



AFC Match Operations Protocol During COVID-19 Pandemic (Edition 2021)



AFC MATCH OPERATIONS PROTOCOL DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

(EDITION 2021)

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PREAMBLE

This AFC Match Operations Protocol during COVID-19 Pandemic (“AFC MOP”) is a compilation of recommended operational guidelines and measures to be observed and applied by the AFC, Host Organisations, Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and all other relevant stakeholders in relation to the staging, organising and hosting of AFC Competitions and Matches (collectively the “Stakeholders” and each a “Stakeholder”) played during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as any and all persons affiliated to the Stakeholders and/or carrying out duties on their behalf (collectively the “Individuals” and each an “Individual”).

It is aimed at minimising the risk of COVID-19 by establishing standardised protocols with a focus on additional measures, which shall be applied to all Matches held in the context of the pandemic.

The document has been developed based on relevant protocols from FIFA, Football Confederations and Football Associations across the world as well as international health organisations. As the situation evolves, the AFC General Secretariat may further update this document as required and as advised by the AFC COVID-19 Advisory Expert Group, which shall be communicated to the relevant stakeholders accordingly.

For the purpose of this AFC MOP, all defined terms shall bear the same meaning as ascribed to them in the relevant Competition regulations and the AFC Competition Operations Manual (“Manual”), unless the context requires otherwise.

SECTION 1 | GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Scope of Application

This AFC MOP shall apply to all AFC football, futsal and beach soccer Competitions and Matches played during the COVID-19 pandemic, until such time as the AFC Executive Committee decides otherwise.

It shall be read in conjunction with the relevant Competition regulations, the Manual and all other protocols, directives, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by the AFC in connection with its Competitions and Matches. Where no provision of this AFC MOP is applicable, FIFA's Return to Football - International Match Protocol shall apply, where appropriate.

For the avoidance of doubt, where the relevant authorities of a host country have imposed additional and/or stricter requirements than those set out in this AFC MOP, such additional and/or stricter requirements shall prevail. Nothing in this AFC MOP shall affect any obligations arising from any applicable national laws, and the relevant Stakeholder or Individual (as appropriate) shall be solely responsible for complying with all applicable laws and protocols.

2. Preventative Measures

Each Stakeholder and Individual shall collectively ensure to implement the following preventative measures ("Preventative Measures") at all times, as recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and FIFA.

- **Hand hygiene:** provisions shall be in place for regular and thorough hand washing or hand sanitising with an alcohol-based rub.
- **Respiratory hygiene:** the AFC requires that all Individuals wear face masks covering the nose and mouth. The only exception to this requirement shall be:
 - Participating Players and Match Officials on the Field of Play during the Match (all Participating Players and Participating Officials on the team bench shall wear face masks);
 - Participating Players, Participating Officials and Match Officials during any warm-up (pre-Match or during the Match) or training;
 - commentators while commentating in designated positions, and;
 - presenters while presenting to the camera.

Unless otherwise approved in writing by the AFC, face masks must be clear and free from any visible marks, branding, insignia, statements, slogans, names or numbers, in accordance with the AFC Equipment Regulations. No religious or political message or image in any form, any offensive symbol or message is permitted.

- **Physical distancing:** a minimum distance of 1m (one metre) shall be maintained by all Individuals except for those listed above as exceptions to wearing face masks.

- **Cleaning and hygiene regimes:** all spaces and surfaces shall be regularly and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- **Risk communication and awareness:** it is critical to ensure a clear risk communication strategy is in place, which ensures all Individuals understand and comply with the requirements set out in this document.
- **Monitoring and testing:** comprehensive protocols for self-monitoring, health checks and testing shall be put in place.
- **Defining and tracing contacts:** adequate records shall be maintained to enable contact tracing by the relevant authorities, whenever necessary.
- **Management of people with COVID-19, its symptoms and their contacts:** any Individual who develops symptoms, or is suspected of having contracted, or has been confirmed as having COVID-19, shall not enter any Controlled Access Area and be subject to the medical protocol of the relevant authorities.
- **Management responsibility and planning:** the Host Organisation shall be responsible for ensuring that the medical protocol set out by the relevant authorities of the host country and the AFC are fully adhered to.

Full details of the Preventative Measures are stipulated in Annexe B of [FIFA's Return to Football – International Match Protocol](#).



SECTION 2 | MEDICAL MEASURES

3. Health Monitoring Activities

From at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Match, all Individuals involved in the Match shall implement the following self-health monitoring activities:

- daily body-temperature screening;
- symptom check to assess any of the following:
 - fever;
 - dry cough;
 - tiredness;
 - aches and pains;
 - sore throat;
 - diarrhoea;
 - conjunctivitis;
 - headache;
 - loss of taste or smell, and;
 - skin rash, or discolouration of fingers or toes.

Participating Teams/Participating Clubs shall regularly monitor their Participating Players and Participating Officials through the respective medical personnel (e.g. Team Doctor or Team Medical Liaison Officer). All other Individuals should monitor themselves. It is strongly recommended to keep detailed evidence of the daily health monitoring activities (e.g. keeping “health-diaries”), in preparation for any enquiries and investigations by the relevant authorities.

Individuals who are unwell or are experiencing any of the symptoms listed above are urged to self-isolate and follow local health protocols set out by the relevant authorities of the country.

4. Testing Requirements

A robust testing regime is essential to effectively detect and isolate the relevant Individuals and prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is also critical to build psychological confidence within the Individuals involved in the Match by ensuring they are safeguarded within a “biomedical bubble”.

COVID-19 testing is mandatory for all Participating Players, Participating Officials, Match Officials and the AFC Delegation, in accordance with the requirements as below:

- the Polymerase Chain Reaction (“PCR Test”) for SARS-COV-2 shall be strictly used as the diagnostic testing procedure;
- testing shall be conducted no earlier than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the Individual's departure to the Venue and test results shall be submitted to the AFC before departure. Any exceptions due to existing medical protocols set out by the relevant authorities of the country shall be subject to the AFC's written approval;

- any Individual who has previously tested positive for COVID-19 shall provide such medical and other supporting documents as required by the AFC and the relevant authorities as evidence to prove their recovery, which shall be subject to the written approval of the AFC;
- Individuals shall be subject to additional COVID-19 testing upon arrival at the host country and throughout the duration of their stay in the host country, in accordance with the protocol set out by the relevant authorities of the host country, and;
- the AFC reserves the right to request additional documents in all cases.

For a PCR test to be considered valid by the AFC, the following information must be provided in the test results:

- Patient Information
 - Name of the individual (as in passport)
 - Gender, date of birth and age
 - Identification number (e.g. passport number, national ID)
- Specimen Information
 - Specimen type (e.g. Nasopharyngeal / Oropharyngeal)
 - Date and time of receipt of specimen
 - Date and time of reporting
 - Sample location collection
 - Details of the targeted genes (e.g. E, N, S, ORF1b)
- Laboratory Information
 - Laboratory name
 - Accreditation
 - Signature of authorised laboratory scientist (person responsible to verify the analysis of specimen)
 - The result must be in the laboratory letterhead.
- Details of the result, in any positive case, preferably with the Cycle Threshold (CT) value. (e.g. E gene = positive [CT=33.32]; ORF1b gene=positive [CT= 28.23])

Test results are sensitive personal data and shall be dealt in accordance with the directives of the relevant authorities of the country.

Responsibilities of the Host Organisation

Host Organisations shall be responsible to ensure all other Individuals involved in the Match (e.g. drivers, on-pitch medical staff, hotel staff, etc) are tested in accordance with the above requirements, with special focus on those in close contact with the Participating Players, Participating Officials, Match Officials and the AFC Delegation. In principle, only those who have been tested negative shall be allowed to access a Controlled Access Area.

Host Organisations, in consultation with the relevant authorities of the host country, shall establish a comprehensive testing regime for all the Individuals involved in the Match to ensure all Matches are played in a safe environment. They are required to organise tests for Participating Players, Participating Officials, Match Officials and AFC Delegation upon their arrival at the host country. In addition to the test upon arrival, periodic regular tests shall be conducted throughout the duration of the Competition, as follows.

Recommended Testing Schedule

MD-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating Players and Participating Officials 	To alleviate false positive and negative results and assist for clinical assessment and mitigate possible spread of infection during training and prior travel.
Before Departure to the Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating Players and Participating Officials Match Officials AFC Delegation 	Within 72 hours prior to departure (mandatory)
Upon Arrival at the Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating Players and Participating Officials Match Officials AFC Delegation 	Host Organisations shall arrange tests upon arrival at the airport or at the official hotel.
MD-6 or MD-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host Organisation staff third-party service providers (e.g. drivers, hotel staff, cleaners) any other Individual involved in the Match 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host Organisations shall conduct testing before deployment of local personnel on MD-6 to alleviate false positive and negative results. A second testing to be conducted at least 2 to 3 days prior to the Match
Inconclusive Test Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any relevant Individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual whose result is inconclusive shall be re-tested immediately. In case the second test is still inconclusive, it shall be considered as negative, subject to monitoring for any symptoms for decision-making.
Regular Periodic Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating Players and Participating Officials Match Officials AFC Delegation Host Organisation staff third-party service providers (e.g. drivers, hotel staff, cleaners) any other Individual involved in the Match 	Subsequent routine test to be conducted during the duration of the Competition, subject to the epidemiology of the infection, protocol and guidelines of the relevant authorities of the host country, the AFC and the recommendations of the AFC Covid-19 Advisory Expert Group.
Testing for Positive Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any relevant Individual 	Subject to the guidelines and protocols from the relevant authorities of the host country on management of positive cases.

