COVID-19 GUIDELINES
FINA GENERAL CONGRESS
5 June 2021 /Doha (QAT)
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INTRODUCTION

The FINA COVID-19 Guidelines are applicable to all persons participating in the FINA General Congress (hereinafter “Participant” or “Participants”). This includes but is not limited to the FINA Bureau Members, the Delegates from the FINA Member Federations, the Technical Committees, the FINA and the LOC staff and their subcontractors.

The aim of the FINA COVID-19 Guidelines is to ensure that all steps are considered to mitigate the infection risk of those involved in the FINA General Congress (“The Congress”), understanding though that the risk cannot be eliminated. Should be note that all participants attending the FINA General Congress at their own risk.

Consistent with WHO recommendations and the Qatar Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) authorities, FINA prioritizes (a) enhanced hygiene and (b) physical distancing, in (c) addition to a diligent COVID-19 testing programme to secure a safe environment for all the FINA General Congress participants. More information on the Covid 19 measures and precautions can be seen in the below link.

https://www.moph.gov.qa/english/Pages/default.aspx

Participants of the FINA General Congress must follow the FINA and the Qatar Health Authorities measures. By entering to the FINA General Congress, all participants acknowledge and accept the possible risk of being infecting and they accept and follow all regulations written below.

Vaccination will not change the different steps of the testing protocol before, during and after the Congress. Vaccinated participants will undergo the same testing regime and will have to respect all the physical distancing and hygiene measures of these Guidelines and other measures as imposed by the Qatar Governmental Authorities.

Any participant who attended the FINA General Congress cannot raise any legal claim if one is infected with the COVID-19 virus.

All participants attending the FINA General Congress in Doha, 2021 must sign a waiver of responsibility upon their arrival at the hotel in Doha.
1. **CONGRESS GENERAL GUIDELINES**

This document includes an action plan to be followed in the event of a positive case during the FINA General Congress.

All referrals for medical advice, testing and management of symptomatic individuals can only be made through the FINA and the LOC COVID-19 Officers.

These Guidelines are to be distributed, prior to the arrival of each participant.

**NOTE: Any person failing to comply with the FINA General Congress safety measures such as physical distancing and the wearing of masks (where indicated) will be removed from the Congress venue.**

**FINA COVID-19 Officers**

The contact details for the FINA COVID-19 Officer are:

- Dr. Cees van den Hoogenband: info@sportslinebv.nl
- Dr. Andy Hoepelman: andyhoepelman@gmail.com

**Hygiene Measures**

Every accredited participant must follow basic principles shown below. These are valid for travel to the Congress and at the hotel.

- **Wash your hands thoroughly**
- **Cough and sneeze into a tissue or the crook of your arm**
- **Wear a mask**
- **Avoid shaking hands, hugging, kissing**
- **Stay at home if you have symptoms**
- **Keep your 1.5m distance**
Organizing Committee will provide a welcome bag, including hand sanitizers, face masks enough for the participants duration.

**Masks / Face-Nose Protection**

Every participant MUST always wear a mask / mouth-face nose protection including:

- Congress Venue
- On official transportation
- At the hotel except when eating or drinking.
- During official coffee breaks and dinners except when eating or drinking.

**Physical Distancing**

The physical distance of 1.5 meter minimum must be always respected.

Signs to indicate safe physical distancing at points of entry should be installed, and floor markings to show flow of traffic to respect physical distancing (e.g., during coffee break).

**Social Events**

Two social events (i.e., official dinners) will be organized on June 04 and 05 at the Sheraton Hotel premises. Further information will be provided upon your arrival in Doha.
2. SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

2.1 Tests for COVID-19

There are two tests, on fresh nasal or throat swabs, currently used to detect the presence of COVID-19 virus.

2.1.1 PCR-RT Test:

This test employs a laboratory technique known as polymerase chain reaction from which the test gets its name. It offers a precise, very sensitive measure of viral genetic material even when the virus is dead. It is reported as either positive or negative irrespective of the number of COVID-19 particles present, preferably from a high nasal swab. Results from PCR-RT testing take at least 24 hours to report, however in most jurisdictions it is several days before a result is known.

2.1.2 Antigen Tests:

Antigen (Ag) testing detects certain viral proteins present in a nose or throat swab. It offers rapid inexpensive testing conducted on-site with an immediate result. While a positive Ag test indicates contagiousness there is also the possibility of a false negative result. If an individual is symptomatic with a negative Ag test, the attending physician will order a PCR-RT test.

2.2 Risk Assessment

Based on their health risks, each participant shall evaluate her/his participation to the FINA General Congress and the risks of contamination during travel to/from the Congress, and during the Congress, with all the potential medical and financial consequences that it implies.

Please remember that FINA is giving the possibility to each participant to virtually attend the FINA Congress.

