

2020-21 Euroleague Basketball Health & Safety Protocols v1.4



Version Control

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Updates</u>
1.0	4 Sep 2020	N/A
1.1	12 Sep 2020	Arena Zoning description clarification (8-9); Government Testing requirements added (19); Individuals Who Have Overcome COVID-19 Testing added (20); Transportation moved (23); Courtside Seats modification (29)
1.2	5 Oct 2020	Zone 2 maximum removed (10); Team Attendants clarification (11); Entertainment clarification (12); COVID-19 Manager inability to attend game (14); Testing and Pandemic Level Definition modification (18-19); Positive PCR Test Result modification (20); Translator added to Bus (22); Referees modification, IRS Review and Return to Play Protocol added (24-25); IFPC On Court Personnel clarification (26); Rights Holder Commentary Positions Zoning clarification (27)
1.3	19 Oct 2020	Hygiene Rules of Conduct FFP2 face mask without valve clarification, special attention to family members added (7); Entertainment clarification (12); Testing nasopharyngeal clarification, PCR Test Laboratory Results Communication added, Pandemic Level removal (18); Positive PCR Test Result clarifications, False or Doubtful Positive PCR Test Result added, Non Players Return to Activity Protocols (20-21); Hotels Team Delegation List modification (23); Referees Airports added, Return to Play Protocol clarification, Hotels clarification, Referee Coaches added (24-25); IFPC On Court Personnel clarification (27); Spectators clarification (29)
1.4	2 Nov 2020	Doping Control Room update (10); Testing clarification, pcr@euroleague.net added (18); Positive PCR Test Result Return to Play Protocol and Return to Activity Protocol clarifications (20-21); Referees Return to Play Protocol clarification (25); Spectators Loose Ball clarification (29)

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Basic Principles

These protocols set out minimum standards for clubs and referees when devising a plan for practices and official Euroleague Basketball games. Clubs are strongly recommended to apply the same minimum standards in friendly games and Domestic League games. The protocols are based on experience as well as protocols from competition organiser across different countries in Europe and the rest of the world, as well as health initiatives undertaken by national governments.

In general, the basic principles are to as much as possible:

- Maximise the health & safety of players, coaches, referees and their immediate families
- Maximise the health & safety of club staff, arena staff, media, IFPC staff, Euroleague Basketball personnel, spectators
- Minimise the risk of the spread of the virus by applying responsible and professional healthcare procedures in all aspects

The aim can never be to guarantee 100% the health & safety of all individuals since this is impossible under any and every scenario. The goal is to provide a medically justifiable risk based on the significance of basketball (in socio-political and economic terms) and the development of the global pandemic.

Euroleague Basketball will ensure that the protocols do not interfere with the medical assistance of the general population and that laboratories will always have enough testing capacity.

Euroleague Basketball will monitor developments and distribute additional information / update the protocols as appropriate.

Disciplinary Framework

Any unfulfillment of the present protocol may be considered as an infringement as stipulated in Chapter II Section I of the Euroleague Basketball Disciplinary Code.

Legal Framework

The conditions set by each country's government regarding the resumption of competition must be respected, with a common ground found.

Legal Disclaimer

Each organisation participating in Euroleague Basketball competitions is responsible for establishing prevention measures to guarantee the protection of its personnel's health & safety. Everyone participating in / attending Euroleague Basketball competitions is responsible for behaving in a manner that guarantees their own health & safety as well as those of all other individuals.

The protocols are intended solely and exclusively for the internal use of Euroleague Basketball, its advisors, teams, team personnel, arena personnel and applicable health and other government officials.

Working Group

Composition

The 2020-21 Euroleague Basketball Health & Safety Protocols have been driven by a working group containing the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer, EuroLeague Team Doctors and the Euroleague Basketball Health & Performance Officer. The working group would also like to thank Dr. Florian Kainzinger, Managing Director at Think.Health Hygiene Solutions for his counselling and support throughout.

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Hygiene Rules of Conduct

- Wash your hands often preferably with soap and water, and only if not possible using an alcohol hand sanitiser
- Keep your fingernails trimmed
- When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow, then wash your hands with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Mobile phones and wallets must be kept in bags when not in use
- Keep at least 1.5m away from each other
- Inside team facilities it is always obligatory to wear an FFP2 face mask without valve, aside from the exceptions listed in these protocols. The FFP2 face mask must always cover the nose and mouth
- Whenever possible, keep doors open (except for toilets) and avoid touching door handles

All individuals must know the hygiene rules of conduct.

Domestic Hygiene

Avoid gatherings of people as much as possible, other than those that live in the same home. Pay special attention to family members or friends living in the same home, as these have a high possibility of being a source of COVID-19 transmission. Maintain minimum 1.5m distance with anyone else always. Do not use public transportation.

Ensure that the kitchen and bathroom(s) are well-ventilated. Avoid direct contact with body fluids of anyone who is or appears to be unwell. At least once per day clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched often. Use detergent and hot water to wash dishes, cutlery, laundry, bed clothing, towels.

Wash your hands with soap and warm water frequently, before and after eating, before preparing food, after using the toilet, after coughing or sneezing. Use disposable paper towels to dry hands instead of fabric towels.

