



OSFO COVID-19 update March 19, 2020

The global spread of COVID-19 (also known as 'coronavirus') has created much uncertainty, which has been concerning for all of us, particularly as the circumstances seem to not just be changing daily, but hourly.

The health and wellbeing of our entire community - athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and staff – is our number one priority throughout all of this. We are lucky that to date the Oceania region has been comparatively untouched by COVID-19, with some of our member countries still not having reported a confirmed case of the virus, but that is no reason to be complacent.

We are carefully monitoring the situation, and will keep you updated on the directions and advice of all relevant stakeholders, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC), Pacific Games Council, government departments throughout the Pacific, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

As of this point in time, many regional and national sporting organisations have made the difficult yet correct decision to cancel, suspend or postpone events in the interest of public health and safety – we will do our best to share all of these updates with you as they come to hand.

This also means that we have made the decision to postpone our Annual General Assembly, scheduled to be held in Guam on Tuesday 14 April, 2020. We are currently looking to re-schedule this event in September, to align with the re-scheduled Pacific Games Council AGM. More information about this will be shared with OSFO Members as soon as it becomes available.

We are also offering the following advice to our Member Organisations, and suggest that this is adhered to for all activities, including competition, training, clinics and educational activities.

Member Organisations should consider postponing or cancelling all competitions, until further notice taking into account venue restrictions and your government's regulations and restrictions, including in relation to travel.

Member Organisations should consider cancelling all coaching, officiating seminars and educational activities of more than 10 persons until further notice, again, taking into account venue restrictions and your government's advice.

Where Member Organisations have organised groups (less than 10) for training activities (i.e. athletes, coaches and medical staff), strict social distancing* should be implemented until further notice.

The recommendations are based on the present information at hand and will likely change over the coming week(s). It is important that Member Organisations take this into consideration, especially around competitions and training, to ensure if you need to make changes, you have given plenty of notice to everyone involved.

Of course the fact that this is an Olympic year, and at present we need to prepare as if the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will proceed as planned, is always top of mind. We hope that our region's athletes – supported by their coaching staff and our Member Organisations – can continue their training and preparations locally in an as normal environment as possible, exercising extra vigilance with regards to personal hygiene.

But most importantly, Oceania is a family. Sport is a family. We always stick together and support each other, and as a result we have survived many challenges. We know we can and will do that again.

***Social Distancing**

Participants should not present at any sporting activity if they:

1. Have any flu-like symptoms;
2. Have been in direct contact with a person with a known case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
3. Have travelled internationally or been exposed to a person with COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days; or
4. Are at a high risk from a health perspective, including the elderly and those with pre-existing medical health conditions.

Practice social distancing at all activities

- Athletes, coaches or officials should not touch each other (e.g. no shaking hands, high fives, etc.);
- Ensure you keep a distance of 1.5 metres between yourself and others;
- Restrict access to changeroom areas.

Hygiene and Behavior

- Ensure spaces at each facility, surfaces and objects are regularly cleaned with a disinfectant containing high alcohol content (90%) or antiviral properties;
- Ensure spaces and any shared implements used at each facility are cleaned with a disinfectant stating high alcohol content (90%) or antiviral properties;
- Practice correct hand-washing procedure (http://www.who.int/qpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/);
- Promote regular and thorough hand washing by staff and participants
- Provide sanitizing hand rub dispensers, stating high alcohol content (90%) or antiviral properties in prominent places around the event venue;
- Make sure hand rub dispensers are regularly refilled.

Behavior

- Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow (if you don't have a tissue or handkerchief available);
- Provide bins and put used tissues in the bin straight away;
- Wash hands with soap and water often;
- Use hand sanitizer gel if soap and water are not available;
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell;
- Avoid unnecessary touching of your eyes, nose, mouth and face, especially if your hands are not clean.

If you have any worries or uncertainty around staging events or training of athlete's please contact OSFO directly so we can address any of your sports' concerns.

Regards