Post Competition Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating Players and Participating Officials • Match Officials • AFC Delegation 	Testing shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements set out by the relevant authorities (e.g. home country, airlines).
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Host Organisations are required to designate competent laboratory facilities that can carry out the PCR analyses, which shall be duly accredited by the relevant authorities of the host country. The laboratories shall be able to deliver the test results in a timely manner, preferably within twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) hours after each test. Trained and qualified personnel shall perform the PCR Tests (nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal) and serology tests as deemed necessary. Host Organisations shall provide the AFC with the details of the relevant laboratory facilities, for its approval.

5. Management of Positive Cases

Generally, in cases where Individuals test positive, they should isolate immediately and report to the relevant authorities of the country they are in, to be dealt in compliance with the laws and protocols in place.

In addition to the above, Individuals who are considered as contacts, as identified by the relevant authorities of the host country, may also be required to isolate and report in accordance with the laws and protocols.

In any case, Individuals shall strictly comply with the laws and protocols set out by the relevant authorities.

SECTION 3 | MATCH OPERATIONS PROTOCOL

6. General Principles

In accordance with the Preventative Measures required under this AFC MOP, the following general principles shall be applied to every Individual, space and activity taking place at the Stadium:

- **Personnel planning:** only essential personnel confirmed by the AFC Match Commissioner should be deployed for work at the Stadium.
- **Screening:** all Individuals entering the Stadium shall be subject to a temperature check at the point of entry. Any Individual who develops symptoms, or is suspected of having contracted, or has been confirmed as having COVID-19, shall not be permitted to enter the Stadium.
- **Zoning and access control:** Stadiums shall be divided into four (4) zones to avoid overcrowding and to prevent any uncontrolled contact between the Individuals.
- **Wearing face masks:** face masks covering the nose and mouth shall be worn by all Individuals with the exception of those listed in Article 2.
- **Cleaning and sanitising:** all spaces, surfaces and objects shall be cleaned regularly. Hand sanitisers shall be located in prominent areas throughout the Stadium.
- **Physical distancing:** a minimum physical distance of 1m (one metre) shall be maintained by all Individuals with the exception of Participating Players and Match Officials on the Field of Play during the Match and Participating Players, Participating Officials and Match Officials during any warm-up (pre-Match or during the Match) or training.
- **Contact tracing:** records shall be maintained for the purpose of contact tracing, as required by the relevant authorities of the host country.

7. Stadium Zoning and Access Control

A clear zoning system and strict access controls protocols shall be put in place to minimise contact between the different groups of Stakeholders. At all times, the number of personnel within each zone should be kept to the absolute minimum required.

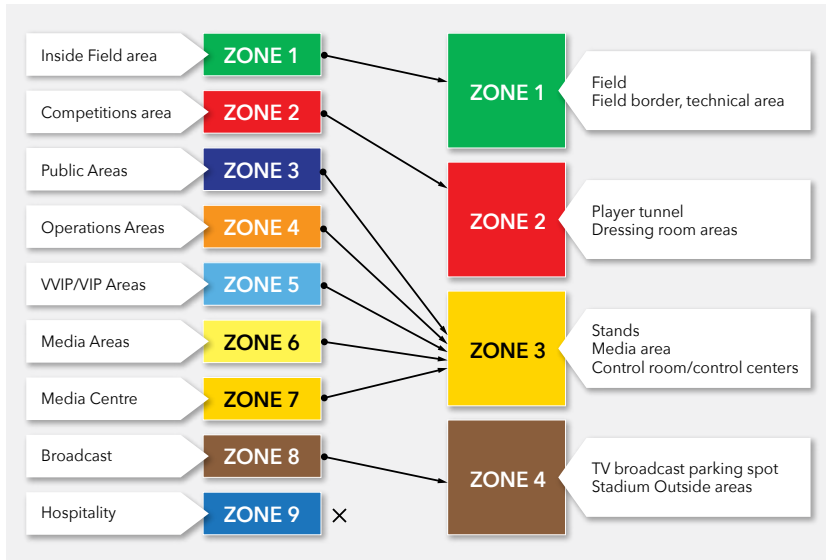
The Host Organisation shall be responsible for the configuration of the zones, taking into account the flow and capacity of the Stadium facilities. It shall also be responsible for establishing the maximum number of personnel allowed into each zone during each time, in consultation with the AFC Match Commissioner and the relevant authorities of the host country.

Security personnel appointed by the Host Organisation shall be responsible for controlling access in each zone at the perimeter of each zone. Access boards and signages shall be sufficiently provided at each access control point to reduce the time taken and contact made with any security personnel. Preparation and set-up for access control operations must be completed prior to the first (earliest) arrival of the officials involved in the Match. For all

entrances, the Host Organisation shall set up measures for temperature checks and identify an isolation room/area nearby in case of any temperature measurement exceeding the threshold.

For Matches held during the COVID-19 pandemic, the following four (4) zones shall apply:

- Zone 1: Field of Play Area
- Zone 2: Official Area
- Zone 3: Stadium Internal Area
- Zone 4: Stadium External Area



In principle, only those Individuals from the “biomedical bubble” shall be allowed to access Zone 1 and 2. Any exception to this principle shall be subject to the written approval of the AFC Match Commissioner.

Zoning is required on all days when the Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and Match Officials are on-site, especially on Match day (“MD”) and MD-1.

Example Personnel Planning for Zone 1: Field of Play Area

Group	Team Arrival	Kick-off	Full time	Team Depart
Players	0	22	22	0
Substitutes & Officials	0	32	32	0
LOC Staff	5	10	10	8
Referees	0	5	0	0
Ball Persons	0	6	0	0
HB	23	15	15	13
Medical/Doping	0	0	2	0
PHO	0	tbd	tbd	0
Stretchers	0	8	8	0
Hygiene Personnel	0	3	3	0
Groundsmen/Service Crew	16	0	0	16
Security	4	4	4	4
Commercial Partner	7	0	7	0

** Exact figures for each Match shall be produced by the Host Organisation and confirmed by the AFC Match Commissioner.*

Example Personnel Planning for Zone 2: Official Area

Group	Team Arrival	Kick-off	Full time	Team Depart
Players	22	0	4	4
Substitutes & Officials	32	0	4	4
LOC Staff	10	5	5	7
Referees	5	0	5	0
Ball Persons	6	0	6	0
HB	5	0	0	0
Medical/Doping	2	2	0	2
PHO	0	0	0	0
Stretchers	8	0	0	0
Hygiene Personnel	3	0	0	0
Groundsmen/Service Crew	0	0	0	0
Security	4	4	4	4
Commercial Partner	2	2	2	2

** Exact figures for each Match shall be produced by the Host Organisation and confirmed by the AFC Match Commissioner.*

Example Personnel Planning for Zone 3: Stadium Internal Area

Group	Team Arrival	Kick-off	Full time	Team Depart
Security	10	10	10	10
Stretchers	4	4	4	0
Police & Firefighters	6	6	6	0
Stadium Operators	5	5	5	5
LOC Staff	8	8	8	0
AFC Staff / Commercial Partner	10	10	10	10
Team guests	12	12	12	0
HB	26	19	19	16
Medical/Doping	2	2	0	0
Media (Journalists)	0	tbd	tbd	0
Video Analysts	4	4	4	4
Hygiene Personnel	5	5	5	8

** Exact figures for each Match shall be produced by the Host Organisation and confirmed by the AFC Match Commissioner.*

Example Personnel Planning for Zone 4: Stadium External Area

Group	Team Arrival	Kick-off	Full time	Team Depart
Security	50	50	50	20
HB	14	14	14	11
Groundsmen/Service Crew	16	16	16	0
Commercial Partner	2	2	2	2

** Exact figures for each Match shall be produced by the Host Organisation and confirmed by the AFC Match Commissioner.*

8. Match Coordination Meeting and Official Countdown

Match Coordination Meetings are recommended to take place online to minimise any unnecessary physical contact. However, physical meetings may take place if deemed necessary by the AFC Match Commissioner, provided that the meeting room is large enough to ensure physical distancing.

In addition to the standard agenda, extra attention should be paid to the special arrangements made in consideration of COVID-19. These arrangements shall include the timings of Stadium disinfection, set-up of thermal scanners at the entrances, sealing of dressing rooms, staggered

departure and arrival of Participating Teams/Participating Clubs, and be reflected in the Official Countdown accordingly.

Preventative Measures, as well as Stadium zoning and access control shall be in place in the same way as on Match days until the departure of all officials involved.

Additional meetings involving the medical personnel of each Stakeholder may also be arranged by the AFC or the Host Organisation, if necessary.

9. Submission and Distribution of Documents

Whenever possible, documents transmitted in relation to the Match (e.g. Player Selection List, Officials on the Substitution Bench Form and Match Start List) shall be submitted and distributed digitally.

Participating Teams/Participating Clubs are required to submit the original copy to the AFC Match Commissioner for the record, as instructed by the AFC Match Commissioner.

10. Disinfecting the Stadium



All spaces, surfaces and objects within the Stadium shall be disinfected regularly, in line with a formal hygiene and cleaning plan for the Stadium.

On Match days, the disinfection must take place early in the morning prior to the first (earliest) arrival of the officials involved in the Match. The Host Organisation shall communicate the schedule of the disinfection to the AFC Match Commissioner to ensure the timings are reflected in the Official Countdown for the relevant Match.

It is the responsibility of the Host Organisation to coordinate with the relevant authorities of the host country to ensure compliance with any protocol of the host country.

All costs related to disinfecting the Stadium shall be borne by the Host Organisation.

Dressing rooms shall be sealed with a signage or label (e.g. “disinfected area”) following the disinfection, only to be opened by the relevant Participating Team/Participating Club.

11. Arrival of Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and Match Officials

Participating Players, Participating Officials and Match Officials must wear face masks upon their arrival at the Stadium.

A separate time and drop-off area shall be arranged for the arrival of Participating Teams/ Participating Clubs and subsequently the Match Officials with a minimum gap of ten (10) minutes.

