



# U.S. OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC TRIALS

## PARTICIPANT RULES – COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

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### SECTION 1. OVERVIEW

The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of Team USA. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the USOPC has adopted this U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Trials Participant Rules – COVID-19 Mitigation Measures to ensure the health and safety of all Participants at an Olympic or Paralympic Trials Event and the larger population in whole. These Rules are intended to provide clear guidance to National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to implement at their Trials Event to protect against, safeguard, and eliminate the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. At each Trials Event, NGBs are required to implement the requirements outlined in these Rules, create a clear NGB Mitigation Plan, and follow any other protocols mandated by the applicable local and state authorities, and other public health requirements relating to COVID-19.

NGBs must communicate to Participants at the Trials Event that they must have proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test, be asymptomatic, and not have been in Close Sustained Contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 (unless they are vaccinated and/or have had a COVID-19 infection in the last 90 days [see the Close Sustained Contact and Contact Tracing section below]) as a condition of participation at the Trials Event. An equivocal or indeterminate test result does not count as a negative test result. If a Participant cannot provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test, is symptomatic, or has been in Close Sustained Contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and is not subject to an exception, the Participant will be removed from the venue and barred from competition, subject to any applicable review process. Additionally, NGBs need to communicate that failure to abide by the NGB's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan may result in removal from the Trials Event venue and competition.



## SECTION 2. KEY TERMS USED IN THESE RULES

- a) **CDC Guidelines**—guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control regarding COVID-19, available [here](#) and the Centers for Disease Control’s Considerations for Events and Gatherings, available [here](#).
- b) **Close Sustained Contact**—contact within 6 feet sustained for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, whether or not masks are worn.
- c) **COVID-19 Officer**—an individual appointed by the NGB to oversee implementation of the NGB’s COVID-19 Mitigation Plan at the Trials Event, including contact tracing.
- d) **COVID-19 PCR Test**—a polymerase chain reaction test or equivalent nucleic acid amplification test such as loop mediated isothermal amplification to test for COVID-19. For purposes of clarity, antigen and antibody tests are not considered COVID-19 Tests permissible under these Rules.
- e) **Medical Director**—a physician who has admitting privileges at the nearby or official hospital facilities, or is associated with a local medical team that has associated privileges.
- f) **NGB**—a National Governing Body recognized by the USOPC, or the USOPC when a National Governing Body or Paralympic Sport is not recognized and the USOPC assumes management responsibility over that sport.
- g) **NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan**—a unique plan that each NGB must create when hosting a Trials Event that covers all necessary mitigation measures for the event, including adherence to the requirements listed in these Rules.
- h) **Participant**—any athlete, staff, support personnel, or other person who has access to athletes or athlete areas during the Trials Event.
- i) **Trials Event** – a competition that leads directly to the selection of athletes for a Delegation Event. Under a contractual agreement with the USOPC, the NGB manages the event under the designation of an Olympic or Paralympic Trials.

## SECTION 3. COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

NGBs must follow all applicable rules and regulations of the local public health authorities, including any requirements that positive cases be reported to authorities. Each NGB should obtain any necessary permits and approvals from government agencies, including public health officials, to host the Trials Event.

NGBs should also follow CDC Guidelines to determine when an individual must quarantine or self-isolate, as well as when an individual has had Close Sustained Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or when an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19.

### LOCAL REQUIREMENTS

NGBs should consult the public health authorities to address questions about local COVID-19 mitigation requirements.



## **SECTION 4. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR NGB COVID-19 MITIGATION PLANS**

The USOPC recognizes that distinctions between sports and locations of each Trials Event may necessitate differences in the implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures. As such, NGBs are responsible for creating their own NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plans to account for nuances in connection with the nature of their Trials Event. The USOPC will be available to consult with the NGBs as they develop and implement for Trials Events an NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan consistent with all applicable public health guidance that includes at least the following:

### **A. Medical Requirements**

Each NGB must appoint a Medical Director for the Trials Event, as well as a COVID-19 Officer to oversee implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of all COVID-19 mitigation measures for the Trials Event. The COVID-19 Officer also is responsible for ensuring that public health officials are notified of any positive COVID-19 test results that occur at the Trials Event, and for assisting public health officials with contact tracing if any Participant tests positive for COVID-19 at the Trials Event. NGBs are encouraged to require their appointed COVID-19 Officer to complete the [Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course](#).

