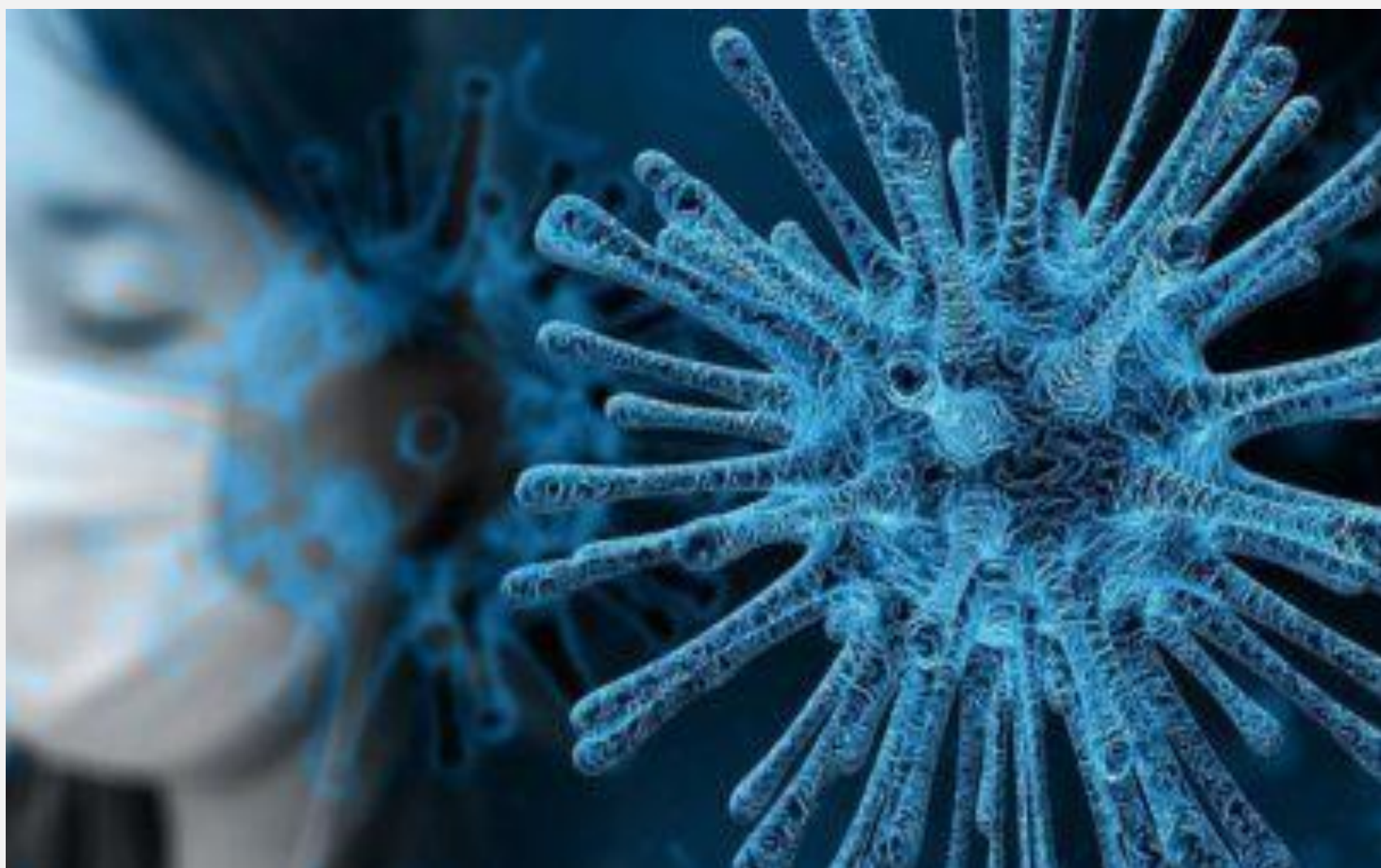


Operating Policy for 2021 EKO
European Karate Championship
for adults (WKO) during the
outbreak of COVID 19



TBILISI 2021



Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide regulations to the NMBs, organizers, officials, staff and athletes on containing risks of COVID-19 transmission associated with 2021 EKO European Karate Championship for adults (WKO).

