



COVID19 BULLETIN

24TH OF MAY 2021

General information

The main aim of this COVID19 Bulletin of the WMTBOC and Junior WMTBOC 2021 is to minimize the risks of a COVID19 infections and offer a safe event for both the participants and the organizers. For the event it is of great importance that you follow the advice contained in this document the days before and during WMTBOC to ensure that you are tested negative, when coming to Finland, for the tests to get your accreditation, and to be able to participate in all the races.

This information is valid at the time of publishing. Any changes and updates to official COVID19 recommendations and instructions will be shared when there will be new information available.

This Bulletin is considered additional regulations as per IOF MTBO Competition Rules 2.5. All participants will be required in advance of the event to confirm that they have read, understood and will abide by the provisions in the Bulletin (name entry in the Eventor).

Entering Finland

The valid instructions of the Finnish Border Guard (FBG) to passengers regarding entry to Finland can be found at: <https://raja.fi/en/guidelines-for-border-traffic-during-pandemic>. **The present instructions continue until 15th of June 2021.**

The FBG has granted the organizer a special group permission for the participants to enter the country under special conditions, and otherwise the valid rules for entry to the country must be followed.

The permission requires compliance with the valid instructions of the Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare (<https://thl.fi/en/web/infectious-diseases-and-vaccinations/what-s-new/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates>) as well as the official COVID Bulletin of the event.

The detailed travel information of the participants needs to be provided to the FBG at the latest 24 hours before entering the country by the organizer. Therefore the participating teams are asked to share their correct and updated arrival details – date and time, point of entry (e.g. Port of Helsinki, Port of Turku, Helsinki Airport, Vaasa Airport, or by car via land border crossings) – with the organizers well in advance and **no later than 6th of June 2021** to be able to advise the FBG about their arrival.

Every participant also needs to have a copy of the special permission when entering the country and it is also recommended that the organizer sends an invitation letter to all the participants. These will be provided to the teams by the organizer after the Team names entry deadline (June 1).

Prior to the event

Teams shall not enter participants that are unable to prove that they do not carry transmittable infection from Covid-19.

All participants and organizers are urged to limit unnecessary contacts (including events, training camps, contacts, studies or work) from 14 days before the start of competition at the event (i.e. from May 27 ,2021).

All competitors and staff must have either

- a certificate of a negative coronavirus test result (PCR) received no earlier than 72 hours before entering the country or
- a certificate of a negative coronavirus test result (PCR) and the test was taken no more than 72 hours before entering or boarding a plane or ship travelling to Finland.

Upon receipt of the testing results, the written certificate proving a negative result shall be forwarded electronically to the organizers (in English, Swedish, German or Finnish).

The certificate must include the personal data of the person tested (such as testing method, test result, location and time of the test and the data of the person who performed the test). A certified printout from a database of another country in English, Swedish, German or Finnish is also accepted as a certificate.

The certificate with the test result has to be presented to the organizers before entering Finland by sending it to following e-mail: covid.wmtboc2021@kuortane.com. The participants also need to have a paper copy of the certificate with them for the border control.

Participants whose test result is positive and refer to recent recovery from COVID-19, have to present a signed doctor's certificate and certified copies of previous positive PCR test results in English, Swedish, German or Finnish to the organizers, before travelling to Finland. A decision will be made by the organizers in cooperation with the Finnish Health Authorities whether participation in the competition will be allowed.

Note that vaccination against Covid19 does not replace or remove the requirements for PCR testing.

Name entry in the Eventor

With the name entry on IOF Eventor all entered persons accept the following rules:

- I have read, understood and will follow all rules and regulations given in the specific Covid-19 bulletins and information on Eventor. I will also follow any further rules and instructions given by the organizer. I accept that these rules are valid as additional rules for the event as per IOF Competition Rules §2.5.
- I will report any potential signs or symptoms of illness to the Organizers.
- I understand that a positive test result may lead to isolation in Finland for several days and at own expense.
- I understand that intentional breach of any rules may lead to my or my whole teams' exclusion from the WMTBOC or JWMTBOC and future IOF events.
- My test results will be sent to me, but also directly to the organizer to be able to get my accreditation for the event.

The Bubble

In order to reduce all kinds of contacts and minimize the risk of infection among participants and organizers tested negative for Covid19 we plan to create a competition isolation "Bubble" in the Athletes' Village in Kuortane. This means that all teams must stay in the Athlete's Village accommodations in Kuortane. Once in the Bubble, all unnecessary external contacts, as well as contacts between other groups within the bubble, shall be limited or eliminated where possible.

This also means that you can do only competition-related activities and all out-of-competition contacts are not allowed. It is not allowed for any participating team member to leave the competition area or accommodation/Athletes' Village unless absolutely unavoidable.

Generally, it is not allowed for the participants to go to grocery stores or to pharmacy, but exception is made for team leaders who may take care of this kind of purchases on behalf of the whole team. If assistance with this is needed, for example by smaller teams, please contact the organisers/Event Office for assistance.

All organizers are instructed on these rules and will observe that they are followed. We hope for your understanding and responsible behaviour (fair play). Accreditation will be cancelled if the rules are not followed.

