

USSA COVID-19 – Risk & Mitigation Plan– Updated April 2021

AIM

To create a disciplined and accountable approach in prevention of large-scale infection or spread of the Covid-19 virus by hosting USSA National Championships in a bio-secure bubble at a centralise venue(s), behind closed doors with strict standardized safety protocols.

OVERVIEW OF THE RISK

- Tracking & Tracing – it is suggested players and officials be monitored for at least 10-14 days prior to the USSA event and daily screening be done, results be available on request;
- Universities will be encouraged where possible a Covid-19 testing – PCR test (either nose or throat swab) 72 hours prior to departure to be conducted by a laboratory – all student athletes and officials to arrive at competition venue with a negative PCR test (results printed as proof)It must be however be noted that a compulsory COVID 19 Test will be done for all athletes and officials upon arrival in venue competitions that are organised in a Bio Secure environment.
- All medical students who have already been vaccinated should only produce their vaccination card issued by the Department of Health.
- Every participant and official must adhere to all safety regulations;
- Screening protocols will be in place at all venues, this include:
 - Completion of log sheet (as per template);
 - Personal details (Name & Surname / ID nu / Contact details);
 - Covid-19 risk assessment questionnaire pertaining common Covid-19 symptoms;
 - Temperature measured daily;
 - Monitoring of daily screening data by competition Compliance Officer who will form part of the LOC and store results for 6 months as per legislation;
- Implementation of non-pharmaceutical interventions:
 - Wearing of masks at all times;
 - All coaching staff and officials to wear screens/masks at all times;
 - Maintain continual social distancing;
 - Respiratory hygiene, covering mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing;
 - Ensure practising of hand hygiene regularly and thoroughly washing of hands with soap and water;
 - Regularly, ongoing sanitizing;
 - No sharing of any personal items such as clothes, towels, toiletries and or water bottles;
- Training of LOC Compliance Officer(s) – *cost to NUSA*;
- Officials and members over the age of 60 or any participant with comorbidities to participate with a fully signed indemnity form only;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daily monitoring of completion of venue state of readiness questionnaire by competition Compliance Officer; ▪ No supporters / spectators will be allowed to enter the bio-secure bubble; ▪ No ice baths will be provided at the competition venue(s). Team massages unless approved by a primary care will be done on athletes individual rooms. ▪ One controlled point of entry to the bio-secure competition venue only. Access to be controlled and a register kept; ▪ Ongoing education/briefings during team managers meeting; ▪ Emergency Covid-19 protocol to be shared with team managers and venue facilitators.
<p>COVID-19 RESULTS</p> <p>QUARANTINE/ISOLATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In case of a positive result – 72 hours prior to departure – player & official remains in isolation on home ground and Institution compliance officer mitigates the risk of travelling/participation for the rest of the team; ▪ In case of a positive result – at the competition venue – patient will be taken to a quarantine facility within the competition venue where they will be under supervision for a minimum of 10 days with all meals served in room under strict compliance protocol – <i>cost to Institution</i>. Patient can also execute the right to be collected and removed from the quarantine area by a parent and or guardian to isolate at home. This will be co-ordinated by competition compliance officer and/or Team Manger/Guardian/Parent and a confirmed travel & isolation itinerary will be a prerequisite for the release of such a patient as per government legislation; ▪ Close contact or primary contact is a person that was in contact with a positive tested person for 15 minutes or more, without both wearing masks and within 1.5-meter distance from the positive person; ▪ In case of primary contact isolation, patient can be re-tested after 7 days (own account) and only if no symptoms are displayed; ▪ Secondary contact is a person(s) that had contact but had a mask on in the presence of a positive or primary contact person; ▪ Such contact will not be isolated but will be monitored carefully and if the primary contact test positive or show symptoms within 5 days a secondary contact will become a primary contact and will be isolated.
<p>COVID-19 READINESS EVALUATION (NUSA & COMPETITION VENUE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visible COVID-19 signage? Y/N ▪ Was venue decontaminated? Y/N ▪ Will hygiene guidelines/ poster be displayed at all competition and accommodation venues? Y/N ▪ Have you got social distancing measuring in place? Y/N ▪ Do you have a daily risk screening/analysis in place for all staff members? Y/N

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will venues be cleaned prior to opening each day? Y/N ▪ Will all key support staff receive information/training about Covid-19 compliance and hygiene processes? Y/N ▪ Is provision made for washing hands with soap and clean water at venue? Y/N ▪ Will sanitizers be provided at venue point of entry? Y/N ▪ Have you appointed compliance officers? Y/N ▪ Have you identified an isolation area? Y/N ▪ Have you got a player profile database? Y/N ▪ Do you have a process to check the daily screening questionnaire(s)? Y/N ▪ Do you have equipment for checking daily temperature testing? Y/N ▪ Do you have a protocol and procedure to refer players and support staff for testing if presenting with symptoms? Y/N ▪ Have you outlined a procedure for the return to play after testing positive for Covid-19? Y/N ▪ Have you developed an awareness campaign on Covid-19 for players and support staff? Y/N ▪ Was USSA Risk & Mitigation plan shared with HOD at the Institution? Y/N
USSA / GAME DAY MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical officials / players / officials to be seated with social distance between them; ▪ Wearing of screens/masks on the bench are compulsory at all times; ▪ Frequent sanitizing of hands; ▪ All chairs to be sanitized before and after every match.
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% Accommodation sharing occupancy / or as per latest Gazetted Hospitality legislation; ▪ Limitation of team room visits and meetings; ▪ Bigger busses to be used for the teams to ensure social distancing, at least 70% of the capacity of travellers; ▪ Wearing of MASKS on the bus is compulsory at all times; ▪ Proof of sanitising by bus company must be requested; ▪ Driver to wear mask at all times; ▪ NOTE drop off and pick up of players by transport companies only, no overstay or testing of drivers will be available; ▪ Team manager to book team rooms, breakfast, lunch and supper times with facilitators/Volunteers;
MEDIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virtual media press briefings are encouraged; ▪ Specific media zone to be set-up (if applicable); ▪ Media must be inclusive in the maximum capacity number allowed within the venue; ▪ Photographers are seen as part of Media; ▪ All equipment to be wiped continuously with disinfectant sanitizers and wipes during interviews;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In case where media will not stay for the duration of a competition – special application must be put forward to hosting and bidding committee to discuss compliance.
SPORT COMPLIANCE	SPECIFIC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All National Federations (NF's) COVID 19 guidelines will be applicable and NUSA's are encouraged to circulate such documents to Member Universities.
DISCLAIMER	<p>USSA NUSA and/or Hosting Institution to indemnify themselves and make sure that everyone who is in attendance of either matches, meetings, function and/or capacity building sessions does so knowing that all precautions are taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone. Compliance Officers and ongoing education as custodians is provided. It is therefore the responsibility of the attendee to make sure that they always comply with rules of engagements. Organizers cannot be held responsible should anyone contract Covid-19.</p>