NGBs are encouraged to identify additional individuals who could serve as a back-up Medical Director or COVID-19 Officer in the event that the original Medical Director and/or COVID-19 Officer are unavailable (e.g., has a positive COVID-19 test result).

Each NGB also should identify and work with local healthcare resources to be utilized by Participants who are identified with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and/or diagnosed with COVID-19.

### **B. Event Postponement or Cancellation Parameters**

Prior to the Trials Event, NGBs must clearly articulate to all Participants the parameters that would result in event postponement or cancellation (either the entire competition and/or specific individual events). This may include public health officials requiring the cancellation of the event, local COVID-19 prevalence, number of positive tests/positivity rates, and hospital capacity. Postponement and cancellation should be addressed in the NGB's selection procedures.

### **C. Event COVID-19 Mitigation Requirements**

NGBs must provide descriptions of standard mandatory COVID-19 mitigation measures related to the Trials Event, must ensure that the description is provided to the



Participants prior to the Trials Event, and relevant information is posted in readily visible locations around the Trials Event venue(s), including at the entrance and exit of each venue, in areas for spectators, at athlete information or packet pick-up locations, in warm-up and competition areas, and in restrooms and locker rooms.

At least the following measures must be included in the mandatory COVID-19 mitigation measures posted at the venue:

- Physical distancing
- Wearing a face mask\*
- Hand-washing or use of hand sanitizer
- Avoiding face touching

\*The following are acceptable face masks: (1) a medical mask; (2) a KN95 mask; or (3) a fabric mask that is washable at high temperatures regularly, with at least two – but ideally three – layers, including an inner layer of absorbent material (such as cotton), a middle layer of non-woven material (such as polypropylene), and an outer layer of non-absorbent material (such as polyester or a polyester blend).

The NGB needs to communicate to its Participants if it will supply masks on-site or if Participants are responsible for supplying their own, in accordance with the above requirements. At a minimum, NGBs must have some masks available on-site. Any markings on the masks must comply with the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Trials Participant Rules – Commercial Markings.

#### **D. Limitations on Community Activities**

The NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan must expressly set forth restrictions and limitations on community activities that Participants must comply with starting 6 days prior to their first official activity at the Trials Event and continuing until after completion of their participation in the Trials Event. NGBs must set clear parameters around what are essential activities and therefore allowed, versus restricted community activities.

The USOPC encourages, and supports, NGBs to limit Participants engaging in community activity as much as possible during that timeframe to minimize the potential of developing COVID-19 or being exposed to an individual with COVID-19. Examples of activities that could be included in the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan to be avoided during this time frame include sit-down dining at a restaurant, going to a movie, and participating in any large public gatherings, including competitions that do not have the same or more rigorous COVID-19 protocols as those described in this document.



NGBs should also strongly encourage Participants to minimize other community activities, and to mitigate their exposure to COVID-19 as much as possible, through the following recommended practices:

- Food can either be self-prepared using food purchased prior to this time frame and/or delivered to the home or hotel through a delivery service, ordering take-out or delivery from a restaurant, or eating at locations designated by the event organizer.
- Training should occur individually or with the minimum number of people required to effectively train during this time frame. Participants should avoid training at a public facility during this time frame, if possible.
- Participants should travel alone by personal transportation whenever possible.
- Participants should make every attempt to stay in their own hotel room or only stay with people you regularly have close sustained contact with (e.g., family, roommates, training partners for combat sports, etc).

\*\*Participants may need to travel during this time frame but should follow the same recommendations regarding limited community activities as much as possible during travel.

## E. COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms Monitoring

All Participants should be notified in advance that they should not come to the Trials Event training or competition venue if they are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and should immediately go to a healthcare facility for evaluation.

### Symptoms

Symptoms to monitor for include feverishness or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

NGBs must implement COVID-19 signs and symptoms monitoring, including temperature checks, for all Participants upon arrival at the Trials Event training or competition venue. As part of the signs and symptoms monitoring, the NGB should conduct a symptom survey for each Participant, with questions consistent with public health guidance, and should store and manage any related documentation in compliance with all applicable laws. It is highly recommended that this signs and symptoms monitoring be performed twice daily.



For any other individual (including spectators or staff who will not be close to the athletes), although not required, the USOPC strongly recommends that the NGB conduct the same signs and symptoms monitoring.