Implementation of different entry gates and different routes to the respective dressing rooms are recommended as much as possible (e.g. Team A and Team B enter the Stadium from different gates).

The Head Coach on arrival interview will be conducted by the Host Broadcaster while ensuring adequate physical distancing as well as using a dedicated microphone on stand for the Head Coach.



12. Dressing Rooms

Team Dressing Rooms

The use of the dressing rooms shall be minimised as much as possible.

Depending on the size of the dressing rooms, additional rooms adjacent to the existing dressing rooms shall be used as extended dressing rooms for teams to allow physical distancing. If used, these additional rooms must also be disinfected.

Any spa, sauna, wet room, jacuzzi, ice-bath or similar facility should not be used and, if possible, remain closed.

Once the disinfection of the team dressing rooms is completed, only members of the relevant Team Official Delegation may enter the dressing rooms, unless otherwise approved in writing by the AFC Match Commissioner.

Referee Dressing Rooms

The same requirements as established for the team dressing rooms shall be applied to the referee dressing rooms.

Once the disinfection of the referee dressing rooms is completed, only the relevant Match Officials may enter the dressing rooms, unless otherwise approved in writing by the AFC Match Commissioner.

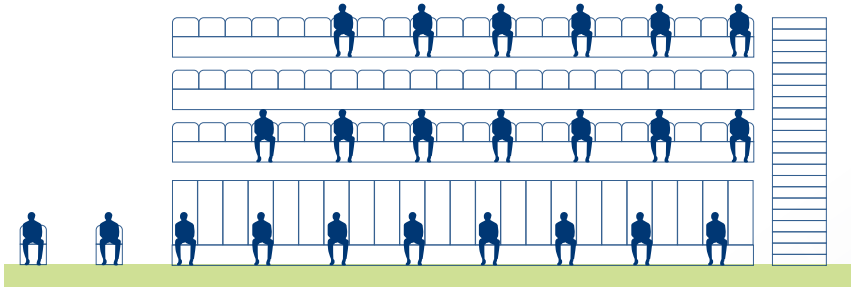
13. Team Benches, Technical Seats and Additional Seats



Physical distancing must be observed in the team benches and technical seats. For this purpose, additional seats may be required to extend the team benches (e.g. by providing additional seats next to the existing team benches or by utilising adjacent seats in the stands with direct access to the field area) to accommodate the number of Participating Players and Participating Officials who are allowed to sit on the team bench in accordance with the relevant Competition regulations.

Technical seats for any member of the Team Official Delegation who are not registered to sit on the team bench shall be provided in the stands adjacent to the team benches. These seats shall be segregated from any additional seats for the team bench and from any other seats in the stands, with separate access routes to ensure the members of the Team Official Delegation do not contact any Individual out of the “biomedical bubble”.

A strict access control protocol shall be in place for any additional seats for the team bench and technical seats.



14. Accreditation Card and Equipment Check

The Accreditation Card and Equipment check by the AFC Match Commissioner and Fourth Official shall be conducted in accordance with the Official Countdown, but not within the dressing rooms.

It shall be conducted at the dressing room entrance or any other designated area adjacent to the relevant team dressing room, in compliance with physical distancing.

15. Pre-Match Warm-up

The pre-Match warm-up timings shall be maintained as per standard practice in accordance with the Official Countdown of the relevant Match.

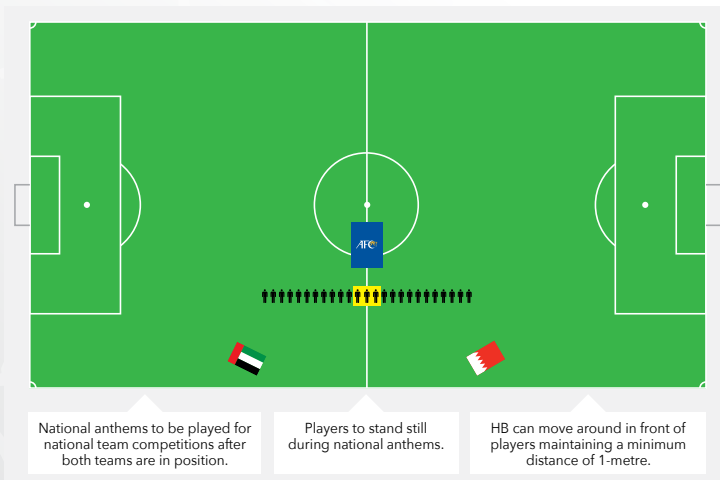
If the Stadium structure allows, Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and Match Officials shall remain segregated when entering and leaving the Field of Play.

16. Pre-Match Ceremony

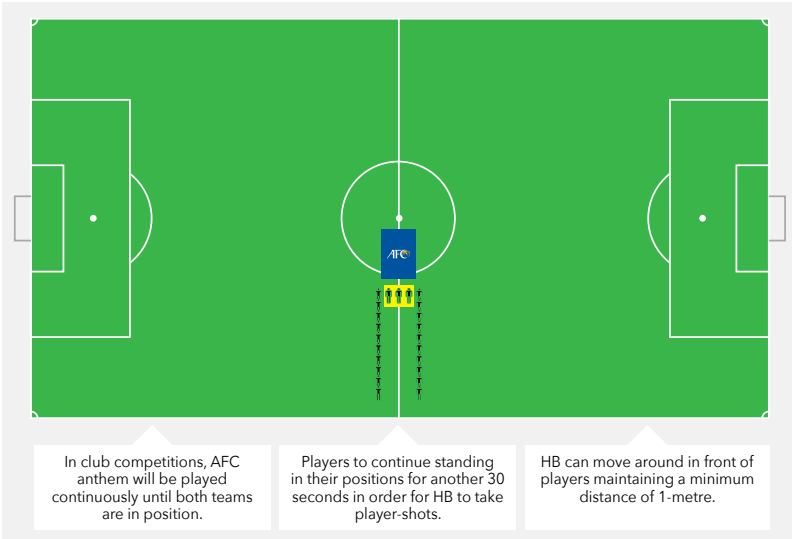
The standard procedure shall be maintained with the following adjustments in consideration of the Preventative Measures:

- all flags (e.g. national flags and AFC flags) shall be carried by adults rather than minors and enter the Field of Play in advance of the Participating Players' tunnel line-up, to avoid any mixing in the tunnel;
- strict physical distancing shall be maintained during the tunnel line-up and final equipment check;
- Host Broadcasters are allowed to film the tunnel line-up and Pre-Match Ceremony as usual procedure, with minimum personnel and physical distancing;
- player escorts, presentations by any third-parties or VIP handshakes shall not be allowed;
- the Referee and two (2) Assistant Referees shall lead the march-in, followed by the Participating Players. The fourth official and AFC General Coordinator (LOC General Coordinator for Matches played in a home and away format) shall follow the Participating Players;
- handshakes between the Participating Players and Match Officials shall be replaced with a clap of hands in the spirit of fair play;
- there shall be no joint photo between the two (2) Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and Match Officials. The exchange of pennants is also discouraged, and;
- only AFC official photographers shall be allowed to take team photos behind the photo marshals. Participating Teams/Participating Clubs may pose twice (once for the official photographer and once facing the A-boards) for the other photographers who shall be positioned behind the A-boards.

Final Position – National Team Competitions



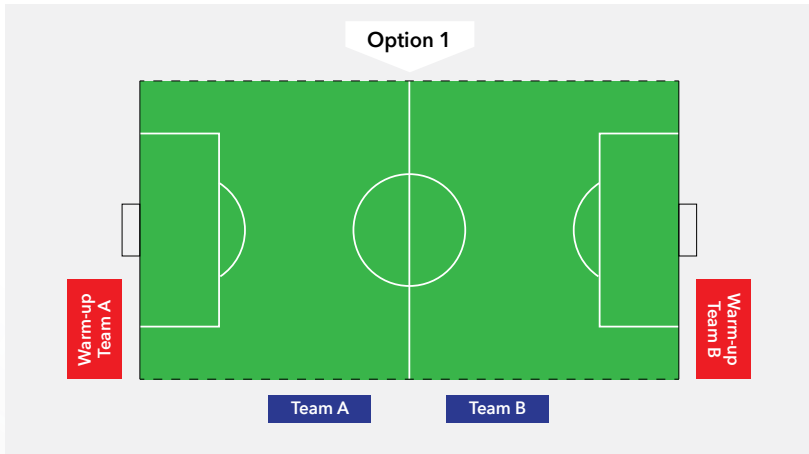
Final Position – Club Competitions



17. Warm-Up During the Match

Option 1 (Preferred Option)

Depending on the space around the Field of Play, each Participating Team/Participating Club shall be allocated their own warm-up area behind each goal on the side closest to the team benches.



Option 2

If the space behind each goal does not permit, option 2 shall be applied and the warm-up shall be arranged next to each team bench (on the left side of Team A bench for team A, on the right side of Team B bench for team B).



18. Ball Persons

The decision to deploy minors as ball kids is the responsibility of the Host Organisation. However, the use of minors is discouraged, in consideration of the pandemic.

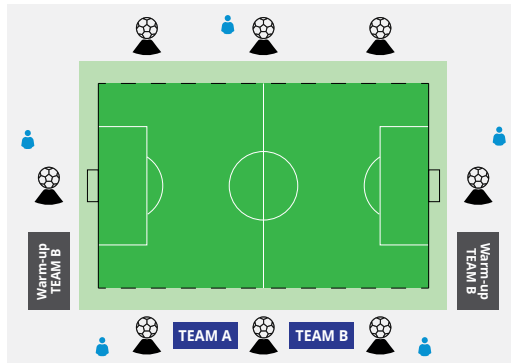
A maximum of six (6) ball persons are recommended to be deployed and trained to cover the area allocated for them. They shall wear face masks at all times and be provided with sanitisers to regularly disinfect the balls.

