



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Sport for development and peace: UN responses to COVID-19

Please complete this template and return to the Division for Inclusive Social Development: melissa.martin@un.org with cc to bas@un.org and pollack@un.org by **April 30th**.

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ACTION

What action is your entity taking to respond to COVID-19 within the context of its mandate? Please highlight specific actions that related to sport for development and peace.

WHO is coordinating within the UN COVID-19 response crisis management team the pillar related to mass gatherings, which includes sporting events, and gives guidance and provides tools for them to make decisions on the organization of their events.

WHO works closely with countries and international organizations, such as sporting events organizations (including IOC, FIFA, UEFA, NBA, FIFPRO, ECA and many others) that plan mass gatherings to provide rational and science-based public health guidance and recommendations, when preparing for sporting mass gatherings as well as recommendations on measures during and after gatherings so that risks can be managed and mitigated. The guidance can help inform sporting organizations and countries risk assessment and support on any potential impact on health.

In view of the scale and quickly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic WHO advises international organizations and event organizers to evaluate the risk associated with an event and revise their assessment as the situation evolves and more information is gathered.

WHO provided the risk assessment tools used by the International Olympic Committee and the Government of Japan in their decision-making process for organizing the 2020 Olympic Games. However, WHO does and did not advise directly on potential dates.

Football events - In January 2020, the WHO Director-General and Fédération Internationale de Football Association's (FIFA) President agreed to work together to ensure the safety of fans, players, coaches and the broader communities during the coronavirus pandemic. Collaboration takes place in the different following forms: Measures to guide sports governing bodies and administrators in specific situations; Joint awareness-raising Campaign; and various initiatives to ensure all people receive needed advice to



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protect and promote their health and that of their communities. See press release:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/23-03-2020-pass-the-message-five-steps-to-kicking-out-coronavirus>. FIFA also joined forces with the United Nations and WHO in supporting the #BeActive campaign launched on the UN International Day of Sport for Development and Peace to encourage people to be #HealthyAtHome as the world comes together in the fight against COVID-19, today and every day.

Other sporting events –WHO is working with other sports federations by providing its public health guidance and recommendations for the use of all sports federations who need to evaluate the risk associated with a planned event and potential impact on health to support their decision making.

WHO's Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN) provides guidance, updates and advice for the general public and to specific industries, including mass gatherings and sports events.

WHO has been in regular contact with sports industry and the industry has collaborated with WHO by making available free public materials to encourage people to be active and suggest ways how to be active during confinement.

WHO developed a "Be Active during COVID-19" Q&A to educate public on how to keep safely active during confinement. See WHO website: <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/be-active-during-covid-19>. In addition WHO has been running social media campaigns on keeping active during confinement.

A Walk The Talk event will promote ways people to be [#HealthyAtHome](#) and be active during this time of the pandemic. See: <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2020/05/17/default-calendar/walk-the-talk-the-health-for-all-challenge>.

KEY MESSAGES

What are the main 3 to 5 key messages you wish to highlight about the impact to and contribution of sport for development and peace as it related to COVID-19?

- when preparing for sporting mass gatherings the WHO COVID-19 Risk assessment (see below) should be conducted so that risks can be managed and mitigated.
- The word after COVID-19 will not be the same. Sporting organizations could have a broader role post COVID-19 at a societal level, as one of the catalyst of positive public health and behavioral changes, as they are seen by many as role models (i.e. athletes as ambassadors of public health). WHO has a crucial role in supporting this.
- Mass Gathering organizers will also be confronted with a new era post-pandemic, where they will need to adapt their practices and create new protocols putting public health in the center of



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such protocols and guidelines. WHO will also have a key role on this providing technical guidance

- Even during confinement it is important to find ways to keep active to protect one's physical and mental health.

RESOURCES

Has your entity produced relevant resources on COVID-19 and sport for development and peace? Please attach/provide the links below:

1. [Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings during COVID-19](#)- 14th of February 2020
2. [FAQs on Mass Gatherings and COVID-19 including Sporting Events FAQs](#)- 11th of March & updated the 14th of April 2020
3. [Generic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Checklist](#)- 19th of March
4. [WHO interim guidance on how to use risk assessment and mitigation checklist](#)- 19th of March
5. [Decision tree flow chart for mass gatherings in context of COVID-19](#)- 1st of April
6. Practical considerations and recommendations for religious leaders and faith-based communities in the context of COVID-19- 7th of April
 - a. [Recommendations](#)
 - b. [Religious Risk Assessment](#)
 - c. [Decision tree](#)
7. Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19-15th of April
 - a. [Key considerations](#)
 - b. [Sporting Risk Assessment](#)
8. [Ramadan guidelines](#)- 16th of April
9. Be Active During COVID-19 <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/be-active-during-covid-19> 27 March 2020
10. #HealthyAtHome – Physical activity, including social media <https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/connecting-the-world-to-combat-coronavirus/healthyathome/healthyathome---physical-activity>