



## ***FIDE WORLD WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2021***

### ***Action plan to prevent contagion from Covid-19***

#### ***1. Objective:***

The objective of this protocol is the prevention and mitigation of Covid-19 infections during the development of chess competition and all other events that will take place during the FIDE WORLD WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2021 (WWTC 2021).

This document sets out guidelines and instructions to ensure the development of this chess competition and other events (parallel to the tournament) with the maximum possible security to prevent infections, and always in accordance with the security measures established by the Generalitat of Catalonia and the Government of Spain that are in force at the time of holding these competitions and events.

Given that WWTC 2021 takes place within the Hotel Meliá Sitges, this protocol only refers to the specific aspects of the chess tournament and parallel activities that take place during the event. All other aspects related to the prevention of Covid-19 that have to do with the general spaces and services of the property (bar and restaurants, swimming pool, toilets, elevators, breakfast, lunch and dinner services, other common spaces, etc.) They are already detailed in the action plan against the Covid-19 disease of these hotels and, therefore, they are not the subject of this document nor are they specifically detailed in the following pages. In any case, it should be noted that these hotels, as well as the hotels that host the national teams, comply with all current regulations applicable to the prevention of contagion by Covid-19.



## **2. General principles:**

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This protocol is based on the following principles:

- 2.1. Hierarchy of regulations: the measures detailed in this document will be applicable as long as the activities covered can be carried out in accordance with the regulations issued by the local health authorities. Therefore, this protocol does not authorize, by itself, the carrying out of any activity whose development could contravene the aforementioned regulations.
- 2.2. Principle of prudence: in the interpretation and application of this action plan, the hotel staff, the organization, arbiters, participants and companions must respect the principle of prudence. Thus, when faced with two different options in the same situation, the one that guarantees the best protection against possible infections will always be chosen.
- 2.3. Preferential use of telematics means: all the procedures and steps that can be taken by telematics means will be carried out by these means. In any case, should this not be possible, maintenance of social security distance must be observed.
- 2.4. Individual responsibility: the application and monitoring of the measures of this action protocol are the responsibility of each and every one of the participants and companions who may intervene in each of the activities carried out. In this sense, given that not taking into account the recommended hygiene and health measures may pose a risk for all participants and companions, the organizers and the management of WWTC 2021 reserve the right to sanction and/or expel from the tournament and hotels to anyone who may engage in this behavior.

## **3. Initial considerations**

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### **3.1. Communication and information**

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The Tournament Director, Mr. Jordi Magem, undertakes to communicate and inform of this action plan to anyone who participates, in one way or another, in WWTC 2021 and, in particular, to the players, arbiters and the management of the hotels, who in turn will inform employees in charge.



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### **3.2. Supervision of the plan**

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The Tournament Director will be the person designated as responsible for ensuring compliance with the measures established in this action plan, as well as those in force in the applicable health regulations at all times. He will supervise the correct application of this protocol and note the incidents that may arise.

### **3.3. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)**

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Staff (such as arbiters, hotel staff or journalists) and volunteers (such as the tournament director and the organization's staff) who participate in the development of the different activities will be provided with masks. This material will be appropriate for the envisaged functions.

## **4. Rules for setting up playing and activity halls**

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In order to guarantee a sufficient and safe distance between the participants of the WWTC 2021 and of all other activities that take place during the competition, some rules are established for the assembly of rooms, which are necessarily linked to rules of personal protection:

### **4.1. Playing hall:**

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Prior to the start of each round of the WWTC 2021, and before authorizing entrance to any participant, the playing halls, the furniture (chairs and tables) and the material necessary for the games will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

- 4.1.1. The tables will be at least 75 cm wide (the width being understood as the space between the two players in the same game). In the case of tables intended for a single board, they will be at least 75 cm long.
- 4.1.2. The tables can be assembled individually or by joining several tables together, side by side (forming a row). In any case, a safety distance of 1.5 m between the chess boards must always be respected.



- 4.1.3. The tables or lines of tables will be distributed in rows inside the playing halls in such a way that, between one row of tables and the next, there will be a free space of at least 1.5 m. between players of different games (provided that they are correctly seated, which the refereeing team will ensure).
- 4.1.4. The tables will be covered with tablecloths made of a material that allows the surface of these tables to be easily disinfected with hydroalcoholic gel or virucidal products that have been approved by the applicable health regulations.
- 4.1.5. The arbiters and assistants will have tables and chairs located in the area farthest from the game tables and, in any case, always respecting a minimum distance of 2 m. from the nearest game table.

