



Zagreb, Croatia  
30 April - 2 May, 2021

## COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

Version 7 at 08/02/2021

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As of today, the health situation related to COVID-19 in Zagreb, as well as the rest of Croatia is serious but under control. Currently, there is a reduction trend in cases of COVID-19 and the hospitals and intensive care units are able to manage the situation.

In any case, sporting activity for high-level athletes affiliated to national federations is permitted by the Croatian Government Authorities. Competitions of International and national level are allowed, but currently without public spectators.

As an example, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the Audi FIS Ski World Cup "Snow Queen Trophy" took place in Zagreb, which saw a participation of athletes from different countries but without spectator presence. In addition, in November 2020, a European Junior and U-23 Judo Championships were held in Poreč, Croatia, with participation of 685 athletes (more than 1000 participants altogether), arriving from 37 countries, also without spectator presence. Both of these events were held under strong epidemiological measures, which finally resulted in no local viral outbreak or transmission.

The Croatian Rowing Federation has prepared their annual calendar of competitions which of course include the 2021 World Rowing Cup I 30<sup>th</sup> April-2<sup>nd</sup> May in Zagreb.

For the conduct of the 2021 WRC I we have prepared a Covid-19 Response Plan protocol to minimize the risk and spread of infection following the guidance documents prepared by World Rowing and approved by the Croatian Rowing Federation.

### 2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT / PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES

Relevant information about Croatian regulations on Covid-19 can be found here:  
<https://www.hzjz.hr/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Kriteriji-za-testiranje-na-SARS-CoV-2-prekid-izolacije-i-karantene-ver-5.pdf>

and here:

[https://www.hzjz.hr/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Preporuke\\_za\\_sportska\\_natjecanja\\_29\\_05.pdf](https://www.hzjz.hr/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Preporuke_za_sportska_natjecanja_29_05.pdf)

Information about travel restriction can be found here:

<https://mup.gov.hr/uzg-covid/english/286212>

Please, **study carefully Travel Restrictions** on the provided link, and organize your trip accordingly. For any questions, unclarity or need for help, please contact the Organizing Committee (OC) via email: [info.2021wrc@zagrebrowing.com](mailto:info.2021wrc@zagrebrowing.com)

**Important note:** Please organize trip to Croatia respecting all the epidemiological measures, especially the measures of social distancing. Please, be able to provide a trip plan (time length of trip sequences, number of breaks, information on ventilation, hand sanitization, facial masks etc.). Also, be able to provide an exact seating plan for all means of transportation that will be used. If any positive case will be detected during the competition, having a trip and seating plan may significantly reduce the number of isolated/quarantined participants (decision of the local epidemiological service).

For this event, a specific operational and implementation protocols containing the details of the organizational systems used to protect the health of their staff, operators, athletes and participants in the event were adopted in conjunction with the local health authority. WRC I 2021 in Zagreb is possible in compliance with the rules of social distancing prescribed by government provisions and without any gathering.

**Important note: The operational protocols of the OC may be subject to further implementations or corrections following any guidelines issued by other ministerial or regional authorities.**

The main actions to be taken to be able to carry out sporting events safely and according to the guidelines of the authorities are:

- social distancing obligation, a minimum of 1.5 metres
- obligation to use appropriate mask covering mouth and nose
- wash or sanitize hands very often
- limit gatherings as much as possible and prevent potential risk situations
- frequently sanitize the sports facility and all areas of potential contagion
- carry out the event behind closed doors, access to the event only for athletes, professionals, volunteers after accreditation and authorization of the state of health.
- temperature measurement before accessing the sports facility. Access will not be allowed in the event premises of participants temperatures above 37.2°C. Please see on the next page all the measures that will be taken if such case occurs.