## **F. Payment Obligations**

Each NGB must clearly articulate if it will cover the cost of required testing (i.e., Required COVID-19 PCR Tests #1 and #2 [see Participant COVID-19 Testing Protocol in Section F]) and/or any quarantine or isolation measures, or if the Participant (athlete or non-athlete Participant) will be responsible for the expense.

## **G. Participant COVID-19 Protocols**

### ***Athlete Agreement to Abide by COVID-19 Mitigation Plan***

Each athlete must be provided a copy of the NGB's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan prior to their anticipated arrival at the Trials Event venue (two weeks in advance, if possible), and must sign and return an agreement to abide by and be bound by the NGB's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, including any and all testing, signs and symptoms monitoring, removal requirements, and the dispute resolution process outlined in these Rules. If an athlete arrives at the Trials Event venue without having returned a signed copy of the agreement to abide by the NGB's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, and refuses to sign a copy provided upon arrival at the Trials Event venue, then the athlete will not be permitted to enter the Trials Event venue or participate in the Trials Event.

### ***Participant Arrival Date***

In order to facilitate adequate testing and implementation of protocols to provide Participants an opportunity for confirmatory tests, if needed,<sup>1</sup> NGBs must schedule the arrival date for all Participants to be at least 72 hours prior to the Participant's first official activity at the Trials Event, absent a showing of extenuating circumstances that made arrival at least 72 hours prior to the Participant's first official activity impossible (e.g., flight delays).

**72 Hours**

NGBs may consider restricting access to the Trials Event venue or practice (including avoiding having athletes train together) until post-arrival negative test results are received. Anyone who trains with someone else before getting their test result back is at

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<sup>1</sup> NGBs have discretion to offer confirmatory testing to non-athlete Participants, but are required to provide two confirmatory tests only to athlete Participants at the Trials Event.



risk for having Close Sustained Contact with an individual who unknowingly has COVID-19 and would be contact traced out of the competition.

### ***Participant Temperature Checks***

**100.4** For any Participant whose temperature reads over 100.4°F during his or her COVID-19 signs and symptoms monitoring, the NGB must have a different thermometer to provide a second confirmatory temperature reading. If the Participant's temperature continues to read over 100.4°F, then the Participant should be placed into a designated isolation area to be examined and observed by a physician for up to one hour. If the Participant's temperature remains over 100.4°F and/or the Participant is displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19, then the Participant will be removed from the Trials Event venue, and may be barred from participation subject to any secondary medical review. Additionally, they must comply with all applicable public health requirements and guidance regarding quarantine.

### ***Participant COVID-19 Testing Protocol***

NGBs must implement a COVID-19 testing protocol that includes testing of all Participants prior to and after arrival to the Trials Event. In particular, the testing protocol must include at least the following:

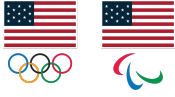
- (a) Required COVID-19 PCR Test #1:** Participants must provide documentation upon arrival at the Trials Venue of a negative COVID-19 PCR Test result obtained between 4 and 6 days in advance of the Participant's first official activity at the Trials Event, whether the Participant is traveling to the Trials Event location or is already at the Trials Event location, in order to participate in the Trials Event.
  - **Recommended Timing of Test #1.** It is strongly recommended that the Participant obtain the first COVID-19 PCR Test as early as possible in this 4 to 6 day time frame to allow for repeat testing should the original test deliver positive or indeterminate test results. Furthermore, for Participants traveling to the Trials Event, if the Participant's travel arrangements would allow them to complete Test #1 prior to travel, this would be strongly recommended.
    - If the result of Test #1 is **positive**, and the Participant is asymptomatic and has no known exposure to an individual with COVID-19, the Participant may obtain another COVID-19 PCR Test. If the result of the second COVID-19 PCR Test is also positive, the Participant has COVID-19, should immediately begin isolation and comply with all applicable public health requirements and guidance regarding COVID-19 infection.



