



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION



EGK European Orienteering Championships

WORLD CUP 2021 Round #1 SUI

Neuchâtel/Switzerland, 13 - 16 May 2021

COVID-19 EVENT BULLETIN

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WELCOME TO NEUCHÂTEL

Dear athletes and team officials

These are special times at the moment, but it's also time that the orienteering sport gets back to the scene.

We understand that you want to be best prepared for the races and perform at your top during the competitions. Therefore, we think it is important that you can train and compete the days before EOC 2021 to be ready.

For the event it is of great importance that you follow the advices from this document the days before and during EOC to ensure that you are tested negative when coming to Neuchâtel for the tests to get your accreditation and to be able to participate at all the races.

Please consider what the impact for you and for the sport of orienteering can be:

- It is for your own safety not to risk to get infected and to test positive before the event (you would not be allowed to travel then) or at accreditation or during the event (with a possible quarantine time in Switzerland).
- If you are tested positive, you risk that your whole team will get excluded from the races if there has not been any clear separation within the team.
- The whole event can be in danger if we have positive cases in several teams or a hot-spot during the event. The local authorities could then stop the whole event and the image loss for orienteering in general would be enormous.

Thank you for your collaboration and see you in Neuchâtel!

Matthias Niggli

Event Director EGK European Orienteering Championships

Covid-19 contact person

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General conditions related to Covid-19

General advices from WHO at any time:

- Keep distance, stay at least 1.5 metre away from others, even if they do not appear to be sick.
- Wear a mask, especially when you cannot physically distance.
- Manage your risks by thinking about location and setting of the event, proximity to others and time you will be at the event
- Avoid crowded places and events, poorly ventilated indoor locations, and prolonged contact with others
- Open windows when indoors to increase the amount of outdoor air.
- Avoid touching surfaces, especially in public settings, because someone with COVID-19 could have touched them before. Clean surfaces regularly with standard disinfectants
- Frequently clean your hands with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub. If you can, carry alcohol-based rub with you and use it often
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a bent elbow or tissue, throwing used tissues into a closed bin right away. Then wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Our aim is to reduce the number of people and contacts to minimize the risk of infection among participants and organizers. Therefore, we want to create and maintain a safe so-called competition isolation “Bubble”, with teams, organizers, officials and media representatives who will all have been tested negative for Covid-19. This means that once in the bubble, external contacts, as well as contacts between groups within the bubble, shall be limited or eliminated where possible.

With the [actual pandemic rules of Switzerland](#), all competitors and support staff must show a negative COVID-19 test by PCR conducted no more than 72 hours before entering Switzerland. This procedure is defined by the authorities.

As the participants enter Switzerland for compelling professional reasons and the visit cannot be postponed, athletes and coaches get an exception from the quarantine requirements when entering Switzerland. We will send a confirmation to all entered teams in advance of their travel.

[Covid-19 Bulletin](#) of the International Orienteering Federation

[Actual pandemic rules of Switzerland](#)

Recommendations and obligations prior to the event

All participants and organizers are urged to limit unnecessary contacts (including events, training camps, contacts, studies or work) from 10 days before the start of the competition at the event (i.e. self-isolation from 1 May 2021).

The event program includes an online team officials' meeting on Thursday, 29 April 2021 at 17:00 CET. We would like to have all team leaders at this meeting.

Advices from the IOF and the organizers 10 days before the event/departure to Switzerland:

- practice homeworking if you have the possibility
- limit external contacts and contacts with other groups
- you may train and compete to be best prepared for EOC. Try to train in small groups and/or within the same group. Keep distance to other persons before and after training
- if you take part at competitions, these competitions need a COVID-protocol which you have to follow
- be aware that the risk to get infected is big during travelling, at the assembly point and in discussions with teammates before and after trainings and competitions. Wear masks during these activities. During the training/competition itself, there is no big risk as there is enough space and fresh air
- avoid changing rooms and common showers, travel directly to the training/competition and return immediately
- avoid discussions after the finish line with your teammates, make an online meeting afterwards to recap your experiences or discuss it afterwards with keeping distance between each other
- if you have any symptoms, stay at home/in your room and isolate you from other persons and teammates

Test procedure for getting accreditation

To get accredited for the competitions, all competitors and support staff must perform a COVID-19 test using the PCR method irrespective of any other test. It's compulsory to respect self-isolation until the test result arrives. These tests will be organized by the organizer, the cost of the tests has to be paid by the teams themselves. The price will be CHF 80.-/test.

These tests will take place on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning, 11 and 12 May 2021. That means that all registered competitors and support staff have to arrive in Neuchâtel no later than Wednesday morning. Late accreditation after Wednesday noon will not be possible.

Until one receives the test result, self-isolation is required (at the accommodation). It will not be possible to visit training areas.

Upon receipt of a negative test result, the participants will receive accreditation and may start with competition related activities (trainings etc.). Test results should be available within a maximum of 12h after the test was taken.

There will not be any physical event centre. Accreditation will be given online and entry to the competitions will be done online via Eventor. Organizers can be reached by phone.

Team officials' meeting

No physical team officials' meeting will be held. The team officials' meeting on Thursday, 29 April 2021 and on Wednesday, 12 May 2021 will be held online. All other information is included in Bulletin 4 or will be published on Eventor (e.g. start lists, weather forecast). Questions can be sent by e-mail in advance.

Accommodation and transport

Teams are spread out in several accommodations. The same “bubble” rules apply to all teams, whether they are using accommodations booked via the organizers, or accommodations they booked on their own. This “virtual bubble” needs a high degree of individual responsibility.

It's only allowed to practice competition-related activities. All out-of-competition contacts have to be avoided. It's forbidden to all members of a participating team to leave the competition area or the accommodation unless it's unavoidable.

The teams are responsible for all travels to and from the competition areas and they have to plan the means of transport in order to avoid long waiting times in the Start and Finish areas. Avoid journeys by public transport.



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