Domestic Hygiene in Case of Home Isolation / Quarantine

Follow the guidelines in place by the public health authorities. These should include a prohibition of visitors; what interactions are allowed / prohibited with family members in the same home; FFP2 face mask usage; criteria for when the home isolation / quarantine ends.

Arena / Practice Facility

Facilities Description

- Working areas must be defined
- Describe spatial and temporal distribution of individuals; a precise list of all individuals required in the facility and their movements within it shall be established
- Describe circulation circuits for all individuals avoiding confluence of people
- Guarantee adequate ventilation and temperature
- Strict hygiene control; all individuals have the obligation to follow the hygiene rules of conduct, as well as notify any symptom they present and isolate themselves immediately

Arena Zoning

According to playing court proximity, there are four zones:

- Zone 0 playing court area
 - Playing court
 - Locker rooms
 - Doping control room
 - All backstage corridors between the playing court / locker rooms / doping control room
- Zone 1 inside the arena and with proximity to Zone 0
 - Press conference room
 - Mixed zone
- Zone 2 inside the arena without any proximity to Zone 0 nor Zone 1
 - Club offices
 - Storage
 - Fixed tribunes
 - Spectator concourses
- Zone 3 outside the arena
 - TV compound
 - Box office

In order to minimise the number of individuals that can potentially come in close contact with players, coaching staff and referees, individuals in Zone 0 and Zone 1 must be reduced to an absolute minimum. All Zone 0 individuals also have access to Zone 1 and must therefore be included in the count of Zone 0 + Zone 1 individuals.

Dynamic Personnel Planning of Gameday Staff Requirements (20:45 Tip-off Example)

Zone 0 example:

Group / Time	10:00	13:00	16:00	19:00	20:45	22:30	23:30
Players		32		32	32	32	
Coaching Staff		20		20	20	20	
Referees				3	3	3	
Unified Scorers				6	6	6	
Game Operations				8	8	8	
Club Board Members		4		4	4	4	
Doping Control				2	2	2	2
Photographers			2	2	2	2	2
Medical Services		2		2	2	2	2
Cleaning Staff	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Security	2	2	2	4	4	4	4
IFPC	4			4	4	4	8
Zone 0 Subtotal:	8	62	6	89	89	89	20

Zone 0 must have a maximum of 100 individuals present at any given time. The distribution of individuals from each group may vary from the example above, if the maximum of 100 individuals is always respected.

Zone 1 example:

Group / Time	10:00	13:00	16:00	19:00	20:45	22:30	23:30
IFPC	4	20	20	20	20	20	16
Rights Holders		5	5	5	5	5	3
Media				20	20	20	20
Zone 1 Subtotal:	4	25	25	45	45	45	39
Zone 0 + Zone 1 Subtotal:	12	87	31	134	134	134	59

Zone 1 must have a maximum of 135 individuals present at any given time (number calculated adding Zone 0 individuals + Zone 1 individuals). The number of individuals from each group may vary from the example above, if the maximum of 135 individuals is always respected.

Arena Signage Requirements

- Hygiene Measurement Station
- Zone Limitation
- Circulation Indicators
- Symptom Control
- Directions to All Rooms
- Alcohol Hand Sanitiser Indicators

Increase signage in appropriate locations throughout the arena (access points, locker rooms, workout room, playing court, medical area etc) outlining advisable precautions.

Locker Rooms

After cleaning and disinfection of the team locker room, a seal shall be placed as a security check. The person designated by each team, in front of security, will remove this seal. The same protocols apply to the referee's locker room(s) as well as the coaches locker rooms. Only players and coaching staff that are PCR Tested every Gameday-3 may enter the locker room. Cleaning staff may only enter the locker rooms when they are empty of all other individuals.

Doping Control Room

The doping control area must be sufficiently large to ensure a hygienic distance of at least 1.5m between the persons present. There must be a clear spatial separation between the doping control room and the waiting room; if necessary, additional rooms must be provided here. There must be a possibility for the players and the Doping Control Officer to wash their hands. The toilet area must be accessible without violating the hygienic distance, and the required distance of at least 1.5m must be maintained except during the visual inspection. The Doping Control Officer must wear an FFP2 face mask, as must the players and team doctor(s) / team follower. Doping Control Officers must follow the protocols in this document. The FIBA League Testing with COVID-19 Modifications 2020-2021 document will also be applied.

Playing Court Access

The court area must follow precise and frequent hygiene protocols and must always be kept within the safety enclosure. Ample access to alcohol hand sanitiser will be available. All material entering the playing court will follow the same control standard: bottles, towels, physio / medical bags, folders / computers.

All individuals with access to Zone 0 must have their body temperature checked upon arrival to the arena. If their body temperature is 37.5°C or above they will be taken immediately to the Isolation Room, with the Home Team Doctor performing a check-up of the individual. The Home Team Doctor will decide whether the individual can continue or whether they must remain in the Isolation Room until they leave the arena after the game has ended. The Home Team Doctor must call the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer immediately to notify him of their decision.

Players, coaching staff and club staff will leave their belongings which are not essential in the locker room / office. Before entering the court, players, coaching staff and club staff must have disinfected their hands using an alcohol hand sanitiser. Teams and referees will follow circulation signs to access court, people which may cross paths with them (Unified Scorers, security staff, IFPC camera operators, cleaning staff etc.) must always wear FFP2 face masks and respect physical distancing measures.