#### **FACIAL MASKS**

- Masks covering mouth and nose have to be worn all the time, except for the athletes on water and ergometer, and during warm-up which will be possible only in specified areas
- Plastic shields will not be accepted and cannot substitute facial masks
- Masks have to be provided by national federations
- FFP/2 & N95 masks are very strongly recommended

### 3. CONTACT INFORMATION

OC COVID-19 Manager:

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### 4. GENERAL MEASURES AT THE REGATTA VENUE

#### GENERAL MEASURES

- The sports facility hosting this event will be closed to the public. Access to the event area is allowed only to the accredited participants of the event.
- The OC will carry out frequent sanitization of the rooms used.
- All toilets within the venue premises will be periodically disinfected during the day.
- All participants, officials and workforce must be equipped with a mask covering mouth and nose to be used at all times (except when on a boat/warm up machine and meals).
- The area hosting the event is structured in the following spaces that must be respected:
  - Logistics area
  - Race area
  - Accreditation
  - Finish tower
  - Victory ceremony area
  - Media centre
  - Information centre

The different areas will be supervised by personnel identified by the OC.

Since the event takes place mainly outdoors, there are no limitations in the number of athletes as it takes place in an area of almost 2.400.000 m<sup>2</sup>.

#### NATIONAL TEAM'S COVID-19 MANAGER

Member Federations should appoint a National Team COVID-19 Manager where possible or designate the National Team Manager as their National Team COVID-19 Manager for this event. The task of the National Team's COVID-19 Manager is to coordinate and verify compliance of the provisions implemented in the protocol and the supplementary ones, referring to the venue within which the competition takes place.

Each Member Federation is responsible to exercise maximum care for its team members before, during and after the event. Each team will be asked to form a team "bubble", this means that members of that team must strictly remain in the company of only fellow team members from arrival to departure in Zagreb (this includes at the venue, in the official transport and all public areas of the official hotel). Members of each team bubble should have no or limited (only when necessary) contact with people not in their team bubble. All participants must follow the measures in the OC COVID-19 Response Plan at all times, including the wearing of appropriate masks at all times except in the boat or at meals, social distancing and regular disinfection among the other measures published by the OC.

#### INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS

There is an obligation on all teams, officials and workforce to stay at home/at the hotel if there is a fever (over 37.2 °C) or other symptoms of flu and call OC COVID-19 manager.

During the event:

- a) pay particular attention to surface hygiene
- b) maintain an interpersonal distance of at least 1.5 meter
- c) wearing of masks at all times except when on a boat/warm up machine and meals

- d) avoid close contacts such as hugs or handshakes

The following rules apply to the entire area of the event and are valid from arrival at the venue until departure from the venue.

#### IN CASE OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR BODY TEMPERATURE ABOVE 37,2°C

- Any registered athlete or staff (from WR, National, Teams), press or officials who has any symptoms somehow related to COVID and/or temperatures above 37,2°C must contact the National Team's COVID Manager, who will further contact the OC COVID Manager. Such person will be immediately isolated.
- If increased body temperature (above 37,2°C) will be observed on the checkpoints (e.g. entrance to the venue, hotels, buses etc.), a person will be immediately isolated.
- The isolated individual will be immediately reported to the OC COVID-19 Manager, who informs the OC-doctor and the WR-doctor. This is valid also for national staff which stay at home.
- Every such subject will immediately be subject to a COVID-19-rapid (lateral flow) test.
- Positive person will be reported to national health service and quarantined.
- Persons with negative rapid tests are not assumed to be contagious in the next few hours but will be subject to a PCR test to further exclude infection. OC-Doctor after consultation with WR-doctor decides on isolation depending on clinical situation and mitigation possibilities.
- When positive cases occur, OC-doctor decides on future measures after consultation with WR-doctor (further measures on contact persons, mitigation procedures, ...). For this purpose, WR will establish an emergency team with members from OC and WR which will decide on all future measures related to the regatta and communication. The emergency team will include the official epidemiologist.
- According to Rule 48 of WR rules of racing, registered subjects or team officials who will not report suspicious issues related to infections / public health will be subject to decisions by WR Exec which may include revocation of accreditation for this and future WR events.