Background

2021 EKO European Karate Championship for adults (WKO) belong to the group of Mass Gathering events typified by the WHO. Mass gatherings are events characterized by the concentration of people at a specific location for a specific purpose over a set period that has the potential to strain the planning and response resources of the host.¹

COVID-19 is transmitted from person to person through respiratory droplets and contact with contaminated surfaces, and the risk of transmission appears to be proportional to the closeness (less than 1 meter) and frequency of the interaction between an infected individual and an individual who is not infected.²

Karate risk group

Higher risk sports include contact sports. Physical and close contacts increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19³. For greater clarity Karate belongs to the higher risksports.

Risk assessment exercise for mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19

The risk assessment should be undertaken by local and national public health authorities and event organizers with input from other relevant authorities (emergencies, transport, safety, security etc.) based on the following considerations:

- I. **The normative and epidemiological context in which the event takes place** - the host country's existing regulations on public health and social measures (PHSM)⁴ to control the spread of COVID-19, which reflects the intensity of transmission in the area;
- II. **Evaluation of risk factors associated with the event** - appraisal of the likelihood that the event may contribute to the spread of COVID-19 and that the health services capacity may be exceeded by such spread;
- III. **Capacity to apply prevention and control measures** - the ability to implement actions that can reduce the risks associated with the event.⁴

Planning phase

- Liaison with all relevant stakeholders (health authorities, other authorities, partners)
- Development of a preparedness and response plan
- Assessment of capacities and resources (human resources, PPE- Personal Protective Equipment etc.)

¹ World Health Organization. Public health for mass gatherings: key considerations (Interim guidance)

² World Health Organization. Modes of transmission of virus causing COVID-19: implications for IPC precaution recommendations (Scientific brief)

³ World Health Organization. Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19

⁴ World Health Organization. Overview of public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19 (Interim Guidance)

- Risk communication
- Surveillance of participants, aimed at detecting and managing individuals developing symptoms during the event.

Post-event phase

During the post-event phase, the organizer and COVID-Coordinator has to stay in close contact with the health authorities and the participants of the event in order to be able to get into contact with them and to actively communicate any happening after the event, if necessary.

Determination of the overall risk of the mass gathering

WHO has developed tools that assign a numerical score to each risk factor and control measures, thus allowing for the calculation of a resulting overall risk score, which corresponds to a defined risk category and to a recommendation for the event.⁵

Organizer's compliance and Enforcement

The responsibility that the event fulfills the requirements of this operating policy will be with NMB and the subsidiary responsibility will be with the event organizer. Both can be held liable for not meeting these requirements. Organizer will be the authority before and during the competition to enforce these regulations. Organizer will also carry responsibility to enforce these regulations.

National regulations/National Authorities

Part of this Operating Policy can be modified only according to the Georgian National Health authority.

Operational phase

- Modification of the event related to:
 - the venue
 - the participants
 - duration

⁵ World Health Organization. Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19. (Interim guidance)



1. General

- 1.1 Citizens of all countries, traveling by air from any country may enter Georgia if they present the document confirming the full course (two doses) of any COVID-19 vaccination at the border checkpoints of Georgia.
- * Except for any person coming from the Republic of India (regardless of citizenship and full course of vaccination) as well as persons who have a history of travel to the Republic of India during the last 14 days. They are subject to a negative result of the PCR test conducted in the last 72 hours before the visit to Georgia at the border and then - a mandatory 14-day quarantine (in the case of an alien, at his own expense). In another case, at the border, he must show the answer to the PCR test, which was done no more than 72 hours before entering Georgia.
- 1.2 A person must complete an online application at least 10 days before visiting Georgia:
https://registration.gov.ge/pub/form/8_protocol_for_arrivals_in_georgia/tk6157/
- 1.3 Upon arrival in Georgia, at the expense of the organizer, everyone will undergo PCR testing.
- 1.4 On competition days, all members of the delegation will take a quick COVID 19 test, which will be provided by the organizer.
- 1.5 If necessary, when returning from Georgia, the delegations will undergo a PCR test, the cost of which is 30 euros and is paid by the delegation individually.
- 1.6 Each delegation is obliged to fill out the official hotel booking form and provide the organizers with:
<https://ec2021.ge/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Hotel-Booking-Form-EC-2021.doc>

