



POWERED BY WATER

LEN WATER POLO COMPETITIONS

SANITARY GUIDELINES V.7

1 - PREAMBLE

This Protocol (the LEN guideline) sets out the framework of medical, sanitary and hygiene procedures together with the operations that are to be applied when staging LEN Water Polo competitions. The difficulty to still foresee the Covid-19 epidemic evolution, either in terms of its epidemiology or in the nature of the countermeasures imposed by national governments, force us to implement medical advices and best practices.

The LEN guideline has been written with the support of a LEN Medical Task force thus to minimize as much as possible the risk to LEN competitions from COVID-19. Therefore precise preparations and on-site organisation is required and the cooperation of the teams, their players, officials, technical staff, the referees, the venue staff and all those involved in the matches is still crucial.

For the 2021/22 season, the LEN Guideline has been adapted based on the experiences gathered during the last year of LEN competition matches, and new principles have been developed taking into account the evolution of the medical situation including the emergence of virus variants, and the implementation of a vaccination programme across Europe.

LEN expects therefore all parties to still adhere to hygiene best practices both in the controlled match environments and in their personal day to day lives. All precautions set out in this document must be strictly accepted by all those involved. Non-respect of such social norms could have serious consequences for the staging of international competitions.

The LEN Guideline does not contain any matters related to medical or operational requirements for a return to training by teams. It is the competence of the National Federations in coordination with the relevant local authorities.

2 - OBJECTIVES

The aim of this document is to set out a single medical and operational protocol applicable to competitive LEN Water Polo matches for Clubs and National Teams for Men and Women in all age categories.

Given the overall situation and the regulatory conditions which may occur during in the coming months, the LEN guideline may be revised and adapted at any changes. The LEN guideline is subject to legal provisions and other orders issued by the competent local authorities in the various countries. Each national federation should inform LEN as soon as possible if any existing or new legislation may have an impact on how this protocol is applied.

The LEN Guideline sets out the necessary procedures for organising all LEN WP Competitions, focusing on matters such as the testing regime, teams and officials travel and hotel planning and the venue operations.

This means creating a protected and contained environment for team players and technical staff to provide them with a separated 'bubble' corridor for all movements into, within and out of the venue, and establish best practice principles for the protection and safety of all working staff involved in delivering the match. The aim is to minimize the amount of contacts between different groups involved in the match, to reduce the possibility of any cross-contagion between groups, and therefore to limit the number of people that may need to be tested.

3 - APPLICATION

The LEN Guideline includes medical and operational obligations for all parties taking part in organising LEN WP competitions. These obligations must be applied by each organiser when preparing venues, subject to any additional measures imposed by their local authorities. With the exception of those events for which LEN may be the direct organiser, the responsibility for implementing the requirements and guidelines set out in this document lies with the organiser.

The LEN Guideline applies to the LEN WP Matches set out under objectives until further notice in conjunction with the applicable local authority legislation.

LEN is entrusted with the operational management of the guideline and entitled to take decision and adopt operational provisions for the implementation of the guideline in particular in view of the different competitions to be organised as well as to amend it accordingly in view of the COVID-19 development and the changing of the National conditions.

Non-compliance with the obligations set out in the LEN guideline may lead to disciplinary measures according to the LEN regulation.

4 - *SPECTATORS ADMITTANCE*

The LEN Minimum Health & Hygiene Requirements for the Return of Spectators set out the minimum requirements that national Federations and clubs (match organisers) must implement when staging LEN competition (including the national team friendly matches). The Minimum Requirements cannot be considered as an authorisation to admit spectators to matches, as this is a decision for the relevant competent national authorities. Whenever the authorities allow spectators to attend a LEN matches, the maximum spectator attendance limit is determined by the authorities and the Minimum Requirements must then be fulfilled.

While it is impossible to ensure a completely risk-free environment, the objective of the Minimum Requirements is to ensure that, wherever spectators can be admitted to LEN games, match organisers shall adopt best practices based on medical advice in order to minimize the risk of infection. Each match organiser must draw up a health and hygiene plan approved by the authorities for match operations involving spectators. The match organisers must confirm to LEN that the plan complies with all relevant decisions of the authorities and with the Minimum Requirements, by submitting the Declaration of Compliance with the Minimum Requirements on TIME.

While the Minimum Requirements are considered to be minimum obligations, the exact health and safety measures that each organiser adopts depend mainly by the specific local situation (risk rate of the area, swimming pool and infrastructure, set-up and organisation, level of digitalisation, ticketing process) and on specific laws and regulations imposed by the authorities.

This part of the document is intended to supplement any rules established by the authorities. In case of discrepancies with measures imposed by authorities, the strictest (safest) requirements apply. Any limits to the total number of persons that can be in the swimming pool must be applied in a way not to impede or have any impact on the team delegation size or the number of venue staff, media or broadcaster personnel permitted to attend.

4 - SPECTATORS ADMITTANCE

Match scheduling must not be jeopardised by any decision on spectator attendance: decisions to admit or not admit spectators to the swimming pool must not have any impact on the schedule, even at short notice. The organiser is wholly responsible for compliance with national and local requirements and must hold LEN harmless against any claims related to spectator attendance.