#### QUARANTINE

- Anyone tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus at any time is to be quarantined at their Hotel or the apartments (organized by the OC).
- Quarantine period in Croatia is 10 days.
- Persons can only leave quarantine if they are symptom free, and upon expiration of 10 days period.
- If a person is PCR negative, but was in close contact with a positive person, he/she will be quarantined as well and monitored for 10 days period.
- Additional measures can be required by local health authorities (epidemiological service) and will be applied on case-to-case basis.
- Strict security system will be applied. If somebody is positive/quarantined, accreditation card will be withdrawn.
- Direct and related expenses of the quarantine and additional PCR testing are to be paid by the National Team. National Teams are expected to have adequate health insurance which ensures coverage in Croatia.
- A Report for the COVID-19 persons in quarantine (infected or close contact) will have to be filled in by the National Team COVID-19 Manager on daily basis.
- In case of any symptom worsening, immediately contact OC COVID-19 Manager!

## 5. ACCREDITATION & ACCESS TO THE EVENT

- All participants in the event, including athletes, coaches, professionals, World Rowing staff and volunteers must be accredited. The accreditation card will have a participant's name, surname and national team clearly written.
- Each participant at the regatta will be required to complete a Pre-Event Health Questionnaire and Member Federations are obliged to sign a National Federation Consent Form accepting responsibility for their team members. The forms will be sent out to Member Federations directly by the Zagreb OC and must be completed and returned to the OC by email to [covid19@zagrebrowing.com](mailto:covid19@zagrebrowing.com). The form must be signed and returned between 24-26 April 2021.
- Those who do not submit the forms until the deadline, or who do not fulfil completely the forms, or who by the answers provided in the forms are under higher risk of the Covid-19 infection will not be able to get the accreditation card.
- To protect the health of all participants, anyone not adhering to the participation conditions will be immediately disqualified and excluded from the event, at the discretion of the World Rowing Executive Committee.
- All participants must show the accreditation pass with its name and surname on entry to the venue.
- If travel restrictions are in place for certain teams, they can request an exception by contacting the Croatian Rowing Federation who will take steps to contact the competent authorities and find a solution for the problem. Please, contact via email: [info.2021wrc@zagrebrowing.com](mailto:info.2021wrc@zagrebrowing.com)
- **A negative PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus not older than 3 days has to be presented on the accreditation**
- A negative PCR test must be available in English language, and in Latin alphabet (Cyrillic script, Arabic or Chinese alphabet and similar will not be accepted)
- PCR test must be available in printed form, it will be collected and stored
- Persons who were vaccinated or already recovered from COVID-19 have to provide the same negative PCR test result. **All the rules apply in the same manner to every participant**, and no exemption will be made!

## 6. COMPETITION AREAS

### CONTROL COMMISSION:

- All people and staff at Control Commission must wear masks covering the mouth and nose. Bow numbers and GPS units must be sanitized every time they are used. Everyone must maintain an interpersonal distance of 1.5 metres.

### BOATING PONTOONS:

- Will be sanitized several times a day. Only athletes and official workers will be able to access the pontoons. It will not be allowed to leave personal items on the pontoons. The athletes will have to wear their mask until they have left the pontoon.

### ON THE WATER FOR RACING/TRAINING/WARM UP:

- Same rules apply for competition and training days

## 7. TEAM / ATHLETE FACILITIES & SERVICES

Dedicated courses for one-way walking flow will be organized to avoid gatherings and limit as much as possible people crossing paths. The doors must remain open where possible to avoid frequent contact with the hands of different people.

#### ACCREDITATION AND TEAM REGISTRATION CENTRE:

- Only one person in the accreditation centre at a time and only the designated National Team Manager is allowed to enter the centre.
- Plastic shields will be installed to separate OC volunteers from National Team Managers.

#### BOAT RACKING:

- Boat racking will be located on open space behind the boathouse. Limit the interaction between athletes from different nations.

#### ATHLETE WEIGHING:

- Limited crews at a time will be allowed in the waiting area. Clear plastic shields will be installed to separate officials from athletes. Crews waiting outside must keep social distancing while waiting to enter the athletes weighing area
- Test scales will be regularly sanitized

#### TEAM INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Only one person at a time is allowed to enter the information centre.
- Plastic shield will be installed to separate OC volunteers from team managers.

