

RESTARTING INTERNATIONAL
BADMINTON TOURNAMENTS

SAFETY PROTOCOLS & OPERATING PROCEDURES 2021 UPDATE



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1.0 Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic saw the suspension of both domestic and international badminton tournaments.

It is understandable that there are still concerns on the spread of the virus and these measures, including the mandatory testing, are designed to alleviate some of these concerns.

The BWF restarted international badminton tournaments in October and November with the successful staging of the DANISA Denmark Open and SaarLorLux Open. The following guidance has been published to assist BWF Major Championships and HSBC BWF World Tour host organising committees in the staging of their Badminton tournaments in 2021 due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

For clarity this document is mandatory for:

- A) BWF Major Championships (World Men's Team Championship, World Women's Team Championship, World Mixed Team Championship, World Championships)
- B) HSBC BWF World Tour - Super 300, 500, 750, 1000 and the HSBC World Tour Finals.

Note: Any hosts that cannot implement these guidelines must consult with BWF as this could affect player participation in the tournament.

This document is only a recommendation for:

- A) BWF Tour Super 100
- B) Grade 3 tournaments (International Challenge, International Series, Future Series). Grade 3 hosts must consult with the relevant Continental Confederation.

The advice is based on WHO guidelines for sports events and mass gatherings. In addition to these guidelines, each host organising committee must strictly follow the advice and measures put in place by their local and/or national health authorities.

The measures put in place aim to create the safest possible environment for all stakeholders involved in the tournament including players, organising committee work force, volunteers, media and technical officials.

Key to creating a safe environment is the creation of a "badminton family bubble", and this involves making it mandatory for each and everyone in this bubble to be tested at each tournament. At the same time, it is important that clear guidelines are communicated to all



participants around behavioural requirements/restrictions and movement control to ensure the safety of all participants.

As the situation around COVID-19 hopefully improve as time goes by, BWF may remove some of the guidelines and/or provide dispensation to some of the described procedures. If however the situation worsens BWF may also strengthen the guidelines and request additional requirements be put in place.

2.0 Glossary

Infected Person

- An infected person is a person who has a positive PCR (laboratory) test confirming the presence of COVID-19.

Potentially Infected Person

- A potentially infected person is someone who has symptoms or signs suggestive of COVID-19 and/or is awaiting results of testing following a close contact.

Direct Contact

- Is someone who had contact with an infected person (being contact within 1 metre and for >15 minutes);
- Provided direct care to an infected person without using proper personal protective equipment;
- Stayed in the same close environment as an infected person (including sharing a room or being at the same gathering) for any amount of time – i.e. having been in contact within 1 metre for more than 15 minutes;

Quarantine

- This is the restriction of activities of or the separation of the people who are not ill but who may have been exposed to an infected person or disease – or as required and defined by local health authorities. The purpose of quarantine is to monitor their symptoms, ensuring the early detection of cases and preventing possible further disease spread.

Isolation

- This is the separation of ill or infected persons from others to prevent the spread of infection or contamination.

3.0 Testing Plan

To ensure the safest possible environment for players and entourage, the host organising committees will be implementing a COVID-19 testing plan for each Major Championships and HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments, which will entail a group of accredited personnel being tested prior and during each event. The aim is to as much as possible create infection free 'bubbles' within the venue environment.

HSBC World Tour Super 300, 500, 750, 1000, HSBC World Tour Finals and BWF Major Championships

All players, team entourage, technical officials and other key event personnel will be required to undertake COVID-19 PCR tests at each Major Championships and HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments.

BWF Tour Super 100

All players, team entourage and other agreed personnel must submit a negative pre-arrival test certificate. Any additional testing is the decision of the LOC or as advised by the local health authority.

More detailed testing information is stated in sections 3.4 – 3.6.

3.1 Venue Accreditation Zones

Tournament venues should be divided into two zones – Green and Red. The green zone broadly includes all areas where players, entourage and TO's will be congregating such as the FOP, player's lounge, secretariat and TO's areas and the red zones include all areas outside of this such as spectator and VIP areas. Examples of the zone areas are shown below:

Green Zone Areas	Red Zone Areas
FOP	Spectator entrance
Warm up courts	Spectator concourse
Practice courts	Spectator seating area
Players' lounge	VIP lounge
Player assembly point	VIP parking
Changing rooms	Non tested venue staff rooms
TO rooms	Media centre or tribune for non-tested media
Medical and physio rooms	OB truck
BWF office	Non tested LOC staff rooms
Infront Office (TBD in consultation with Infront)	Infront Office
Secretariat and associated LOC offices	
Anti-doping room	

Restraining collection and drop off point	
Tested media work area	
Player interview area	
Match control	
Player accreditation entrance	

Green zone venue access – mandatory temperature check

Red zone venue access – Non mandatory temperature check unless advised by health authority.

The Accreditation Zones should be marked and enforced to minimise contact between Green group and Red group personnel.

Ideally the venue is divided into green and red areas with the underlying principle that green areas are only for tested personnel. This is a very simple method and one that all stakeholders can easily understand. However, some World Tour events may already employ a trusted accreditation setup which uses multiple coloured zones. In this scenario, different colours can be used however the principle remains that non-tested personnel cannot enter the green areas stated above. This zonal arrangement will need to be discussed and approved with BWF in advance.