The Host Organisation shall implement either one of the following options:



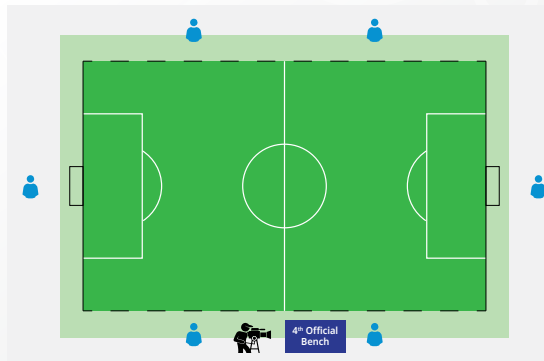
Option 1 (Preferred Option): disinfected balls positioned on cones around the Field of Play

Three (3) to six (6) ball persons shall collect and disinfect the balls out of play and place them on the cones. Participating Players will self-serve the balls from the cones, as necessary.



Option 2: standard procedure with disinfection

Six (6) ball persons shall collect and disinfect the balls out of play and keep them ready at their feet, without handling the balls until needed.



19. Substitutions

In order to avoid unnecessary contact in connection with a substitution and to accommodate the increased number of substitutions allowed in Matches held under the temporary amendments to the Laws of the Game, it is strongly recommended that at least two (2) or more substitution boards are available at the fourth official bench.

20. Medical/Therapeutic Treatments

As far as reasonably practicable, the use of treatments shall be limited to the minimum required to avoid unnecessary contact with the Participating Players.

The following measures are recommended for treatments:

- appropriate personal protective equipment (“PPE”) shall be worn by the medical personnel, including a face mask, disposable gloves, and, if deemed necessary, additional items such as disposable plastic aprons or goggles, and
- any disposable equipment shall be changed after each treatment.

21. Half-Time

If the Stadium structure allows, Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and Match Officials shall remain segregated when leaving and entering the Field of Play.

Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and Match Officials shall avoid contact with others and enter their respective dressing rooms directly from the Field of Play.

Participating Players and Match Officials are not required to enter the Field of Play for the second half together and shall enter the Field of Play directly from their respective dressing rooms for the second half. Close communication and team gatherings (e.g. team scrums in a circle) before kick-off shall be avoided.

22. Post-Match Activities

Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and Match Officials shall leave the Field of Play as soon as possible. Any post-match handshakes, gatherings, or swapping of shirts with other Participating Players or Match Officials shall be avoided.

Participating Teams/Participating Clubs are required to attend the post-Match Media activities as outlined in Section 5 and in accordance with the relevant Competition regulations.

The length of stay in the relevant dressing rooms after the Match shall be minimised. Cool-downs after the Match shall also be limited, subject to the AFC Match Commissioner’s approval.

No dressing room visits from guests shall be allowed after the Match.

Depending on the facilities, a second doping control room may be required to allow physical distancing between the players of each team. Any changes to the anti-doping procedures must be in compliance with the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations.

Departure of the Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and Match Officials shall be separated and staggered in time to ensure physical distancing.

23. Recommendation to Participating Teams/Participating Clubs

Participating Players and Participating Officials must keep in mind that they are role models for their friends, families and fans watching them across the continent. Extra attention will be focused on their behaviour for the Matches held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, the Participating Players and Participating Officials must focus on setting good examples at all times by observing the Preventative Measures as outlined in this AFC MOP and complying with any other medical protocol set out by the AFC and the Host Organisation.



SECTION 4 | HOSTING MATCHES

24. General Requirements for Host Organisations

Host Organisations shall be responsible for implementing the Preventative Measures and the protocols set out in this AFC MOP as well as any other protocols set out by the relevant authorities of the host country. Host Organisations are strongly recommended to engage in ongoing dialogue with the relevant authorities of the host country and, wherever possible, seek exemptions from/agreement on measures which may impact the hosting of Matches.

To this effect, Host Organisations shall:

- complete and submit the “Football-Specific Risk Assessment” to the AFC during the hosting process;
- appoint key personnel in charge of matters related to COVID-19 (e.g. the Medical Response Coordinator and Lead Hygiene Implementation Officer);
- establish a testing regime in consultation with the relevant authorities of the host country, for the Individuals involved in the Match;
- appoint and provide written confirmation from the local COVID-19 testing facilities that the required number of tests can be conducted in accordance with the requirements set out by the AFC;
- provide information on COVID-19 related matters in the host country by completing and distributing the “Match Preparation Information Sheet” (cf. Appendix 1) no later than fourteen (14) days before the relevant Match (or fourteen [14] days before the first Match in the host country for centralised Competitions);
- complete and submit the “COVID-19 Medical Preparedness and Response Plan” (cf. Appendix 2), and;
- no later than from fourteen (14) days prior to the Match, ensure all Individuals involved in the Match implement comprehensive health monitoring activities in accordance with Article 3.

Operational arrangements to be made by the Host Organisation to ensure all Individuals comply with the protocols set out include:

- ensuring face masks and hand sanitisers are readily available where needed;
- regularly disinfecting all facilities and equipment before and after use;
- ensuring all uniforms (e.g. bibs) used on-site are laundered before and after use and are not transferred between different personnel;
- providing signage and posters in key locations;
- clearly communicating new zones and associated timings;
- separating entry and exit routes for each Stakeholder to avoid unnecessary contact;
- including all new protocols on induction training and/or pre-Match briefings as required;
- providing a straightforward method for personnel to report COVID-19 symptoms or request information or advice;

- minimising catering within the Stadium and alternatively providing pre-packaged food and single-use bottles if required, and;
- providing sufficient sanitary facilities and areas for physical distancing to be enforced and pre-allocating these facilities.

25. Football-Specific Risk Assessment

Host Organisations shall use the football-specific risk assessment tool, which has been developed by FIFA and a group of other football bodies with support from the WHO, to address specific challenges related to hosting Matches during the COVID-19 pandemic. The football-specific risk assessment tool will be reviewed and updated regularly as the pandemic evolves and is therefore required to be downloaded by using the following [link](#).

Host Organisations shall be responsible for providing accurate answers to the risk assessment and mitigation checklist, in consultation with the relevant authorities of the host country. The completed football-specific risk assessment tools shall be submitted to the AFC as part of the hosting process.

26. Appointment of Additional Personnel

Host Organisations are required to appoint the following personnel to be responsible for key functions in relation to Matches hosted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Medical Response Coordinator

- has a medical background or is an employee within the medical department of the hosting Member Association;
- liaises with the appointed laboratories conducting the COVID-19 testing for the Match on all medical questions;
- prepares the COVID-19 Medical Preparedness and Response Plan and coordinates its implementation for the Match;
- coordinates risk communication planning, and;
- acts as the point of contact for Team Medical Liaison Officers in relation to the medical preparedness and response for the Match (e.g. testing regime in place).

Lead Hygiene Implementation Officer

- does not require medical background but with appropriate induction training into the role (should be separate from that of the Medical Response Coordinator);
- ensures the operational implementation of the protocols set out, including any COVID-19 testing, and arranges education/monitoring activities as required;
- ensures that arrangements are in place to test individuals in line with the requirements herein, monitors the return of results;
- acts as the point of contact for hygiene concerns for Controlled Access Areas and appointed Hygiene Implementation Officers of each Stakeholder, and;
- reports any matters for consideration regarding the organisation of the Match to the AFC Match Commissioner.

In addition to the above, Host Organisations are strongly encouraged to request for the appointment of additional Hygiene Implementation Officers from the Stakeholders they appoint (e.g. Stadiums, local service providers) to ensure the highest standard of implementation.

Appointed personnel are strongly encouraged to go through the following online training materials provided by WHO and FIFA:

- WHO Training Course: <https://openwho.org/channels/covid-19>
- FIFA Training Module: <https://covid-19-module.fifa.com/>

27. Workforce Management

It is strongly recommended that the number of working personnel at the Stadiums (and Official Training Sites) are kept to an absolute minimum, especially on MD-1 and Match days.

The total number of working personnel will be determined by:

- directives issued by the relevant local authorities;
- the size and configuration of the Stadium (and Official Training Site);
- the space available to conduct operations on the premises while maintaining strict physical distancing and hygiene regimes;
- operational restrictions arising from rezoning in accordance with the requirements stipulated in this AFC MOP, and;
- the additional number of personnel available to implement, monitor and control mandated physical distancing and hygiene regimes.

Host Organisations shall ensure that their appointed working personnel (including any service providers, suppliers and any other appointed third-parties) are aware of all the requirements and protocols which apply to them.

28. Logistical Arrangements

Airport Arrivals and Departures

Host Organisations shall liaise with the relevant authorities of the host country as well as the Participating Teams/Participating Clubs to ensure segregated arrival and departure procedures at airports to avoid unnecessary contact wherever possible. The following measures could be considered:

- use of dedicated arrival and departure gates and lounges;
- drop-off/pick-up of arriving Individuals directly at/from the aircraft;
- priority boarding/group boarding, and;
- dedicated fast-track passage through immigration, customs or security screening.

If possible, these arrangements shall be provided to the AFC Delegation as well.

Domestic Transportation

Host Organisations shall arrange domestic transportation for the Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and AFC Delegation in compliance with the relevant protocols in place.

Measures to be considered are:

- regular disinfection of vehicles before and after each use;
- larger or additional vehicles (e.g. second team bus) to be provided with clear instructions on seats to be used in consideration of physical distancing;
- dedicated vehicles and drivers for each Stakeholder for the duration of their stay in the host country, and;
- proactive health monitoring for drivers before and after their shift, accommodating drivers within the “biomedical bubble” wherever possible to avoid unnecessary contact.