Physical Distancing

- 1.7 Physical separating of athletes, officials, spectators and staff **at least 1 meter** during the whole event and in all circumstances with following exceptions:
- 1.7.1 Components of the same couple
 - 1.7.2 Members of the same Formation team
 - 1.7.3 Members of the same family or living in the same household
 - 1.7.4 Medical staff while performing their duties

PPE-Personal Protective Equipment

- 1.8 All Competition staff, without exception, will wear PPE-Personal Protective Equipment:
- 1.8.1 Medical mask
- 1.9 Organizer strongly suggest the use of medical masks during the whole event by all:
- Athletes, with exception: 1) on the tatami, 2) during warm up in the warm up area
 - Referees, with exception during judging, always maintaining the physical distance with other officials and athletes
 - Technical staff - security, TV crew, lighting staff, etc.
- 1.10 The organizer will have enough medical masks in stock to be able to distribute.

Disinfection

- 1.11 Provide disinfectant wipes and advise venue cleaning staff to disinfect door handles, toilet handles, bathroom faucet handles, etc. in all areas several times per day.
- 1.12 Cleaning and disinfection of all toilets of the venue will be performed at least 3 times per day.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer

- 1.13 Every individual entering the competition venue including staff, athletes, officials and spectators will use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 1.14 Organizer shall ensure availability to hand washing: soap and water and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer at multiple locations in the event facility:
- 1.14.1 Venue entrance
 - 1.14.2 Dressing rooms
 - 1.14.3 Toilets
 - 1.14.4 Check-in and registration areas



2. Risk Communication and Awareness

- 2.1. The event organizer shall ensure public health advice available before and during the event to all athletes, staff, officials and spectators:

Before

- 2.2. By sending email communication and/or publishing on the official website all national health authority requirements to enter, stay and leave the country
- 2.3. If a Pre-Travel Medical Certificate for athletes and officials is required by the local health authorities this medical certificate must be issued in English no later than 72 hours before the athletes' travel day to the event
- 2.4. The organizer will provide information by publishing on the official website direction and phone number of the health facility in case an athlete or official feel unwell during the travel
- 2.5. Publish this Operating Policy on the competition official website

During

- 2.6. To inform athletes, officials, spectators and staff about ways in which they can prevent themselves from getting infected with COVID-19 and passing the virus to others
- 2.7. By placing signs/posters 1) at the entrance to the venue; 2) in all dressing rooms (for athletes, staff and officials); 3) at the entrance to the toilet and 4) other convenient places
- 2.8. Develop and make available risk communication on:
- clinical features of COVID-19 and preventive measures, especially respiratory etiquette and hand-hygiene practices
 - criteria for asking individuals with symptoms to leave the venue or retreat to a designated area
 - information on physical distancing
 - information on the use of face covering and medical masks
 - the meaning and practical implications of quarantine, self-isolation and self-monitoring in the context of the event, e.g. not attending
 - avoid shaking hands, hugging and kissing
 - athletes should be advised not to touch their own nose or mouth

3. Planning Phase

Covid-Coordinator

- 3.1. Covid-Coordinator must be appointed as a part of the competition staff.
- 3.2. Covid-Coordinator could be any person who has passed online course of the WHO, the only required education is on the following link¹⁷ <https://openwho.org/courses/WHO-COVID-19-mass-gatherings-risk-assessment-training>. WHO's certificate will be issued once the online course is completed. Education is free of charge.
- 3.3. Covid-Coordinator will coordinate all actions to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread. Covid-Coordinator will help the organizer to comply with all health requirements described in this regulation and will be connected with the health authorities.
- 3.4. Covid-Coordinator and/or organizer will collect contact data of: athletes, officials, competition staff, guests and spectators. Contact data will be saved for 28 days after the event and will be provided at first requirement of the Local Health Authorities only. All collected data will be deleted no later than 3 months after the event.
- 3.5. Liaison with all relevant stakeholders will be established by Covid-Coordinator with:
- Health authorities
 - Other authorities
 - Partners

Event schedule

- 3.6. The whole event schedule should be organized in that way as to avoid the accumulation of a large number of people at one time and to ensure rotation/circulation



- 3.7. Any party or similar before and after the competition should not be planned so as to minimize the opportunities of mass gathering in small spaces.