In order to ensure minimum interaction between personnel from the two groups, the LOC should consider allocating the same resources (i.e. volunteers) to the same section/area. For example, the group of volunteers assigned to manage the Players' Lounge should be the same group of volunteers for the duration of the tournament. Therefore, the LOC should allocate two sets of stewards, one set for the red zone and one set for the green zone.

LOC should also only allocate minimum number of volunteers in order to service a particular section/area. Too many volunteers mean greater risk exposure. This potentially may result in volunteers/officials in the Green Group to work longer hours.

In developing the Accreditation Zones, it must always be a consideration to minimise the footprint and movement of personnel in each group. If the venue is within walking distance to the hotel, if possible, it is recommended that the same route be used for members of the Green Group in order to avoid unnecessary interaction with other persons.

3.2 Accreditation Groups

There are two accreditation groups – green for tested personnel and red for non-tested personnel. The green group personnel will have access to specific green zone areas and red group personnel will have access to specific red zone areas. The accreditation pass design should clearly display red or green. Red group accreditations are not permitted in green zone areas as these personnel are not part of the testing programme.

Green

The Green category primarily includes all stakeholders that will come into direct contact with the players and players' entourage. All these will be part of the testing programme on arrival to the tournament city preferably at the venue or hotel.

Green group accreditations are not permitted to stay in red zone areas (and any Green Group personnel passing through any red zones should be done with proper protective measures – i.e. mask wearing and social distancing).

Red

The Red Group includes personnel who would not ordinarily come into contact with players and players' entourage. This group does not need to undergo testing or temperature checks unless advised by the local health authority.

Red group accreditations are not permitted in green zone areas.

An example of red group would be spectator stewards, if stewards are mandated to check bags upon entry for both spectators (red) and accredited persons (green) then the spectator stewards should divide into groups where one group only check spectators for the entire event and not switch to accredited persons at any point.

In addition, there are a limited number of personnel who require access to both green and red zone areas to carry out their jobs effectively. These personnel will follow the tournament testing programme and will be designated Green Group however will have access to red zone areas. **The type of personnel that may require access to both green and red zone areas will differ per venue and event and are shown in orange below.**

The LOC and BWF will decide on an event by event basis who of these require to be tested, those who are tested will receive green zone access necessary to carry out their roles and those who are not tested will receive red zone access.

Personnel required to access both green and red zone areas will be under special behavioural restrictions to protect themselves and others – i.e. extended mask wearing when moving around in both green and red zone areas and possibly more frequent testing.

Green (Tested)	(BWF & LOC to decide whether tested or not)	Red (not tested)
Players *	TV production crew - some may need to access FOP	Spectator stewards
Entourage **	Security – some personnel may need to access both areas	Spectator security
Umpires	Key Venue staff	Spectator catering
Referees	Key LOC staff	VIP's

Green (Tested)	(BWF & LOC to decide whether tested or not)	Red (not tested)
Line judges	Key Catering staff	Other media who will not have direct access to players.
Tournament doctors	Sponsors – some key sponsor staff may need to access the green areas.	Red zone area cleaners
BWF and Infront staff	BWF Council	Venue staff
Team liaison officers	Sports presentation – maybe located in a green area or a red area.	Other photographers
Stringers		
TV cameramen		
Visual Reality		
Hawk-Eye		
Shuttle control		
FOP management team		
Player assembly point managers		
Anti-doping		
Prize presentation ushers and prize presenters etc		
BWF and LOC appointed media		
Physio		
Green zone area cleaners		

*BWF will provide support to the testing plan, which will be limited to a fixed accreditation number and all players must be tested.

** Teams should limit the number of personnel in the entourage based on a need-to basis. Any accredited entourage over and above the accreditation limit will be required to undertake testing at their own cost.

On the day green zone accreditation requests can only be issued once the Green Group testing procedure has been completed i.e. pre-arrival test and arrival test.

3.3 Accreditation Card Design

The accreditation card must clearly state whether a person is green group or red group.

Accreditation designs must be sent to BWF for approval.

Personnel required to more frequently access both green and red zone areas – and carrying access accreditation to green zone – should have an indication on the accreditation card to show that this person one of the people required to have a wider access in both green and red zones (under the special behavioural restrictions).

3.4 Testing Procedure

The exact testing procedures will be determined by the local health authority or designated testing body at each event and will be communicated to Member Associations before the tournament. The tests should be carried out in a secure environment at a designated test facility on arrival (typically the Saturday, Sunday and Monday – or earlier depending on start of the tournament) before the event with results available as soon as possible, preferably within 2-3 hours or earlier. If tests results are likely to take up to 24 hours or more hosts **must** contact BWF in advance. In addition, follow up testing during competition will be conducted with a relevant frequency, to continuously validate that the Green Group personnel (see section 3.1 and 3.2) are not infected.

The total number of people in the Green Group will be determined by BWF in consultation with the LOC.

3.5 Testing Strategy

All hosts must ensure that test results will be available as soon as possible, preferably within 2-3 hours. **This is essential as otherwise players cannot be accredited for the tournament.** Longer testing times may create serious logistical and scheduling challenges that must be discussed prior to the tournament and may influence the normal scheduling of a tournament. In addition, hosts must be able to facilitate testing each day (as required) of the tournament.

