

Discipline-specific guidelines for FEI Para Dressage Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic (Updated 7 December 2021)

Note: for ease of reading, all updates made since the last version of this document appear in mark-up. Previous updates are shown in red. The links are updated from time to time without this being shown as a change to the document.

Purpose

This document provides OCs with detailed guidance for the management of FEI Para Dressage Events during the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures outlined aim to apply to all aspects of the Event the hygiene and social distancing principles necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

This document must be read and used in conjunction with:

- The [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), and in particular article VII “Recommended Best Practice for FEI Event Organisers”, which provides general guidance for all FEI Events.
- The [Veterinary-specific guidelines for FEI Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic](#) which outlines the veterinary processes applicable in each FEI discipline.
- The [IPC Classification Hygiene and Infection Control Guidelines](#)

These guidelines are best practice recommendations. They do not intend to replace the regulations and policies imposed by the national and local health authorities, but to supplement them with considerations that are unique to Para Dressage.

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I. General

Please refer to the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#).

II. Show office & administration

Taking into account the Recommended Best Practices for FEI Event Organisers in the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), a plan must be devised and implemented to ensure social distancing and adequate hygiene:

- At the various steps of the event administration (such as invoicing, orders etc.)
- In the show office
- During staff, volunteers and Officials briefings
- For shuttles and all venue vehicles

Regular cleaning and disinfection schedules must be established for all areas and equipment in the venue, including Judges box(es), score box(es), press & commentator box(es), volunteers material.

Pre-packaged individual food and bottled drink should be made available to personnel, Officials and volunteers if necessary.

III. Social distancing for Athletes and their support personnel

1. Rules of engagement

Every person involved in Para Dressage Events has the responsibility to prevent the spread of the virus. Hand and respiratory hygiene, self-isolation when showing symptoms, social distancing, mask use and limiting group numbers are the most effective means of prevention of the spread. Outlined below are measures to be observed consistently during the Covid-19 pandemic:

2. General principles

These rules should be enforced in daily life by all members of the team and not only in training or at Events:

- Frequent hand washing, regular disinfection of shared surface.
- The use of face masks is strongly recommended except, for Athletes. While training and competing.
- When entering FEI Para Dressage Events, all team members by default should commit to respecting the above measures in their daily life and continue to enforce them during the Event.

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- Coaches should be encouraged to interact with their Athletes through electronic devices (smartphone etc).

All Athletes, support personnel and entourage have the responsibility to bring enough face masks and sanitary hand and surface cleaning products (to be used for teams' own devices shared between the team).

The OC should have enough face masks to be delivered to the team members/Athletes in case of need. It is up to each OC to give them free of charge or at market price.

IV. Consequences of the removal of a team member due to Covid-19

If a team member has to leave the event due to SARS-CoV-2 contamination or suspected contamination (positive test, Covid-19 diagnosis, notification of close contact with an infected person by the relevant health authorities), the removal from the team will be considered as due to medical reasons and the consequences for the team will be determined in compliance with the Para Dressage Rules.

V. Equipment

In principle, sharing equipment should be avoided.

Where sharing is necessary, the equipment used should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Hands should be sanitised before and after touching any shared item.

VI. Competition areas

1. Warm-up arena

Social distancing:

- All accredited persons should wear a face mask and wash their hands with soap and water or with hydro alcoholic gel before entering the warm-up zone.
- Social distancing rules as well as the use of face masks is mandatory in the warm-up zone.
- Only Athletes can temporarily remove their masks when exercising and warming up.

Hygiene:

- A hand sanitising product should be available when entering and leaving Arenas. Each individual should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit (this does not apply to Athletes entering for their test).
- Personal equipment should not be shared with others, e.g. bottles of water, tack pieces, etc...
- To facilitate these processes the OC should set-up the warm-up area so that the crowd is evenly distributed over the entire surface area of the warm-up zone.
- Having two warm-up areas is a possible option; the above measures are still to be maintained.