Each FINA Member Federations will have the possibility to vote remotely.
3. BEFORE YOU TRAVEL TO THE CONGRESS

As a rule, if you experience any symptoms of COVID-19 in the 14 days before departure:

- Do not travel to Doha for the Congress.
- Inform your treating physician as soon as possible, who will explain the next steps.
- Inform FINA that you cannot travel to the Congress.

Please make sure the below steps are followed:

A. Take a PCR-RT test in an approved by the Qatar Government Authorities Lab within 48 hours before your flight departure time to Doha (first flight if you are on an indirect route). Measures are also being considered to ensure the authenticity of certificates.

Please refer to the below link for Labs approved by the Qatari Government Authorities;


NOTE: PCR-RT test can also be done in an approved center by the health authorities of your country. Cost of this PCR-RT test will be covered by the participant.

B. Make sure that you have with you (a) copy of the negative PCR – RT test, (b) the Exceptional Entry Permit to Qatar provided by LOC, (c) your Entry VISA and (d) your hotel booking, as these documents will be requested at the check in counter.

C. Submit to infoQSA@olympic.qa the (a) negative PCR - RT test results

In case your PCR – RT test is positive:

- Immediately begin self-isolation in line with your national rules.
- Inform your treating physician as soon as possible, who will explain the next steps.
- Inform FINA that you cannot travel to the Congress.
4. ENTERING DOHA

Ensure your arrival in Doha falls between 3rd June 2021 and no later than 02:00 am, local time, on 4th June 2021.

Only the Participants with evidence of two (2) recent negative COVID-19 PCR – TR test (one before travelling, one at arrival) will be eligible to attend the FINA General Congress.

Upon your arrival to Doha, the following will occur:

A. A contact tracing application; called “ETHERAZ” should be installed and activated in your smartphones. Do note the installation of this application is mandatory in the State of Qatar and you will be asked to present it multiple times throughout your stay. Additional information on this application is presented below.

B. A health assessment form should be filled upon your arrival to Doha and submitted too.

C. Delegates following the immigration procedures will be welcomed by the LOC staff and transferred to the FINA General Congress hotel; the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel (5 star /20min drive).

D. Delegates upon arrival to the hotel will immediately go through a mandatory PCR Test, followed by thermal screening. They will then be directed to their rooms, where they will be isolated until the PCR test are communicated to the LOC. The results will be available within 24 hours. All dining will take place at the room during the isolation period. Leaving the room prior the results availability will lead to sanctions according to Qatar Law.

E. Upon receipt of the PCR results;
   a. Negative; the participant can leave his /her room to pick up their accreditation from the FINA General Congress designated area. All participants will then have to sign a waiver of responsibility.
   b. Positive; the participant will be removed from the hotel and transferred to the Quarantine Hotels managed and operated by the Ministry of Public Health. Medical care and treatment will be provided (free of charge for the whole duration) as needed following the medical protocols as per Ministry of Public Health.

   NOTE: In the case, the positive participant is a voting delegate, the participant shall be given the possibility to vote electronically from her/his room; or to give to her/his national federation the possibility to vote electronically.

ETHERAZ application.

ETHERAZ is the official contact tracing application for the State of Qatar and is owned, operated, and approved by the Ministry of Public Health. ETHERAZ aims to protect and safeguard the health of citizens, residents, and visitors in the State of Qatar, to support the national effort in preventing and reducing the spread of COVID-19.

How can I download ETHERAZ upon arrival without a SIM card?
You will need a smart phone and a local SIM card to download and activate EHTERAZ. Smart phones are available for purchase at Qatar Duty Free and SIM cards are available at the Ooredoo and Vodafone kiosks. Red Crescents volunteers are available to help set up passengers with the EHTERAZ App.

Android users can download the app from the Play Store: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.moi.covid19

iOS users can download the app from the App Store: https://apps.apple.com/qa/app/ehteraz/id1507150431

**QR Health Codes**

- **Red**: If the test result is positive, the individual is isolated and their health status on Etheraz will change to red.
- **Yellow**: indicating that the individual is under quarantine.
- **Grey**: Suspected case – Individual exhibited symptoms or that have been in contact with COVID-19 positive case.
- **Green**: Negative test or Quarantine period is completed / Healthy

**NOTE**: FINA General Congress will be organized following a BUBBLE Concept. Event participants EHTERAZ color code will be “YELLOW”, meaning they cannot leave the hotel premises.
5. **DURING YOUR STAY**

5.1 **Development of symptoms during your stay**

Signs and symptoms that may indicate COVID-19 infection include fever, cough, fatigue, breathlessness, or loss of sense of taste and/or smell.

Any participant at the FINA General Congress who develops one or more of these symptoms must immediately quarantine themselves at their room at the hotel and contact the FINA or /and the LOC COVID-19 Officers.

The subsequent testing protocol will be the responsibility of the FINA and LOC COVID-19 Officers in accordance with protocols set by the local health authority.

The following scenario will guide all decisions regarding a suspected COVID-19-positive case during the event.