Accommodation

Host Organisations shall ensure hotels providing accommodation for the Participating Teams/ Participating Clubs and AFC Delegation fully comply with all relevant protocols. Recommended practices are:

- regular disinfection of all spaces and surfaces before and after each use;
- face masks and hand sanitisers provided in every room and all other areas;
- exclusive use of facilities to be provided wherever possible, to avoid unnecessary contact with other hotel guests;
- each Individual to be provided a separate room;
- sufficient space for common areas (e.g. dining rooms, meeting rooms) to ensure physical distancing;
- adequate ventilation for all rooms;
- minimum interaction with hotel staff;
- laundry or any other personal equipment, which requires cleaning and/or disinfecting should be placed in individual single-use bags and handed to the responsible person, and;
- meals to be served to tables or by pick-up (not to be served in self-service or in buffet-style).

29. Official Training Sites

Host Organisations shall be responsible for ensuring that the Official Training Sites comply with all relevant protocols.

All spaces and surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Sufficient hand sanitisers should be provided for use by the Participating Teams/Participating Clubs.

Training sessions shall be closed to the media and public to avoid any unnecessary contact. A dedicated entry and exit route shall be provided to the Participating Players and Participating Officials, wherever possible.

Any spa, sauna, wet room, jacuzzi, ice-bath or similar facility should not be used and, if possible, remain closed.

Any personal equipment should be labelled and not be shared with others.

30. Return of Spectators



It is recommended that Matches played during the COVID-19 pandemic are played behind closed doors without spectators to protect the Stakeholders involved and avoid the spread of COVID-19.

However, Host Organisations may propose to host Matches with a limited number of spectators (restricted match) or with spectators in a full capacity (normal match), provided that it fully complies with the protocols set out by the relevant authorities of the host country. A comprehensive risk assessment should be undertaken in consultation with the relevant authorities and submitted to the AFC for its written approval to ensure that the Match can be played in a safe environment.

Matches without Spectators (Closed Match)

The following shall be considered for Matches without spectators:

- no spectator shall be permitted to enter the Stadium;
- a maximum of two (2) guests in the VIP tribune and a maximum of twenty-five (25) guests in the VIP tribune may be exceptionally allowed for the Participating Teams/ Participating Clubs, subject to the protocol set out by the relevant authorities of the host country. For the avoidance of doubt, dressing room visits shall not be allowed in any case;
- a clear communication plan shall be established to inform the fans that the relevant Match will be played behind closed doors. Information shall also be clearly displayed in all relevant facilities and areas (e.g. entrance gates, ticketing booths), with security personnel deployed outside the Stadium to disperse any crowd which may attempt to gather, and;
- the Host Organisation may play recorded audio (e.g. fans cheering, chants, goal celebrations) to create an atmosphere within the Stadium, which shall be subject to the prior written approval of the AFC Match Commissioner. Any recorded audio shall not bear any commercial, religious, political, or offensive message.

Matches with Limited Spectators (Restricted Match)

The following shall be considered for Matches with limited spectators:

- operational measures to ensure the implementation of Preventative Measures for the spectators;
- calculation of capacities for each space upon entry, circulation and exit of spectators;
- Ticketing plan and allocation of Tickets;
- spectator transport concept;
- external communication plan and signage;
- management of spectator movement within the Stadium and offering of spectator facilities (e.g. toilets and concourses);
- management of additional numbers of Match day personnel;
- medical plan, and;
- contingency and evacuation planning.

The return of spectators shall only be considered provided that it is permitted by the relevant authorities of the host country. The involvement of competent and experienced personnel to comprehensively plan and manage the arrangements for spectators is crucial.

The following operational measures are recommended for the delivery of any Match with limited spectators:

- allowing only selected spectators (e.g. members of the fan club, season ticket holders for league matches, etc) instead of public ticket sales;
- maximum number of spectators shall be less than 50% of the total sellable tickets with a recommended ratio of 30%. The allocation of Purchasable/Complimentary Tickets for the AFC, AFC Commercial Rights Partner and Participating Teams/Participating Clubs in accordance with the relevant Competition Regulations shall also be included when calculating the number of spectators;
- seats shall be spread throughout the Stadium in consideration of physical distancing, with seating information on the Tickets;
- the allocation of Tickets for the fans of the away team shall be discussed and agreed between two teams. The Host Organisation shall not reduce the ratio stipulated in the relevant Competition Regulations without any agreement, and;
- announcements shall be made regularly to control and maintain the distance between spectators.

Personnel involved are also recommended to complete the online [WHO COVID-19 Mass Gatherings Risk Assessment Training](#) to better prepare themselves.

The AFC may publish additional guidelines to support the planning process for Matches with spectators.

Matches with Full Spectators (Normal Match)

This scenario consists of a full return of spectators with the normal procedures and activities in place on and off the pitch, with no limitations.

However, it will still be required that the Host Organisation complies with the strictest hygiene and disinfection guidelines.

The continuation of the highest standards of hygiene measures should continue until the emergency health situation is declared to be completely over. Announcements should also be regularly made during Matches to continue the process of educating fans.

SECTION 5 | PARTICIPATING IN MATCHES

31. General Requirements for Participating Teams/Participating Clubs

Participating Teams/Participating Clubs shall be responsible for complying with the Preventative Measures and the protocols set out in this AFC MOP as well as any other protocols set out by the relevant authorities of the host country or any other countries between which they are travelling.

To this effect, Participating Teams/Participating Clubs shall:

- plan their flight itineraries in consideration of the protocols in place (e.g. COVID-19 testing, quarantine measures) and ensure the exact travel itinerary is duly informed to the AFC and the Host Organisation for necessary arrangements;
- no later than from fourteen (14) days prior to the Match, ensure all Individuals involved in the Match implement comprehensive health monitoring activities in accordance with Article 3;
- appoint key personnel in charge of matters related to COVID-19 (e.g. the Team Medical Liaison Officer and Team Hygiene Implementation Officer) and provide their contact details to the Host Organisation and the AFC;
- liaise with the Host Organisation and the relevant authorities of the host countries for all logistical matters (e.g. accommodation, domestic transportation, visa support, health provisions), and;
- submit the COVID-19 testing results and any other medical documentations as required by the AFC and relevant authorities of the Host Organisation.

Operational arrangements to be made by the Participating Teams/Participating Clubs to ensure all Individuals comply with the protocols set out include:

- providing hygienic materials to the members of the Team Official Delegation for use (e.g. face masks, hand sanitisers);
- ensuring all members of the Team Official Delegation fully comply with the Preventative Measures;
- wearing face masks at all times, except for the Participating Players on the Field of Play during the Match and the Participating Players and Participating Officials during any warm-up (pre-Match or during the Match) or training;
- regularly disinfecting all equipment before and after use;
- ensuring all uniforms (e.g. bibs) used on-site are laundered before and after use and are not transferred between different personnel;
- repeatedly informing and educating all new protocols during team meetings, and;
- establishing a clear process for personnel to report COVID-19 symptoms or request information or advice.

32. Appointment of Additional Personnel

Participating Teams/Participating Clubs are required to appoint the following personnel to be responsible for key functions in relation to their participation in Matches during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Team Medical Liaison Officer

- role should be carried out by one of the team's medical staff (e.g. Team Doctor, Physiotherapist) registered in the Team Official Delegation;
- ensures that the testing protocols set out by the AFC and Host Organisation are carried out, and;
- must ensure the test results and any other medical documents as required by the AFC and Host Organisation are submitted in a timely manner.

Team Hygiene Implementation Officer

- is a coordination/administrative role and may be carried out by an official with another function within the Team Official Delegation (e.g. Team Manager, Team Administrator);
- ensures implementation of Preventative Measures as defined in this document at all times, and;
- liaises with the AFC and Host Organisation to ensure necessary measures are in place in relation to COVID-19.

Appointed personnel are strongly encouraged to go through the following online training materials provided by WHO and FIFA:

- WHO Training Course: <https://openwho.org/channels/covid-19>
- FIFA Training Module: <https://covid-19-module.fifa.com/>

33. Return to Training Safety Considerations

Prior to any resumption of training activities, daily health monitoring activities (cf. Article 3) shall be implemented for all Participating Players and Participating Officials. It is strongly recommended that all Individuals involved are tested, as from a psychological perspective it is essential to convince the Participating Players that no case of COVID-19 is present within the team.

Additional measures shall be in place to maintain a safe training environment, such as:

- disinfecting all facilities and equipment before and after use;
- minimising any indoor activity;
- wearing face masks at all times except during the training session;
- avoiding unnecessary physical contact (e.g. handshakes, gathering)
- no sharing of personal equipment (e.g. water bottles, towels);
- avoid spitting and clearing of nasal/respiratory secretions on the pitch, and;
- educating each Individual of the Preventative Measures and all related protocols set out by the relevant authorities of the country.

Special attention is required for any Participating Player who has previously been tested positive. Any such Participating Player should undergo a full medical evaluation and assessment prior to returning to competitive sport such as:

- cardiac screening such as electrocardiogram (ECG), blood test for Troponin and C-Reactive Protein (CRP), Cardiac MRI – Echocardiogram depending on the severity of the past COVID-19 infection;
- kidney test (e.g. urinalysis, creatinine) should also be considered to evaluate kidney functions, and;
- if there is no cardiac concern, the player must proceed to graduated return to training with no high intensity training for one (1) week.

In all cases, the Participating Team/Participating Club shall be fully responsible for any such Participating Player's return to play and shall not hold the AFC or any Host Organisation liable for any medical complication that may develop due to the return of such Participating Player's return to competitive sport. The AFC may request the Participating Team/Participating Club or Participating Player to sign a declaration that the relevant player is fit to participate.

34. Pre-Competition Medical Assessment

Each Participating Team/Participating Club must ensure that their Participating Players undergo a Pre-Competition Medical Assessment ("PCMA") in accordance with the relevant Competition Regulations.