LEN will amend the Minimum Requirements as appropriate to take account of the COVID-19 situation and changes to national circumstances. Minimising COVID-19 risks for LEN matches with spectators relies on thorough and robust preparations and on-site organisation, but also to a large extent on the cooperation and behaviour of the teams, spectators, venue staff and all target groups involved in the matches. Match organisers should bear in mind that their actions and adherence to all applicable laws and regulations, including this document, are critical to guarantee a safe environment for spectators.

- **Process and scope of application**

Spectators can be only allowed to attend LEN matches if the match organiser complies with:

1. National and/or local legislation including attendance limit set by the authorities as well as submission of the European Green Passport
2. The Minimum Requirements; The Venue manager must submit the Declaration of Compliance with the Minimum Requirements to LEN ahead of the first match of that team in that swimming pool played with spectators. In addition, if a team has played matches in that specific venue already with spectators, but the situation subsequently changed and supporter attendance was after then prohibited by the authorities, a new Declaration of Compliance must be submitted before the next match that spectators are permitted to attend again. Submitting this declaration is a prerequisite if spectators are to attend LEN matches. It is up to the teams to ensure compliance for all LEN matches they play. The LEN delegate will report any non-compliance with the Minimum Requirements to LEN, and disciplinary measures may then be taken in accordance with the LEN Disciplinary Regulations

4 - *SPECTATORS ADMITTANCE*

- **Seating capacity and allocation.**

The maximum attendance limit is decided by the authorities. During and after the match, measures must be taken to ensure minimal contact between spectators. In particular the minimum social distance must be applied between all ticketed seats or individual ticket groups according to the rules decided by the authorities. In the absence of any local legislation/regulations in this respect, the WHO guidelines on minimum distance must be applied.

- **General hygiene measures**

The organisers must:

1. Before and during the match, clean and disinfect the areas of the venue to be accessed by spectators and others. These areas may include seating, hospitality, catering, media working areas, offices, meeting rooms, sanitary facilities and any frequently touched surfaces, especially in areas with high traffic, such as door handles, toilet handles, bathroom taps;
2. 2. Install hand sanitisers throughout the swimming pool as needed,

- **Queue management**

The organisers must apply a queue-management concept – to be included in the health and hygiene operational plan approved by the authorities – to minimise congestion and overcrowding;

Furthermore the organiser must set up queuing lanes with channelling systems and dedicated signage, floor markings, signage and posters to remind spectators to maintain social distance from each other.

4 - SPECTATORS ADMITTANCE

- **Ticketing**

1. Sell and assign personalised tickets only;
2. Ensure the minimum social distance;
3. Fix unassigned seats in a closed position and mark them accordingly;
4. Not sell standing tickets, i.e. all spectators must have an assigned seat;
5. Handle the admittance of the general public with all the necessary precautions and with absolute adherence to the LEN Sanitary Guideline. It is paramount to protect the team bubble and TV facilities. The presence of the general public must not jeopardise the teams. The match organisers must in particular:
 - 5.1. Prevent spectators from approaching the tribune sectors used by team delegation members, TV/media personnel and any other organisational staff who have access to zones 1 and 2. A minimum safe distance of 4.5 metres must be guaranteed;
 - 5.2. Ensure that all seating sectors for the general public and guests are completely sealed off from Zone 1 and 2 and clearly separated access with no crossing points, with dedicated sanitary and medical facilities;

- **Temperature measurement**

If temperature measurements are required by national legislation, the organiser is strongly recommended to implement:

1. the latest thermometer technology, such as thermal imaging cameras or similar, to speed up the process and prevent overcrowding of spectators entering the venue;
2. a detailed procedure for spectators with a temperature above the threshold set by the authorities (e.g. dedicated area to be defined for such individuals and potential remeasuring of the temperature after a specific amount of time).

4 - SPECTATORS ADMITTANCE

- **Communications to spectators**

The match organiser must define a communication plan to inform spectators about the COVID19 mitigation measures, including:

1. Queuing instructions and guidance using posters, signs, channels and floor markings, including reminders to maintain social distancing, wear masks and use hand sanitisers;
2. Indications of maximum occupancy in restrooms, hospitality areas;
3. Reminders of all venue rules, including assigned seating, social distancing and mask wearing, using posters, public announcements and images on giant screens and venue TV;
4. Information on procedure if spectators have COVID-19 symptoms. Organisers are recommended to dedicate staff to instruct spectators to comply with all hygiene measures and social distancing while entering the Venue, during the match and when exiting the swimming pool area.

The spectators should also be recommended to:

1. Regularly disinfect their hands, using the hand sanitizers provided around the venue;
2. Avoid crowding and congregating in groups;
3. Download and use contact-tracing apps permitted in the jurisdiction of the match;
4. Use contactless payment to cash.

