



COVID-19 Pandemic PROTOCOL for the following events:

2021 North American Open Finals

Denver, CO – December 2-5

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WHAT CHANGED FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN OPEN SERIES IN ALBUQUERQUE?

- 1) The use of masks (medical paper, double thickness cloth or N95) indoor is **optional** for:
 - a. Fully vaccinated individuals (second dose of vaccine received 14 prior to retrieving the credential)
 - b. Participants under 2 years of age
 - 2) The use of masks (medical paper, double thickness cloth or N95) indoor is **mandatory** for:
 - a. Non-vaccinated individuals or individuals that to elect not to show proof of vaccination
 - b. Athletes and Officials at the weigh-in room
 - c. Individuals in situations where social distancing is not possible
- * Note: Showing proof of vaccination is optional. However, only those showing proof will be allowed to waive the masking and pre-event COVID testing requirements.*
- 3) Online participation WILL NOT be available at the North American Open Finals.
 - 4) Participants will be required to provide a negative **PCR COVID-19, Rapid Test or Antigen test** taken in the 72 hours before retrieving the credentials. The result must be presented by the time a participant is picking up their credentials/tickets at the venue. *Alternatively*, participants can present:

- a. Proof of complete vaccination with the last dose taken at least by November 17, 2021 (meaning 14 days prior to the start of the event). Photos and photocopies of vaccination records are acceptable.
- b. A written or electronic documentation of recovery from COVID-19 after a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection in the form of a positive viral test result and a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or public health official stating the individual has been cleared. The infection had to occur within 90 days of December 2, 2021.

1) Generally

- a. Review and follow the local authorities' recommendations. USAW will update this document should the local guidelines change between now and the start of the event.
- b. Follow the guidelines on number of people allowed inside the facility at one time and physical distance.
- c. Entrants into venue will be asked screening question regarding symptoms (Fever, Cough, SOB) and have their temperature scanned using a digital non-contact thermal IR. Symptomatic participants will not be allowed inside the venue.
- d. "Participant" is defined but not limited by anyone entering the venue, an athlete, a coach, a volunteer, a technical official, spectator, a parent, a loader and set-up/staff personal. To be clear, this covers any person entering the building for the purposes of the USA Weightlifting event.
 1. Participants will be required to provide a negative PCR COVID-19, Rapid Test or Antigen test taken in the 72 hours before retrieving the credentials. The result must be presented by the time a participant is picking up their credentials/tickets at the venue. Alternatively, participants can present:
 2. Proof of complete vaccination with the last dose taken at least by November 17, 2021 (meaning 14 days prior to the start of the event). Photos and photocopies of vaccination records are acceptable.
 3. A written or electronic documentation of recovery from COVID-19 after a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection in the form of a positive viral test result and a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or public health official stating the individual has been cleared. The infection had to occur within 90 days of December 2, 2021.
- e. **Spectators will be allowed, with limited capacity.** USAW reserves the right to change this guideline at any point, in case the circumstances in Denver, CO change. Spectators are considered 'participants' regarding the need to wear masks and follow testing/vaccination regulations.

2) Registration Desk & Tickets

- a. The registration desk will be open on Thursday, December 2, 2021 by 2pm at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel Plaza Ballroom.
- b. Credentials will be divided equally across all desks in alphabetical order. Participants must disinfect their hands before screening through the credentials in order to find theirs.
- c. **COACHES WHO INTEND ON ATTENDING THE COMPETITION, MUST REGISTER AS A COACH FOR THE EVENT IN BARS AND MUST PRODUCE A NEGATIVE PCR COVID-19 TEST OR PROOF OF RECOVERY AS OUTLINED ABOVE. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE WILL RESULT IN THE COACH NOT BEING ALLOWED INTO THE VENUE.**
- d. Signage will be placed to guide participants to the correct queues.
- e. Social distancing must be observed at all times.
- f. Tickets will be sold at USAW's website and at the door. Advanced purchase is highly recommended Participation is limited. Purchasing a ticket does not guarantee admission to the event, as capacity limits in the venue will be enforced.

3) Weigh-in Process

- a. To minimize contact, athletes aged 18 years old or older MUST come to the weigh-in unaccompanied.
- b. Athletes aged 17 years old or younger MUST attend the weigh-in with either a same-gendered coach or a parent of either gender.
- c. Athletes will be screened for temperature before the start of the weigh-in process. If an athlete shows a temperature above 100.4 F medical staff will be immediately alerted. The athlete will also be deemed 'unfit to compete' and will not be allowed in the competition or training venue. The official result will be similar to a fail to weigh-in (DNS – Did Not Start).
- d. Athletes MUST bring their own set of pens to sign the weigh-in cards.
- e. Social distancing, meaning remaining six feet apart, must be observed at all times at the weigh-in waiting area.
- f. At the conclusion of the weigh-in, athletes in all competitions will receive:
 - a) One (1) Athletes' Pass, for the athlete
 - b) Two (2) Warm-up Pass, for accredited coaches to access the warm-up area

4) Warm-up room, Field of Play & Competition

- a. Each platform will be set up 10ft away from each other. Participants are required to observe social distancing at all times.
- b. Each platform will have a cleaning station with hand sanitizer.
- c. The organization of the event will aim for sessions that are no larger than 10 athletes/session.
- d. Coaches are encouraged to not gather around the screens with the attempt boards and scoreboards. Those will be set up on stands for easy viewing from across the warm-up area.
- e. Athletes and entourage are requested to disinfect the plates and bar after the end of their session.
- f. Technical Officials will monitor social distancing and may remind/comment/enforce if athletes and coaches blatantly disregard. Athletes may receive a DSQ, only possibly issued by the USAW Staff Meet Director, due to 'un-sportsmanship behavior' in case they disregard social distancing and protective measures.
- g. Lifters are encouraged to bring their own chalk.
- h. Athletes and coaches should support by dispose of their trash and empty bottles when the session is over.