For Matches held during the COVID-19 pandemic, all PCMAs shall be conducted in line with the following:

- COVID-19 testing is mandatory and shall form an essential part of the PCMA;
- all Participating Players and Participating Officials must undergo COVID-19 testing no earlier than seventy-two (72) hours prior to their departure to the Venue, in accordance with the testing requirements set out in Article 4;
- Participating Players and Participating Officials who have tested positive for COVID-19 at any time prior to their departure shall provide such medical supporting documents as required by the AFC and the relevant authorities, as evidence to prove their recovery, and;
- the AFC reserves the right to request any additional documents in all cases.

35. Logistical Arrangements

International and Domestic Travel

The following precautions should be taken when travelling:

- ensure physical distancing is maintained at all times by pre-arranged seating plans and staggered timings for all activities;
- avoid shops, food outlets and all other areas during the travel to minimise unnecessary contact;
- coordinate with the travel service providers to ensure the members of the Team Official Delegation are separated from other guests as much as possible, and;
- wiping surfaces with antiseptic wipes before use.

If possible, these arrangements shall be provided to the AFC Delegation as well.

Accommodation

Recommended practices within the hotel accommodation are:

- early engagement with the hotel and Host Organisation to ensure necessary protocols are in place;
- each Individual to be provided a separate room;
- minimise interaction with others and spend time in their own rooms as much as possible;
- adequately ventilate all rooms;
- laundry or any other personal equipment should not be shared;
- meals to be served to tables or by pick-up (not to be served in self-service or in buffet-style), and;
- not to touch elevator buttons, handrails or door handles with the hand (using the elbow instead).

36. Match Day Requirements

Pre-Departure Temperature Checks

Temperature Checks of all Participating Players and Participating Officials shall be conducted prior to their departure to the Stadium as below:

- 1st check: 10:00hrs on Match day, and;
- 2nd check: prior to their departure from the hotel

Any temperature reading above 37.5°C (or the temperature threshold set out by the relevant authorities of the host country, whichever is lower) shall be reported to the AFC Match Commissioner.

Stadium Temperature Check

All Individuals shall be subjected to a temperature check prior to entering the Stadium.

Any temperature reading above 37.5°C (or the temperature threshold set out by the relevant authorities of the host country, whichever is lower) shall be subjected to a second temperature check which shall take place approximately ten (10) minutes after the first temperature check.

In case the second temperature reading is still higher than the temperature threshold, the relevant Individual shall be escorted to an isolation room/area and be referred to the AFC Medical Officer (or LOC Medical Officer in case the AFC Medical Officer is not present) who will make the decisions on any further action.

37. Training Sessions

Additional measures listed in Article 33 in relation to training sessions shall also be implemented in training sessions throughout the duration of the Competition.

Official Training at the Stadium

Participating Players shall arrive at the Stadium in their training kits and shower at the hotel instead of the Official Training Sites, whenever possible. The use of team dressing rooms will not be allowed, unless otherwise approved by the AFC Match Commissioner.

Training Sessions at the Official Training Sites

The use of dressing rooms or any indoor facilities should be minimised. Participating Players are strongly recommended to arrive at the Official Training Sites in their training kits and shower at the hotel instead of the Official Training Sites whenever possible. Any other activities, such as team meetings and gatherings should take place in the open air.

SECTION 6 | MEDIA & BROADCAST**38. General Requirements for Media and Broadcast Partners**

Media and Broadcast Partners shall be responsible for implementing the Preventative Measures and the protocols set out in this AFC MOP as well as any other protocols set out by the relevant authorities of the host country or any other countries between which they are travelling.

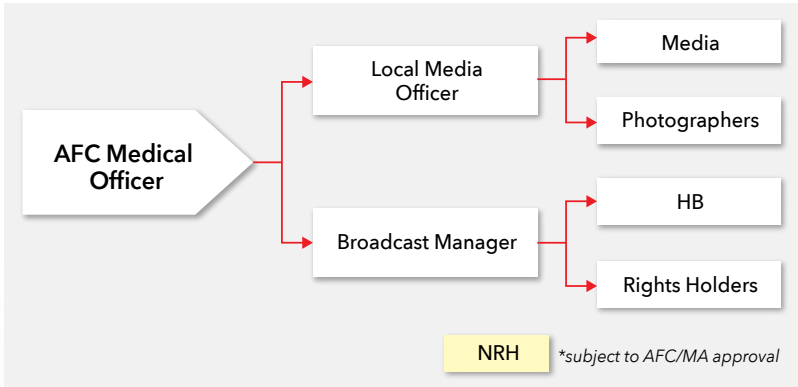
Operational arrangements to be made by the Media and Broadcast Partners to ensure all Individuals comply with the protocols set out include:

- deploying only essential personnel who shall fully comply with the Preventative Measures;
- providing hygienic materials to the members of the Team Official Delegation for use (e.g. face masks, hand sanitisers);
- wearing face masks at all times, except for the commentators while commentating in their designated positions and the presenters while presenting to the camera;
- regularly disinfecting all equipment before and after use;
- ensuring no personal equipment is shared (e.g. headsets, microphones) or transferred between different personnel, and;
- adequately ventilating any enclosed facilities for media and broadcast operations.

39. Points of Liaison

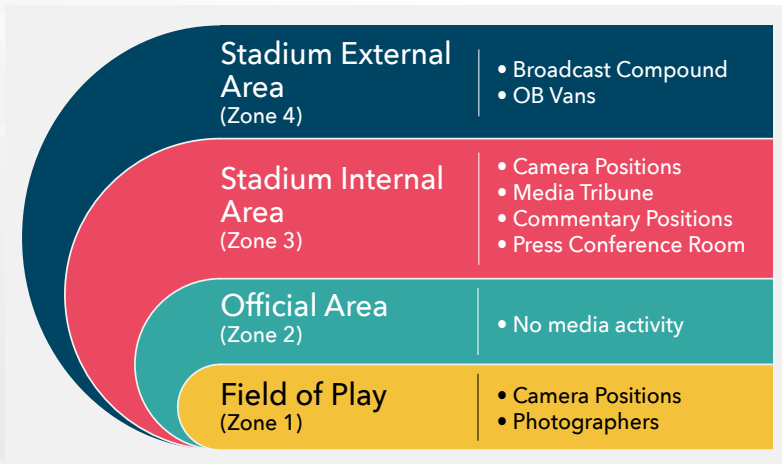
The Local Media Officer (LMO) and the Broadcast Manager (BM) are responsible for the planning and implementation of all Media and Broadcast activities.

The Venue Medical Officer or any other delegated person will also liaise with them and oversee the implementation of all hygiene measures.



40. Zoning

The Stadium will be divided into four (4) zones with the relevant media and broadcast activities to be held as follows:



41. Requisite Personnel for Each Area

Media & Broadcast Operations – Allowed Number of Personnel			
Media / Broadcast Area	Personnel Involved	Scenario	
		Timing	Suggested Numbers
Media Tribune	Media/NRH/RTV	1 Hour before Kick-Off	1 Person per 3 seats (Number to vary across stadiums)
Field of Play	PHO	1 Hour before Kick-Off	30 Persons (including Official PHO)
Field of Play	HB	From 10hrs before KO to KO – 23 Persons During Match – 15 Persons FT to FT + 2hrs – 13 Persons	
Stands	HB	From 10hrs before KO to KO – 26 Persons During Match – 19 Persons FT to FT + 2hrs – 16 Persons	
Stadium Perimeter	HB	From 10hrs before KO to KO – 14 Persons During Match – 14 Persons FT to FT + 2 hrs – 11 Persons	

42. Team Training

All training sessions, except for the Official Training of each Participating Team/Participating Club shall be closed to the Media.

43. MD-1 Media Activities

Standard MD-1 Media Activities such as press conferences and coverage of official training sessions may take place from the designated positions in compliance with the Preventative Measures and the protocols in place.

Stadium media centres will not be operational. If possible, it should be considered whether a fifteen (15) minute streaming of the training session can be provided, or if footage and photos can be disseminated post-training, to minimise the number of Media on-site. Further, opportunities for unmanned camera activities could be explored, as appropriate.

44. Match Day Media Activities

Entry and Access

In addition to the protocols set out in this AFC MOP, it shall be compulsory for the Media to sign the media register list before entering. Any Individual who refuses to sign will be denied entry to the Stadium.

The media entrance gate must be separate from those of any other Stakeholders. If this is not possible due to the Stadium layout, a barricade should be placed and the distance in between shall comply with the physical distancing requirements in place.

The production truck will remain inaccessible to unauthorised personnel not working in it.

In order to prevent congregating of any kind, no catering will be offered. The Stadium media centre will remain closed.

Before Kick-off

Media and broadcast personnel shall only utilise the designated access routes and avoid any queuing or crowding at any point. They must strictly be separated from the Participating Players, Participating Officials and Match Officials.

Only official photographers (as appointed by the AFC) and Host Broadcasters shall be allowed to be present at the designated areas near the team benches during the Pre-Match Ceremony. Other photographers and RTVs should be positioned behind the A-boards directly.

For Host Broadcasters and RTV:

- Head Coach on arrival interview is allowed, provided that physical distancing is maintained and dedicated microphones on stands are used for the Head Coach and interviewer. The microphone shall be disinfected before and after each use;
- team dressing room filming will be strictly prohibited for Matches during COVID-19;
- pre-Match presentations and pre-Match standups are allowed provided that physical distancing is maintained and dedicated microphones are used. The microphone(s) shall be disinfected before and after each use, and;
- allowed to film team line-ups and the Pre-Match Ceremonies.

During the Match

Seats for photographers and seats in the media tribune will be allocated and assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. They shall be positioned to comply with the physical distancing requirements in place. The extension of Media seats utilising adjacent spectators' seats may be considered in case the existing facilities cannot ensure the necessary protocols.