4 - SPECTATORS ADMITTANCE

- **Ticket holders' obligations**

The general terms and conditions for ticket sales must include the following minimum obligations for ticket holders:

1. Ticket holders must be admitted to the swimming pool submitting the relevant European Green Passport according to the local legislation and must contact the relevant local health authorities for guidance if they are suffering from any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 that are known not to be from another cause;
2. Ticket holders must confirm they are aware and informed of the risks inherent to the COVID-19 situation;
3. If required by the competent authorities, ticket holders must inform the local health authorities and the organisers if they test positive for COVID-19 after the match within the period defined by national/local regulations;
4. Ticket holders must undertake to follow all swimming pool rules, including:
 - 4.1. Submitting to a body temperature check on entry to the venue (if required by national legislations);
 - 4.2. Wearing a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times within the whole swimming pool perimeter;
5. Maintaining social distancing while at the venue,
 - 5.1. Adhering to the seat allocated to them, which ensure social distancing between all ticketed seats;
 - 5.2. Not occupying any seat other than the one allocated with their ticket. A plan must be devised for clearly communicating spectator obligations to the ticket holders in advance of the match.

The organisers are responsible for enforcing these obligations. Spectators that refuse to comply with these regulations must not be admitted to the venue.

The organiser must follow the health and safety procedures defined by the authorities in case of infected or potentially infected persons, as well as in case of persons who believe to have COVID-19 symptoms or to have been in contact with COVID-19 carriers. Depending upon the jurisdiction, these procedures may include sharing data with local authorities and notifying ticket holders of their obligations to report symptoms or positive testing results to the competent authorities.

5 - RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure that the LEN guideline is properly implemented, each team taking part in LEN WP competitions must take the following measures:

Each team must appoint a **Medical Officer** (preferably the team doctor) who will ensure that the medical requirements are fulfilled and will liaise with a Testing service provider, as well as receiving all SARS-CoV-2-RNA test results and ensuring the sharing of the list of individuals negative results with LEN.

The MO must ensure that all persons to be tested are present and must also organise if necessary appropriate testing facilities for each organised test.

Each team must have a responsible person (**Team Manager**) for ensuring the travel, accommodation and general hygiene and social distancing measures are always respected. The TM must ensure that the measure of the LEN guideline are strictly implemented.

Each organiser must appoint an English-speaking person responsible at the venue and during its operations (**Venue Manager**), whose responsibility will be to review the operational principles of the LEN guideline with the relevant local authorities, and to ensure that all the principles and appropriate hygiene measures are correctly implemented at the venue. This Venue Manager will apply a protocol to enter the venue and its controlled area that ensures that everyone entering the venue has their health and temperature checked daily.

The **LEN Technical Delegates** responsible for the game will be, amongst other tasks, responsible overall for checking, that the LEN guideline and hygiene measures are implemented at the venue, and must review all entry procedures and the zoning concept and access protection at the venue. The LEN Delegate must report to LEN office any failure in the implementation of the safety and operational measures

The **LEN Medical Delegate** will liaise with the team doctor in regard to the SARS – CoV-2 RNA testing results as well as may at the request of the teams advise alternative testing practises for players previously affected by the virus. Please note such consultation may be only advisory in nature and any decision can only be taken by the competent local authorities.

6 - MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

Social distancing and hygiene principles

In general, social distancing is considered the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmitting the disease together with hygiene best practices such as regular hand-washing and prevention of droplets through protective face mask.

At all matches, a 1.5 metres social distance must be always respected in all indoor areas, and in no case less than the guidance recommended by the local government.

Such strict distancing measures must be applied between the teams and officials as well as all other groups of persons involved at the venue.

However, a testing programme to increase security and confidence for everyone involved in a LEN game must be considered as follows.

Testing Programme

In order to safeguard the health of all persons involved in LEN Water Polo competitions and the general public, where physical distancing or other infection preventative measures may not be possible in all circumstances, a specific programme has been put in place to be followed by all those concerned.

The Following Target Groups have been identified by LEN and will be subject to a specific testing programme:

Group 1: all players participating at the LEN Competition together with the team staff (Coach, Assistant, Doctor, Physio, Press Officer)

Group 2: the LEN Delegates, LEN Referees, Medical, Antidoping control Officer, VAR operators, LEN Staff, LEN Media, Venue Manager, Broadcaster manager, Media manager, Venue Service providers

Group 3: Local Officials, Local staff, Local service providers, Local medical team, antidoping chaperones, Host Broadcaster staff, Security, Stewards.

6 - MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

The testing programme differs for the following categories:

Category A: Individuals of the target groups that are fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 and/or have recovered from COVID-19 and are in possession of an official vaccination and/or recovery certificate issued by the relevant competent authorities (e.g. Digital COVID-19 certificate – Green Pass).

Category B: Individuals of the target groups that are either not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated.

The relevant target groups are responsible to select an accredited testing service provider to conduct the testing required as per the LEN testing programme.

Pre-competition Testing. To reduce the risk of positive tests immediately before competition matches, all members of Group 1 and Group 2 are strongly requested to undergo at least one round of pre-screening testing at least 10 days prior to their first match in the relevant competition. In such cases, testing must be organised and paid by each team and National Federations with an accredited testing service provider.