- If Test #1 delivers an **equivocal or indeterminate result**, the result does not count as a negative test. The Participant must repeat the COVID-19 PCR Test to obtain a clear positive or negative test result to determine if they can participate in the Trials Event.
- (b) Required COVID-19 PCR Test #2:** Participants must complete an on-site COVID-19 PCR Test within 3 days (72 hours) of their first official activity at the Trials Event, and must return a negative test result in order to participate in the Trials Event.
- **Recommended Timing of Test #2:** It is strongly recommended that the second test occur as early as possible in the 3 day (72 hour) time frame to allow for repeat testing should it be required.
    - If the result of Test #2 is **positive**, the Participant will not be allowed to enter the Trials Event venue. Athlete Participants<sup>2</sup> who are asymptomatic and have no known exposure to an individual with COVID-19 will be provided the opportunity for further testing pursuant to Section 6.A.1 below.
    - If the result of Test #2 is **equivocal or indeterminate**, the result does not count as a negative test. The Participant must repeat the COVID-19 PCR Test to obtain a clear positive or negative test result to determine if they can participate in the Trials Event.
- (c)** For Trials Events that last 7 or more days, it is recommended, but not required, to obtain a COVID-19 PCR Test every 4 to 5 days during the event.
- (d)** The limited exposure recommendations in Section 4.C encompass the time frame for Required COVID-19 PCR Tests #1 and #2 and apply from 6 days prior to the Participant's first official activity at the Trials Event and continues until after completion of their participation in the Trials Event.
- (e) Prior Vaccination:** Participants who have received a COVID-19 vaccination must still complete Required COVID-19 Tests #1 and #2.
- (f) Prior COVID-19 Infection:** Participants who can provide clear documentation of COVID-19 infection within 90 days of the Trials Event (i.e., a doctor's note and evidence of a positive COVID-19 test result) and who are currently asymptomatic are not required to complete the Required COVID-19 PCR Tests #1 or #2.

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<sup>2</sup> An NGB may determine that a non-athlete Participant's removal from the Trials Event venue and bar from competition is not subject to further medical review or confirmatory tests, and that the non-athlete Participant should isolate for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines, according to the severity of their illness, and appropriate medical care should be arranged.



- If the Participant has signs or symptoms of COVID-19, the NGB must follow the protocol for sign and symptom monitoring and have the Participant evaluated by medical personnel for possible COVID-19 re-infection. This may include COVID-19 testing, removing the Participant from the Trials Event venue or the right to participate in the Trials Event, and requiring that the Participant quarantine for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines, according to the severity of their illness.

## H. Close Sustained Contact and Contact Tracing

### Quarantine

A Participant who has had Close Sustained Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 should not be permitted to enter the Trials Event venue or to compete, and should quarantine for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines.

Athlete Participants<sup>3</sup> will be provided the opportunity for further review of contact tracing determinations pursuant to Section 6.C below.

## I. Coordination with Public Health Officials

Each NGB must have a plan for working with public health officials to implement the NGB's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan in conformity with all applicable public health guidelines. The plan should include an outline of how the NGB will assist public health officials with contact tracing if a Participant or other person at the Trials Event is diagnosed with COVID-19.

## J. On-site Requirements

In order to ensure that each NGB is prepared to implement its COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, a plan must be developed to designate a place where medical evaluation and observation can occur if a Participant at the Trials Event shows signs or symptoms of COVID-19 while on-site. Medical personnel must be available to identify, isolate, assess, and provide further medical evaluation or treatment to such individuals in the designated space.

Those personnel who may have to have Close Sustained Contact with individuals being

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<sup>3</sup> An NGB may determine that a non-athlete Participant's removal from the Trials Event venue and bar from competition is not subject to further medical review or confirmatory tests, and that the non-athlete Participant should isolate for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines, according to the severity of their illness, and appropriate medical care should be arranged.



evaluated for COVID-19 or who have been diagnosed with COVID-19<sup>4</sup> must be provided appropriate personal protective equipment. Non-Participant attendees at the Trials

Event will be denied access to the Trials Event venue if they are showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival to the venue.

#### **K. Communications Plan**

Each NGB must develop a communications plan to ensure that all athletes and other Participants are informed of the NGB's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan prior to their arrival at the Trials Event. The communications plan should detail how the NGB will communicate positive COVID-19 test results, and to whom, taking into account all applicable privacy rules and regulations. The plan should clearly articulate when a Participant may be removed from the Trials Event venue and/or barred from participation, and of the potential impact on team selection. The plan should address pre- and post-event communications, as well as communications during the Trials Event.