- LOC COVID-19 OFFICER will inform the FINA COVID-19 Officers.
- The infected person will be removed from the hotel and transferred to the Quarantine Hotel for isolation and medical treatment.
- Contact tracing will immediately commence.
- All contacts will be isolated (within the hotel) and tested as soon as possible.
- In the case of a positive result in a participant (regardless of the symptoms) he /she will removed from the hotel and moved to the official Quarantine Hotel. Medical assessment at the place will determine the course of the required actions & treatment.
- Hospital discharge will be at the discretion of the attending medical staff who will inform the LOC and FINA COVID-19 Officers.
- Participant will only be allowed to leave the country when the PCR-test is negative and following Medical Staff advice.
- All costs of required additional days of stay in Doha will be covered by the LOC. FINA will be in charge to assist and provide necessary arrangements for your return to the country of your residence.

5.2 **At the hotel**

The main official hotel for the participants will be the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel.

The LOC will organize and provide accommodation to all attendees of the Congress in compliance with the local COVID-19 protocol (physical distancing, hygiene, medical care, applicable rules for catering, and using the general principle of "Bubble event").

**Participants are not allowed to leave the hotel during their stay in Doha.**
5.2.1 Movement in the hotel

The accreditation and the app EHTERAZ are necessary to circulate in the hotel and the congress premises.

5.2.2 Meals

All accommodation will be provided on a full board basis. Further details on meals will be announced in due time.

5.3 During the Congress

The FINA General Congress will start at 14:00 (Doha Time).

5.3.1 Accreditation

The accreditation will be given at the Hotel after the confirmation of a negative PCR test and signature of the waiver of responsibility. No paper document will be given. Electronic document to be submitted in advance.

5.3.2 Entering the Congress Venue

Individual temperature checks will be available at all venue entries points using non-contact thermometers as a screen for all participants, including the hotel personnel and the technicians.

Where a participant is found to have an elevated temperature (above 37.5°C), the FINA and LOC COVID-19 Officers will assess the case and proceed with the appropriate measures.

5.3.3 Voting System

No voting device will be provided.

During the process of registration, each appointed Delegate will be requested to provide a personal email address. The email address is mandatory. Upon completion and approval of the Delegate(s) submitted and confirmed by the NF, the respective delegate will receive the registration number and voting-code, including secure proxy connection to the process of e-voting.

5.3.4 Translation

Simultaneous translation will be provided in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Translation devices will be sanitized.

5.3.5 Coffee Break

Masks and physical distancing shall be respected all the time except for drinking and eating.
5.4 Welcome Dinners, Official President Dinner

Two Official functions (outdoor Dinners) will be organized by LOC and FINA on June 04 and June 05 respectively. COVID 19 measures will guide those functions.

5.5 Additional testing

Additional testing will take place before your departure from Doha and according to your stay duration. Testing will be done at the Sheraton Hotel – PCR Clinic. All related costs will be covered by LOC.

For participant arriving before 3rd of June, a new PCR-RT will be performed on Day 3 of their arrival.
6. **LEAVING DOHA**

**Departure Date: 6 June 2021**

- Make sure you know the latest entry requirements for your destination country, as well as any countries you will pass through in transit (e.g., mandatory quarantine at return and/or provision of a negative PCR test).

- Be ready to take a final COVID-19 test before departure, which may be needed for international travel. The LOC will provide facilities and arrangements at the hotel of your stay for the PCR tests to be done. A printed copy of the test result will be printed and stamped/signed for use in travel.

- When you arrive at your destination, follow your national COVID-19 regulations.

**Airport procedures**

The Ehteraz status is required to access the terminal. All departing passengers will be asked to show their status on the EHTERAZ application before entering the terminal.
7. LIABILITY COSTS RELATED COVID-19

The costs of PCR test before the departure to Doha shall be covered by each participant.

Upon arrival, all PCR tests costs, in addition to any required medical care & treatment including the isolation within the State of Qatar will be borne by the LOC.

The costs related to mandatory quarantine upon to the home country of each participant will be covered by the participant.

Regular Medical Services (24/7 doctor and nurse) will be available at the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel. Additional event insurance (third party liability) will be provided by the LOC, complement to FINA Insurance.
8. COMPLIANCE AND SANCTIONS

Each participant shall comply with these Guidelines.

Failure to comply with these guidelines may expose each participant to consequences regarding their participation in the FINA General Congress.

Failure to comply with the additional requirements set by the Qatar authorities may lead to sanction under the jurisdiction of the Qatar Authorities.
9. INFORMATION ABOUT VACCINATION

THE COVID-19 VACCINATION

- Is safe through strict control & testing
- Stimulates the immune system to produce antibodies
- Keeps the immune system primed for future exposure
- Prevents disease and reduces the spread of infection

THE FINA SPORT MEDICINE COMMITTEE ENDORSES COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMMES