FIBA ("Personal Data") before the Competition and/or at the Event sites (Hotel or Venue), where needed, and such information may be shared with my Team and FIBA.

I understand that the use of my Personal Data will be in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and all relevant Swiss legislation. I am aware that FIBA's legal basis for holding and processing my Personal Data is FIBA's legitimate interest and the protection of my health. I am also aware that my Personal Data shall not be shared with any other third parties except the medical expert engaged by FIBA and the related local authority and will be destroyed by FIBA following the conclusion of the Competition, as defined in the FIBA Regulations

I have been advised that for more information about FIBA's data use policies, to refer to FIBA's Data Protection Notice published under www.fiba.basketball/privacy.

Full name

National / Club Team and role

Date and Place

Signature

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian, if applicable