In the Bubble, everyone has to follow the general and valid Kuortane OTC's Covid-19 instructions:

1. Keep distance - social distancing rules (2 meters) must be followed
2. A mask must be worn at all times expect
 - when in your own room
 - when eating (masks must be worn when collecting food and when at the table, but not when eating)
 - during actual training and competition activity (masks must be worn directly prior and after such activity)
3. Avoid crowded places and activities and prolonged contact with others
4. Avoid touching surfaces, especially in public settings
5. Frequently clean your hands with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub. If you can, carry alcohol-based rub with you and use it often.
6. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a bent elbow or tissue, throwing used tissues into a bin right away. The wash your hand or use an alcoholic-based hand rub

In the Athletes' Villages all the participants will be accommodated in buildings where no customers other than WMTBOC participants will stay (except the hotel building). Most rooms will have their own front doors, so no contacts in corridors and lifts should happen. In the hotel building the organizer will try to reserve an own floor/corridor for those who stay in hotel.

In the meeting rooms reserved for the team use, we follow safe distancing guidelines and limit the occupancy rate of all rooms up to 50% of the maximum capacity.

There will be an own restaurant only for the event participants, where all the preordered meals will be served (buffet table) according to a later published meal schedule.

Transport Transport to and from the Event and to the competitions is the responsibility of the Teams. Please consider using non-public transportation if possible (e.g. own car). Plan transports to avoid long waiting periods in the Start, Finish and competition arenas.

Transport of athlete bags/equipment from the start to the finish will be arranged by the organiser in a safe way to reduce the risk of Covid-19 spreading. Transportation volunteers will wear masks and gloves when loading/off-loading bags. Please avoid crowding at drop-off locations.

Test Procedure for Getting Accreditation

Upon arrival in Finland all competitors and support staff must take a COVID-19 test using the PCR method and meet the requirements for self-isolation until the test result arrives (with the help of the competition organizer). It is allowed to go outside for exercise/get some fresh air, but social distancing rules must be followed, always wearing a mask and avoiding all possible contacts.

The organizer will inform exact testing location and times to each team as soon as all the participating countries have provided their arrival information and a test plan has been made by the testing company.

A valid passport or ID card (official travel document to Finland) is required in all testing sites.

Test results will normally take 24 hours to process so please note this isolation time when making your travel plans. In Helsinki there will also be so called speed tests available in certain hours for which the analyzing time is shorter.

Testing in Kuortane will still be possible too, but only on certain hours. But we advice you to have the tests already on your arrival in Finland, because in this way you will receive the tests results earlier.

After entering Finland it is required to head directly to the testing facility, avoiding all unnecessary contacts (including shops, grocery stores and restaurants on the way) and after the tests directly to the Athletes' Village/Kuortane. Essential procedures have to be carried out including wearing a mask and practicing social distancing rules.

Persons arriving in Finland more than 72 hours prior to the event shall have to take one more test before the start of the event.

The price for the Covid-19 tests is 165,00 euros, as informed earlier by e-mail. All the test costs must be paid by the participants themselves. The payments will be invoiced from you or you can make a payment in Event Office with cash or credit card.

During the isolation pre-ordered meals will be delivered directly to the rooms.

Accreditation

Upon receipt of a negative test result, the participant will receive accreditation and may start with competition related activities (trainings, model event etc.).

The Organizers will have to be able to check the official test results of the participants. Therefore, also in addition to the eventor name entry acceptance a written permission from the participants will be required by the testing company for the organizer to have access to the individual test results. A consent form will be sent by e-mail to federations and can be found on the website Tteam Leaders' section).

There will be no individual accreditation by the participants, but the Team Leader will take care of all the team's accreditations. Accreditation will be carried out by appointment to avoid crowding in the Event Office. The accreditation schedule will be published later.

Postive test result

Persons whose test result is positive will not be allowed to participate in the competitions. The person showing a positive test result will be isolated immediately.

Any roommate of a person showing a positive test result, and potentially the entire team of the person, will also be isolated. The Finnish Health Authorities and the organiser will make a decision about if additional testing is required and if participation will be allowed for those affected.

Competition venues

Masks shall be worn at any time, except during the competition.

Hand sanitizers will be available in the start and finish area.

Water/drink stations are organised in the safest way possible.

All prize giving ceremonies will take place outdoors at the event center, except on Thursday 17th June in the competition venue.

All contacts with competition staff and competitors will be minimized (social distancing, short contacts, use of plexiglass barriers etc.)

Responsibility to report illness

When feeling sick during the competitions

If a participant who has received accreditation develops Covid-19 symptoms (fever > 37.5 C, coughing, sore throat, shortness of breath, running nose, stuffy nose, loss of taste or smell, stomach problems)

- he/she will put on a mask and isolate him-/herself from the others immediately. Notifying the Team leader about the matter, shall be done by phone, not by in-person contacts

- he/she or the Team Leader calls the competition's medical liaison/event doctor and follows instructions given.

The event doctor will make a decision together with the local health authorities, if some teammates must also be isolated, if additional testing is required and if participation will be allowed for those affected.

Consider payment for all possible medical treatments and insurance coverage is needed. Insurance should include the potential compensation for a possible quarantine situation in Finland (14 - day stay on average), medical evacuation to the home country or, in the worst case, the high costs of hospital treatment.

Responsibility, distancing and hygiene

We want to stress on both organizers' and every participants responsibility on

- taking all the necessary measures to secure a safe competition for everyone,
- obeying the recommendations on social distancing
- following the recommendations on hygiene (use of mask, cough in handkerchief, washing hands, use of sanitizers etc.)

Departure Testing

As many countries require a receipt of negative COVID19 test before entering, the organizers will help in arranging testing at the Athletes' Village or in Seinäjoki before teams' departures back home.

Contact information

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