6 - MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

Single match testing schedule

The various groups will be tested for individual matches according to the following standard schedule:

Group 1

Members of the team including under Category B will be subject to testing before each match in the relevant competition. The team is responsible to organise and bear the cost of the sample collection and testing with an accredited testing service provider as follows:

- SARS-CoV-2 RNA Test including PCR (polymerase chain reaction)-based tests not earlier than 72h before the match;

or

- SARS-CoV-2 antigen test (Antigen Test) not earlier than 48h before the match

If required by the authorities, an additional test may be necessary on arrival in the host country/ city.

The sample collection must be organised to allow the results of this test to be delivered to the Medical Officer prior to the departure of the team to the match location so as to ensure that the Medical Officer removes any persons who tested positive from the delegation that will travel.

Teams and tested persons shall ensure that LEN will receive the individualised negative test results to the email address test-management@len.eu

Members of the team including into Category A are in principle not subject to any further testing within the framework of entering Zone 1 for LEN matches.

However, it remains within the sole responsibility of the team to verify before travelling to any match venue in another country if all individuals of the team which fall under Category A are permitted to enter the country and/or the Venue. In case any additional entry requirements are applicable, the team is responsible for complying with such rules in order to be able to enter the relevant country and Venue and participate in the respective LEN match.

6 - MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

Group 2 and Group 3

Group 2 and Group 3: Individuals including into the **Category B** are subject to testing before each LEN match.

Members of this group will have to organise their own testing with an accredited testing service provider.

Testing shall be organised 72h before the game in case of RNA Tests and 48h in case of Antigen Test.

All those involved in the activities at the Venue or interacting with members of Group 1 from the day before the game must plan their sampling time to receive their results before the beginning of their activities as follows:

- RNA Tests be organised 72h before the day game or
- Antigen Tests be organised 48h before the day game.

If required by the authorities, an additional test will be necessary on arrival in the host country/city. In this case, a sampling time must be arranged that allows results to be delivered at the latest 6 (six) hours prior to kick-off time (local time) on the day of the match.

Individuals included into the **Category A** are not subject to any testing within the framework of entering Zone 1 for LEN matches. However, they must nonetheless comply with any potential additional entry requirements being applicable in the country of the match venue.

6 - MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

Tournament Testing

In Tournament format testing for the group 1, 2 and 3 will take place as follows

All participants included into the **Category B** will have to be tested 72 hours before the beginning of the tournament in case of RNA test and 48h in case of Antigen Test.

Additional tests will be necessary either on arrival in the host city, RT – PCR test has to be carried out by an official testing authority (approved by LEN), provided by the local organiser upon the arrival at the hotel (results of RT-PCR test to be delivered within at the latest 6 (six) hours prior to kick-off time (local time) of the first match of the competition day), or (rapid antigen) during the tournament according to the number of competition days.

Individuals including into the **Category A** are not subject to any testing within the framework of entering Zone 1 for LEN matches. However, they must nonetheless comply with any potential additional entry requirements being applicable in the country of the match venue.

Venue entrance requirements (Zone 1)

In order to be granted access to the relevant LEN match venue, members of Group 1, 2 and 3 must present on arrival at the Venue a photo ID, accompanied by a Digital COVID-19 certificate or an official certification issued by the relevant competent authorities which proves that the individual:

- is fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2; or
- has recovered from COVID-19; or
- has received a negative RNA Test conducted not earlier than 72h prior the day game or a negative Antigen Test conducted not earlier than 48h prior the day game.

6 - MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

Management of test results

If someone in Group 1 tests positive, the relevant local authorities must be informed as required. The team's doctor must be aware of the obligations required by the relevant local health authorities that need to be followed either by the team or the person in question. Teams must ensure that no person testing positive can travel to the match venue or take part in the match.

If anyone in Group 2 tests positive, the relevant local authorities must be informed as required. The National Federation must be aware of the obligations required by the relevant local health authorities that need to be followed by the person in question and shall urgently inform LEN who will proceed with the replacement of that person.

If someone in Group 3 tests positive all requirements set out by the local health authorities must be followed, however such person will have to be replaced accordingly

It is recognised that those who have been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 may still be at risk of delivering positive PCR test results, despite having no contagion risk nor virus symptoms.

In order to be allowed to take part at the competition all Participants who have verified confirmation that they have now recovered from the virus have to submit documentation of this to LEN (test-management@len.eu), including the date of diagnosis of the virus, complete relevant medical history and two SARS-CoV-2-RNA negative tests according to the related health care regulation and taken within 14 days period (medical certificate issued in English). This must be provided at least one week before the team's next match. This information will then be analysed by the LEN Medical Committee which may provide recommendations to the team concerned and to LEN as to the possible steps to be taken.

However, such recommendations are strictly advisory and it will be the responsibility of the team to liaise with the competent local health authorities.

In order to minimize the impact of a positive test from a player or staff member teams must implement a rigorous tracing programme.

It is crucial to keep careful note of interactions between persons in the group such as when seated in the planes/buses, training interaction and social exchange.

6 - MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

Find below some example of best practice behaviour to be implemented.