The testing strategy is divided into the following:

- a) **Pre-arrival test** It is mandatory for all players, team entourage and other agreed tournament personnel to obtain a negative test certificate prior to arrival as outlined below.
 - i) HSBC BWF World Tour and BWF Tour Super 100
The pre-arrival test should be dated within 72 hours of the Sunday before the tournament starts i.e. the test should be taken Thursday, Friday or Saturday. This applies to all players and team entourage including those from the same country as the tournament.
 - ii) BWF Major Championships and HSBC World Tour Finals

The pre-arrival test shall be taken 72 hours before the start of the tournament's official practice day where the teams have planned to arrive and book for. This applies to all players and team entourage including those from the same country as the tournament.

In the case that the country entry requirements outline a different timeline (48 hours for example) then it will supersede the BWF 72 hours timeline. The cost is to be borne by the respective Member Association / player(s).

As the pre-arrival test is linked to the issuing of accreditations, the LOC is responsible for collecting certificates. The exact collection method should be outlined in the prospectus.

b) Arrival test

- i) HSBC BWF World Tour, HSBC World Tour Finals and BWF Major Championships
All Green Group personnel and agreed additional tournament personnel (e.g. TV cameramen) to be tested upon arrival either at the airport, venue, hotel or other designated testing facility with results to be received as soon as possible (not exceeding 24 hours). All must stay in quarantine in their hotel room or designated location until test result is available.
- ii) BWF Tour Super 100
Unless advised otherwise by the local health authority, an arrival test is recommended but not mandatory for Super 100 tournaments.

Please note: It is important that the LOC collect clear data on arrival time and entry point for ALL Green Group personnel to ensure that such people are met by LOC dedicated personnel on arrival and taken through testing procedures.

The LOC should equally ensure that F&B is accessible/available during the quarantine time for the arrival test – i.e. availability of room services, food delivery and other.

The LOC must ensure that all Green Group personnel are informed about ways to contact the LOC service staff, so they can request help and assistance during the mandatory quarantine period.

c) Midweek tests/additional tests

- i) HSBC BWF World Tour, HSBC World Tour Finals and BWF Major Championships
Additional testing will be done during the week to continuously validate that Green Group personnel are free from infection. These will typically take place on the Friday however exact timing for testing will be decided between the LOC and BWF. If needed further testing should be available as required with short notification.
- ii) BWF Tour Super 100

Unless advised otherwise by the local health authority, midweek testing is recommended but not mandatory for Super 100 tournaments.

d) Issuing of accreditation cards

The LOC must not permit any personnel to access tournament facilities and transport without accreditation. For example, players are not permitted to access the practice hall or use transport before collecting accreditation.

i) HSBC BWF World Tour, HSBC World Tour Finals and BWF Major Championships

A negative pre-arrival test certificate **and** a negative arrival test are required for all players, team entourage and other agreed tournament personnel before accreditation cards can be distributed. No accreditation is to be issued if a person declines, does not go through the testing or obtains a positive result.

Please note that NO access can be granted to any tournament related areas (venue, practice facilities etc.) without accreditation – i.e. before confirmed negative arrival test.

ii) BWF Tour Super 100

A negative pre-arrival test certificate is required before issuing accreditation to players, team entourage and other agreed tournament personnel. No accreditation is to be issued if a person declines, does not go through this testing or obtains a positive result.

e) Reserves

i) HSBC BWF World Tour and BWF Major Championships

A negative pre-arrival test certificate **and** a negative arrival test are required for reserves being promoted into the tournament. This means that the LOC needs to be able facilitate testing on Monday and Tuesday before and following the Team Managers Meeting.

ii) BWF Tour Super 100

A negative pre-arrival test certificate dated within 72 hours prior to arrival is required for reserves being promoted into the tournament.

3.6 Test Method (Subject to Further Confirmation)

The PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) method will be used as this test is effective in confirming the presence of COVID-19 virus. This test requires having both a nasal swab and throat swab sample taken and analysed whether the individual is infected or not.

4.0 New Minimum Requirements for all BWF Major Championships and HSBC BWF World Tour Hosts

Area	Guidelines
Qualifying rounds	<p>With immediate effect and until further notice, all HSBC BWF World Tour Super 300 and Super 500 tournaments will not include qualifying.</p> <p>In the absence of qualifying, hosts have the option of starting the main draw on Tuesday or Wednesday however there are a number of factors that will determine whether the tournament can start on Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Number of courts b) Testing results turnaround time c) Previous week tournament <p>Hosts must contact BWF in advance to discuss the start day.</p> <p>The removal of qualifying does not apply to BWF Tour Super 100 tournaments unless discussed and agreed with BWF.</p>
Mandatory Pre-arrival COVID-19 PCR Test	<p>It is mandatory for all players, team entourage and other agreed tournament personnel to obtain a negative test certificate before arriving at the tournament. Please see Testing Strategy 3.5 for more information.</p> <p>This test is to be done at the team/player's own cost</p>
Mandatory COVID-19 PCR Test (upon arrival at tournament base)	<p>The LOC in consultation with BWF will implement COVID-19 PCR test on all personnel to be given Green Group access. The final number of personnel to be tested will be subject to BWF approval. The BWF will come up with a financial package to help implement this strategy. Please see Testing Strategy 3.5 for more information.</p>
Hotels	<p>Hosts should prioritise using exclusive hotel(s) for players and team entourage (i.e. no other guests) unless otherwise agreed with BWF. This will help to ensure that the green bubble concept is also adhered to away from the venue.</p> <p>All players/entourage are required to stay in the designated official hotel to ensure easy and smooth implementation of COVID-19 safety protocols, contact tracing procedures and management of COVID-19 positive cases. The hosts would not</p>

