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Recommendation on Holding Outdoor Sporting Events

These recommendations relate to the implementation of measures at outdoor sporting events taking place during the SARS-CoV-2 virus epidemic (COVID-19 disease) to protect organizers, athletes, staff and other participants. They apply to all facilities and venues in which sporting events will be organized.

It is allowed to hold sporting events in compliance with these recommendations and all other epidemiological recommendations of the Croatian Institute for Public Health in place while special Covid-19 measures are in force.

1. Spatial and organizational venue requirements

Organization of sporting events. Sporting events may be organized without the presence of spectators, in outdoor sports venues in which all hygiene and safety requirements prescribed by the recommendations in place are met while Covid-19 measures are in force, which the legal entities managing the respective sports venues are in charge of and responsible for.

Venue size and maximum number of people. At least 7 sqm of net floor area or 10 sqm of gross area per person must be provided. The number of persons includes coaches, instructors, team leaders, organizers and other staff who participate in the organization of the event, that is, all persons who are in the venue in which the sporting event is held.

Hand sanitizer. One disinfectant dispenser per every 50 sqm must be placed in all indoor areas of the sports venue (changing rooms, showers and toilets and other rooms in the indoor area of the sports venue). At playing fields for team sports, disinfectants must be provided at the entrance to the field, at the benches for reserve players, referees, delegates and other officials and every 20 to 30 m around the field along the sideline. In individual sports, one dispenser must be provided at each arena, and at least one per every 200 sqm within the competition area of the venue that contains several arenas. Disinfectant must be alcohol-based in a concentration of no less than 70% or another agent with declared virucidal action, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and suitable for use on skin.

Equipment disinfectant. In equipment storages, sanitizer dispensers with 500ml capacity must be provided per every 50 sqm. Portable disinfectant dispensers must be available every 20 m around playing fields for team sports, i.e. next to each apparatus or individual sports discipline area in outdoor sports venues, so that there is at least one per 100 sqm.



Waste disposal. It is recommended that waste bins with appropriate lids be placed in all areas inside the venue.

Physical distancing in the reception and other common areas in the indoor parts of the venue.

Sufficient distance must be maintained between reception staff and visitors and among the staff, or barriers installed if possible (made of Plexiglas or similar material ensuring the required distance). The maximum number of persons in the reception area and other common areas in the indoor parts of the venue must be regulated and limited in accordance with the physical distancing measures of 2 metres.

Record keeping. An attendance record-keeping system will be set up for each sporting event in order to facilitate subsequent epidemiological contact tracking in case of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Besides the event place and date, records must be kept of the first and last name, telephone number and time of arrival and departure of organizers, coaches, instructors, team leaders, athletes, assistants and other persons involved in the sporting event.

Schedule. Sporting events may be held only in accordance with the schedule and with exactly those athletes, that is, competitors and coaches, organizers or team leaders listed in the schedule and in the presence of the necessary technical staff who are also listed in the schedule.

Plan and priorities. If the sports venue is shared by multiple users for sports competitions, training sessions and other sports and recreational activities, priorities will be set by the organizer or a competitors' representative together with the legal entity that manages the sports venue.

2. Hygiene of premises

Hygiene and safety conditions. As long as special Covid-19 measures are in force, all hygiene and safety conditions must be maintained in the sports event venue, which the legal entities that manage the sports venue are in charge of and responsible for. Recommendations for cleaning and disinfection apply to all areas of the venue (entrance area, reception, competition area, toilets, changing rooms and showers).

Ventilation. It is necessary to regularly ventilate all indoor spaces, especially between each activity, that is, ensure constant ventilation whenever possible.

Air conditioning, heating and ventilation devices. General recommendation is to ventilate indoor spaces by opening windows, and not so much by using ventilation systems. When using ventilation systems, special attention must be paid to the condition of filters and to maintaining proper air renewal rate in indoor spaces. It must be checked whether the ventilation and air renewal equipment is functioning properly. It is recommended that ventilation with an increased percentage of outdoor air circulating in the system be used and recirculation mode avoided, to increase air renewal, which reduces the concentration of potentially infectious particles.

Frequent cleaning and disinfection. It is necessary to clean and disinfect indoor parts of the sports event venue as often as possible throughout the day (which includes all parts of the sports venue - competition areas, showers and toilets...).

Disinfection during breaks. All frequently touched surfaces on the venue's premises that are used during the sporting event must be thoroughly disinfected before and after the competition and during each longer break in accordance with the guidelines of the Croatian Institute for Public Health and ventilated as often as possible. Special attention must be paid to changing rooms, showers and toilets.



Guidelines for compliance with all general and hygiene measures. Cleaning and disinfection guidelines are available at the following links:

- Cleaning and disinfection of areas without COVID-19 patients <https://bit.ly/2VLkkt3>
- Cleaning and disinfection of areas that were used by persons with suspected COVID-19 <https://bit.ly/3d1WmiS>.

3. Recommendations for users, athletes and venue staff

Informing venue staff and users. Before starting work, i.e. before opening the venue, it is necessary to train employees on all measures that are being implemented. It is necessary to post the information on hygiene procedures or guidelines on proper behaviour and protection measures in a visible place in front of or immediately behind entrances.

Daily body temperature checks. Organizers, coaches, instructors, team leaders, athletes, assistants and other participants in the sporting event must take their body temperature before coming to the venue. If it is higher than 37.2 °C in the morning, if the person feels sick or has any signs of illness (this applies to all symptoms and signs of illnesses, not just respiratory diseases), the person must contact his/her superior and not come to work until he/she has phoned his/her family doctor, who will decide on further action.

Physical distancing. When athletes and other persons are in indoor areas of the sporting event venue (changing rooms, showers, toilets, etc.), it is recommended that they keep a distance of 2 metres as a necessary physical distancing measure.

Face masks. Employees are advised to wear medical or face masks during their stay indoors, except in cases when it hinders them in conducting their activities.

- Instructions for proper use of face masks <https://bit.ly/3caB81N>

Healthcare professionals. In case that the presence of a healthcare professional is needed during activities, he/she is obliged to use appropriate personal protective equipment, i.e. a surgical mask in combination with a visor, when in close contact.

Equipment disinfection and hygiene. After using sports implements, apparatuses and other equipment necessary for competition, competitors or persons in charge of it must disinfect them immediately after the end of competition.

Drinking fluids. Athletes are advised to have their own beverage bottles labelled with their name, as well as other supplies that must be in bags with their names on them. Beverage bottles and other waste generated during the sporting event must be disposed of in designated waste bins with double bags and appropriate lids.

Lingering on the premises. After the competition, athletes and staff involved in the competition will not stay on the premises longer than necessary. Time spent in changing rooms and shower areas must be kept to a minimum.

Reception of contractors and suppliers. The arrival of other persons (e.g. handymen, couriers, delivery staff) must be organized in such a way that they are announced by telephone before they arrive. Then they are checked for symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of smell and taste) and contact with infected persons.



4. Other service units

Food and beverage consumption areas. Food and beverages will be consumed in designated areas in the venue in accordance with the Recommendations for the Operation of Catering Facilities of the Croatian Institute for Public Health:

<https://bit.ly/3epLcVT>