During Travel

- Maintaining social distancing on all bus, at the airports and approaching the plane
- Using two team buses
- Keeping set seats on all bus trips
- Wearing mask during all travel

During Hotel Stays

- Maintaining social distancing at any gatherings of team
- All team members wearing masks except when seated at the meal

During training

- Keeping track of training groups as well as training sessions contacts

Team Manager must oversee all team arrangements to maximise social distancing and behaviour best practice measures.

6 - MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

Restart of the competition

For the players who have had documented Covid-19 diagnosis, before to take part in the competition the following examination are recommended:

- CPX (Cardio pulmonary stress test)
- Doppler echocardiography
- 24 hours ECG Holter monitoring
- Complete Spirometry
- Hematologic examinations (Blood tests) – Blood count, ALT/AST ratio, Gamma-Glutamyl Transferase (GGT), Creatinine, Creatine Phosphokinase (CPK), Troponin, Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), Prothrombin time / Partial thromboplastin time (PT/PTT + International normalized ratio, INR), Protein electrophoresis, D-dimer, Polymerase chain reaction (PCR), Ferritin, Interleukin-6 (IL-6), complete urine test
- CT-Scan for Covid-19

Development of symptoms onsite

Anyone involved in a match who develops any symptoms indicative of a potential COVID-19 infection must immediately isolate themselves at the hotel and the Medical Officer must contact the relevant local health authorities for guidance.

Key indicators of a COVID-19 infection include high fever, dry cough, tiredness, breathlessness or loss of sense of taste and/or smell.

A full list of potential indicator symptoms can be found here: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_3

Please make sure that the laboratory will be available until the end of the event in case of extra tests need to be conducted.

6 - MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

Swimming Pool

It is recognised that social distancing or other infection preventative measures may not be possible in all circumstances, not least between the opposite team players during a match.

Swimming pools are already environments considered quite healthy and if the usual hygienic sanitary measures according to the rules are respected, they should not be affected by any epidemic cases.

The virus responsible for COVID-19 is a virus with a fragile external lipid membrane. Typically viruses with such membrane are less stable in the environment and are more sensitive to oxidants, such as chlorine.

According to what is stated by the World Health Organization, the conventional methods utilised by a centralised water treatment systems that uses chlorine filtration and disinfection are deemed capable of inactivating the virus responsible for COVID-19.

Although the virus has been reported in river water, it has not been detected in drinking water and, based on the current evidence, the risk is very low for the water resources

It also reports that, for effective disinfection of the water, there should be a residual concentration of chlorine free of ≥ 0.5 mg / l.

As further confirmation, it has long been demonstrated that free chlorine above 0.5 mg / l ensures complete disactivation of SARS-CoV (from the same family of the virus that causes COVID-19).

In this regard, it is important to consider that the water to be used for the swimming pools must have the same requirements as for the water for human consumption (drinking water).

The above principles are in line with the opinion of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that is the reference point in USA for the application of all measures in terms of prevention and control of diseases: "Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, like those in most of the municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19". There is no evidence that someone has contracted COVID-19 through drinking water.

Therefore, free chlorine concentrations between 0.8 and 1.5 mg / l in swimming pools seems largely capable of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Furthermore, the evaporation of chlorinated water could also reduce the risk of spreading a virus transmittable by air.

7- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROCEDURES

Team players and team staff

The following are requirements for teams when travelling:

- Use of masks in all public areas during travel
- Social distancing with anyone outside the group of players and technical staff who have been tested
- Regular use of hand sanitiser

Teams must also be prepared to comply with any SARS-CoV-2-RNA testing at the airport if required by the relevant local authorities.

The host team/organiser must facilitate the arrival and transfer of the visiting teams. This should include direct collection in a private bus avoiding public spaces where possible.

When possible, the return flight should take place immediately after the match.

For matches played in a tournament format, once teams have arrived on-site before their first match in the competition, they must remain on-site until after their respective last match in the competition. Teams are not permitted to leave the official hotel, the tournament venue for training camps, to take part in other matches or for any other reason.

Team Delegation

A maximum of 10 people from the team's official delegation may attend the match. However if they are not part of the group tested, they must stay in a separate hotel. Otherwise they have to be included into the testing group and follow the same testing programme as the rest of the team. If the same flight and hotel is used by both groups, the two groups must maintain social distancing and apply hygiene measures, particularly during the meals at the hotel.

This group of people must always wear masks while present at the venue. They can only access the swimming pool when their respective team is competing.

7- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROCEDURES

LEN Referees and LEN Delegates

The LEN referees and LEN delegates must take care to maintain strict social distancing at all times. They must wear a protective face mask (for mouth and nose) for the total period of their journey whenever social distancing is not possible and use hand sanitiser regularly.

Local transportation procedures

Team busses must be disinfected shortly before collecting the team. The bus driver should be equipped with an appropriate face protective mask and always remain at 2m from the team members (e.g. middle door to be used by players and staff to enter/leave the bus). The use of plexiglass to isolate the bus driver may be used as an alternative.

The local organiser is always responsible for providing transport for the LEN Delegates and referees.