After the Match

Post-Match Press Conferences shall take place with the following arrangements:

- the press conference room shall be set up after taking into account strict physical distancing requirements with a limited number of pre-approved attendees;
- seats shall be positioned in such a way as to avoid cross-flows;
- the overall time spent in the press conference room shall be minimised as much as practicable;
- microphone stands/booms should be used instead of handheld microphones;
- microphones shall be disinfected before and after each use and the interviewee should not touch the microphone, and;
- personal recording devices shall not be placed on the podium.

Mixed zones will not be used for Matches during the COVID-19 pandemic.

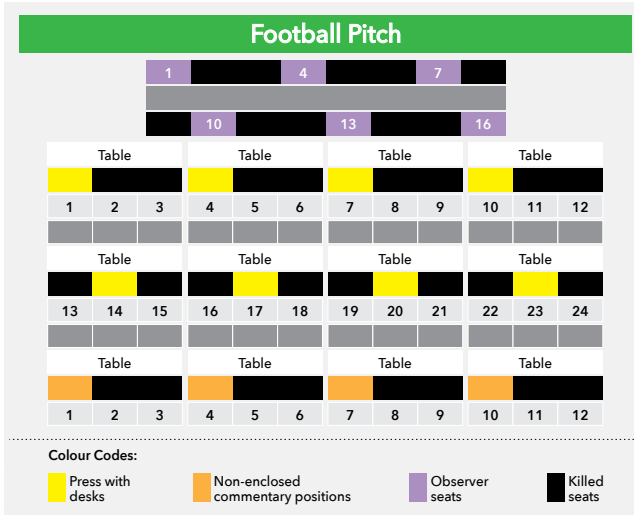
For Host Broadcasters and RTV:

- Flash interviews for the Head Coach and Participating Players shall be allowed outside the Field of Play, provided that physical distancing is maintained and dedicated microphones on stands are used. The microphone shall be disinfected before and after each use.

Media Activities – Summary

Section	Media Personnel	Media Activity	Availability	Remark
Before kick-off	HB	Players' bus drop off	Available	Secure at least 1m distance
		Dressing rooms	Not available	
		Head Coach flash interview	Available	Outside FOP (secure at least 1m distance)
	Photographer	Players' bus drop off/ entrance in to stadium	Available	Official PHO is allowed
	HB/RTV	pre-Match presentations and pre-Match standups	Available	Outside FOP (secure at least 1m distance)
During match	HB	Players' waiting in tunnel	Available	Secure at least 1m distance
	PHO	Line up, tossing coin, etc	Available	Secure at least 1m distance
Post-Match	HB/RTV	Head Coach & Players flash interview	Available	Outside FOP (secure at least 1m distance)
		post-Match presentations and post-Match standups	Available	Outside FOP (secure at least 1m distance)
	Press	Official press conference	Available	Briefing room (secure at least 1m distance)
		Mixed Zone	Not available	

45. Media Tribune Layout

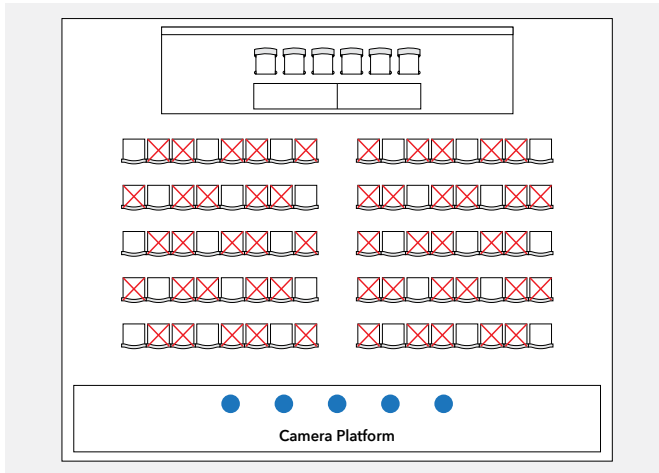


** Preference to be given to Rights Holders and Agencies*

46. PHO Seating Layout

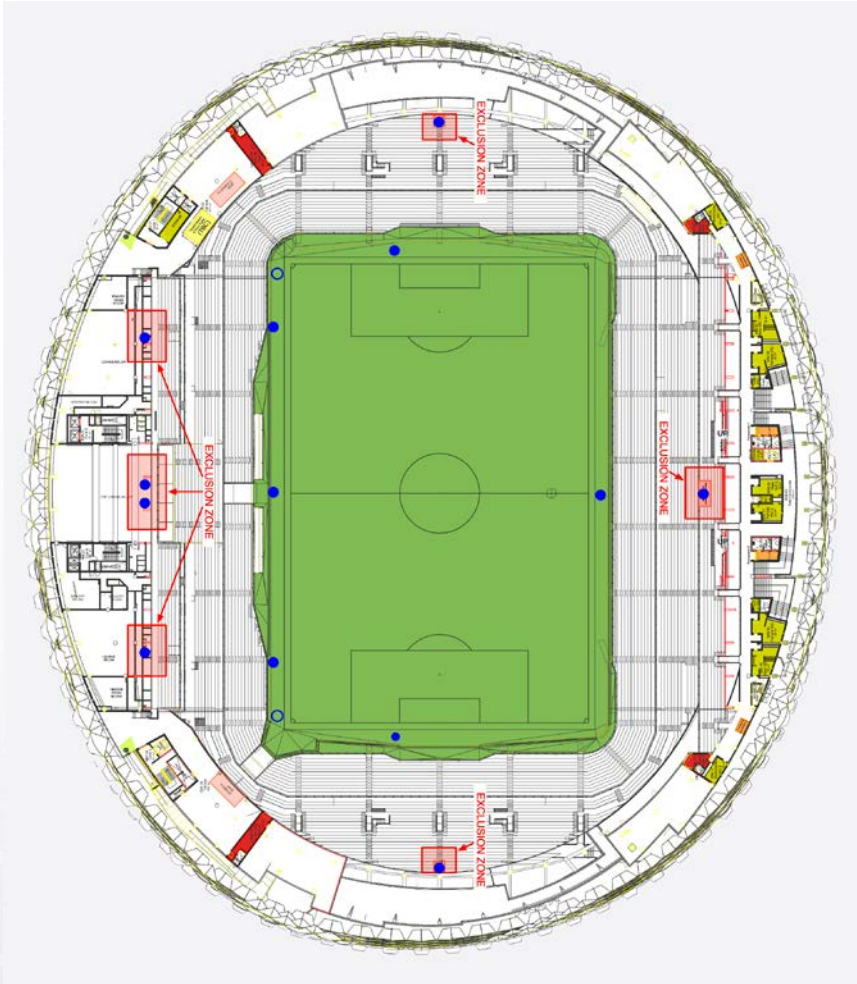


47. PC Room Layout



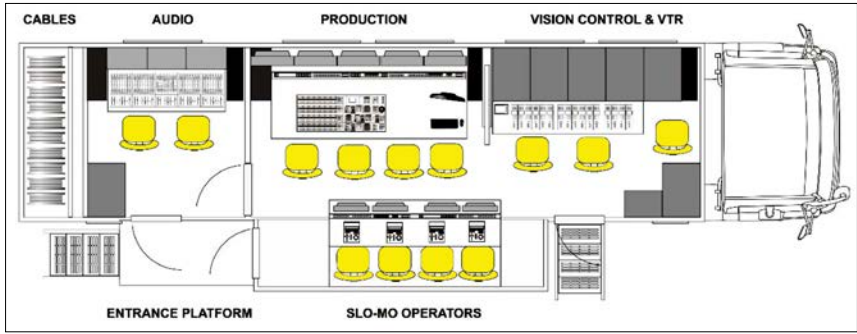
** Preference to be given to Rights Holders and Agencies*

48. Recommended Camera Plan

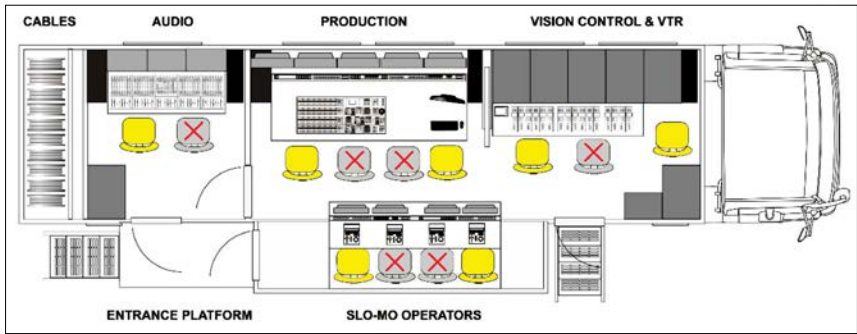


49. OB Van Layout

Usual Layout



Recommended Layout during COVID-19



APPENDIX 1 | TEMPLATE FOR MATCH PREPARATION INFORMATION SHEET

This information sheet should be carefully prepared by the Host Organisation, in consultation with the relevant authorities from the host country. The Host Organisation shall ensure to maintain a continuous dialogue with such authorities of the host country as well as all Stakeholders involved in the Match.

This document should be transmitted no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Match to the following Stakeholders:

- Participating Teams/Participating Clubs (both home and away);
- the AFC, and;
- any other Stakeholder (e.g. local service providers) appointed by the Host Organisation.