The clean / soiled areas should be clearly marked - removal of soiled material (play clothes - towels - rubbish) must strictly follow the circuit. Special control will be in place for entrances / exits, for example if an individual must go to the locker room for equipment and then enter the playing court again.

No individuals other than the players, coaching staff, referees, team attendant sweepers, technicians and cleaning staff responsible for the playing court and backstop units may step on the playing court. Staff responsible for the playing court must be very strict with hygiene and disinfection.

Clothing, Footwear, Team Bench Area

Each team will have a person in charge of organising clothing and footwear for cleaning and disinfection. Single use towels and bottles, one towel per player will be provided, which is non-transferable both in the locker rooms and on the court. Each player, coach and staff member will have their own bottle that must be identified and cannot be shared with anyone. Water, isotonic drinks, food, bottles and drinks coming from outside the facility that have not been approved by team staff may not be used. No uncontrolled food or drinks must be brought from outside the facility.

Team bench areas will have individual chairs. Except for the players on the scoresheet and the head coach, all other individuals in the team bench area will wear FFP2 face masks.

Balls

One person will be responsible for disinfecting balls after practice and games. To properly and thoroughly clean and disinfect basketballs after each use, teams should engage in the following procedure, recommended by Spalding:

- Mix 1.2ml of dishwashing liquid per every 3.75l of water
- With a clean cloth or towel, wipe the ball with the mix
- Further wipe the ball with water alone
- Allow the ball to air dry
- Once dry, spray the ball with an approved disinfectant

Repairs / Technical Incidents

Only accredited personnel (arena, IFPC, other) may access the playing court area including the scorer's table to perform a repair. If so, players and referees must move far away from the repair. Once the task is completed, cleaning staff will carry out a correct cleaning of all surfaces that have been handled.

Team Attendants

Sweepers must wear an FFP2 face mask, they must keep a safe distance, they must have an alcohol hand sanitiser bottle and paper towels to disinfect and dry any ball that leaves the playing court prior to play resuming.

Team Attendant rebounders are prohibited, with this activity carried out by players and / or coaching staff.

Scorer's Table

Direct contact between individuals sat at the Scorer's Table and players / coaching staff / referees must be avoided at all costs. The tasks do not allow a safety distance of 1.5m therefore all individuals must always wear an FFP2 face mask when going to / from the scorer's table as well as when they are at the scorer's table. Communication between the referees and all individuals at the scorer's table requires a minimum 1.5m distance is always maintained.

Medical Assistance

In terms of an on-court treatment in the case of an acute trauma it is recommended that the player's location on court must be considered Medical Area and adhere to a safety distance (1.5m radius) immediately. It is recommended that only one practitioner is approaching an injured player at first. All practitioners and first-aiders, when examining the player, are recommended to follow the safety procedures.

If a player or other member leave the arena, e.g. a player must be transported to hospital for an XR-MRI examination, high levels of safety equipment must be used (including full protective equipment for the ambulance crew, FFP2 mask for the player, ensuring this is compliant with the medical safety requirements for medical personnel in that country).

Entertainment

Entertainment personnel are prohibited from stepping onto the playing court at any time, as are any moving objects. The Euroleague Basketball Medical Services will study case by case any proposed entertainment activities. These must fully respect and protect players, coaching staff and referees by not crossing paths in Zone 0 at any time, with a full proposal shared by the home club, requiring approval from Euroleague Basketball prior to its execution.

Personal Hygiene

Individuals must avoid:

- Entering or leaving the playing court at the same time as either team / another group
- Spitting or clearing their nose
- Wiping the ball with any element of clothing or a towel
- Licking their hands
- Touching their mouthguard
- Shaking hands with anyone else
- Giving a high five to anyone else
- Sharing any cups, food, towels, clothing
- Swapping shirts

Toilets

Soap and warm water must be available with hands washed after every toilet use. Toilets must be cleaned and disinfected continuously throughout the day. Physical distancing must be respected inside toilets.

Medical Room

Only one player per room may be treated in order to maintain the preventive measures (a maximum of two simultaneously since there are two rooms in the infirmary). No player or staff member, out of team doctor or physiotherapist, may pass through the infirmary if a player is being treated. Single-use paper must be used for each per stretcher and removed after each treatment.

Isolation Room

Establish a designated physical space for isolation in arena. Any individual who experiences symptoms will immediately contact the home club COVID-19 Manager and be taken to the Isolation Room.

Practices

All individual practices and team practices, held in the practice facility, arena or in any other facility, must follow the minimum standards of the protocols. All playing courts, locker rooms, massage tables, gym equipment, practice equipment, balls must be cleaned and disinfected before and after every use. Any object that must be used inside an individual's mouth must be sterilised after every use.

Except for players and the head coach, all other individuals must wear FFP2 face masks during practices. Any coaching staff member who has direct physical contact with players must wash their hands frequently.

Administration / Media / Suppliers

Access control, protection and circulation measures must be established in relation to each zone, proximity to the teams and to clean areas.

General Protection Measures

- The number of people present must be limited
- Substitute personnel are necessary to be available to cover key positions as defined by the home club
- A list of all personnel specifying working hours must always be maintained

COVID-19 Manager

All clubs must appoint a COVID-19 Manager, who will be responsible for the execution of the protocols and will be the point of contact for all individuals. The COVID-19 Manager full name, their email address and mobile phone number will be emailed to competition@euroleague.net no later than 15 September 2020. If the COVID-19 Manager cannot attend a home game, another member of staff must assume the function. Their full name and contact information shall be communicated to competition@euroleague.net at least three hours prior to tip-off.