Area	Guidelines
	<p>be able to assist effectively nor provide transport facilities to any team/player/entourage staying in non-official hotel(s).</p> <p>On occasions where it is a non-exclusive hotel, teams should be allocated floors away from other guests and ideally have an exclusive food and beverage area. Movement control and exclusive areas should be clearly described and agreed with BWF with the emphasis on separation from other guests.</p> <p>For the exclusive hotels, priority should be given to early bookings.</p>
Temperature screening	<p>Each day, accredited persons are required to be temperature-screened each time upon entering the venue.</p> <p>The screening is a rapid-fire temperature check at venue entry points such as the accreditation entrance and media entrance. This is to ensure that any potential symptomatic persons are identified and can be seen by medical staff before coming into contact with other event personnel.</p>
Face mask/face shield	<p>Green Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All the accredited Green Zone personnel must wear mask when they are on the FOP. - When players are preparing or playing in a match, wearing of face mask/face shield is <u>not required</u> - When players are not preparing or playing but in the Green Zone, wearing of face mask/face shield <u>is required</u> - Must wear a face mask/face shield when in a red zone. <p>Red Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wearing of face mask/face shield is dictated by advice from local health authorities <p>Orange Group / personnel with access to Green and Red zones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow the Green Group protocols however with the possibility of more frequent testing.
Physical Distancing	<p>The rules for physical distancing shall be closely followed and exercised throughout the tournament.</p> <p>The provided facilities and available spaces/areas should be set up in way that physical distancing is respected and/or follows guidelines issued by the local health authorities. In the absence of local guidelines, a minimum distance of 1 metre is recommended.</p>

Area	Guidelines
Shaking Hands	<p>No shaking hands before the start of the match, after match, at prize giving ceremonies, nor any souvenir presentation ceremonies, meet and greet activities.</p> <p>Instead of shaking hands, players can touch rackets with their opponents and nod/put their hand across their chest when greeting the match officials.</p>
Prize Ceremonies	<p>All participants/personnel involved in the prize presentation ceremony must disinfect their hands with alcohol-based hand sanitisers before the start of the ceremony. Physical distancing regulations shall be followed at all times. Players must be able to pick up their prizes from a tray and not be handed them from the presenter.</p>
Dedicated Isolation Rooms/Areas	<p>All venues must have dedicated isolation rooms for medical examination which are situated away from spectator and busy back of house areas. In addition, LOC should consider allocating hotel and practice area isolation rooms.</p> <p>Furthermore, pre-determined routes to the isolation rooms that avoid populated areas should be assigned.</p>
Medical Personnel	<p>Qualified medical personnel as per local health authority guidelines/qualifications must be available to handle any COVID-19 suspected cases.</p>
Media interview area	<p>The interview area must have transparent physical partitioning between the players and the media. Please see media section for more details.</p>
On Court Interview	<p>On-court interviews will not be implemented.</p>
Technical Officials	<p>Teams of Technical Officials (TO Teams): It is advised to create technical officials teams with the same umpire, service judge and line judges throughout the tournament or at least throughout the same day. If officials are sharing accommodation then this should also be taken into account. These teams should keep a high level of distance to other “TO teams”. In case of any infection (or suspected infection) it will be more efficient to impose relevant isolation and it will affect fewer people.</p>
	<p>Referees</p> <p>Referees will be required to wear a mask when they are in green zones including the FOP.</p>
	<p>Service Judge</p>

Area	Guidelines
	<p>Service Judge must wear a face mask/face shield at all times including when officiating on court.</p>
	<p>It is highly recommended to use shuttlecock dispensers for players to take new shuttles themselves. In the case that dispensers are not used, the service judge must wear latex gloves whenever on duty during a match and always practice good hygiene measures such as not touching their face, sneezing into their hands, etc.</p>
	<p>Umpires</p> <p>Umpires will be required to wear a face mask/face shield at all times except when they are officiating in the chair.</p>
	<p>Line Judges</p> <p>Line Judges will be required to wear a face mask/face shield at all times including when they are on duty.</p>
TV Camera Crew on FOP	<p>Must wear face mask/face shield.</p>
Pre event info document	<p>BWF will circulate a COVID-19 protocols document to all competing Member Associations in advance of each tournament.</p> <p>The LOC must provide all necessary information to be included in the document. This document will be the official COVID-19 protocols communication for the tournament.</p> <p>To avoid miscommunications, LOC's should not therefore also unilaterally circulate their own COVID-19 documents or guides.</p>
Manned Telephone Hotline	<p>The LOC must provide a local telephone hotline or designated number that participants can call for information and direction about when and where they should seek care.</p>
Green Group behavioural principles	<p>Green Group personnel must practice the following principles when in both Green Zones and Red Zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wear face masks - Practice social distancing - Frequent hand washing - Avoid crowded areas - Avoid spending time in red zones - Avoid shaking hands