Part I - KEY CONTACTS	
Match Details Competition: Date: Home Team: Away Team: Name of Stadium:	
Version/Issue Number Date of Issue: Version of this document:	
KEY CONTACTS IN HOST VENUE	
Host Organisation Medical Response Coordinator Name: Mobile phone (incl. country code): Email address:	
Host Organisation Lead Hygiene Implementation Officer Name: Mobile phone (incl. country code): Email address:	
Stadium Hygiene Implementation Officer (if any) Name: Mobile phone (incl. country code): Email address:	

<p>Appointed COVID-19 Testing Facility Name of facility: Name of main contact: Contact phone (incl. country code): Address: Website: Email address:</p>	
EMERGENCY CONTACTS IN HOST VENUE	
<p>Emergency doctor/medical contact Name: Mobile phone (incl. country code): Email address:</p>	
<p>Nearest hospital for emergencies Name of facility: Name of main contact: Contact phone (incl. country code): Address: Website: Email address:</p>	
<p>Quarantine/Isolation facilities Name of facility: Name of main contact: Contact phone (incl. country code): Address: Website: Email address:</p>	
NATIONAL COVID-19 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	
<p>Name of relevant competent authority (e.g. public health authority)</p>	
<p>Measures to take if an individual shows symptoms of COVID-19, as mandated by the relevant competent authority</p>	
<p>Measures to take if an individual tests positive for COVID-19, as mandated by the relevant competent authority</p>	

Medical facilities equipped to receive individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and require medical assistance	
Other protocols mandated by the relevant competent authority (if any)	
Part II: COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES	
Residual risk score and risk level as per the football-specific risk assessment	Risk score: Risk Level:
Overview of the current COVID-19 situation in the host country and host venue	
Relevant travel restrictions for travel to the host country or host venue	
Relevant movement restrictions in the host country or host venue	
Website (if applicable) of the local authority that provides the latest indication on restrictions	
COMPULSORY PROTOCOLS AT THE STADIUM OR OTHER OFFICIAL SITES	
Arrangements for arrival/ departure to the host country/ host venue	
Domestic Transportation arrangements	
Additional testing arrangements in the host venue (i.e. city)	
Arrangements for checking confirmation of test results	
Stadium: dressing room services (e.g. towels, catering, ice, sanitisers, if any)	
Stadium: relevant match protocols (e.g. zoning, warm-up, substitutes' benches)	
Any other relevant points	

APPENDIX 2 | COVID-19 MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

A COVID-19 Medical Preparedness and Response Plan should be developed in coordination with all relevant authorities of the host country. This plan will play an essential part in the mitigation of risks identified using the football-specific risk assessment tool. The requirements detailed below can also be found in the mitigation checklist contained in the football-specific risk assessment tool.

The plan aims to set out actions to take in case of a medical contingency scenario occurring, and attributes clear roles and responsibilities as part of a multi-agency medical response.

The following constituent parts are to be reflected in this document:

- a description of the status of the current risk situation and local epidemiological situation;
- established screening measures (including temperature checks, screening for COVID-19 symptoms on arrival, health screening questionnaires, contact tracing, travel history questionnaires, etc) in place for Individuals entering a Controlled Access Area in relation to the Match;
- detailed COVID-19 Preventative Measures for all Controlled Access Areas;
- details of appointed suppliers of COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic tests or required certification levels, along with the testing regime for the Match;
- different scenarios of event modification, which have been developed regarding the status of the local and global epidemiological situation; the most likely scenarios are to be developed into contingency plans (e.g. additional travel and/or movement restrictions due to an increase in COVID-19 cases);
- a cooperation protocol/agreement with the relevant authorities of the host country with clear roles and responsibilities for COVID-19 case management, including testing, isolation/quarantine, medical care, and transportation for all Stakeholders;
- a procedure that clearly identifies how any Individual feeling unwell or displaying COVID-19 symptoms while at a Controlled Access Area should report;
- an agreed reporting protocol on who the Host Organisation or Participating Teams/ Participating Clubs should contact in the host country to report confirmed or suspected cases and request advise, testing and epidemiological investigations as required by the local public health authorities;
- a description of the first-aid and other event medical services on-site, their equipment, their roles and responsibilities;
- details of medical teams which are equipped to support Participating Players and other Individuals with acute respiratory symptoms;
- details of isolation rooms/spaces available on all Controlled Access Areas used for the Match;
- procedures in place to quickly isolate suspected/confirmed cases;
- details/locations of and access arrangements with designated medical facilities that can address severe respiratory disorders in patients with COVID-19 infection;
- details of arrangements in place with local public health/transportation services with trained professionals (ambulatory services) available to transport critically ill patients with a severe acute respiratory syndrome to a hospital;

- arrangement for movement of patients out of the country, including those who are asymptomatic, but have tested positive, and;
- protocols in place to notify all relevant Individuals of possible exposure to COVID-19 if there are any suspected or confirmed cases at an official site.

As a minimum, the COVID-19 Medical Preparedness and Response Plan should comply with the requirements set out in the AFC Match Operations Protocol during COVID-19 Pandemic. In case the requirements set out by the relevant authorities of the host country are stricter, those requirements shall prevail and the COVID-19 Medical Preparedness and Response Plan should cover the constituent parts accordingly.



Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.



Cough or sneeze into a tissue or flexed elbow, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching, your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

**THE BEST WAY TO
PROTECT YOURSELF
FROM COVID-19**



Maintain social distancing and stay at least 1 – 2 meters away from other people.



When sick, consult your health care provider and inform your team doctor.



Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects people frequently touch.



Wear a face mask when you are in crowded places and if you have respiratory symptoms.



HEALTH PROTOCOL RETURN TO TRAINING DURING THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1 Before Training



- 1 Do a self-check (temperature and monitoring for other symptoms) to ensure you are well. If you are not well, do not go to training and instead inform your team doctor/health provider and seek advice.



- 2 Prepare your mask, hand sanitiser, wipes, tissues, and own water bottle.



- 3 Bring extra clothes for changing after training.



- 4 Upon arrival for training, team doctor should check player's temperature.



- 5 Education on infection control must be included in the pre-training briefing.



- 6 Team personnel to ensure equipment are rigorously cleaned and disinfected.



HEALTH PROTOCOL RETURN TO TRAINING DURING THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2 During Training



- 1** Players should not share clothing, towels, bar soap or other personal items.



- 2** Avoid spitting and clearing of nasal/respiratory secretions on the pitch during training and play.



- 3** Players should not share water bottle. Strictly follow infection control measures (wash hands or use hand sanitiser, facial tissues, facial coverings, etc.).



- 4** Avoid touching door handles, railing & lift button, instead, use elbow and disinfect your hands when touching commonly touched areas.



- 5** No handshake, hugging, cheek to cheek, high five or any other physical contact. Greet with hello, nod or wave.



HEALTH PROTOCOL RETURN TO TRAINING DURING THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

3 After Training



- 1 Players should separate their dirty clothes in a disposable bag and use fresh clothes when leaving the training site.



- 2 Ensure all equipment are rigorously cleaned and disinfected after training. Proper disposal of used waste materials after training.



- 3 Use mask when leaving the training site to return home or place of stay. If you are staying at home, do not expose yourself to your family before cleaning and sanitising.



- 4 Disinfect all your training apparel (e.g. bag, shoes, gloves etc.) and wash clothes immediately.



- 5 Take a shower, clean oneself from head to toe.



- 6 Eat balanced diet and sleep 8 – 10 hours to boost your immunity

PREVENTION OF COVID-19 MESSAGES

FOOTBALL

Follow
& abide by
Government &
WHO
Regulations/
Guidelines

Observe
social
distancing
and avoid
crowded
places

Observe
personal
hygiene:
wash hands
with soap or
use alcohol
sanitisers

To
use PPE:
face masks,
gloves if
necessary

Break
the chain
of infection

Always
seek medical
evaluation if you
have symptoms
of fever, sore
throat, cough or
breathing
difficulty

Lifestyle
changes: eat
a healthy diet,
sleep 8-10
hours,
exercise

Living
Football,
Living Life &
Safety



WEAR A PROTECTIVE MASK



DISINFECT SURFACES



WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY



KEEP DISTANCE FROM SICK PEOPLE



AVOID CROWDED PLACES



AVOID CONTAMINATED OBJECTS

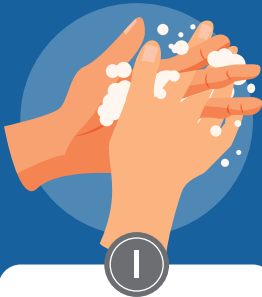


WEAR GLOVES

KEEP HANDS CLEAN



#BreakTheChain of COVID-19 infections



1
Rub hands palm to palm



2
Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa



3
Palm to palm with fingers interlaced



4
Back of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



5
Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa



6
Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa

Asian Football Confederation

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MASK UP

#BreakTheChain of COVID-19 infections

Mask up for protection

Wearing a face mask can protect you and others from COVID-19. Even with a mask, remember to practise social distancing - at least a metre apart - and wash your hands regularly and thoroughly. Avoid touching the face and mask to prevent infection and observe the dos and don'ts to keep you safe.

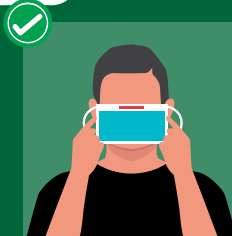
DOs



Clean your hands before touching the mask



Ensure there are no gaps at the sides of the mask

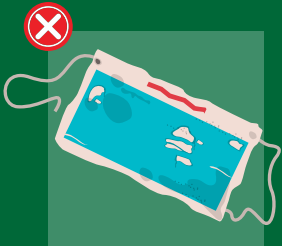


Hold the straps behind the ears or head when removing the mask



Wash the reusable mask in soap and hot water every day

DON'Ts



Don't use a damaged or dirty mask



Never use a loose mask



Don't wear the mask under the nose, mouth or chin



Never share the mask with others

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STOP & SANITISE

#BreakTheChain of COVID-19 infections

Reduce the Spread of Infection



How to use a Hand Sanitiser



1
Dispense the hand sanitiser on your palms



2
Rub well over palms, back of hands and fingernails until dry



3
Waterless use for refreshingly clean hands

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