Educational Session

Clubs medical staff must conduct at least one educational session to review the requirements and recommendations set forth in this document and give all Zone 0 individuals the opportunity to ask questions. Required topics that must be covered include:

- Hygiene Rules of Conduct
- COVID-19 symptoms
- Testing protocols
- Travel
- Physical distancing
- Hand washing
- Domestic hygiene
- FFP2 & other face masks, including best practices for correct usage and removal
- Daily health monitoring

Team Doctor Medical Assessment Form

Prior to every game the Team Doctor will proceed to sign a form where the names of all team members appear and certify they have successfully passed the medical assessment and PCR test (specifying the date). The medical assessment will require body temperature to be below 37.5°C – clinical monitoring -- pulse oxymeter - control of personal conduct and hygiene measures – mental health control. The form will be emailed Gameday -1 to competition@euroleague.net The home team doctor will perform the medical assessment and sign a form for the three referees once they have arrived in the arena pre-game. Referees must provide a copy of their last PCR test to the home team doctor.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that all the individuals on the Team Delegation List below have had a PCR test taken on Gameday-3 or Gameday-2 (unless this is the second game in a double round week) with a negative result, have had their health status reviewed by our club's medical staff, and all have adequate health conditions. None of them have evidence nor signs of common COVID-19 symptoms.

If travelling to the away game, all individuals may travel by bus / train / plane and then return after the game by bus / train / plane to our home city or to the team's next destination, and the COVID-19 Manager listed below is included on the Team Delegation List.

Team:	
Opponent	
Team Doctor	
COVID-19 Manager:	
1	
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3	
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27	
28	

Date: _____

Team Doctor Signature: _____

Daily Health Monitoring

All individuals are recommended daily to record their own body temperature, any symptoms associated with COVID-19, close contacts with other individuals, their blood oxygen saturation.

Physical Distancing

At all times outside games and practices, individuals must refrain from unnecessary contact, and maintain 1.5m distance from each other. If that is physically impossible then an FFP2 face mask must be worn.

Security Staff

Those in Zone 0 must use an FFP2 face mask and disposable gloves. Those in Zones 1, 2, 3 must use a face mask and disposable gloves. They will strictly adhere to their positions and circulation areas, maintain physical distancing. An adequate number of security personnel will guarantee that the zoning protocols are respected by all individuals.

Cleaning Staff

Those in Zone 0 must use an FFP2 face mask and disposable gloves. Those in Zones 1, 2, 3 must use a face mask and disposable gloves. They will strictly adhere to their positions and circulation areas, maintain physical distancing. An adequate number of cleaning staff will be assigned in order to clean and disinfect all areas before and after use.

Photographers

Every individual is responsible for the disinfection of his / her material. Those in Zone 0 must use an FFP2 face mask, whilst those in Zones 1, 2, 3 must wear a face mask when inside the arena.

Press Conferences

The Press Conference Room will be disinfected prior to every use. Players / head coaches will enter and exit through a different door than the media unless there is only one door in which case players / head coaches will only enter and exit when all media are sat down. All microphones will be disinfected and adequately protected. The media will never be closer than 3m from the speakers table. Any microphones / recorders that they wish to position on the speaker's table must be handed to home club personnel who will disinfect the device before placing it on the speaker's table.

Ambulance Service

Every practice and game needs emergency personnel including an ambulance on site. First aid assistance for spectators and priority assistance for players in case of an emergency, may potentially represent a strain on public health care resources. If so, clubs must reach an agreement with their hospital(s) to ensure that professional care is provided without putting excess strain on public health care resources.

Statement of Health Questionnaire (Yes / No)

All individuals in Zone 0 and Zone 1 (excluding players, coaching staff, referees) must agree to complete and sign a statement of health questionnaire as well as adhere to the hygiene rules of conduct. The questionnaires must be collected by the home club COVID-19 Manager for every game. Individuals in Zone 0 must use an FFP2 face mask, whilst those in Zones 1, 2, 3 must wear a face mask when inside the arena / practice facility.

1. Fever in the past 14 days?
2. Cough in the past 14 days?
3. Sore throat or limb pain in the past 14 days?
4. Difficulty breathing in the past 14 days?
5. Reduced sense of taste and smell in the past 14 days?
6. Contact with a COVID-19 patient in the past 14 days?
7. Been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the past 14 days?
8. Been COVID-19 tested? (If yes, when and how?)
9. Have you read and understood the Hygiene Rules of Conduct?

If the answer to at least one of the first eight questions is yes, access and accreditation will be decided by the home club COVID-19 Manager in consultation with the home team doctor.

Euroleague Basketball's Medical Staff may request to see the Statement of Health Questionnaires from a team at any time during the season.

Testing

PCR Testing

Before starting PCR tests, teams must ensure that all persons to be tested have provided written consent (including transmission of results to a designated physician and / or employer, GDPR, data protection, medical confidentiality). All players and coaching staff will have a PCR test at Gameday-3 prior to every away game. All players and coaching staff will have a PCR test at Gameday-2 prior to every home game if their PCR testing laboratory guarantees in writing to deliver laboratory results no later than the next morning. If this guarantee does not exist, all players and coaching staff will have a PCR test at Gameday-3 prior to every home game. Gameday always refers to a EuroLeague or EuroCup game. All individuals will receive their PCR test result.