Entry and exit:

- In addition to the above, when leaving the warm-up area Athletes should directly enter the field of play through the dedicated one-way pathway.
- When leaving the field of play, Athletes should directly exit the field of play through the dedicated one-way pathway.

Mounting blocks or ramps:

Mounting blocks or ramps must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between each use, by a person designated by the OC. Surfaces should be cleaned with soap and water or a detergent to remove organic matter first, followed by disinfection.

2. Competition arena

- Spectators should wear face masks.
- All seats, and all other materials which have been in contact with people should be cleaned with a sanitary solution at the end of each day. A clear cleaning procedure must be put in place by the OC.

3. Ground Jury tables

Face masks and hand sanitiser should be provided to each judge and scribe.

Social distancing:

- The OC may consider installing a Plexiglas or heavy plastic divider and providing headsets for the judges to communicate with the scribes (the secretary and/or the E scribe).
- Judges and scribes are strongly advised to wear face masks.
- The use of headsets is highly recommended to facilitate the communication between the judges and their scribes.

Hygiene:

- A hand sanitising product should be available when entering and leaving arenas.
- Each accredited person should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit.
- Judges and their scribes should bring their own pens, notebooks etc. Sharing of equipment should not be permitted.
- At each rotation of the Judges/scribes, the table, chairs and all materials should be carefully cleaned with a sanitising solution.

4. Score sheets

- Where possible, paperless judging should be favoured.
- Volunteers in charge of collecting scoresheets after each test should wear a face mask when collecting these scoresheets and sanitise their hands before and after handling them.

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- If used, scoresheets should be put in a folder that should be cleaned after changing hands and placed outside the competition or scoring office. Hands should be sanitised before and after touching any shared item.
- No paper scoresheets should be given out at the competition. Scoresheets may be requested following the competition and sent via email.
- During and after the competitions scores shouldn't be shown on small screens around the arena to discourage any physical gathering, but scores can be shown on a big score board above the arena, posted online and circulated through email. Scores should be posted online and circulated through email.

5. FEI Officials

FEI Officials must wear a face mask during their duty, sanitise their hands frequently and maintain adequate distance¹ whenever possible.

For the equipment check, in addition to wearing masks, Stewards must wear single use gloves and change them after each check (as required by the Steward Manual).

VII. Falls & injured Athletes

- Medical service providers must always wear a face mask and gloves when tending to injured Athletes.
- Anyone else providing help must wear a face mask, sanitise hands frequently and maintain adequate distance whenever possible.
- The Athlete must be given a face mask (unless in medical distress).
- The medical facility and ambulance will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the local health authorities.

VIII. Prize giving, awards and end of competition

As of 1 September 2020, the [Covid-19 guidelines for prize giving protocols and media activities at FEI Events](#) apply to all FEI Events. ~~Under these guidelines, the wearing of face masks is mandatory for everyone involved in prize givings, including Athletes unless they are mounted on a horse or driving a carriage. There is also a specific protocol for podium presentations.~~

IX. Classification

All OCs must follow the guidelines set out by the IPC in the [IPC Classification Hygiene and Infection Control Guidelines](#) (published [here](#)).

All persons involved with classification (Athletes, supporting personnel, Classifiers, administrative volunteers) must wear masks at all times. The OC must have face masks

¹ "Social distancing" means deliberately increasing the physical space between people to avoid spreading illness. It typically involves avoiding gathering together in large groups and keeping a certain distance from others. The distance specified in relation to Covid-19 may differ from country to country. The [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#) recommends a distance of two metres whenever possible.

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to provide to participants if needed. It is up to each OC to give them free of charge or at market price.

1. Health status forms

To attend Classification, all Athletes and attending support personnel must provide a completed Health Status Form on arrival, which should be filled in in the 12 hours prior to the Evaluation. Should an Athlete or their support personnel show any symptoms listed on the form, they must follow the requirements listed above, and must in no case present at the Classification area. In this case their classification evaluation would be postponed to another time.