#### **4.2. Activity rooms:**

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As in the case of playing hall, the space in which the event is to take place, as well as the equipment that could be used during it, will be cleaned and disinfected before the start of the event.

- 4.2.1. In those activities related to catering, tables for a maximum of 6 people will be established.
- 4.2.2. Tables shall be assembled in an isolated manner, and a safety distance of 1.5 m. between people (correctly seated) shall always be respected.
- 4.2.3. For activities where only chairs are required (e.g. conferences, films, teaching sessions or award ceremonies), the safety distance between chairs will be of 1.5 m.

#### **4.3. Staff:**

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The staff in charge of assembling and dismantling the different spaces must observe the applicable labour regulations at all times, especially those related to the prevention of Covid-19, so - among other things - they will wear a mask, use hydroalcoholic gel and maintain a safe distance (as far as it is possible) while carrying out their work.



During the assembly and disassembly of the rooms, in addition to the necessary technical and maintenance staff, it will only be permitted the presence - in case it becomes necessary - of the persons responsible for supervising these tasks, of and the organization staff of the competition.

#### ***4.4. Mandatory materials:***

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In addition to the material necessary for the development of the games or parallel activities, a sufficient number of gel or hydroalcoholic solution dispensers will be available in all the halls, especially at the entrances and exits. The organization will guarantee the supply of this gel or hydroalcoholic solution during all days of the competition.

### ***5. Adopted preventive measures***

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- 5.1. Members of all delegations will be required to bring a PCR test with a negative result upon arrival in Spain, no earlier than 72 hours.
- 5.2. During the competition, Monday 27th and Thursday 30th, Covid tests will also be carried out to ensure the development of the event.
- 5.3. The activity developed (tournament games or side activities) will be done with the capacity determined by the health authorities and, anyway, allowing to maintain the established security measures.
- 5.4. Playing hall will not be open to the public and only players, team captains, arbiters, technical and maintenance staff and members of the organization will be allowed to enter.
- 5.5. The accesses and exits to the space where each activity takes place will be arranged with elements that help to avoid the formation of agglomerations. To this end, if necessary, entrance shifts will be established to access the halls.
- 5.6. Any person who presents symptoms related to Covid-19 will not be able to access the playing hall where each activity takes place. In this sense, the temperature will be taken from all participants before entering the playing hall.



- 5.7. Given the permanent and prolonged proximity between participants of the competition, the use of a mask during chess games will be mandatory, except for players sitting over the board and people who present some kind of ailment or respiratory difficulty that may be aggravated by the use of the mask (presenting the corresponding medical justification).
- 5.8. The use of a mask will also be mandatory for each and every one attending the tournament games, whether they are workers, volunteers, arbiters and technicians.
- 5.9. In case of carrying provisioning, players must keep them in a bag that they must carry for this purpose, and they may only take them out of the bag when they are consuming them (which must be outside the playing hall, except for beverages). They may leave bottles next to the board while the consumption is taking place, and they must put back into the bag what is left over, wrappings, containers, etc., once the refreshments have finished. Essential personal effects that a player must take with him (such as medication, tissues and other personal hygiene items) must be in the same bag.
- 5.10. The playing hall and those where other activities take place during the competition will be sufficiently ventilated according to the characteristics of the space. Before and after the start of the games, all the doors and windows of each room will be left open for at least 30 minutes. Moreover, during the games or activities, part of them will be left open to ensure the ventilation of the environment.
- 5.11. Before the start of the games and at the end of them, the players will not be able to shake hands. If they want to greet each other, they will have to do this by using a fist salute, nodding or putting their hands to their chests. or with some similar gesture.
- 5.12. Players must leave the playing hall immediately after finishing their games, avoiding unnecessary stays in that playing hall. The same principle will be observed at the end of other activities of the competition.
- 5.13. In order to avoid crowding, there will be no display panels with pairings, results, classifications, etc. All the information of the tournament will be published on the official website of the competition, being compulsory to check it there. In any case, for information purposes, that information will be sent daily to the captains by e-mail and WhatsApp.



