

# EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

## **2022/23 EHF Hygiene Concept – Version 1**

Covid-19 Concept and Guidelines for EHF Club and National Team Competitions

(valid as of 22.08.2022)

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

This document “2022/23 EHF Hygiene Concept, Version 1” provides EHF guidelines for the handling of issues of the Covid-19 pandemic around matches of EHF Competitions. It is valid from 22.08.2022 until further notice.

These guidelines work alongside the existing EHF regulations for each competition.

All clubs and national federations need to have their own detailed Covid-19 mitigation plans in place, in line with local government guidelines, and remain responsible for implementing the necessary measures in their regular domestic club and national team environments. Clubs and national federations are responsible for preparing competitions in a safe environment and ensuring that they follow all national guidelines and safety recommendations.

In addition to the EHF Hygiene Concept those government regulations, local regulations and even Arena regulations as well as recommendations concerning Covid-19 are valid and therefore to be followed.

With the Covid-19 situation constantly evolving, this will be a living document and we will re-issue guidelines where we feel changes are required.

## **2 AIM**

The aim is to ensure that all possible mitigation steps are taken to reduce the risk of infection for all those involved in the matches, although the risk cannot be completely eliminated. All stakeholders participate in the competition at their own risk.

This protocol is intended to provide a minimum standard to ensure the health and safety of all players, staff and officials, but allows some latitude for clubs and national federations to adapt them to their own circumstances.

In the third season with the pandemic the EHF Hygiene Concept is very much based on possible local restrictions.

## **3 COVID-19 OFFICER**

Considering the current situation of the pandemic the EHF will not require the nomination of a Covid-19 officer until further notice. However, the EHF recommends all clubs and National Federations to still have a dedicated person (or a group of persons) following all issues of the pandemic especially in the local area as this is necessary in order to provide the guest team and/or EHF with information regarding the local Covid-19 situation.

Furthermore we all must remain on alert with the pandemic in general in order to be ready for more strict regulations and guidelines again in case the situation will require this.

## **4 ELIGIBILITY TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AT AN EHF MATCH**

All players and officials of a team, all EHF officials (referees, delegates, Marketing Supervisors and further persons) as well as further persons (e.g. staff members of clubs/federations, photographers, escort kids, moppers, staff, media, etc.) who are involved in an EHF match and who have contact with other persons involved in the match must be symptom-free on the day of the match as well as in the days prior to the match. In case of any symptoms the person concerned is obliged to do a test (Antigen or PCR). If the test is positive, this person is not allowed to participate at the respective match.

However, a positive test of a player resp. official must be reported to the EHF immediately.

## **5 PRIOR TO TRAVEL**

- It is the responsibility of the home team/organisers to liaise with the government and local authorities to ensure that the visiting team can enter and leave the country without limitation.
- It is also the responsibility of the home team/organisation to provide the visiting team with timely information on any measures that are required to enter and leave the country without quarantine.
- Local regulations may set different timescales and where more stringent than the EHF guidelines these are to be followed.
- Should local authorities require a test for visitors on arrival to that country, then the local team Covid-19 Officer shall oversee the arrangements with the local authorities and the results should in principle be delivered at the latest six hours prior to throw-off time. These costs must be paid the home team.
- The travelling team should ensure that it follows all local guidance and regulations while travelling, to ensure they mitigate against the risk of contracting the virus. This includes the requirements regarding testing for crossing borders and entering countries during travel.

## **6 VENUE**

The venue set-up must be prepared according to the local guidelines and restrictions.

## **7 GUIDELINES FOR MEDIA**

In order to secure a safe working environment at the venue, it is important that all media are aware of and respect and follow the local hygiene protocol/guidelines in place.

### **7.1 PRESS CONFERENCE**

Seating and the overall setup of the press conference area shall be done in compliance with the respective hygiene guidelines/restrictions at the respective venue.

## **7.2 INTERVIEWS (FLASH ZONE, MIXED ZONE)**

- The home team media representative/media partner representative ('supervisor') are jointly responsible for coordinating TV interviews.
- If any of the rules are breached or the player/coach feels uncomfortable, an interview should be ended immediately by the media supervisor.

## **7.3 TV PRODUCTION**

- It is the TV Production's responsibility to ensure that the local Covid-19 restrictions are respected and followed.

## **8 GUIDELINES FOR SPECTATORS**

The decision on whether to allow spectators to attend matches is up to the host club or national federation, in line with local country regulations. The host club/national federation is responsible for ensuring that all health and safety regulations are met for spectators.