2. Classification Area

An area must be provided for Classification which is clean, with the following requirements, to be provided by the OC:

- Evaluation Room
- access to water, soap and disinfectant, as well as clean handwashing facilities including hot and cold water, close by or in room, and safe hand drying equipment, that is not shared
- a desk that can be disinfected, four chairs (no arms if possible)
- a physio bed,
- Access to a waiting area large enough to maintain social/physical distancing
- Regularly cleaned and disinfected toilets

The classification evaluation area does not have to be on competition site, but can be a physiotherapist/medical room but still must meet all hygiene guidelines. If the evaluation room is off-site the FEI, Classifiers and Athletes attending must be informed. Please see the IPC Guidelines section 3 for further information on requirements. The Classification Evaluation room must be deep cleaned by the Classifiers as per the IPC Guidelines between each Athlete Evaluation. 30 minutes must be allocated between each Evaluation for this purpose. The OC must ensure that the entire evaluation room is - cleaned at the end of each day.

The FEI Classifiers will check the facilities prior to Classification, and the OC must ensure that the requirements are fulfilled. The Chief Classifiers has the responsibility to ensure all procedures and standards have been met in regards to COVID -19 safe practices. If the facilities and procedures do not meet the requirements the classification appointments will be postponed until modifications have been made.

3. Classification Schedule and Check-In/Waiting Area Guidelines

A schedule will be drawn up by the Chief Classifier for the Classification evaluations. Athletes and their support personnel must only arrive at the time specified to limit congestion in the waiting area. Sufficient time must be allocated to each Athlete, with a minimum of 1 hour per Athlete evaluation, and 30 minutes between athletes.

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Athletes (and support personnel) who have completed the Health status form showing no symptoms, must present at the waiting area at the time allocated. They must keep distance from administrative personnel. A recommended screening process is found in the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#).

4. Local Health Services and Health Emergency procedures

The OC must provide the Classifiers with information about local health services and procedures prior to the Event taking place.

5. Classifiers

Classifiers must wear a face mask and gloves during their duty, and maintain adequate distance whenever possible. The OC must provide non-latex gloves and masks for them to wear, with a new mask and gloves for each individual athlete Evaluation.

ANNEX I

Classification COVID-19 AND HEALTH DECLARATION

Separate forms to be completed by each athlete and support personnel attending classification in the 12 hours prior to Classification Evaluation.

The health and well-being of all is our highest priority.

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, we are applying screening processes and hygiene measures to safeguard athletes, their support staff and classification personnel. As a condition of proceeding with the classification process, please answer the questions below and adhere to the additional hygiene processes requested of you.

SELF-DECLARATION	YES/NO
Are you presenting with any of the following symptoms relating to COVID-19? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Dry Cough • Shortness of Breath • Sore Throat 	
Have you in the past 14 days been in contact with someone diagnosed with coronavirus to your knowledge?	

If you respond 'YES' to any of these questions, then as a precautionary measure, you will be unable to proceed with classification. We ask for your full support as we all have a shared responsibility to minimise the risk of exposure and protect our individual and collective health.

Criteria for attending Classification:

All Athletes and supporting personnel attending Classification must be wearing masks and comply with social distancing measures. They should provide their own mask and pen.

Athletes are allowed a maximum of one accompanying persons, and it is recommended to limit this to only absolutely necessary. Persons attending Classification must be aware that time spent in close proximity to Classifiers should be limited and talking in very close proximity to each other should be limited. While all efforts will be made to maintain the recommended distance, there will be times during the Athlete evaluation that this will not be possible. The use of masks, gloves and hygiene precautions will provide a barrier.

Disclosure: Self-declaration records will be used and disclosed for managing classification site access during the risk period only and as required by the relevant law. Records will be kept securely and retained for a period required under the relevant retention schedules in compliance with privacy laws and regulations.

NAME

SIGNATURE

TIME and DATE