Quarantine and isolation

- 3.8. Organizer and Covid-Coordinator together with health authorities will determine where an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 will be cared for and isolated
- 3.9. Organizer and Covid-Coordinator together with health authorities will determine where confirmed cases will be quarantined
- 3.10. Organizer and Covid-Coordinator together with health authorities will predetermine emergency contacts with local health authorities
- 3.11. The organizer shall prepare special areas, where suspected cases of Covid-infections can be handled. An isolation room/space identified to hold any symptomatic person found at the venue while awaiting patient transport to a medical facility is necessary. The isolation area shall be equipped with the necessary supplies to facilitate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

4. Transfers

Airport transfers

- 4.1. The organizer must plan to minimize the mixing of athletes and/or officials from different countries during airport transfers. If not possible, there should always be empty seats between the different delegations and medical masks should be used.

Local transfers

- 4.2. The organizer must minimize the spread of COVID-19 during local transportation by asking athletes and officials using masks and/or keep free seats to comply with physical distance (see 1.7)

5. Spectators and guests

- 5.1. Assigned seats should be considered, in order to avoid standing tickets as the physical distance is difficult to enforce. This point will be subject to the venue structure and possibility.
- 5.2. Seats in the venue will be subject to physical distance (see 1.7)
- 5.3. The entrance for spectators will be separated locally from the check-in area for athletes, officials and staff. This point will be subject to the venue structure and possibility.
- 5.4. Competition staff will take all necessary measures to organize spectators in the queue with physical distance (see 1.7) by advising and/or marking the floor.

Spectators not allowed to enter the venue

- 5.5. Spectators with flu-like symptoms will not be allowed to enter the venue
- 5.6. Spectators with respiratory disease, comorbidities, medication, allergies will be asked not to attend the event, as they constitute a high-risk population
- 5.7. Spectators who have had contact with a COVID-19 infected individual in the last 14 days are not allowed to enter the venue. The personal responsibility needs to be preconditioned at this point.

6. Competition venue

- 6.1. The organizer will reduce the maximum spectators capacity of the venue to ensure the physical distance requirements (see 1.7)
- 6.2. The organizer will ensure proper ventilation of the competition venue.
- 6.3. All working spaces and provided facilities must be organized in a way that physical distancing (see 1.7) is respected
- 6.4. Wherever possible, narrow paths (corridors, stairways, etc.) must be designed as one-way paths and marked accordingly.
- 6.5. Flows of visitors and athletes must be designed and marked on the floor/wall in such a way that no gathering of large groups of people occurs.
- 6.6. Maximum number of doors to enter and exit the venue will be used



- 6.7. An isolation room/space shall be identified to hold any symptomatic person found at the venue while awaiting patient transport to a medical facility is necessary
- 6.8. It is strongly suggested to provide all competition venue entries with disinfection mat/carpet
- 6.9. It is strongly suggested to provide/install contactless thermometer at all entries to the Competition Venue. All those attendants (Athletes, Officials, Staff and Spectators) whose temperature is 38°C or higher will not be able to enter Competition Venue.

7. Registration

- 7.1. The organizer will enable online and/or wireless payment methods. Payments in banknotes and coins will be reduced to the minimum
- 7.2. Only online registration will be allowed
- 7.3. Athletes will be advised during the process of the registration (by email and/or official website that they will be not allowed to enter their dressing room earlier than 2 hours before their first round in order to avoid crowds of people. Also, athletes will be asked to use as minimum as possible the dressing room and leave as soon as their competition finished to avoid crowds of people.