5.0 General Guidelines for Hosts

5.1 General

Area	Guidelines
Information	<p>LOC must ensure to inform all participants about the exact provisions in place in connection with the event. This shall be communicated in conjunction with BWF to all parties in due time in advance of the tournament. This information is required when submitting the prospectus for the tournament.</p>
Communication Strategy	<p>The LOC shall develop a crisis communication strategy for COVID-19 before the event.</p> <p>A designated person – spokesperson shall be appointed to lead all media activities and manage all external communications related to COVID-19.</p> <p>In the case of a COVID-19 related incident, all communications should not be released without approval from the nominated BWF official. This is to ensure a coherent approach and a standardised message.</p>
Entry requirements and insurance	<p>LOC must provide information on entry requirements and insurance regulations for all participants entering the country. This information must be stated in the prospectus.</p> <p>For example – mandatory COVID-19 negative certificate, specific COVID-19 insurance coverage, visa information, designated risk countries.</p>
Preventive/Protective Measures	<p>Alcohol-based hand sanitisers must be available in all Green Zones and should be available throughout the venue and in all communal areas such as the TO's lounge and media centre.</p> <p>Common areas, door handles, toilet handles, changing rooms shall be disinfected several times a day.</p> <p>It is also advised to keep room doors open or have them managed by volunteers wherever possible, in order to minimise the number of people touching the handles.</p> <p>Closed bins for safe disposal of hygienic materials shall be provided in all rooms.</p> <p>The display of health advisories at the venue is encouraged, reminding participants to maintain high levels of personal hygiene.</p>

Area	Guidelines
	For the use of face mask/face shield, please refer to section on face mask/face shield.
Volunteers Workforce	The number of volunteers shall be reviewed and kept to the absolute necessary. The age and health record of the volunteer to be considered before signing on volunteers. This is to avoid having volunteers who may be at greater risk if exposed to COVID-19.

5.2 Organisation

Area	Guidelines
Airport arrivals/ Pick-up	<p>The LOC must collect all necessary information for arrival passengers and share this with the tournament participants accordingly. All participants must adhere to the local health/airport authorities' guidelines for entering the country.</p> <p>Wherever possible, each arriving team shall be transported separately. If not possible, the LOC shall ensure that there are empty seats between players on the buses.</p> <p>However, teams arriving on the same flight can share the same bus/transport as long as physical distancing is observed.</p> <p>All arriving participants and the LOC (drivers etc) must wear face masks/face shields.</p>
Hotel Check-in/ Liaison Desk	<p>It is recommended that staff wear masks and that there are temperature checks at the hotel.</p> <p>The check-in procedures shall be organised in a way that physical distancing is respected and shall be managed as quickly as possible.</p>
Transport	<p>The LOC shall plan to minimise the mixing of teams during transfers between the official hotel and the main & practice halls. In addition, there shall be empty seats between players on the buses.</p> <p>Temperature screening is recommended before participants board the bus.</p> <p>Bus drivers must wear face masks/face shields and to be temperature screened before operating the bus.</p> <p>The host/LOC also to ensure the service provider disinfect/sanitises the bus regularly</p>

Area	Guidelines
Contact-tracing	<p>Host to advise if all players/entourage/officials are required to download certain mobile application prior to arrival.</p> <p>In case of a positive case contact tracing must immediately be started to identify any potential infections and to implement any needed isolation. This process should be done in cooperation with national health authorities as required.</p>
Accreditation Centre	<p>The accreditation desk shall be set up in a way to respect physical distancing. The number of people at the accreditation centre at any one time shall be limited and controlled.</p> <p>The accreditation desk should be at the hotel for the first few days of the tournament so that participants can easily collect accreditation following their test results.</p> <p>Alternatively, the LOC should arrange for delivery of all accreditations of a team to the relevant team manager to do the distribution to the team players/entourage.</p>
Official Briefings	<p>The number of team managers attending the meeting shall be limited and it is recommended that each team only send one representative unless absolutely necessary to send another staff, mainly for managers who may require interpreters/translators.</p> <p>Seating arrangements should be set up in a way that there is at least 1m between seats.</p> <p>Host should also ensure that the meeting room is sanitized and cleaned before any briefing/meeting takes place.</p> <p>Both the team managers' meeting and umpires briefing should include a COVID-19 update from host on the current situation locally, including the exact protocols for suspected and confirmed patients, infection prevention and control measures as well as where to find more information.</p> <p>All participants must wear face masks/face shields.</p>
Welcome Dinner	<p>Any activities or functions involving bringing together large groups of people should be avoided, therefore organizing a welcome dinner should be considered carefully.</p>
Flow of Movement	<p>Wherever possible, the flow of movement within the venue should be one-directional. Corridors and narrow spaces are advised to be kept free to allow movement.</p> <p>Accreditation and access areas to be colour coded green and red in order to ensure all accredited personnel and spectators/non-accredited personnel stay in their respective zones.</p>

Area	Guidelines
	<p>The final accreditation zones and flow of movement will be developed in consensus between BWF and LOC/Host based on the needs/logistics/design of each venue.</p> <p>In developing the accreditation zones, it must always be a consideration to minimise the footprint and movement of personnel in each group. If the venue is within walking distance to the hotel, if possible, it is recommended that the same route be used for members of the Green Group in order to avoid unnecessary interaction with other persons.</p>
Venue Catering	<p>Catering outlets shall introduce a queuing system, with customer positions marked on the floor at least 1m apart or as per local health authority guidelines. If tables are set up, these shall be placed at least 1m apart with the number of customers limited based on the size of the table and as per health authority guidelines</p>