### **SECTION 5. FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

In addition to the mandatory requirements set forth in Section 4 (Minimum Standards for COVID-19 Mitigation Plans), the USOPC recommends that NGBs' COVID-19 Mitigation Plans also include the following:

- Travel and lodging recommendations for all Participants to minimize the risk of developing COVID-19 and/or being exposed to individuals with COVID-19.
- Guidance against training with other athletes who will be at the event for 14 days prior to the Trials Event.
- NGBs should consider using the [USOPC Guidance: Considerations for Participation in National or International Camps or Competitions](#) document to assist with developing recommendations.
- Make hand sanitizer available to all Trials Event Participants/attendees.
- Determine how restroom facilities will be handled.
- Establish cleaning protocols for shared sports equipment.
- Establish policies for food, hydration, and personal equipment use.

The USOPC also recommends that NGB personnel who will be managing the Trials Events and

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<sup>4</sup> This includes all medical personnel, non-medical personnel working in the medical evaluation/observation area, and any individual who is taking temperatures, managing Participant signs and symptoms checks, or otherwise likely to be in Close Sustained Contact with individuals being evaluated for COVID-19.



all medical personnel assisting at the Trials Event venue read and complete the assessment tools from the [USOPC Guidance: Return to Event Considerations](#).

## SECTION 6. RESPONSE AND REVIEW FOR MEDICAL DETERMINATIONS

This Response and Review process outlines the protocol to provide Athlete Participants,<sup>5</sup> or others in the discretion of the NGB, with an opportunity for a second evaluation of a medical determination resulting from (i) having COVID-19 symptoms, (ii) receiving a positive COVID-19 PCR Test result, and (iii) being in Close Sustained Contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, before being barred from participating in the Trials Event.

The intent of this process is to protect the health and safety of all at the Trials Event by providing for clear and swift protocols where a potential risk presents itself or public health guidelines apply. Every effort was made to identify situations that might arise but if there are omissions in this document, NGBs should do their best to apply a process based on the framework below.

Depending on the circumstances, an individual may need to be removed from the Venue or barred from participation at the Trials Event.

<b>Removal from Venue</b> <i>Immediate removal from the Trials Event venue to protect the health and safety of all.</i>	<b>Bar from Participation</b> <i>Barred from participating in the Trials Event after being afforded a secondary medical review/confirmation (if time permits).</i>
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**Note:** *The staffing positions listed in this framework are recommended, but the NGB may designate other individuals for these roles depending on their staffing capabilities. Designees can be appropriate. The evaluations should be conducted by individuals free of any conflict of interest.*

### A. Positive COVID-19 PCR Test Result

All Participants must arrive at least 72 hours prior to the Participant’s first competition/official activity. A Participant whose Required COVID-19 PCR Test #2 result is positive will be immediately removed from the Venue and must follow all relevant CDC guidelines.

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<sup>5</sup> An NGB may determine to expand the Response and Review process for all Participants, but at a minimum must include this for athletes.



## 1. Opportunities for Review Prior to Barring Athlete from Participating in Trials Event

### a. **Confirmatory Tests**

An athlete may request subsequent testing and must be asymptomatic and produce two negative COVID-19 PCR test results (and no positives) in order to be permitted to participate in the Trials Event. If, for any reason, two negative COVID-19 PCR Test results are not returned prior to the time of the athlete's competition, the athlete will not be permitted to participate in the Trials Event.

***Note:** NGB has no control over delays attributable to the testing facilities. If an athlete cannot get the results of two confirmatory tests in advance of competition, then the athlete is presumed to have COVID-19 and cannot compete in the Trials Event.*

### b. **COVID-19 Officer Review**

The NGB COVID-19 Officer will review and ensure that the testing protocols were followed and, where there were deviations, request further testing as time permits.

## 2. Final Determination

There will be no further review after a positive test result has been confirmed (or where time does not permit two negative confirmatory test results). In such cases, the athlete will be immediately removed from the Venue and barred from participating in the Trials Event and must follow all relevant CDC guidelines.

## **B. Displaying Signs & Symptoms of COVID-19**

Any Participant displaying signs and symptoms indicative of COVID-19 (including a temperature higher than 100.4°F) may be removed immediately from the Trials Event venue as determined by the Medical Director.

