



FIDE WORLD RAPID AND BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIPS 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 take place during the FIDE WORLD RAPID AND BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021 (R&B).

This document sets out guidelines and instructions to ensure the development of R&B 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 Government of the Republic of Poland.

Given that R&B takes place in PGE Narodowy (al. Księcia Józefa Poniatowskiego 1, 03-901 Warszawa) this protocol only refers to the specific aspects of the chess tournaments 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 (bar and restaurants, toilets, breakfast, lunch and dinner services, other common spaces, etc.) are already detailed in the action plan against the Covid-19 disease of the respective hotels and, therefore, they are not the subject of this document nor are they specifically detailed in the following pages. These hotels shall comply with all current regulations applicable to the prevention of contagion by Covid-19.

2. General principles

This protocol is based on the following principles:

- 2.1. Hierarchy of regulations: the measures detailed in this document shall 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 organisers, arbiters, participants and companions shall 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 shall always be chosen.

2.3. Preferential use of telematics means: all the procedures and steps that can be taken by telematics means shall be carried out by these means. In any case, should this not be possible, maintenance of social security distance shall 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 organisers and the management of R&B reserve the right to sanction and/or expel from the tournament and hotels to anyone who may engage in this behaviour.

3. Initial considerations

3.1. Communication and information

The Tournament Director undertakes to communicate and inform of this action plan to anyone who participates, in one way or another, in R&B and, in particular, to the players, arbiters and the management of the hotels, who in turn shall inform employees in charge.

3.2. Supervision of the plan

The Tournament Director shall 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 shall supervise the correct application of this protocol and note the incidents that may arise.

3.3. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)



Staff (such as arbiters, hotel staff or journalists) and who participate in the development of the different activities shall be provided with masks. This material shall be appropriate for the envisaged functions.

4. Rules for setting up playing and activity halls

In order to guarantee a sufficient and safe distance between the participants of the R&B 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

Prior to the start of each daily session of the R&B, and before authorizing entrance to any participant, the playing hall, the furniture (chairs and tables) and the material necessary for the games shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

- 4.1.1. 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 shall always be respected.
- 4.1.2. The tables or lines of tables shall 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).

4.2. Activity rooms

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, shall 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 shall 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 shall be of 1.5 m.

4.3. Staff

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 shall only be permitted the presence - in case it becomes necessary - of the persons responsible for supervising these tasks, of and the organisation staff of the competition.

4.4. Mandatory materials

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 organisers shall guarantee the supply of this gel or hydroalcoholic solution during all days of the competition.

5. Adopted preventive measures

5.1. Members of all delegations shall ensure to have all necessary Covid-19 documentation to enter Poland.

5.2. Before the competition starts, Rapid Antigen COVID tests might be carried out on a random sample of players.



- 5.3. The activity developed (tournament games or side activities) shall be done with the capacity determined by the health authorities and, anyway, allowing to maintain the established security measures.
- 5.4. Players, arbiters, technical and maintenance staff, members of the organisation and limited number of spectators shall be allowed to enter the playing hall.
- 5.5. The accesses and exits to the space where each activity takes place shall 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 shall not be able to access the playing hall where each activity takes place.
- 5.7. Given the permanent and prolonged proximity between participants of the competition, the use of a mask during chess games shall 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 shall also be mandatory for each and every one attending the tournament games, whether they are workers, volunteers, arbiters, technicians and spectators.
- 5.9. The playing hall and those where other activities take place during the competition shall be sufficiently ventilated according to the characteristics of the space. Before and after the start of each daily session, all the doors and windows of each room shall be left open for at least 30 minutes. Moreover, during the games or activities, part of them shall be left open to ensure the ventilation of the environment.
- 5.10. Players shall leave the playing hall immediately after finishing their games, avoiding unnecessary stays in that playing hall. The same principle shall be observed at the end of other activities of the competition.
- 5.11. The awarded players shall 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 shall maintain the



corresponding safety distance. Once the photo has been taken, the player has to put the mask back on and make way for the next awarded player.

5.12. During the development of the competition there shall be a doctor.

5.13. If any person presents symptoms compatible with the Covid-19 during the competition, he/she shall immediately inform the organisers. There shall be a contingency protocol for people with symptoms, as established by the competent health authorities at all times. See chapter 7 below.

6. Recommendations

6.1. Before and after the side activities

6.1.1. 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 shall be avoided as much as possible and, if it is unavoidable, each player shall always wear a protective mask during the trip. Similarly, whenever it is possible, the safety distance between people shall be respected during such journeys.

6.1.2. 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.

6.1.3. 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



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

- 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 shall quickly inform the organisers so that they can inform the tournament doctor, who will contact the health authorities.
- 7.2. If PCR's test result is positive, the health authorities shall determine, depending on their condition and their symptoms, if the person shall be isolated or, on the contrary, shall be enrolled in a health centre. In case of being a player, this person shall leave the competition immediately.
- 7.3. Information shall be gathered on the person's close contacts, and a report shall be drawn up with them. In the case of players, this report shall contain, at least, the player's recent opponents. The report shall also include the persons with whom the player has shared a room, if any.
- 7.4. Isolation of the person with symptoms of Covid-19 shall be arranged with the official hotel, which shall have a room prepared to isolate persons with symptoms while the next steps are determined. The relative expenses are not covered by the Organiser.
- 7.5. In the extreme case where the health authorities decree the suspension of the competition:
 - 7.5.1. All participants shall 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 shall contact the health authorities in their places of origin if symptoms compatible with the disease appear.



7.5.2. A contact email shall be set up by the organisers 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 organisers shall inform the health authorities of any information received in this way.

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

8. Final notes

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, shall 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 organised by other entities and FIDE itself.

Warsaw, Poland, 22 December 2021