5.3 Players' Facilities

Area	Guidelines
Warm-up Courts	<p>Access and use of warm-up courts shall be controlled. The courts shall only be accessed by athletes with upcoming matches.</p> <p>Each court shall accommodate a maximum of eight players (preferably less), where all players adhering to the physical distancing regulations. If there are more players waiting to warm up, a time limit must be imposed and controlled by the organisers in consultation with the Referee.</p> <p>This area needs to be cleaned/wiped down with disinfectant regularly.</p> <p>Access to the warm up courts is strictly on a need-to basis and applicable to accredited personnel who have Green Zone access.</p> <p>Volunteers/stewards assigned to this area shall be the same personnel for the duration of the tournament and the number must be strictly controlled.</p> <p>All accredited personnel must wear face masks/face shields except players preparing for a match.</p>
Practice Courts	<p>The LOC shall try their best efforts to limit the mixing of teams on the official transport to the practice hall.</p> <p>The practice schedule shall be prepared in a way that minimises the number of people at the practice hall at any one time.</p>

Area	Guidelines
	<p>This area needs to be cleaned/wiped down with disinfectant regularly.</p> <p>Access to the practice courts is strictly on a need-to basis and applicable to accredited personnel who have Green Zone access.</p> <p>Volunteers/stewards assigned to this area shall be the same personnel for the duration of the tournament and the number must be strictly controlled.</p> <p>All accredited personnel must wear face masks/face shields except players preparing for a match.</p>
Players' Lounge	<p>LOC shall consider setting up a players' lounge which is spacious enough to accommodate players by following the physical distancing measures. Any tables, sofas, beanbags shall be placed at least 1m apart. The lounge shall be cleaned and disinfected several times a day.</p> <p>If the size of the lounge is rather small, limiting the number of players in the lounge or limiting the time spent in the lounge can be another solution for keeping the physical distancing measures.</p> <p>If food is served, then it is recommended to serve food and/or have packed food or as advised by the local health authority.</p> <p>Access to the players' lounge is strictly on a need-to basis and applicable to accredited personnel who have Green Zone access.</p> <p>Volunteers/stewards assigned to this area shall be the same personnel for the duration of the tournament and the number must be strictly controlled.</p> <p>As general advice, all players/coaches/managers/entourage are encouraged to go back to their respective hotel upon completion of their match/duty/duties. This is to avoid crowding and to reduce risk of exposure to any unwanted virus/disease.</p>
Players' Seating Area	<p>Only in the case that the event is played without spectators can a player seating area be provided. The seats should be arranged in a way that there is adequate space between each seat. There must be a minimum of 1m space or as advised by the local health authority. The LOC, in consultation with BWF, must identify a route that avoid players and team entourage crossing through a red zone.</p>

Area	Guidelines
	<p>If this is not possible then the viewing of matches via livestreaming and livescore from each court must be arranged in a green area such as the players' lounge.</p> <p>As general advice, all players and team entourage are encouraged to go back to their respective hotel upon completion of their match/duty/duties. This is to avoid crowding and reduce risk of virus exposure.</p>
Team video recording	<p>Match analysis video recording areas must be located in a green zone. If is not possible then alternative arrangements must then be made by the LOC to provide these matches to the teams, including offering a cloud download service or USB stick collection following the end of play.</p>
Dressing Room(s)	<p>It is highly recommended that players avoid using dressing room showers unless absolutely necessary. Players should preferably go back to the hotel soon after completing their match.</p>
Physio Services	<p>Both the physio and the players must wear face masks/face shields during the treatment. The physio bed and equipment must be disinfected after use. In case multiple physios are available, it is advised to place the physio beds in separate rooms.</p>
Stringing Service	<p>The setup of stringing service shall follow the physical distancing rules, with each machine placed at least 1m apart. The collection points should be within the green zone and not public areas.</p> <p>The drop off and collection of rackets for stringing service shall be arranged in a way that there is minimal contact between the players and the stringers.</p>
Hotel Fitness/Wellness	<p>The LOC should discuss with the official hotels on managing queue/use of common areas (pool, gym, breakfast room).</p>
Catering options	<p>The LOC must provide catering options for teams to purchase food 24 hours a day during the tournament via room service and/or delivery services.</p> <p>Catering options could include a private room in a nearby restaurant that can be booked or take away outlets which can be easily accessed from the hotel. Furthermore, details of food delivery companies should be provided.</p>