## 1. Opportunities for Review Prior to Barring Athlete from Participating At Trials Event

### a. **Medical Evaluation**

Time permitting, an athlete who displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be directed to a safe location for further medical evaluation by a physician to determine whether the athlete can participate in the Trials Event. The



evaluating physician may instead immediately direct an athlete to an urgent care health facility in their sole medical judgment.

The evaluating physician<sup>6</sup> may monitor the athlete for a reasonable amount of time (up to an hour) to make a medical determination, recheck their temperature using different thermometers, and do other evaluations as appropriate. The athlete is not permitted out of the medical area during that time or out of sight of the physician.

The athlete may present information and medical documentation regarding conditions that may impact the appearance of signs and symptoms similar to those related to COVID-19.

Time permitting, an athlete may request subsequent testing and must produce two negative test results (and no positive test results) and the physician's approval based on their evaluation of the symptoms, in order to be permitted to compete. The athlete must be denied access to the Trials Event venue pending the outcome of the confirmatory tests and physician approval to compete.

**b. Secondary Medical Review – Medical Director**

If the physician determines it is appropriate to bar an athlete from participating in the Trials Event, then a second physician<sup>7</sup> will conduct a secondary medical review. If both agree, the decision to bar the athlete from participating in the Trials Event stands.

**c. Final Medical Review (tiebreaker)**

If the physicians do not agree about whether to bar an athlete from participating in the Trials Event, a third physician (appointed and approved by either the NGB or the USOPC) will conduct a medical review. This may be in-person, or telephonically, with the physician to review the records and medical determination.

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<sup>6</sup> This may be the Medical Director.

<sup>7</sup> The second physician could be the Medical Director if the Medical Director did not perform the initial review. Alternatively, it could be any other pre-identified individual either on or off-site. This could be the NGB's head team physician, or a physician in private practice, urgent care, emergency room or inpatient hospital ward. It is recommended that the physician have a sports and/or infectious disease background.



#### **d. COVID-19 Officer**

The NGB COVID-19 Officer will review and ensure that the physicians followed the proper protocols and processes. The COVID-19 Officer may request further medical evaluation if the process was not followed.

#### **2. Final Determination**

A decision to bar athlete from participating in the Trials Event made by the physicians (or third physician, as necessary) based on signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and confirmed by the COVID-19 is final and binding.

### **C. Contact Tracing**

Any Participant who has been identified through contact tracing to have been in close sustained contact with an individual infected with COVID-19 may be removed immediately from the Trials Event venue as determined by the COVID-19 Officer.

#### **1. Opportunities for Review Prior to Barring Athlete from Participation in the Trials Event**

##### **a. Contact Tracing Identification**

Upon an individual testing positive for COVID-19, the COVID-19 Officer will gather information from the individual and will identify all other individuals who have been in Close Sustained Contact. Those individuals will be notified and must be removed immediately from the Trials Event venue and follow CDC guidelines. The identity of the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 will not be disclosed, unless the individual expressly consents to release this information. NGBs may require the release of this information as a condition of participation in order to provide other athletes with sufficient information to have the opportunity to contest being contact traced out of the Trials Event.

##### **b. Secondary Review – Opportunity to Present Evidence**

To rebut a finding that an athlete was in Close Sustained Contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, the removed athlete will have the opportunity to present evidence to the COVID-19 Officer about their whereabouts and any other relevant information, including corroborating evidence, evidence of prior COVID-19 infection, or evidence of completion of a full COVID-19 vaccination series. Based on a review of all of the evidence available, the COVID-19 Officer will make a determination of



whether the evidence shows the removed athlete was in Close Sustained Contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.

**c. Medical Director Confirmation**

The Medical Director will confirm if the COVID-19 Officer followed the appropriate contact tracing protocols.

2. Final Determination

A decision to bar an athlete from participating in the Trials Event made by the COVID-19 Officer and confirmed by the Medical Director is final and binding.

**SECTION 7. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS FOR VIOLATIONS OF NGB COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN**

All Participants must agree to and be bound by the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan as a condition of participation in the Trials Event. When a Participant fails to abide by a requirement of the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, the following dispute resolution process will provide Participants with an opportunity for a hearing before the USOPC Trials Administrative Board (TAB).

**A. Mitigation Plan Enforcement**

The COVID-19 Officer, or their designees, will enforce the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan at the Trials Event venue. The NGB may learn of an alleged violation of the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan by any means, including allowing Participants to report suspected violations to the NGB.