#### TOILET:

- Frequent sanitization will be performed daily

#### SHOWERS:

- Showering will be prohibited at the venue
- If an athlete requires taking shower (e.g. in case of immediate departure), a Team Manager has to schedule a term a day before on the Info centre (the exact number of people and requested time)

#### WARM UP ERGOMETERS:

- Ergometers will be positioned at least 2-3 m away from each other based on local government requirements, and in tents to allow maximum ventilation
- Each athlete must sanitize ergometer with products made available by the OC before and after use. The OC will in any case provide for frequent sanitation with specialized operators and volunteers.
- Teams who wish to bring their own ergometers will be able to; however, they must remain within the confinements of their own team tent to ensure social distancing from other teams. Teams will be responsible for their own frequent sanitation of their machines.

#### TEAM TENTS AND ICE BATHS:

- Each tent will be positioned at a safe distance from each other and the position will be pre-assigned based on the number of athletes for each team.
- Ice Baths will be allowed but must be owned by the teams and used according to current legislation. Space for ice baths is capped so teams must register their ice baths with the OC to ensure there is sufficient space for social distancing.

#### TEAM MASSAGE AREAS:

- The massage area will be provided by OC.
- The tables will be separated with paravanes and dedicated space will be assigned where appropriate.
- Operators and athletes must also use a mask covering mouth and nose during treatments.
- At the end of each session the team must sanitize the area.

#### ATHLETE REST AREA:

- Athletes must always wear a mask covering mouth and nose and sanitize their hands with special products made available and maintain a distance of at least 2 metres.

#### ATHLETES AND COACHES VIEWING AREA – Grandstands:

- All attending the area must wear mask covering mouth and nose, sanitize hands very often, maintain a distance of at least 2 metres.
- OC recommends teams to carry out temperature testing daily to all groups, with an infrared contactless thermometer; if a person has flu symptoms or a temperature above 37.2 °C the person must be isolated from the rest of the group and OC COVID-19 manager has to be informed immediately.
- The temperature of all participants will be measured by OC specialized personnel or with automated systems every time the event venue is accessed.

## 8. MEDIA AND BROADCAST

#### MEDIA CENTRE:

- The layout will be revised to ensure social distancing - a maximum of 20 people can be inside at the same time.
- Mask covering mouth and nose will be required to be worn at all times.

#### PHOTOGRAPHERS & PHOTO POSITIONS:

- The photographers' locations will remain the same but will be revised to ensure social distancing. Marks will be placed in order to indicate where to stand to have adequate social distance.

#### MIX ZONE:

- They will be divided into independent and exclusive areas to be assigned to each television crew to ensure social distancing from other media and from athletes.
- Further details on the lay out of the mixed zone will be worked on and finalised closer to the event

#### VICTORY CEREMONY PROTOCOLS:

- During the victory ceremony all athletes must wear a mask covering mouth and nose.
- The awards ceremony will be in a limited area in which only the awarded athletes enter.
- Interpersonal distances of 1.5 meter must be respected.
- The awards will be made after each race and will be performed without contact.
- The awarded athlete will take the medal directly from the tray to carry it around their neck.
- No handshakes and hugs. The athletes photographed must be careful not to hug each other or have an attitude that is not respectful of distance and the safety of others.
- Photos may be taken by authorized and accredited photographers in compliance with the distancing rules.

## 9. WORLD ROWING (INCLUDING ITOS)

- The same general rules apply to the World Rowing group (including jury and contractors etc).
- In addition, they must register and sign the COVID-19 documentation and proceed with temperature measurement when accessing the venue.
- Working space – limits/layout changes/measures:
  - World Rowing Office 30pp/no/200sqm
  - Jury Meeting Rooms 25pp/no/160sqm
  - Plastic shields will be installed between the commentators in the Finish Tower and other commentary positions so they can remove masks for commentating

## 10. SPECTATORS, VIPS & HOSPITALITY

- Currently, sporting events must be held without the presence of the public.
- VIP and hospitality can be organized and managed following the general rules for reducing the spread of the virus. It is still to be determined if hospitality will be arranged.