5.4 Field of Play (FOP)


Area	Guidelines
Trophy Walk-on (if applicable)	The number of people involved in the Trophy walk-on shall be limited to the absolute minimum. The trophy and the trophy pedestal shall both be disinfected before the walk-on procedure.
Player Assembly Area	<p>Technical Officials and player positions in the assembly area shall be pre-marked on the floor and must keep a distance of 1 metre between positions.</p> <p>If space does not permit, a staggered start must be put in place in order to respect physical distancing rules.</p> <p>Access to the players' assembly area is strictly on a need-to basis and applicable only to accredited Green Group personnel.</p>
Player March-on and March-off	During the player march-on and march-off procedures, adequate distance shall be kept between the participants. Whenever possible, TOs and players shall be announced and walk-on separately. The flow of movement on the FOP shall be one-directional.
Coin Toss	<p>If the same coin is used for multiple matches, the coin shall be disinfected between matches. Umpires shall ensure that there is adequate space between players during the coin toss.</p> <p>All coin tosses by guests/sponsors is suspended until further notice by BWF.</p>
Player Clothes Boxes	To be cleaned after each match/change of ends. This can be done either by a volunteer or line judge.
Commercially Branded Players' Chairs (if applicable)	To be cleaned after each match/change of ends. This can be done either by a volunteer or line judge.
Shuttlecock Dispenser	It is highly recommended that a shuttlecock dispenser is provided at each end of the court. The dispenser will be managed/loaded by shuttlecock control staff. When a player wants to change a shuttlecock and is allowed to do so by the Umpire, the player takes a shuttlecock from the dispenser and returns the used shuttlecock into the shuttle box.
Coaching	Each player/pair is only allowed one coach while playing.
Match Control	The number of personnel at the match control desk must conform to physical distancing guidelines from the local health authority.

Area	Guidelines
	<p>In the absence of such guidelines from the local health authority, a minimum distance of 1 metre between and around each personnel is mandatory.</p> <p>Access to match control is strictly on a need-to basis and applicable only to accredited Green Group personnel.</p>
Instant Review System (Hawk-eye)	<p>The number of personnel at the Instant Review Operations desk must conform to physical distancing guidelines from the local health authority.</p> <p>In the absence of such guidelines from the local health authority, a minimum distance of 1 metre between and around each personnel is mandatory.</p> <p>In the case that the Instant Review Operations desk position is located in a spectator area the LOC should ensure that there is clear separation from the operators.</p>
Live Streaming	<p>The number of personnel at the live streaming operations desk must conform to physical distancing guidelines from the local health authority.</p> <p>In the absence of such guidelines from the local health authority, a minimum distance of 1 metre between and around each personnel is mandatory.</p> <p>In the event that a player seating area is not provided then the viewing of matches via livestreaming and livescore from each court must be arranged in a green area such as the players' lounge.</p>

5.5 Media

Area	Guidelines
Green and Red media personnel access areas	<p>The media will be split into Green and Red:</p> <p>Green Group Media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to interview area - Access to Green media centre - Green photographers can access FOP (3 host & 3 BWF) - RHB can access FOP <p>Red Group Media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to Red media centre - Can carry out virtual interviews from Red media centre

Area	Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can access media tribune (if available) - Red photographers can access designated areas in red zones overlooking FOP (subject to venue availability)
Green Zone Interview Area - Mixed Zone or Press Conference Room	<p>Until further instructed by BWF, all hosts are to provide an interview area at the tournament. All interviews will be conducted by the following Green Group media personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) BWF / Infront Media Staff – the crew members will be tested and be given Green Group access. b) Host Broadcaster - the crew members will be tested and be given Green Group access. c) Rights Holding Broadcasters - the crew members will be tested and be given Green Group access. d) Host Media Team - members will be tested and be given Green Group access. <p>The order of priority for the interview is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Host Broadcaster 2. Rights Holding Broadcasters (RHB) 3. BWF/Infront 4. Host Media Team <p>Given the limited number of media/crew allowed to be in the interview area, it is important for the hosts to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Availability of translators in the interview area especially Japanese and Korean languages. These translators must also be tested and confirmed negative for COVID 19. b) Strong and stable internet connection for the BWF crew to upload the interviews and/or send the video/audio to the Red Media centre. c) A holding area may be required as the crew can only do one interview at a time. If a holding area is unavailable, then players will be allowed to go for their cool down but on the provision that they will be called back for the interview once the earlier interview is completed.

Area	Guidelines
	<p>No other members of the media/journalists/photographers are allowed in the interview area. The red group media will only be able facilitate a virtual interview and not face to face. The LOC must facilitate that such a virtual interview setup is implemented.</p>
Interview area setup	<p>The interview area must include transparent partitions to separate the Green Group media from players:</p> 
Media Centres	<p>It is recommended that two media centres/work areas are setup: one centre/workspace for Green Group media and one centre/workspace for Red Group media.</p> <p>In the red media centre provisions for virtual interviews will need to be facilitated.</p> <p>Accredited media representatives must be limited, taking into account physical distancing and the available space. Seating arrangements in the media centre shall also follow the rules set on physical distancing, with 1m distance between each seat and each row of seats.</p> <p>In the absence of local health authority guideline on minimum distance, a 1 metre space is required between and around each seat/table.</p> <p>All interviews conducted by the BWF designated magazine crew and BWF media team shall be made available for Red Group</p>