This vehicle used must be thoroughly disinfected before collecting this group. The driver must also wear an appropriate face protective mask when in the transport vehicle, both with or without the delegates and referees.

7- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROCEDURES

Hotels

It is recommended that an exclusive hotel should be reserved for the sole use of the home and visiting teams during their stay (In the case of a tournament it is mandatory to have an exclusive hotel for all participants). If this is not possible, the local organiser/team must make arrangements to prevent any close contact between the teams and other guests or staff. This should include all the necessary hygiene measures, such as:

- Private dining area
- Private access routes.
- Wearing of masks/ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by hotel staff
- Maximising social distancing by staff
- Cleaning regime of rooms and public spaces (elevators etc)
- Meal arrangements
- Their policy regarding staff who have symptoms of infection

The teams themselves are solely responsible for handling team equipment

Buffet service should be organised for every meal with the presence of few hotel staff.

No clean-up is to take place until the players have left the dining areas

Team members (both players and technical staff) must not leave the hotel unless it is under previously organized conditions and does not involve to contact with anyone outside of their group.

However, it has to be strictly controlled that social distancing is respected and/or the appropriate Preventive Protective Equipment is used by all members of the team delegation if social distancing is not possible. The team manager is responsible for ensuring that the standard hygiene measures are respected.

8 - OPERATIONS AT THE VENUE

Hygiene measures

Anyone entering the competition Venue must have their temperature taken on arrival as well as following the local authorities regulation in term of green passport.

In addition, anyone entering the venue who is not in the tested groups must:

1. Submit green passport
2. complete an epidemiological acknowledgment form
3. disinfect hands
4. wear a mask and maintain social distancing

if a person shows abnormalities in their temperature checks, will not be allowed to access the venue.

Face masks covering the mouth and nose must be worn by anyone operating in the venue at all times. This requirement is not obligatory if social distancing can be maintained (if social distancing is not possible at all times then a mask must be worn on all days). Failure to comply with wearing masks may lead to ejection from the venue.

The requirement to wear a mask includes, but is not limited, to the following target groups: LEN staff, venue staff, stewards, catering and cleaning staff, broadcast staff, media (except commentators during the match), photographers.

Nonetheless for all matches the organisers are required to have an additional supply of face masks which can be provided to other stakeholders at cost price in case they are not equipped with sufficient PPE.

Hand sanitiser must be provided at all access points to the venue, and at the entry to the swimming pool. Hand sanitiser must be used by everyone entering the venue or when changing zones in the swimming pool.

In general, all areas of the venue to be used such as media working areas, seating (depending on use), offices, meeting rooms and sanitary facilities must be cleaned prior to use.

8 - OPERATIONS AT THE VENUE

Venue map and access areas

A zoning system must be implemented in order to prevent any uncontrolled or indirect contact with the teams.

A plan must be prepared in advance according to the venue and any local regulation. However, it is a must to define the approximate number of people who will need to be present in each zone at any given time during the day.

Queuing or other specific gatherings that can be expected (e.g. arrival of media or post-match media activities) must also be identified and mitigation measures taken such as barriers, signage and additional access points.

If teams are training at the swimming pool the transit through the pool deck area must be controlled and limited to only those people with a specific need. Each movement between Zones will be strictly limited. In principle, no one may enter the pool deck except the authorised group. Specific exceptions may be possible for operators of approved camera positions. However the use of protective face masks will be mandatory.

A zoning system will be implemented for some areas of the Venue to limit interactions or contact with the teams and/or with working staff.

Zone 1 – Team zone

Zone 2 – Pool deck surroundings and broadcast and media areas

Zone 3 – tribunes, venue interior and exterior controlled zone

Zone 1 – The team zone includes the dressing room areas (team and referee dressing rooms, doping control station, medical room, LEN delegate's office, access to the pool deck), the player benches, technical seats and any additional seats in the stands used to extend the benches or technical seats or that are made available to the teams according to the relevant competition regulations, the field of play and relevant pool perimeter advertising boards and the warm-up areas including a distance of 1.5m around the warm-up areas.

8 - OPERATIONS AT THE VENUE

This zone include the groups required exclusively for match operations (players, substitutes, coaching, technical and medical staff, referees, LEN delegates, Local officers and venue teams, doping control officers and chaperones, local medical staff, security, hygiene staff) but also people fulfilling the minimum delivery obligations, such as limited Host Broadcaster staff, technical suppliers, VAR, signage, etc. Only those who comply with the requirements set out in section 6 will be allowed to enter Zone 1.

If there is any area of the tribunes where general public seating areas are immediately adjacent to any team delegation seating in the stands, a 2m distance must be maintained between this team delegation seating and any public/spectator seating.

Zone 2 – The Pool deck surroundings means the area between the pool perimeter advertising boards and the tribunes.

This area is for manned camera positions, HB staff, photographers, ball children, life guard, LED operators and security personnel etc.