## 11. OC STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- OC staff & volunteers must follow all the general rules for reducing the spread of the virus and sign the Pre-Event Health Questionnaire forms.
- They must always carry the accreditation card with them.
- All volunteers will be divided into specific areas and their task allocation would attempt to minimize interaction between them

## 12. LOGISTICS, MEETINGS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### VENUE CATERING:

- The catering area will be organized in a way to ensure the social distancing
- Meals will be served in single-portion (sufficient portion sizes) and closed packs to allow the best hygiene measures. There will be distanced tables for the ones who want to sit and eat at the catering shed.
- During meals, athletes must maintain an interpersonal distance of at least 2 meters.
- Conversation during the meals should be avoided in order to prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus among athletes.
- The take-away service will also be offered if any team wishes to have a meal at their tent.

### TEAM MANAGER MEETINGS:

- Team Manager Meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise indicated at the event.

### CEREMONIES AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Opening and Closing Ceremonies are currently not foreseen to be held.
- No Media or Jury outing will be held.
- No Nations Dinner will be held.

### TRANSPORT:

- Wearing a mask covering mouth and nose is mandatory within transport buses.
- Transport to and from airports and to and from the venue will follow the same regulations and procedures and will be provided by the OC.
- Shuttle travel will be defined in advance and organized by fixed groups, reducing the crossing of groups during the training and racing days on the site.
- Teams who would use the OC transport shuttle service must confirm with the OC their preferred transport times. Teams must comply with their chosen departure and return times. Alternations will not be allowed.
- The shuttle access will be checked by OC people. The number of passengers will be limited to ensure compliance with minimum distance rules. Passengers are asked to not use adjacent seats.
- Teams who are bring their own shuttle buses/vans/cars to Zagreb would be given the appropriate parking passes at the Venue.
- Grip zones especially for standing passengers (if applicable) will be periodically disinfected at the end of a bus tour.



**HOTEL:**

- All teams **must** be accommodated at the OC's official hotels, so that the protocols are followed by all participants
- For security reasons, accommodation will not be allowed outside the official hotels of the Organizing Committee, or reservations made directly at the hotels. This procedure aims to keep all participants within the same protocol and routine.
- The OC will reserve additional rooms at the hotel in case isolation is needed for someone with a positive COVID-19 test or COVID-19 symptoms.
- Athletes from the same crew must remain in the same room. Room sharing by athletes who are not on the same boat should be avoided where possible.

### **13. REPORTING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

*Each OC will work on the specific reporting procedures and requirements for each event to develop the Crisis Management and Communications Protocol documents with their respective World Rowing Event Manager.*

**PRE-EVENT:**

- done through use of the "Pre-Event Health Questionnaire"

**DURING EVENT:**

- The National Team COVID-19 Manager will take care of identifying a place in the venue dedicated to the isolation of those who present symptoms attributable to COVID-19 during the event and implement all procedures to ensure rapid health intervention
- In case of COVID-19 symptoms or body temperature above 37.2°C, a protocol (page 4) must be followed.

**POST-EVENT:**

- 14 day after the completion of the competition, National Teams will be required to complete an online survey about the event.

### **14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR MEASURES**

**DOPING CONTROL PROCEDURES:**

- Doping Control will be performed as scheduled, respecting all the health procedures required by proceeding 1 athlete at a time. An additional waiting area will be organized outside the doping control room to ensure social distancing for waiting athletes.

**COVID-19 PCR TESTS:**

- Additional PCR re-testing (e. g. for purposes of departure) will be available upon request, but has to be announced by National Team COVID-19 manager at least 24 hours in advance.
- Costs of PCR testing will be charged to the national teams.

**TRAINING AT THE VENUE PRIOR TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE VENUE:**

- This is still to be confirmed of whether it is possible or not as it has clear COVID-19 management impacts