All PCR Tests must be RT-PCR nasopharyngeal.

PCR Testing of players, coaching staff, direct team environment	Testing Time
Twice per week	Gameday-3 (Visiting Team) Gameday-2 (Home Team) Gameday+0 / +1 / +2

Gameday+0 / +1 / +2 PCR testing can take place immediately after the game, or the next day, or two days after the game.

Anytime two EuroLeague / EuroCup games take place within three days, the first Gameday -3 / Gameday-2 test remains valid for the second game in the same week. Special procedures must be arranged when necessary (e.g. team takes a PCR test at the away game city, with the support of the home Team Doctor or at the Domestic League away game city).

Anytime entry requirements to a country require additional PCR testing (for example on Gameday-1 upon arrival to the country), the visiting team delegation and referees must be tested. The Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer may also require additional PCR testing on a case by case basis. The home Team Doctor must support the visiting team and referees to comply with their PCR testing.

PCR Test Laboratory Results Communication

All PCR test laboratory results both positive and negative must be emailed immediately to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Services: pcr@euroleague.net

Individuals Who Have Overcome COVID-19

Individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and subsequently received medical clearance will be exempt from further PCR testing if:

- The Team Doctor vouches in writing that the individual meets all the necessary health conditions
- The Team Doctor sends a request via email to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer
- The Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer approves the individual's PCR testing exemption, in which case he shall send confirmation to the Team Doctor via email

Rapid Saliva Testing

Euroleague Basketball continue to study and monitor potential rapid saliva-based testing. The objective is that when such testing is validated / authorised by epidemiologists, and available for clubs and referees that they replace PCR testing in these protocols.

Positive PCR Test Result

A crisis plan will be established to analyse and make decisions. The positive test result must be notified to the individual, to the public health authorities, by email to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer attaching the laboratory result, as well as the individual being immediately isolated, in the previously prepared room in case they are in the arena or practice facility. They shall be assessed and transferred with the ambulance team using personal protective equipment. All areas where the patient has accessed will be disinfected.

Immediate Re-Test

Unless otherwise indicated by the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer, the entire team delegation must be re-tested immediately, with all individuals in self isolation until receiving the PCR test result. An extensive log of contacts will be documented in order to selectively initiate any other measures. In case the symptoms are mild and respond well to symptomatic treatment, the PCR positive patient must stay at home. If they are asymptomatic, they will follow a physical training program at home, as prescribed by the strength & conditioning coach / physiotherapist.

In case of clinical complications and / or duration of symptoms (fever > 38°C, cough, chest pain or dyspnea) for more than five days and / or worsening of the general state, the patient will be referred to hospital for a more detailed evaluation.

All other individuals will follow the regular detection test and work normally. A close contact is defined as being less than 1.5m from each other without wearing a face mask for 15 minutes or more. Close contacts for the past two days must be documented.

False or Doubtful Positive PCR Test Result

In case a club receives a false or doubtful positive PCR test result, the individual will be retested twice on two consecutive days. If the second and third PCR test both are negative, the individual will be considered negative.

Players Return to Play Protocol

The return-to-play protocol includes a total of 14 days from the first positive test or from the last day with symptoms (the latter of the two). After a positive PCR test result, a new PCR test will be repeated for the patient 24 hours later to confirm the positive result, with the patient isolated in quarantine throughout. A PCR test will be repeated 10 days after the first positive. Cardiac screening including troponin testing, electrocardiogram and an echocardiogram may be performed 12 or 13 days after the first positive. A PCR test and antibody test may be performed 14 days after the first positive. A player must produce two negative PCR tests and a positive antibody test before being cleared to return.

In some occasions after 14 days the PCR test will still be positive as the patient has COVID-19. Even if they do not have symptoms, have IgG antibodies and are considered to no longer be contagious, the patient must still be PCR negative in order to receive authorisation to return to play.

The Team Doctor must fully complete the Return to Play form once all the steps above have been executed, and email this to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer. The player will be authorised to play in EuroLeague / EuroCup games only after receiving written confirmation from the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer.

Non-Players Return to Activity Protocol

The return-to-activity protocol must follow the public health authorities' guidelines in place, remaining in quarantine as requested. In order to be able to return to activity, they must produce a negative PCR test and a positive antibody test. The Team Doctor must complete the Return to Play form once all the steps above have been executed, and email this to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer. The individual will be authorised for EuroLeague / EuroCup games only after receiving written confirmation from the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer.

Medical Studies

Detailed data for a game is not available, but it can be assumed that of the approximate 30 minutes that a player may be on the playing court, no more than two thirds (therefore 20 minutes) are spent in direct contact with an opponent. These contact minutes are naturally distributed among several players, so the 1:1 contact with each individual opponent is clearly much less than 15 minutes.