- 5.14. The awards will be given individually, and all attendees must - as at any other time - wear masks. All the necessary material that forms part of the awards' ceremony (such as cups, medals, gifts, etc.) will be disinfected before delivery. Any physical contact during the handover, such as shaking hands, hugging or kissing, is prohibited.
- 5.15. The awarded players and teams will be able to take off their masks punctually, in the area specially prepared for this purpose (with the poster with the logos of the competition, sponsors and others) so that they can be photographed individually with the trophy by photographers who will maintain the corresponding safety distance. Once the photo has been taken, the player will have to put the mask back on and make way for the next awarded player.
- 5.16. During the development of the competition there will be a doctor or a health coordinator, whose attendance will not be necessary in general, but with whom contact will be ensured for the attention of issues that may arise from the transmissibility of the Covid-19 during the development of the event.
- 5.17. If a person presents symptoms compatible with the Covid-19 during the competition, he or she will have to immediately inform the organization. There will be a contingency protocol for people with symptoms, as established by the competent health authorities at all times. See chapter 7 below.

## **6. Recommendations**

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### **6.1. Before and after the side activities:**

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It is recommended that participants make individual journeys or are accompanied exclusively with family members or persons with whom they share accommodation. Group movement throughout the competition should be avoided as much as possible and, if it is unavoidable, each player should always wear a protective mask during the trip. Similarly, whenever it is possible, the safety distance between people should be respected during such journeys. In particular, you should try to avoid crowding at the entrance and exit of the different halls.

Likewise, it is recommended that hands are washed regularly and constantly with soap and water, as well as it is recommended the use of hydroalcoholic gel



as often as possible, especially when entering and leaving the playing hall and those halls where parallel events are held.

As for the sports material and equipment of each player, it is recommended that it is disinfected before each use, in accordance with the instructions agreed upon and published by the health authorities. Likewise, it is recommended that clothes are washed daily in hot water at more than 60 °C.

### ***6.2. During the side activities:***

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As far as possible, it is recommended that participants maintain a safe distance and avoid contact with other participants unless they share accommodation or they are part of their stable coexistence group.

As mentioned on several occasions throughout this protocol, regular and constant hand washing with soap and water is recommended, as well as the use of hydroalcoholic gel as often as possible.

## ***7. Contingency protocol for people with symptoms or a positive PCR***

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- 7.1. In the event that a person participating in the event or related to it should present symptoms compatible with the Covid-19 during the competition, he/she must quickly inform the Tournament Director so that the staff can inform the doctor or health coordinator appointed for the competition, who will contact the health authorities through the corresponding health center or the Covid-19 telephone number for Catalonia (112).
- 7.2. If PCR's test result is positive, the health authorities will determine, depending on their condition and their symptoms, if the person should be isolated or, on the contrary, should be enrolled in a health center.
- 7.3. Information will be gathered on the person's close contacts, and a report will be drawn up with them. In the case of players, this report must contain, at least, the player's opponents that can be found in the file of pairings generated by the computer system that manages the tournament. The report shall also include the persons with whom the player has shared a room, if any, from the travel log of the hotel or accommodation in which the player is staying.





7.4. Isolation of the person with symptoms of Covid-19 (who must wear a mask at all times) will be arranged with the official hotel, which will have a room prepared to isolate persons with symptoms while the next steps are determined. This room will be properly ventilated. In case of being a player, this person must leave the competition immediately, if it is determined by the competent health authorities.

7.5. In the extreme case where the health authorities decree the suspension of the competition:

7.4.1. All participants will be informed of this circumstance, with recommendations to return to their homes and maintain a period of confinement (quarantine) and monitoring of their respective health status. They must contact the health authorities in their places of origin if symptoms compatible with the disease appear.

7.4.2. A contact email will be set up with the competition organization so that players who have taken part in the competition can communicate if they develop symptoms within 14 days of being suspended from the competition. The organization will inform the health authorities of any information received in this way.

7.4.3. All sports' equipment shall be thoroughly cleaned and marked for storage and shall remain unused for at least two weeks.

## **8. Final notes**

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8.1. The distances established in this document, as well as the number of people who can sit together at the tables, and other prevention regulations against Covid-19 contained in this protocol, will always be those determined in the applicable health regulations at the time of the event, if those regulations are different from the ones contained in this protocol.

8.2. This protocol may be modified and extended in accordance with the prescriptions of the competent authorities, as well as based on the experience that can be acquired in the development of chess tournaments organized by other entities and FIDE itself.



Sitges (Barcelona), September 17th, 2021