**B. Sanctions**

The COVID-19 Officer, or their designees, may impose sanctions on Participants for violations of the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, ranging from a warning to being barred from participating in the Trials Event. The Participant will be permitted to share explanatory or other relevant information related to the violation. The COVID-19 Officer will notify the Participant if they are being barred from participating in the Trials Event.

**C. Request for Hearing**

If a Participant (athlete or non-athlete) is barred from participating in the Trials Event, the Participant may request a hearing in front of the Trials Administrative Board (TAB). This request must be made within 90 minutes of the removal.



#### **D. USOPC Dispute Resolution Unit**

If a Participant requests a hearing, the NGB will immediately contact the USOPC Dispute Resolution (DRU) to initiate the proceeding at [dru@usopc.org](mailto:dru@usopc.org).

DRU is responsible for ensuring that all disputes are heard in an expedited, fair, and impartial manner. DRU may modify these procedures at any time for the effective administration of complaints taking into consideration any time constraints, while also ensuring fairness to all parties.

An attorney from DRU will serve as an impartial counsel to the TAB solely to answer questions and provide legal assistance when requested, and will not in any way take part in rendering the decision or influencing the TAB.

#### **E. Trials Administrative Board**

DRU will convene the TAB to hear and render a decision on the dispute.

The TAB is comprised of the following individuals:

1. USOPC Board Chair
2. USOPC CEO
3. National Governing Body Council (NGBC) Chair
4. Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) Chair
5. 10 Year+ Athlete<sup>8</sup> (designated position from the Chef de Mission)

Any member of the TAB may designate to an alternate. No member on the TAB will have a direct interest, either personally or by virtue of organizational affiliation, in the outcome of the proceeding. As long as a quorum<sup>9</sup> of the panel members is present, the hearing may proceed.

The USOPC Board Chair, or their designee, will be chair of the panel.

#### **F. Initiation of the Proceeding**

DRU will immediately provide confirmation of the request for hearing to the NGB and the Participant. DRU will provide details about the proceeding to the NGB and the Participant, including information about the date, time, and call-in details for the hearing.

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<sup>8</sup> A 10 Year+ Athlete is defined in the USOPC Bylaws.

<sup>9</sup> A majority of the panel members (i.e., 3 of the 5 panel members) will be necessary to establish a quorum.



### **G. Conduct of the Proceeding**

The TAB will run the proceeding, with assistance from DRU. The proceeding will be held telephonically or through videoconference on an expedited basis.

The TAB has the authority to rule on all matters raised in the proceeding, and will set such other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing as it deems necessary.

The NGB and the Participant will be permitted to present evidence relating to the violation of the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan. The TAB may ask questions at any time.

### **H. Decision**

The TAB will render a written decision promptly after the hearing, and a verbal or operative decision may be rendered on an expedited basis. The decision will be determined by a majority of the TAB.

The TAB has the authority to impose any consequence, including the decision to uphold the bar on participation in the Trials Event. The consequence will be in effect immediately after a decision is made, unless stated otherwise.

### **I. Medical Expert**

Upon the request of the TAB, a medical expert may serve as an advisor to the TAB.

### **J. Representative**

The NGB and Participant have the right to have counsel or a representative present at any point during these proceedings at their own expense.

## **SECTION 8. RESOURCES**

### ***Additional Guidelines***

NGBs can access guidance from the CDC relative to [quarantine](#) and [isolation](#) to assist with mitigation efforts. These guidelines should be followed when an individual has Close Sustained Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 (quarantine) or when an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19 (isolation). Some additional resources that may assist with event planning during the pandemic include:



- [CDC Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#)
- [WHO Considerations for Sports Federations/Sports Event Organizers when Planning Mass Gatherings in the Context of COVID-19](#)
- [WHO Mass Gathering COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool – Sports Events, Version 2](#)
- [WHO Mass Gatherings Decision Tree](#)
- [USOPC Guidance: Sports Event Planning](#)

### ***Office of the Athlete Ombuds***

The Office of the Athlete Ombuds is available to provide independent and confidential advice to athletes regarding their rights under these Rules and each NGB's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan and to assist in the resolution of athlete concerns and disputes. Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds at: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org) or 719-866-5000 or visit their website at [usathlete.org](http://usathlete.org) for more information and resources.