A study by the Spanish Society of Sports Medicine (May 2020) analysed the risk of COVID-19 aerial transmission. The germ is transmitted through the air, so ventilation is a fundamental aspect when it comes to establishing safety distances. In moderate and intense effort, a player mobilises more than 150 litres per minute and sometimes up to 250 litres per minute. They use more force to expel exhaled air and much more force to absorb inhaled air. It should be considered that such hyperventilation during exercise does not stop instantly when the exercise ceases, but is maintained for several minutes, so the same precautions must be taken with players in the recovery period (team bench area, locker rooms).

Public Communication

Positive PCR Test Results will not be communicated publicly unless authorisation has been received from both the individual and from Euroleague Basketball.

Transportation

Individuals must wear an FFP2 face mask in all methods of transportation (other than their private car if they are alone) from leaving their home until they return home for games, unless they are sat more than 1.5m from anyone else in which case they can remove their FFP2 face mask. All individuals must carry their own bottle of alcohol hand sanitiser which must be used frequently.

Seats will be assigned to maximise the distance between everyone. In buses the row behind the driver's seat will always be kept empty. Aside from the bus driver and one translator if necessary, only those members of the Team Delegation who have been PCR tested at the same time as the players and coaching staff are authorised to travel on the bus.

In-transit catering will be limited, and where necessary will be pre-packaged servings with single use disposable cutlery, plates / bowls, napkins and bottles / cans.

If the COVID-19 Manager is not in the Team Delegation, a member of staff who is in the Team Delegation must assume the functions of the COVID-19 Manager for the entire duration of the trip. Their full name and contact information shall be communicated to competition@euroleague.net prior to departing from the team's home city.

Teams flying on scheduled flights should obtain priority check-in, use fast track lanes at security checks; use airport lounges, avoid entering any airport shop and be the last passengers to board the airplane, all in order to avoid contact with the general public. The same principles apply when connecting between flights.

Teams travelling by train should book a charter train or an entire carriage for the team delegation with no other individuals permitted entry to the same train / carriage.

Gameday Transportation

Arrival and departure of teams and referees to / from the arena will be in a car / minibus / bus, with drivers using an FFP2 face mask, and will never occur at the same time. Buses are to be disinfected before teams enter. They must all enter a dedicated, covered entrance to the arena. Security will lead teams and referees to their respective locker room avoiding cross paths with other individuals. For departure the same process must be followed in reverse, again with no group departing the arena at the same as another group.

Hotels

The COVID-19 Manager must contact the hotel prior to the team travelling, in order to ensure that health & safety measures in the hotel with regards to hygiene, catering, security are of the required standard. Teams should stay on an exclusive floor / sector in order to minimise crossing with other hotel guests. Should this be impossible due to the hotel configuration, teams should aim to have an exclusive hotel entrance / exit, exclusive meeting / dining room, exclusive elevator. Players and coaching staff are not to access common areas such as wellness, gym or bar. Elbows are to be used for elevator buttons, handrails and door handles instead of hands.

Team Delegation List

When configuring the travel party, teams shall minimise the size of these, identifying at risk individuals based on their age and / or underlying health conditions and avoiding travel where possible. It is recommended that a Team Doctor be part of the travel party.

Personal Belongings

Everyone must always carry their luggage / personal belongings. Hotel staff are not permitted to handle any luggage / personal belongings at any time.

Physical Distancing

Individuals must maintain as much as distance as possible, always at least 1.5m away from hotel staff as well as any other guests.

Check-In / Hotel Room Arrival

One coaching staff member will check-in the entire team delegation, with the other members waiting in the bus. Upon arrival to the hotel room, remove shoes and leave them near the door, Wash hands with soap and warm water. Disinfect objects that you have used outside the room such as mobile phones, glasses, sunglasses.

Meals

Adequate amounts of food and beverages must be distributed prior to player and coaching staff arrival in the meal room. If food is distributed in buffet format, the meals may not be distributed by hotel staff, instead players and coaching staff must serve themselves individually. Tables are to be cleared only after all players and coaching staff have left.

Rooms

Single rooms should be provided for all individuals. Rooms must be well ventilated every day, whilst cleaning staff must be arranged to enter rooms only when the team is outside the hotel.

Referees

General Precautions

Referees must take special precautions and protective measures in the context of the current conditions in order to reduce their risk of infection. They must avoid any risky contacts in all environments, and observe hygiene rules of conduct (physical distance, FFP2 face mask, hand washing). Referees must wear an FFP2 face mask in all methods of transportation (other than their private car if they are alone) from leaving their home until they return home for all game nominations.

PCR Testing of referees	Testing Time
Twice per week	Gameday-3 Gameday+0 / +1 / +2

Referees must assign one validated PCR testing laboratory in their home city, arranged through their general practitioner or a validated hospital. For Gameday+0 / +1 / +2 testing, the PCR test must take place in the city where the referee is, obtaining support from the home Team Doctor, the Domestic League or Euroleague Basketball Medical Services accordingly. If a Referee does not have any nominations for a period of 10 or more days, they may stop PCR testing until their next nomination.

Anytime two EuroLeague / EuroCup games take place within three days, the first Gameday -3 / Gameday-2 test remains valid for the second game in the same week.

PCR Test Laboratory Results Communication

All PCR test laboratory results both positive and negative must be emailed immediately to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Services.

Airports

Referees should avoid entering any airport shop and be the last passenger to board the airplane, in order to avoid contact with the general public.

Hotels

The Euroleague Basketball Officiating Department will contact the hotel prior to Referees travelling, in order to ensure that health & safety measures in the hotel with regards to hygiene, catering, security are of the required standard.