Area	Guidelines
	accredited media via video/audio/flash quotes by the local organising committee/host.
Media Tribune	<p>Most media tribunes are located in the spectator areas of the venue and therefore are only available to Red Group media.</p> <p>In the event that no spectators are permitted then the LOC can investigate separating the tribune between Green and Red media.</p> <p>Similar to the media centres, seating arrangements on the media tribune shall also respect physical distancing guidelines.</p> <p>In the absence of local health authority guideline on minimum distance, a 1 metre space is required between and around each seat/table.</p>
Press conference	Please refer to Interview Area guidelines/requirements.
On Court Interview	All on court interviews are suspended until further notice.
Host Broadcaster/Rights holding Broadcasters	<p>Only the following Green Group TV crew are allowed on the Field of Play:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Host Broadcaster ENG crew b) HB/Production crew cameraman c) Infront ENG crew cameraman (1 only) d) RHB ENG crew cameramen (1 per RHB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Only allowed to film players from their country
Venue TV studios	Should be located in red zone area.
Photographer Positions	<p>All photographer positions shall be clearly marked on the Field of Play. A distance of 1m should be kept between the photographers/line judges/tv crew. It is the responsibility of the appointed media manager to control the rotation of positions between the photographers and that they adhere to the physical distancing guidelines.</p> <p>Only the following photographers are allowed on Field of Play:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Host photographer (up to 3) b) BWF (up to 3) <p>Physical distancing regulations must be adhered to (in the absence of local health guidelines, minimum 1 meter) and photographers must wear face masks/face shields at all times on the FOP and in green zone areas.</p>

Area	Guidelines
Commentary Positions	<p>The number of personnel at the commentary position(s) must conform to physical distancing guidelines from the local health authority.</p> <p>In the absence of such guidelines from the local health authority, a minimum distance of 1 metre between and around each personnel is mandatory.</p> <p>In the case that the commentary position is located in a spectator area the LOC should ensure that there is clear separation between spectators and commentators.</p>

5.6 Other

Area	Guidelines
Prize Presentation	<p>All prize presenters and ushers must be tested and will be part of the Green Group. Presenters that are not already part of the Green Group from the beginning of the tournament will need to be tested on either Saturday or Sunday and will only be permitted to take part in the ceremony once a negative test has been obtained.</p> <p>All personnel/guests/finalists to be briefed not to shake hands during the proceedings.</p> <p>All personnel/guests/finalists must use alcohol-based hand disinfectant before the start of prize ceremony.</p> <p>Only podium finishers are allowed to be on the podium (children/family members/entourage members are strictly not allowed).</p> <p>The players should pick up the prizes from trays rather than be handed them from presenters.</p> <p>Group photo is allowed but physical distancing guidelines as per the local health authority must be followed. In the absence of such guidelines, a minimum distance of 1 metre between and around the guests/players must be observed.</p> <p>The prize presentation podium should be big/wide enough to ensure physical distancing guidelines are adhered to between the two finalists (2 players or 2 pairs).</p>

Area	Guidelines
	For BWF Major Championships – team events, the BWF will provide a separate document on the COVID-19 specific prize presentation protocols.
Player Appearances and Player Activation	<p>Player appearances and player activations should be discussed between BWF and the Host on a case by case basis and governed by the local health authority recommendations.</p> <p>All player appearances at the booth area are to be suspended as this involves bringing the player from a Green Group area to a Red Group area.</p> <p>However, player appearance/meet and greet activities via online can be explored and to be discussed with the relevant personnel on a case by case basis.</p>
VIP Lounge	<p>If food is to be served then food hygiene practices as advised by the local authorities should be followed.</p> <p>Physical distancing guidelines as per the local health authority must be followed. In the absence of such guidelines, a minimum distance of 1 metre between and around the guests/personnel must be observed.</p>
VIP Seats	<p>Follow local authority advice on spectator numbers and physical distancing measures.</p> <p>If it is necessary to reduce VIP attendees, then BWF will need to be consulted on the allocations.</p>
Spectator Seats	Follow local authority advice on spectator numbers and physical distancing measures.
Booth Positions	Hosts to advise based on local health authority guidelines/regulations.

6.0 Managing Positive / Suspected COVID-19 Cases

The LOC must develop and agree a response plan in case someone at the tournament records a positive test or becomes ill with symptoms of COVID-19 (dry cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath etc). This plan has to be developed in consultation with the local health authority and BWF.

The LOC must provide a designated point of contact from within the LOC to manage any cases. In the event of a positive test or suspected case the LOC has a duty of care to all participants involved and must provide a comprehensive support plan to assist them.

The following information should be obtained from the local health authority to include in the response plan and pre-tournament information document for participants.

Confirmed positive case:

- Location of isolation area i.e. hotel room or hospital
- If hospital how is the patient transferred?
- What is the likely length of isolation?
- Will the patient be retested? What happens if negative test is obtained?
- Approximate costs
- Interview procedure for contact tracing (direct contacts)
- Is there a tracking app / device for positive cases need to download?
- Participants testing positive will be withdrawn from the tournament.

Direct contacts:

- Health Authority definition of direct contact
- Interview process
- Quarantine? Length? Tested? Conditions of quarantine?
- Is there a tracking app / device for direct contacts?

Suspected cases:

- Isolation protocol.
- How cases are managed? Is the health authority informed? Is the case tested?
- Is there a tracking app / device for suspected cases?

Note: The identification of an individual with a positive infection will not in itself lead to a cancellation of the tournament. Firstly, all partners in delivering the tournament will be informed (BWF, Host MA/LOC and local health authority) and the person identified placed in isolation. Those who have been in immediate contact with the individual will be identified and contacted. Any subsequent steps following the result of this contact testing will be made after consultation between the tournament delivery partners; BWF, Host Member Association/LOC and Local Health Authority.

7.0 Breaches of COVID-19 Safety Protocols

The BWF has introduced specific penalties for breaches of the protocols, these can be found in the statutes section of the BWF website <https://corporate.bwfbadminton.com/statutes/>