



European Olympic and Paralympic Continental Qualification Regatta /

2021 European Rowing Championships

5th to 7th / 9th – 11th April 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

Version 5 at 25/01/2021

1. INTRODUCTION

As of today the health situation in Varese and the Lombardy region is serious but under control. Compared to the second wave in November 2020, there is a reduction in cases of contagion and the hospitals and intensive care units are able to manage the situation.

The situation evolves and changes very rapidly. The Italian national government has divided the epidemiological risk situation into three bands (yellow, orange, red) based on 21 parameters monitored by the CTS (technical scientific committee) and ISS (higher health institute); according to the color band, each region has more or less freedom of movement within the territory and the possibility of keeping commercial activities open.

In any case, sporting activity for high-level athletes affiliated to national federations is permitted; for example, training camps of national teams, including foreign ones, can be held on the Italian territory as for legal purposes they are treated as national athletes.

Competitions of national and international level are allowed, currently without public spectators. A negative test is not required for participants or accompanying persons to take part in the event (however that is not to say that restrictions may be applied on individuals depending on what country they are travelling from).

As an example, on the 28th and 29th December 2020 the Ski world cup took place in Bormio, in Lombardy which saw athletes regularly at the start but without public present.

On December 27, 2020 the vaccination campaign started, and the Lombardy people to date have received around 50,000 vaccinations. The regional health authority has communicated that after an initial run-in period it will be able to perform 15-20,000 vaccinations per day.

The Italian Rowing Federation has prepared the calendar of competitions of national interest that should be held on the Italian territory that CONI has authorized. These include the 2021 European Championship and the European Olympic and Paralympic Qualification regatta scheduled for Varese.

For the conduct of the sporting event we have prepared a protocol to minimize the risk of contagion and spread of Covid-19 on the basis of the guidance documents prepared by World Rowing and approved by the Italian Rowing Federation.

The aforementioned protocol has already been applied during various Italian national events and also on the occasion of the 2020 Italian Championships held in Varese from 15 to 18 October 2020 which saw the approval of all local health and public order authorities.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT / PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES

Relevant information about regulations on Covid-19 can be found here:

<https://www.iss.it/en/web/iss-en/iss-for-covid19>

Information about travel restriction can be found here:

<https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/ministero/normativaonline/decreto-iorestoacasa-domande-frequenti/focus-cittadini-italiani-in-rientro-dall-estero-e-cittadini-stranieri-in-italia.html>

&

https://infocovid.viaggiasesicuri.it/index_en.html

Access to the Italian territory of citizens from EU - Schengen countries are allowed for work reasons, except for some restrictions currently in force that required a negative molecular or antigenic swab test result carried out no earlier than 72 hours before entering Italy.

The organizing committees are required to adopt, for each event, in conjunction with the local authority health, specific operational and implementation protocols containing the details of the organizational systems used to protect the health of their staff, operators, athletes and participants in the event.

These events are possible in compliance with the rules of social distancing prescribed by government provisions and without any gathering, after preparation by the Organising Committee of their own operational protocols, implementing the Guidelines issued by the Government.

The operational protocols of the Organizing Committees may be subject to further implementations or corrections following any guidelines issued by other ministerial or regional authorities.

The main actions to be taken to be able to carry out sporting events safely and according to the guidelines of the authorities are:

- social distancing obligation, a minimum of 1.5 metres
- obligation to use masks
- wash or sanitize hands very often
- limit gatherings as much as possible and prevent potential risk situations
- frequently sanitize the sports facility and all areas of potential contagion
- carry out the event behind closed doors, access to the event only for athletes, professionals, volunteers after accreditation and authorization of the state of health.
- temperature measurement before accessing the sports facility. Access will not be allowed in the event of temperatures above 37.5 degrees Celsius.

3. CONTACT INFORMATION

Organising Committee COVID Manager:
Dott. Ing. Ambra Roversi
covidmanager@vareserowing.com

4. GENERAL MEASURES AT THE REGATTA VENUE

COVID MANAGER

The task of the COVID MANAGER is to coordinate and verify compliance of the provisions implemented in the protocol and the supplementary ones, referring to the venue within which the competition takes place.

INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS

There is an obligation on all teams, officials and workforce to stay at home/at the hotel if there is a fever (over 37.5 ° C) or other symptoms of flu and call your doctor.

- a) pay particular attention to surface hygiene;
- b) maintain an interpersonal distance of at least 1.5 meter;
- c) avoid close contacts such as hugs or handshakes;
- d) access the event area, subdivision of areas and routes.

The following rules apply to the entire area of the event and are valid from arrival on competition field until the last scheduled departure of the official training times.

GENERAL MEASURES

- The sports facility hosting this event will be closed to the public. Access to the event area is allowed only to duly accredited participants in the event.
- The OC will carry out frequent sanitization of the rooms used.
- Toilets will be available in the different areas, periodically disinfected during the day.
- All participants, officials and workforce must be equipped with a mask covering mouth and nose to be used in all conditions.
- The area hosting the event is structured in the following spaces that must be respected:
 - Logistics area
 - Race area
 - Accreditation
 - Finish Tower
 - Victory Ceremony area
 - Media Centre
 - Information centre

The different areas will be supervised by personnel identified by the Organizing Committee.

Since the event takes place mainly outdoors, there are no limitations in the number of athletes as it takes place in an area of almost 1000 square meters.

5. ACCREDITATION & ACCESS TO THE EVENT

- All participants in the event, including athletes, coaches, volunteers, professionals, World Rowing staff and volunteers must be accredited.
- All participants must return the appropriate health declarations and member federation consent form, and show the accreditation pass with its name and surname on entry to the venue. The photo on accreditation is not mandatory.

- The Pre-event health declaration must be sent to the OC before the team arrives. In the case of officials, volunteers and staff, the form can be completed even before accessing the sports facility.
- If travel restrictions are in place for certain teams, they can request an exception by contacting the Italian Rowing Federation (Ambra.dimiceli@canottaggio.org) who will take steps to contact the competent authorities.
- Testing is not currently required to access the event but many airlines require a negative test within 72 hours before boarding the flight.

6. COMPETITION AREAS

CONTROL COMMISSION:

- All people and staff at Control Commission must wear masks covering the mouth and nose. Bow numbers and GPS units must be sanitized every time they are used. Everyone must maintain an interpersonal distance of a minimum of 1.5 metres.

BOATING PONTOONS:

- Will be sanitized several times a day. Only athletes and workers will be able to access the pontoons. It will not be allowed to leave personal items on the pontoons. The athletes will have to wear their mask until they have left the pontoon.

ON THE WATER FOR RACING/TRAINING/WARM UP:

- There will be no substantial differences regarding the organization of the crews in the water during training and competitions.

7. TEAM / ATHLETE FACILITIES & SERVICES

Dedicated courses for one-way walking flow will be organized to avoid gatherings and limit as much as possible people crossing paths. The doors must remain open where possible to avoid frequent contact with the hands of different people.

ACCREDITATION AND TEAM REGISTRATION CENTRE:

- Only one person in the accreditation centre at a time and only the designated Team Manager.
- Plastic shields will be installed to separate volunteers from Team Managers.

BOAT RACKING:

- Boat racking will be assigned by nation (in the case of large groups) to try to limit interaction between athletes from different nations

ATHLETE WEIGHING:

- Only one crew at a time will be allowed in the waiting area. Clear plastic will be installed to separate officials from athletes.
- Test scales will be regularly sanitized

TEAM INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Only one person at a time.
- Plastic shield will be installed to separate volunteers from team managers.

TOILETS AND SHOWERS:

- Limited numbers will be able to access at one time
- Frequent sanitation

- Showers at the venue shall be closed for use, except in exceptional cases (such as teams going directly to the airport after racing). The process for requesting this exceptional use will be communicated closer to the event.