Referees are to eat all their meals in the hotel, either in their individual rooms or using a physical distanced table in the hotel restaurant. If a referee requires a meal during a time when the hotel catering services are not available, they shall use a suitable delivery service with the support of the hotel reception.

In-Game Physical Distancing

Players / Head Coaches / Referees are not required to maintain physical distancing during games. Referees must maintain physical distancing when huddling together at any time.

During an Instant Replay System review if Referees cannot communicate clearly with the IRS Operator, they are able to temporarily stand closer than 1.5m to the IRS Operator.

Return to Play Protocol

The return-to-play protocol includes a total of 14 days from the first positive test or from the last day with symptoms (the latter of the two). After a positive PCR test result, a new PCR test will be repeated for the patient 24 hours later to confirm the positive result, with the patient isolated in quarantine throughout. A PCR test will be repeated 10 days after the first positive. Cardiac screening including troponin testing, electrocardiogram and an echocardiogram may be performed 12 or 13 days after the first positive. A PCR test and antibody test may be performed 14 days after the first positive. A player must produce two negative PCR tests and a positive antibody test before being cleared to return.

In some occasions after 14 days the PCR test will still be positive as the patient has COVID-19. Even if they do not have symptoms, have IgG antibodies and are considered to no longer be contagious, the patient must still be PCR negative in order to receive authorisation to return to play.

An authorised Doctor must fully complete the Return to Play form once all the steps above have been executed, and the Referee must email this to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer. The player will be authorised to officiate EuroLeague / EuroCup games only after receiving written confirmation from the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer.

Referee Coaches

Referee Coaches are prohibited from accessing Zone 0 or Zone 1 inside arenas.

International Feed Production Company

International Feed Production Company (IFPC) personnel must avoid any risky contacts in all environments, and observe hygiene rules of conduct (physical distance, face mask, hand washing). They will always wear a face mask in all methods of transportation (other than their private car if they are alone) from leaving their home until they return home for all gamedays, with an FFP2 face mask strongly recommended.

IFPC personnel regardless of the zone(s) in which they perform their duties must complete a statement of health questionnaire and submit this to the home club COVID-19 Manager. Their paths must not cross those of players, coaching staff and referees, unless physically impossible in which case this must be kept to a bare minimum. No unnecessary conversations are to take place with any Zone 0 individuals.

Production Trucks, OB Van, Satellite Uplink Truck

These must be equipped with disinfection kits, with minimum 1.5m distance between individuals who will always wear a face mask, with an FFP2 face mask strongly recommended. Plexiglass sheets can alternatively be installed between each work position. Hygiene Rules of Conduct must be displayed in the English and local languages inside all vehicles.

Closed rooms must be aired out for 10 minutes three to four times during gameday. Equipment surfaces and door handles must be cleaned with a surface disinfectant before production begins and after breakdown.

On-Court Personnel

Every individual is responsible for the disinfection of his / her material. They must wear an FFP2 face mask anytime they are inside the arena. They must stay by their equipment only when strictly necessary, otherwise they must be away from the playing court / seating bowl altogether. Camera and microphone operators may not be closer than 1.5m from any other individual and may not move from their fixed position during the game. Camera and microphone operators are prohibited from approaching the team bench area at any time.

Flash Interviews / Mixed Zone

No one will stand closer than 1.5m from any player or head coach at any time. All equipment such as microphones will be disinfected and adequately protected. Only 2m boom microphones will be permitted.

Locker Room Access

There will be no locker room access for the IFPC.

Media

Media personnel must avoid any risky contacts in all environments, and observe hygiene rules of conduct (physical distance, face mask, hand washing). They are advised to wear a face mask in all methods of transportation (other than their private car if they are alone) from leaving their home until they return home for all gamedays, with an FFP2 face mask strongly recommended.

Media personnel regardless of the zone(s) in which they perform their duties must complete a statement of health questionnaire and submit this to the home club COVID-19 Manager. Their paths must not cross those of players, coaching staff and referees, unless physically impossible in which case this must be kept to a bare minimum. No unnecessary conversations are to take place with any Zone 0 individuals.

Media personnel must be accredited by the home club, with full contact details provided. They must always wear a face mask inside the arena.

Media In-Arena Seating Area

Media personnel are recommended to be sat more than 1.5m from each other, however they can be sat closer than 1.5m from each other as they must always wear a face mask, with an FFP2 face mask strongly recommended.

Rights Holders Commentary Positions

Rights holder personnel are recommended to be sat more than 1.5m from each other, however they can be sat closer than 1.5m from each other if they wear a face mask. If their commentary positions are in Zone 0 then they must use an FFP2 face mask. In Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3 an FFP2 face mask is strongly recommended. Commentators sat more than 1.5m from anyone else regardless of the Zone may remove their face mask only when they are commenting live, at all other times they must wear a face mask.

Equipment

Every individual is responsible for the disinfection of his / her material. Media are prohibited from recording any audio prior, during or after games, except for previously authorised flash interviews, mixed zone interviews, press conferences. Accredited radio personnel are exempt from this prohibition when recording audio as part of their professional obligations.

Flash Interviews / Mixed Zone

No one will stand closer than 1.5m from any player or head coach when at any time. All equipment such as microphones will be disinfected and adequately protected. Only 2m boom microphones will be permitted - handheld or other microphones are prohibited.

