



## **USAD Sports Event Planning Considerations post-COVID-19**

**Note: This is a condensed version of the USOPC document “USOPC Sports Event Planning Considerations” that can be found at [teamusa.org/coronavirus](https://teamusa.org/coronavirus).**

**USA Diving members will still need to abide by their facility regulations as well as all local, state and federal government mandates when planning events. Please remember all Safe Sport and MAAP policies must also be followed.**

### **Financial impact of cancelling an event**

- 1) One should consider if the financial impact of an event cancellation close to the time of the event will have a significant negative financial impact on the event organizer.
- 2) Can the financial risk be mitigated through means such as event insurance, establishing financial impact timelines for cancellation, reschedule the event for a later date, or negotiate a contract that limits negative financial impact?

### **Event date**

Choose based upon

- 1) Duration of time it takes for the athletes to adequately prepare for the event
- 2) Athlete access to training facilities.
- 3) When public health authorities will allow sports events to take place in the chosen region
- 4) When the venue will be available

### **Event location**

Choose a region with limited or no active coronavirus transmission and note the following.

- 1) When people travel from outside the region, they are introducing the risk of the region from which they came. Mitigated by arriving to event location 14 days prior.
- 2) The area must have the infrastructure to host the event.
- 3) Factors that may mitigate the risk of infection.
  - a) Availability of lodging with private rooms for athletes, coaches, event staff and media.
  - b) Outdoor venues are preferable.
  - c) Separate venue access/egress routes athletes, coaches, event staff, media & spectators.
  - d) Adequate space in venue access/egress locations to enable social distancing.
- 4) Have sufficient space and/or venue layout to enable appropriate medical setup

## Risk of Infection Transmission

Although there are not yet any specific scientific studies evaluating the risk of COVID-19 transmission in sport, it is logical that certain sports will have a higher risk than others.

- 1) Level 2: sports that involve intermittent close contact OR group sports. (ie synchro diving)
- 2) Level 3: sports that can be done with social distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between use by competitors (ie indiv diving)
- 3) Level 2 sports should be avoided until measures can be taken to make the sport low risk.
- 4) Level 3 sports can be planned when public health officials and government authorities will allow the competition and appropriate event planning to take place.

## Event Planning

- 1) Appoint a medical director for the event
- 2) Determine who or what group will have decision making authority to modify, restrict, postpone, or cancel the event
- 3) Use the World Health Organization resources to help you assess the risk of your event and develop a risk mitigation plan
- 4) Obtain approval for the event from local government authorities
- 5) Work closely with county and state public health authorities throughout the event planning process to obtain the most accurate information regarding the local COVID-19 situation.
- 6) Identify local healthcare resources
- 7) Determine who will be allowed at the event
  - a) Tier 1 (Essential): Athletes, coaches, officials, event staff, medical staff, security, anti-doping officials
  - b) Tier 2 (Preferred): Media, volunteers, recovery staff (e.g., massage therapists)
  - c) Tier 3 (Non-essential): Spectators, vendors
- 8) Criteria for attending/participating in the event – (Required)
  - a) No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (Appendix 5) in the past 14 days
  - b) No close sustained contact with anyone who is sick within 14 days of the event
- 9) Additional considerations when deciding who can attend/participate in the event
  - a) COVID-19 prevalence and active transmission rates in the location
  - b) How long they have been in the event region
  - c) If they have had a prior case of documented COVID-19 from which they have recovered
- 10) Develop event medical plan with particular attention to COVID-19 factors
- 11) Infection mitigation procedures
  - a) Education
  - b) Screen everyone who enters the venue for infection and prevent those with suspected infection from entering the venue
  - c) Use different entrances for Tier 1 individuals versus Tier 2 and 3
  - d) Develop a procedure that ensures social distancing at venue entrances, exits, aisles, spectating locations
  - e) Create clear separation between different Tiers of people at the venue
  - f) Monitor people at the venue for signs or symptoms of infection
  - g) Provide hand sanitizer in multiple targeted locations throughout the venue

- h) Provide facial tissue throughout the venue with adjacent trash receptacle
- i) Establish frequent cleaning schedule
- j) Clean equipment between each athlete use if relevant and possible
- k) Janitorial/facilities staff performing cleaning and laundering should wear appropriate PPE
- l) Have athletes bring their own food and hydration.
- m) Have athletes only use their own towel and hygiene products

## **Communication**

- 1) Establish communication with public health authorities
- 2) Multi-modal communication
- 3) Place informational posters throughout venue
- 4) Create notification process
- 5) Determine communication strategy for risk mitigation to ensure clear, accurate communication with event athletes, coaches, event staff, media, spectators, and vendors
- 6) Provide post-event summary to athletes, coaches, event staff, media, spectators, and vendors

\*\*Cleaning of living spaces and training facilities should follow the CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting community facilities. Frequently touched areas (e.g., door handles, light switches) should be cleaned multiple times daily. Work-out equipment should be cleaned with anti-septic cleansers prior to use, between use by different athletes, and after use.