The broadcast and media areas means the areas in the stadium tribunes used by broadcast personnel and media representatives. This zone includes the commentary positions and media tribune, media and photographer working areas as well as any camera positions in the stadium tribunes. It also includes the broadcast compound even if outside the Venue boundary. If broadcast/media operations working positions are located in the tribunes for COVID-19 protocol reasons, an appropriate distance must be maintained between spectator areas and these working positions in order to allow the broadcast/media operations to take place safely and without unnecessary disturbance.

Zone 3 - The tribunes are the seating areas of the Swimming Pool (excluding any broadcast and media areas or areas used by the teams).

This therefore includes the usual seating areas of all categories. The venue interiors include all indoor areas not included in Zones 1 and 2.

This therefore includes any offices and working rooms and indoor hospitality areas. The external part extends from the outer limits of the Swimming Pool building to the outer boundary of the private venue environs (wall, fence, gate etc.)

The match organiser is responsible for overseeing the access of people to each zone according to the implemented accreditation system.

8 - OPERATIONS AT THE VENUE

Competition Venue access and accreditation management

The organiser is always responsible for the accreditation system allowing access to the venue. For centralised matches, the LEN accreditation system will be implemented and will be used as a zoning system to allow entry to the different zones of the Swimming Pool. The LEN accreditation system will also be used to control numbers entering the specific zones.

For all non-centralised matches the match organiser must also implement a zoning system and a corresponding accreditation system according to the LEN accreditation system.

Any areas where queuing may be required must be arranged and managed in such a way as to maintain social distancing. Signage, floor markings and barrier tape should be used wherever necessary to facilitate organisation and to inform people of the requirements.

The accreditation system must allow security staff to identify who is authorised to be in which zone.

8 - OPERATIONS AT THE VENUE

Team arrival/departure procedures at the Swimming Pool

a) Arrival

The arrival of each team and the match officials must be organised to avoid mixing and crowding in the corridors. During team arrivals, any other transit of people must be avoided. Any stewards or local staff must maintain a minimum 2mt distance from the team. Teams may go straight to the dressing room.

Teams are permitted to come to the venue with a group of a maximum of 20 persons for each match. This allocation must include everyone from the team who will need access to the team area, which means players, coaching, technical and medical staff. Only this group of 20 persons will be permitted to enter the pool deck and their accreditations will be issued on production of a Digital certificate of Vaccination or a negative SARS-CoV-2- RNA test confirmation or negative rapid antigen test , together with a photo ID.

The other members of the team official delegation (president, board of directors etc) are permitted to come to the competition venue (up to a maximum of 10 persons). There will be seats in a dedicated part of the tribune and they will not be allowed to enter the team area.

b) Dressing rooms

Dressing room areas for the teams and referees must optimise social distancing and air circulation. Depending on the size of the dressing room, additional nearby spaces may be used.

The dressing room areas, access routes (corridors, door handles, etc.) team benches (including any additional seating used to maintain social distancing) must be disinfected before the team arrives, between the team training sessions and prior to the match. Once the dressing rooms have been disinfected prior to team arrivals, no one may enter until the teams arrive.

For drinks, personal disposable bottles must be used exclusively. They must be collected and disposed of appropriately.

Saunas, ice-baths, jacuzzies must be closed

Fitness equipment must be disinfected if used (it can only be used if located inside the tested group area)

Physio equipment and massage beds must be disinfected before and after use

8 - OPERATIONS AT THE VENUE

c) Departure

Teams should leave the dressing rooms as soon as possible after the match and the completion of any media obligations.

d) Doping control

An adequate waiting room for players must be considered as to ensure that social distancing can be maintained. The chairs in the waiting room must be positioned 2m from each other. To ensure proper distancing in the toilet area, it is required to install one mirror opposite the toilet so to allow the Doping Control Officer to observe the passing of the sample at a safe distance.

Separate transportation for those athletes subject to antidoping control must be considered.

A specific protocol clarifying any changes to the anti-doping control procedures can be found here:

https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/20200506_ado_guidance_resuming_testing_en.pdf

e) Match operations

The technical meeting can only be attended by the LEN Delegates, 2 referees, 2 team managers, 2 medical officers and Venue manager. It has to be organised in a room in which the Social distance between the people can be maintained.

The official lunch/dinner can be organised and due consideration should be given to social distancing in selecting the location and the number of people invited.

The Jury table must be set taking into consideration 1.5m social distance between personnel. However the LEN delegates, the referees, the medical officers and the local officials can be seated at this table. Any other match technical staff will be seat in separate tables. Protective mask to be used at any times.

8 - OPERATIONS AT THE VENUE

The medical staff must use PPE as prescribed by the local authorities and follow the local health regulations for any lifesaving procedures that may occur at the swimming pool.

The time in the dressing room should be kept to a minimum. Players must access the pool for the warmup earlier than the normal time. The pre-game presentation will be held introducing the teams and the referees in a different moment.

The players themselves are solely responsible for handling team equipment

Players and referees must maintain at least 1,5m distance between each person during the line-up ceremony.

No additional activities may be organised (e.g. player escorts, mascots, dancers, musicians, etc.), nor will there be any handshakes between teams or with the referees.

At half-time the teams should again avoid congregating in changing their benches. The local organiser should ensure that benches will be thoroughly disinfected during half-time.

