

ANNEX 4

MEDIA

Dear media representatives,

Due to the still remaining pandemic influence and the unpredictable development in the future, additional measures and media requirements at all IBU Biathlon Events in season 2021/2022 are still required to minimise the risks of further spreading of the virus.

These rules have been developed based on guidance from the IBU's Medical Advisory Group and are intended to maximise opportunities for the media while recognising and respecting the difficulties presented by the current situation.

The IBU and its organisers can limit the number of media representatives for each event depending on the national health regulations and the respective infrastructure setup at each venue. We will strive to balance this limited access and make it as fair as possible by ensuring representative selections of newswires, publications and freelancers at the event. In addition, we will consider the language and reach within this limited number of journalists and photographers.

If national regulations or advice by IBU's Medical Advisory Group requires, the IBU will close the event for media representatives and only personnel crucial to the operation of the competition and broadcast production will be granted access to the venue. The procedures will be adjusted according to the pandemic situation.

We do understand that this is a difficult situation for the media and journalists, who show so much passion for our sport and are vital to its promotion around the world. We of course, would wish there to be no restrictions on the media. However, the health and wellbeing of everyone in the biathlon family must be a first priority and in order to ensure the long-term viability of biathlon and of its flagship events in the COVID-19 pandemic, we must take these necessary steps.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you in advance for working with us to ensure that the IBU delivers the event to the safest standards possible.

Please find a detailed set of procedures below:

ACCREDITATION AND ACCESS TO ATHLETES

- ▶ Accreditation will only be handed out with a valid negative COVID-19 PCR test (**if not excluded from the testing protocol as described in Annex 7**) and signage of IBU's COVID-19 declaration (Annex 1) to agree with all measurements and restrictions taken to secure the event safety. Those tests may not be older than 72h from sample taking (finally depending on national regulations in the host country).

- ▶ In order to visually recognize the function quickly, every accredited person will be categorized into certain groups (see main document). The colour(s) of the group(s) will be visible on the accreditation card but area numbers decide on access.
- ▶ A fully filled IBU membercenter profile and accreditation request is a precondition for eligibility. Media representatives have to sign the COVID19 declaration (Annex 1) to agree with all measurements and restrictions taken to secure the event bubble.
- ▶ Media representatives physically attending the event might have limited direct access to athletes, competition areas or team zones (except Mixed Zone). All direct activities, including teams and athletes, shall be approved by the IBU (including outside the biathlon venue) providing a concept which shows hygienic measures (e.g. distance, masks indoors etc.)

COVID-19 TESTS

- ▶ This season, the IBU will NOT implement its own COVID-19 test system
- ▶ Media representatives are required to arrange their COVID-19 test prior to arrival and on the venue (if needed) on their own.

A positive COVID-19 test-result must be reported **immediately** to the IBU and OC designated COVID-19 contact person

ZONES AND WAYS

▶ **Mixed Zone:**

- There will be a mixed zone with the mandatory distancing corridor for athletes and media. Availability of mixed zone slots will depend on the space situation on-site.

▶ **Shooting range:**

- The media corridor behind the coaches should be open with the mandatory distancing corridor for the teams and media (finally depending on the recommendations of the MAG and national safety regulations).

▶ **Course:**

- A decision about designated Photo areas on the course will be made closer to the event

▶ **Media Routes:**

- The ways on the venue can change and it is likely that longer ways have to be accepted.

▶ **Media Centre:**

- Services: The services in the media centre might be reduced (including catering, printing, information desk) and journalists attending the events will need to prepare in a way that they are self-reliant.
- Space: The media centre will be laid out respecting social distancing requirements of national regulations (m²/person). Limitations of allowed workspaces might occur.

- Meals: There will be an area at the venue for meals but what will be offered will be significantly reduced from previous years. Drinks (sealed bottles) in the Media Center will be provided but again media are requested to bring their own supplies to ensure they are self-reliant.

IBU MEDIA SERVICES

▶ Press Conferences:

- There will be only virtual IBU press conferences at the event with no media present.

▶ Access to live data:

- The IBU Data Center will be available as normal and provide the usual live data.

▶ Media content / interviews / photography:

- The IBU will provide audio content for signed-up written media on request. This will be free content that is not broadcast.
- A selection of still images will be made available free from editorial rights restrictions.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

- ▶ Separate hotels for specified groups (Teams, Media, IBU) directly involved in the event are preferred wherever the host regional hotel structure allows it but not mandatory.
- ▶ Accommodation can be booked individually but the **OC MUST be informed prior to the bookings**
- ▶ **If no official OC accommodation is booked, a hygiene concept proving the implementation of the Guidelines must be sent to OC and IBU (e.g. confirmation that separation is guaranteed)**
- ▶ Avoid elevators
- ▶ Separation from other hotel guests (**own areas for meals and own buffet mandatory**)
- ▶ Please check whether your own transport can be organised to the venue since this is considered the safest option by the medical experts.

MASKS

Indoors:

Strict mask obligation indoors (inside all buildings, enclosed areas, especially where different stakeholder groups meet and in the **MEDIA CENTER**) and in any kind of transport with other persons than own team/company.

Exceptions:

- alone in a room / car or in own hotel room
- while eating (only at the table)

Outside:

In general no mask obligation where sufficient distance can be kept.

Any kind of OC staff/referees/media coming close to athletes/team staff shall wear a mask at that occasion.

This regulation is based on the security belt around the venue, ensuring that only fully vaccinated/recovered or regularly tested persons can enter the venue.

Surgical/medical masks and FFP2 masks (without valve) are allowed.

GENERAL BEHAVIOUR

„Act as you want others to act“

We kindly ask that you take care of your behaviour and act as a role model during the whole event!

- ▶ **Daily health self-reflection** (If you feel sick: report it (procedure below) and stay in your room.)
- ▶ **Hygiene**
 - Wash your hands regularly and properly
 - Use provided disinfection dispensers regularly and properly. Have your own disinfectant with you for safety reasons
 - Avoid handshaking at all times
 - Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze
- ▶ **Avoid contacts**
 - Direct contact should be limited as much as possible. **This applies also for your time off the venue.**
 - In case of contacts the general rules and national regulations of distancing and wearing masks must be respected and followed.
 - Maximise distance between you and the athletes as much as possible
- ▶ **Violations of these procedures will be treated strictly, in accordance with the declaration in Annex 1.**

REPORTING

- ▶ In case you feel unwell, contact the OC & IBU designated contact persons immediately
- ▶ Self-isolate at the venue/in your hotel
- ▶ Wait for a test to be conducted
- ▶ Self-isolate while you wait for the test result and await further instructions from the OC & IBU designated contact persons.
- ▶ In case of a positive test result further measures and tests will be coordinated by IBU and local health authorities.