8. Check-in

- 8.1. Only one athlete per team is allowed at the registration area to pick up the number
- 8.2. According to the competition facilities and the amount of participating athletes more than one check-in desks will be enabled with sufficient distance from each other. Distance between staff members will be according to point 1.7
- 8.3. Competition staff will take all necessary measures to organize athletes in the queue with physical separation described in point 1.7 by advising and/or marking the floor
- 8.4. Only single-use competition numbers will be used

9. Athletes' health status

- 9.1. Athletes with fever and/or flu-like symptoms, as well as athletes who have had contact with a COVID-19 infected individual in the last 14 days, are not allowed to enter the venue. They will be directed to the health facilities
- 9.2. Medical staff at the competition venue will check athletes for flu-like symptoms and temperature if necessary. Any temperatures above 38°C should be reported to the medical services and Organizer/Covid-Coordinator
- 9.3. Athletes will not share any personal belongings like towels, bottled water, shoe brush, makeup etc.

10. Athletes dressing rooms

Timetable:

- 10.1. Organizer will prepare event schedule in order to prevent mass gatherings of the athletes in the dressing rooms

Arrival:

- 10.2. Organizer will define the area for the athletes in the auditorium (spectator area). This area will be clearly separated from other spectators if the competition venue structure allows this separation.

Cleaning, ventilation and disinfection:

- 10.3. The athletes dressing rooms will be cleaned and disinfected after each competition day
- 10.4. Proper ventilation of dressing rooms will be ensured by an Organizer.

Entrance restriction

- 10.5. Spectators, visitors and other individuals will not be allowed to enter athletes dressing room, for greater clarity only following persons will be allowed to enter athletes dressing room:
 - Athletes
 - 1 attendant/coach per couple with underage athletes
 - Cleaning personnel
 - Staff



11. Warm up area

- 11.1. Competition staff will ensure the reasonable amount of athletes at the warm up area, avoiding overcrowding
- 11.2. It is strongly recommended to respect physical distancing (see 1.7) during the use of the warm up area

Referees

- 12.1. Officials room will be selected according to the number of officials and the physical distance (see 1.7)
- 12.2. Referee's area will be cleaned and disinfected after each competition day.
- 12.3. Physical Distancing between sitting places will be provided by the organizer according to the point 1.7
- 12.4. Food provided must be individually wrapped. Single-use cutlery and tableware will be preferred.

13. Referees

- 13.1. Referees will keep Physical Distance according to 1.7

14. Prize giving ceremony

- 14.1. No podium will be used, unless the podium is big enough to maintain Physical Distance (see 1.7) and the possibility to get directly to the place, without need to be helped.
- 14.2. During the prize ceremony, all athletes will keep Physical Distance (see 1.7)
- 14.3. Athletes will collect their medals from the medal carrier by themselves. No flowers, champagne or other gifts are allowed
- 14.4. The trophy will be given to the athletes maintaining maximum distance possible
- 14.5. Combined ceremonies with medalists from different categories on the stage at the same time are not allowed
- 14.6. Only one VIP guest will be allowed at the prize-giving ceremony, the physical distance will be respected with the athletes
- 14.7. Only one volunteer is involved with the ceremony, who prepares the trophies and medals
- 14.8. Handshaking, hugs and kissing must be avoided
- 14.9. Photos are allowed only by official photographers, for greater clarity: no parents, coaches, other competitors and etc will make photos to avoid unnecessary risk

15. Medical personnel

- 15.1. Medical personnel will be increased according to the size of the venue and the number of athletes, officials, spectators and staff
- 15.2. First aid and medical services, including designated medical providers who are able to triage and refer suspected cases for COVID-19 testing, will be present
- 15.3. The medical staff, attending persons, should wear a mask and rubber/disposable gloves, and dispose of them immediately after contact and cleanse thoroughly afterwards.

16. Message to be delivered by announcer of the Competition

Announcer will issue reminders several times during each competition day about following topics to:



16.1 respiratory etiquette and hand-hygiene practices

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze

Throw used tissues in the trash

If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

16.2 Asking individuals with symptoms to leave the venue

16.3 Information on physical distancing at least 1 meter

16.4 Use of medical masks

16.5 Avoid shaking hands, hugging and kissing

16.6 Not touch their own nose or mouth