Players and staff on the substitutes bench are not required to wear masks during the game, but are required to maintain social distancing at all times when seated. Solutions must therefore be found to extend the team benches or separate each seat on the bench. Solutions to adapt this seating may include the use of adjacent seating in the tribunes, if accessible.

Individual labelled drinks bottles must be organised by each team for each person on the bench and for those playing in the pool.

Volunteers for ball recovery can be positioned on zone 2 and can move to recover balls only when no players are close to this area. They must keep the distance of 2m from each other.

If minors, their parents have to be informed of the entrance checks (questionnaire, temperature measurement)

9 - *BROADCASTERS, MEDIA AND TECHNICAL SUPPLIERS*

General principles

All companies and their staff present on site must comply with the applicable national/local legislation as well as all requirements of the LEN Guideline, including the mandatory wearing of masks at all times in the venue.

Such companies implicated may be required to submit details of their own protocols, hygiene measures and operating plans, which must be adhered to if not exceeded by the LEN Guideline. Broadcasters must adhere to any national or local requirements with regard to their operations (e.g. use of plexiglass dividers between commentary positions).

In principle broadcast and media activities may continue subject to the specifications below

Number of staff onsite

The numbers of broadcast staff and media attending a match will be decided based on

- domestic legislation
- working spaces available in the media tribune with appropriate hygiene measures
- total number of people permitted in the zones as defined in this guideline as well as any limitation on the number of people allowed in the venue under domestic legislation

Broadcast compound and trucks

The compound must be arranged in a way that allows sufficient space for the movement of people without congestion creating additional routes or paths to limit any congestion of people.

9 - *BROADCASTERS, MEDIA AND TECHNICAL SUPPLIERS*

Broadcast positions, media and photographers during the game

Broadcast staff, media and photographers may be present in the tribunes for the standard pre-game operations, provided that social distancing is strictly maintained. Camera positions will be allowed in the tribune (zone 2). Certain standard camera positions may be used on the pool deck (zone 1), provided that they can maintain a 1.5m distance from the players area and the technical areas. Remote cameras may be installed in the call room subject to LEN's approval.

For matches organised in the club competition final tournament, additional solutions for cameras on the pool deck may be approved if the camera operators that the camera operators and any required assistants must comply with the requirements set out in section 6 above mentioned.

The following principle must be considered during the broadcast operations

Broadcast staff including presenters commentators must wear mask except as set out in this guideline. Each broadcasters is responsible for providing masks for its own staff

Microphone windshield must be disinfected or replaced between each interview

IFB earpiece may not be proposed or provided to interviewees

Broadcast staff and photographers must use hand sanitizer before collecting and returning bibs

9 - BROADCASTERS, MEDIA AND TECHNICAL SUPPLIERS

Photographers during the match

Photographers are limited to zone 2, four on each side of the jury table in an identified area. Other positions in the tribunes may also be used if required. There must be a minimum of 2m between each photographer position.

Media tribune

The distribution of media in the stands must allow a 2m distance to be maintained. When in operations, TV commentators are temporarily exempt from the requirement to wear a mask, but must still wear one at all other times.

Media and photographer working area

Media and photographer working areas may be used if enough space is available to allow social distancing. Food and beverages may be provided if due measures have been taken for their preparation, packaging and distribution.

9 - *BROADCASTERS, MEDIA AND TECHNICAL SUPPLIERS*

Press conferences

Pre and post-match press conferences may be held if requested. They may either be organised with a video conferencing/remote system or by taking the following physical protection measures:

- A) Press conference podium at least 3m from the first row of seats and any photographer positions
- B) Separate and exclusive access for the team representatives
- C) Number of media who can attend must be adapted so that a 2m distance between each person can be always respected.
- D) Photographer positions must be arranged to ensure a 2m minimum distance between each position and to other media representatives
- E) All media attendees must wear face masks
- F) Recording devices (Dictaphones, mobile phones etc) must not be placed on the press conference table

Pre-match stand ups

Stand-up positions may be allocated but only in the tribune and with at least 2m between the markings of each position. The maximum number of positions available will depend on the venue configuration.

9 - *BROADCASTERS, MEDIA AND TECHNICAL SUPPLIERS*

Post-match flash interviews

Post-match interviews may be organized on/around the pool deck area once the teams have left the area, or are in a suitable pre-approved location.

The allocated area must allow for 4m² per person and the reporter and camera crew must always maintain at least 2m from the player.

Common sense must prevail in terms of location and access, however all arrangements must be discussed and agreed beforehand between the HB, team representative and LEN.

Mixed-zones

Mixed zones involving face-to-face contact between teams and the media must not be organised, thus avoiding congestion of media representatives as well as to reduce risk of close proximity between teams and the media.

Remote mixed zone solutions may be implemented as long as the sanitary measures in terms of physical distancing and disinfection of equipment are respected

The organisation and location of remote mixed zones is to be agreed in advance with LEN.

Entry into Force

This guideline was adopted by LEN on 3 September 2020, with last amendments coming into force from 12 September 2021