Practices

Authorised media access during practices will follow the same protocols as for Flash Interviews / Mixed Zone.

Press Conferences

The Press Conference Room will be disinfected prior to every use. Players / head coaches will enter and exit through a different door than the media. All microphones will be disinfected and adequately protected. The media will never be closer than 3m from the speakers table. Any microphones / recorders that they wish to position on the speaker's table must be handed to home club personnel who will disinfect the device before placing it on the speaker's table.

Locker Room Access

There will be no locker room access for any media.

Regional / National Authorities Restrictions

If media are prohibited from entering the arena due to regional / national authorities' restrictions, Euroleague Basketball will provide additional remote access to players and head coaches.

Spectators

Regional and / or national regulations regarding spectator access to arenas will be followed including seating distribution. The following are the recommended minimum standards:

- Spectators will access the arena in different time lapses depending in which section their ticket is located
- At arena access the use of face masks and alcohol hand sanitiser is compulsory
- Electronic tickets to be used in order to avoid the use of paper, unless physically impossible
- Seat distribution will follow a pattern that allows physical distancing as per the regional / national regulations

Physical Distancing

At all times spectators must refrain from unnecessary contact and maintain 1.5m distance from each other. If that is physically impossible then a face mask must be worn.

All spectators must have their feet no closer than 3m from the team bench area / scorer's table. If necessary, the home club will leave one or more rows of seats in the fixed tribunes vacant.

Loose Ball

Spectators must never touch any loose ball at any time, instead waiting for a Team Attendant to collect and disinfect the ball.

Courtside Seats

If authorised by the regional / national authorities, courtside seat spectators must follow all regulations contained within the Bylaws, the Health & Safety Protocols as well as:

- Have their feet no closer than 3m from the playing court
- Have a physical barrier separating their seats from the playing court that does not allow any circulation from their seats to the playing court level nor on the playing court level
- Always wear an FFP2 face mask
- Reach their seats from the fixed tribune and depart from their seats via the fixed tribune, never moving inside the arena on the playing court level

Euroleague Basketball Club Pandemic Response Guidelines

Clubs must reference the Euroleague Basketball Club Pandemic Response Guidelines when managing spectators. Items to which attention must be paid include:

- 1.5m physical distancing must be respected in all queues both outside and inside the arena, as well as in vomitories' prior to entering each specific seating area
- All seats and surfaces must be disinfected before and after each game; constant monitoring and sanitisation of concession and public areas are necessary throughout the game
- Hand sanitisation stations need to be available at points where many spectators congregate such as entrances, exits, concessions and toilets
- Where possible, only electronic methods of payment for concessions are to be used

References

- Basketball England Return to Play Guidance Document (United Kingdom)
- Contingency plan for action against COVID-19. Back to the league ACB workouts, Baskonia (Spain)
- COVID-19 Protocol for FIBA Competitions v2
- FIBA Restart Guidelines, Version 2.0
- European Handball Federation Back to Handball – Hygiene Concept
- FIFA Return to Football International Match Protocol Version 1.0
- Guia Competicion Fase Final Liga Endesa 19 / 20 (Spain)
- Guia de Reincorporacion a la Practica Deportiva en el Deporte de Competicion (Spain)
- IHF COVID-19 Medical Precaution Plan Egypt 2021
- Indicazioni per la RIPRESA degli allenamenti delle squadre di calcio professionistiche e degli arbitri (Italy)
- Instructions for starting the training process of top athletes and other athletes in the sports system of the Republic of Serbia in the implementation of prevention and reduction of disease risks COVID-19 (Serbia)
- International Swimming League Prevention and Intervention Protocol
- K League Guidelines for COVID-19 (Republic of Korea)
- Konzept für den Sonderspielbetrieb zur Wiederaufnahme der Saison 2019 / 2020 BBL (Germany)
- Leitfaden für den Trainings und Spielbetrieb 2020 / 21 Version 2.1 (Germany)
- Medical protocol and recommendations for testing Liga Portugal (Portugal)
- Medidas de actuación vuelta a los entrenamientos en l'Alqueria del Basket – Valencia Basket (Spain)
- Medidas de tratamiento y vuelta al entrenamiento AEMB (Spain)
- Pandemia COVID-19 situación actual y retorno a los entrenamientos FC Barcelona (Spain)
- Pla del desconfinament progressiu en el sector esportiu de Catalunya SGE (Spain)
- Protocol for the resumption of training and match play across all professional football competition in Denmark during COVID-19 (Denmark)
- Protocolo de actuación para la vuelta a los entrenamientos de los equipos de LaLiga (Spain)
- Protocolo Sanitario para la Liga Endesa y las demás Competiciones Profesionales Organizadas por la ACB Temporada 2020/21 (Spain)
- Raccomandazioni Federazione Medico Sportiva Italiana (Italy)
- Recomendaciones para evitar los riesgos sobre la salud en la vuelta a la competición en el fútbol RFEF (Spain)
- Recommendations sur le déconfinement COVID-19 AMCFP (France)
- Return to football advisory protocol TFF (Turkey)
- Rules of the organization of training units for Czech league teams LFA (Czech Republic)
- Task force Sportmedizin Sonderspielbetrieb im Profifussball DFL (Germany)