WARM UP ERGOMETERS:

- Ergos will be positioned at least 2m away from each other based on local government requirements, and in tents to allow maximum ventilation
- Each athlete must sanitize with products made available by the OC before and after use. The OC will in any case provide for frequent sanitation with specialized operators and volunteers
- Teams who wish to bring their own ergometers will be able to; however they must remain within the confinements of their own team tent to ensure social distancing from other teams. Teams will be responsible for their own frequent sanitation of their machines.

TEAM TENTS AND ICE BATHS:

- Each tent will be positioned at a safe distance from each other and the position will be pre-assigned based on the number of athletes for each team.
- Ice Baths will be allowed but must be owned by the teams and used according to current legislation. Space for ice baths is capped so teams must register their ice baths with the OC to ensure there is sufficient space for social distancing.

TEAM MASSAGE AREAS:

- Each table will be in a separate and dedicated space
- Operators and athletes must also use a mask during treatments
- At the end of each session the team must sanitize the area

ATHLETE REST AREA:

- Athletes must always wear a mask and sanitize their hands with special products made available and maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres.

ATHLETES AND COACHES VIEWING AREA – Grandstands:

- Must wear mask, sanitize hands very often, maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres.
- OC recommends teams to carry out temperature testing daily to all groups, with an infrared contactless thermometer; if anyone has flu symptoms or a temperature above 37.5 ° C they must be isolated them from the rest of the group and inform the OC COVID manager immediately. In any case, the temperature will be measured by OC specialized personnel or with automated systems every time the event venue is accessed.

8. MEDIA AND BROADCAST

MEDIA CENTRE:

- The layout will be revised to ensure social distancing - a maximum of 50 people can be inside at the same time.
- Masks will be required to be worn at all times

PHOTOGRAPHERS & PHOTO POSITIONS:

- The photographers' locations will remain the same but will be revised to ensure social distancing. Place marks will be located on the ground to indicate where to stand to have adequate social distance.

MIXED ZONE:

- They will be divided into independent and exclusive areas to be assigned to each television crew to ensure social distancing from other media and from athletes.

- Further details on the lay out of the mixed zone will be worked on and finalised closer to the event

VICTORY CEREMONY PROTOCOLS:

- The awards ceremony will be in a limited area in which only the awarded athletes enter.
- Interpersonal distances of a minimum of 1.5 meter must be respected.
- The awards will be made after each race and will be performed without contact
- The awarded athlete will take the medal directly from the tray to carry it around their neck
- No handshakes and hugs. The athletes photographed must be careful not to hug each other or have an attitude that is not respectful of distance and the safety of others.
- Photos may be taken by authorized and accredited subjects in compliance with the distancing rules.

9. WORLD ROWING (INCLUDING ITOs)

- The same general rules apply to the World Rowing group (including jury and contractors etc).
- In addition, they must register and sign the COVID documentation and proceed with temperature measurement when accessing the venue as per all other people accessing the venue.
- Working space – limits/layout changes/measures:
 - World Rowing Office 30pp/no/200smq
 - Jury Meeting Rooms 25pp/no/160
 - Plastic shields will be installed between the commentators in the Finish Tower and other commentary positions so they can remove masks for commentating.

10. SPECTATORS, VIPS & HOSPITALITY

- Currently, sporting events must be held without the presence of the public.
- VIP and hospitality can be organized and managed following the general rules for reducing the spread of the virus. It is still to be determined if hospitality will be arranged.
- Currently no changes to the Grandstand layout or layout VIP facility.

11. ORGANISING COMMITTEE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- OC staff & volunteers must follow all the general rules for reducing the spread of the virus, and sign the self-certification forms.
- They must always carry the identification badge with them.
- All volunteers will be divided into specific areas and try to limit the interaction between them.

12. LOGISTICS, MEETINGS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

VENUE CATERING:

- The catering area will be modified to ensure the social distancing
- Meals are proposed to be served in single-portion and closed packs to allow the best hygiene measures. The exact provisions and requirements around this are currently in discussion with World Rowing.
- During meals, athletes must maintain an interpersonal distance of 1.5 metres.
- The take-away service will also be offered if any team wishes to have a meal at their tent

TEAM MANAGER MEETINGS:

- Team Manager Meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise indicated at the event.

CEREMONIES AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Opening and Closing Ceremonies are currently not foreseen to be held
- No Media or Jury outing will be held
- No Nations Dinner will be held

TRANSPORT:

- Wearing a mask covering mouth and nose is mandatory at all times on transport buses.
- Transport to and from airports and to and from the venue will follow the same regulations and procedures and will be provided by the OC.
- Shuttle travel will be defined in advance and organized by fixed groups, reducing the crossing of groups during the training and racing days on the site.
- The transfer from hotel–venue–hotel is recommended to be carried out by the OC shuttle service, included in the event service.
 - Teams are able to arrange their own transport, however they are then responsible for their own sanitization and social distancing. More details around logistical requirements for this will be published.
- The schedule will be made available and the teams must strictly comply with the scheduled times for each group. The schedules will be fixed every training day, and the teams must choose their departure and return times, with no possibility of alteration after scheduling. The timeframes and procedure for booking transport will be confirmed closer to the event.
- The shuttle access will be checked by the OC. The number of passengers will be limited to ensure compliance with minimum distance rules. Passengers are asked to not use adjacent seats.
- Grip zones especially for standing passengers will be periodically disinfected at the end of a bus tour.

HOTEL:

- All teams **must** be accommodated at the OC's official hotels, so that the protocols are followed by all participants.
- For security reasons, accommodation will not be allowed outside the official hotels of the Organizing Committee, or reservations made directly at the hotels. This procedure aims to keep all participants within the same protocol and routine.
- The OC will reserve additional rooms at the hotel in case isolation is needed for someone with a positive COVID test or COVID symptoms.
- Where possible only one team will be accommodated per hotel.
- If this is not possible as in the case of very large structures or teams with a reduced number of people, all the necessary measures will be put in place to ensure the safety of all including following the government hotel requirements.
- Athletes from the same crew must remain in the same room. Room sharing by athletes who are not on the same boat should be avoided where possible.

13. REPORTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Each OC will work on the specific reporting procedures and requirements for each event to develop the Crisis Management and Communications Protocol documents with their respective World Rowing Event Manager.

PRE-EVENT:

- Done through use of the “Pre-Event Health Questionnaire”.

DURING EVENT:

- The COVID Manager will take care of identifying a place in the venue dedicated to the isolation of those who present symptoms attributable to COVID-19 during the event and implement all procedures to ensure rapid health intervention.
- Any person who measures over 37.5°C should immediately avoid close contact with others and report the situation. The on-site health personnel shall take over the positive or suspected case.
 - a) If the symptoms allow, the subject is asked to go to his home and contact the doctor or health authorities.
 - b) If the symptoms do not allow the removal independently, he will be transferred to the emergency room at the relevant local hospital.

POST-EVENT:

- Within 14 days after returning home from the event, if any event participant shows COVID symptoms, and/or receives a positive test result:
 - They should follow their local health authority's rules in force at the time (for example, going into self-isolation).
 - Additionally, they should immediately inform the event Organising Committee and World Rowing, by emailing the specific OC COVID email address provided, with copy to the relevant World Rowing Event Manager.
 - The participant who has tested positive will be asked to provide details of their movements and close contact with other people during their time at the event.

14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR MEASURES

PARA ROWING CLASSIFICATION

- Para rowing Classification will be performed as planned while respecting all general health regulations. They will be performed in a room large enough to hold all the required personnel with appropriate social distancing.

DOPING CONTROL PROCEDURES:

- Doping Control will be performed as scheduled, respecting all the health procedures required by proceeding 1 athlete at a time. An additional waiting area shall be constructed outside the doping control room to ensure social distancing for waiting athletes is possible.

COVID TESTS:

- The OC is working on a situation where COVID PCR tests will be able to be taken directly at the venue at no cost to the team or person – this is to be confirmed. This would also be for people who require a negative test before they fly to have their test taken.

TRAINING AT THE VENUE PRIOR TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE VENUE:

- This is still to be confirmed as to whether it is possible or not as it has clear COVID management impacts.