

2021-22 Euroleague Basketball Health & Safety Protocols v1.1



Version Control

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Basic Principles

These protocols set out minimum standards for clubs and referees when devising a plan for practices and official Euroleague Basketball games. Clubs are strongly recommended to apply the same minimum standards in friendly games and Domestic League games. The protocols are based on experience as well as protocols from competition organiser across different countries in Europe and the rest of the world, as well as health initiatives undertaken by national governments.

In general, the basic principles are to as much as possible:

- Maximise the health & safety of players, coaches, referees and their immediate families
- Maximise the health & safety of club staff, arena staff, media, IFPC staff, Euroleague Basketball personnel, spectators
- Minimise the risk of the spread of the virus by applying responsible and professional healthcare procedures in all aspects

The aim can never be to guarantee 100% the health & safety of all individuals since this is impossible under any and every scenario. The goal is to provide a medically justifiable risk based on the significance of basketball (in socio-political and economic terms) and the development of the global pandemic.

Euroleague Basketball will ensure that the protocols do not interfere with the medical assistance of the general population and that laboratories will always have enough testing capacity.

Euroleague Basketball will monitor developments and distribute additional information / update the protocols as appropriate.

Disciplinary Framework

Any unfulfillment of the present protocol may be considered as an infringement as stipulated in Chapter II Section I of the Euroleague Basketball Disciplinary Code.

Legal Framework

The conditions set by each country's government regarding the resumption of competition must be respected, with a common ground found.

Legal Disclaimer

Each organisation participating in Euroleague Basketball competitions is responsible for establishing prevention measures to guarantee the protection of its personnel's health & safety. Everyone participating in / attending Euroleague Basketball competitions is responsible for behaving in a manner that guarantees their own health & safety as well as those of all other individuals.

The protocols are intended solely and exclusively for the internal use of Euroleague Basketball, its advisors, teams, team personnel, arena personnel and applicable health and other government officials.

Working Group

Composition

The 2021-22 Euroleague Basketball Health & Safety Protocols have been driven by a working group containing the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer, EuroLeague Team Doctors and the Euroleague Basketball Health & Performance Officer. The working group has also received feedback and support from all the Team Doctors of the clubs participating in the competition, would also like to thank Dr. Florian Kainzinger, Managing Director at Think. Health Hygiene Solutions.

Hygiene Rules of Conduct

- Wash your hands often preferably with soap and water, and only if not possible using an alcohol hand sanitiser
- Keep your fingernails trimmed
- When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow, then wash your hands with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Mobile phones and wallets must be kept in bags when not in use
- Keep at least 1.5m away from each other
- Inside team facilities it is always obligatory to wear an FFP2 face mask without valve, aside from the exceptions listed in these protocols. The FFP2 face mask must always cover the nose and mouth
- Whenever possible, keep doors open (except for toilets) and avoid touching door handles

All individuals must know the hygiene rules of conduct.

Domestic Hygiene

Avoid gatherings of people as much as possible, other than those that live in the same home. Pay special attention to family members or friends living in the same home, as these have a high possibility of being a source of COVID-19 transmission. Maintain minimum 1.5m distance with anyone else always. Do not use public transportation.

Ensure that the kitchen and bathroom(s) are well-ventilated. Avoid direct contact with body fluids of anyone who is or appears to be unwell. At least once per day clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched often. Use detergent and hot water to wash dishes, cutlery, laundry, bed clothing, towels.

Wash your hands with soap and warm water frequently, before and after eating, before preparing food, after using the toilet, after coughing or sneezing. Use disposable paper towels to dry hands instead of fabric towels.

Domestic Hygiene in Case of Home Isolation / Quarantine

Follow the guidelines in place by the public health authorities. These should include a prohibition of visitors; what interactions are allowed / prohibited with family members in the same home; FFP2 face mask usage; criteria for when the home isolation / quarantine ends.

Arena / Practice Facility

Facilities Description

- Working areas must be defined
- Describe spatial and temporal distribution of individuals; a precise list of all individuals required in the facility and their movements within it shall be established
- Describe circulation circuits for all individuals avoiding confluence of people
- Guarantee adequate ventilation and temperature
- Strict hygiene control: all individuals have the obligation to follow the hygiene rules of conduct, as well as notify any symptom they present and isolate themselves immediately

Arena Zoning

According to playing court proximity, there are four zones:

- Zone 0 playing court area
 - Playing court
 - Locker rooms
 - Doping control room
 - All backstage corridors between the playing court / locker rooms / doping control room
- Zone 1 inside the arena and with proximity to Zone 0
 - Press conference room
 - Mixed zone
- Zone 2 inside the arena with limited proximity to Zone 0 nor Zone 1
 - Club offices
 - Storage
 - Fixed tribunes
 - Spectator concourses
 - Courtside seats
- Zone 3 outside the arena
 - TV compound
 - Box office

In order to minimise the number of individuals that can potentially come in close contact with players, coaching staff and referees, individuals in Zone 0 and Zone 1 must be reduced to an absolute minimum. All Zone 0 individuals also have access to Zone 1 and must therefore be included in the count of Zone 0 + Zone 1 individuals.

Dynamic Personnel Planning of Gameday Staff Requirements (20:45 Tip-off Example)

Zone 0 example:

Group / Time	10:00	13:00	16:00	19:00	20:45	22:30	23:30
Players		32		32	32	32	
Coaching Staff		20		20	20	20	
Referees				3	3	3	
Unified Scorers				6	6	6	
Game Operations				8	8	8	
Club Board Members		4		4	4	4	
Doping Control				2	2	2	2
Photographers			2	2	2	2	2
Medical Services		2		2	2	2	2
Cleaning Staff	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Security	2	2	2	4	4	4	4
IFPC	4			4	4	4	8
Zone 0 Subtotal:	8	62	6	89	89	89	20

Zone 0 must have a maximum of 100 individuals present at any given time. The distribution of individuals from each group may vary from the example above, if the maximum of 100 individuals is always respected.

Zone 1 example:

Group / Time	10:00	13:00	16:00	19:00	20:45	22:30	23:30
IFPC	4	20	20	20	20	20	16
Rights Holders		5	5	5	5	5	3
Media				20	20	20	20
Zone 1 Subtotal:	4	25	25	45	45	45	39
Zone 0 + Zone 1 Subtotal:	12	87	31	134	134	134	59

Zone 1 must have a maximum of 135 individuals present at any given time (number calculated adding Zone 0 individuals + Zone 1 individuals). The number of individuals from each group may vary from the example above, if the maximum of 135 individuals is always respected.

Arena Signage Requirements

- Hygiene Measurement Station
- Zone Limitation
- Circulation Indicators
- Symptom Control
- Directions to All Rooms
- Alcohol Hand Sanitiser Indicators

Increase signage in appropriate locations throughout the arena (access points, locker rooms, workout room, playing court, medical area etc) outlining advisable precautions.

Locker Rooms

After cleaning and disinfection of the team locker room, a seal shall be placed as a security check. The person designated by each team, in front of security, will remove this seal. The same protocols apply to the referee's locker room(s) as well as the coaches' locker rooms. Only players and coaching staff included in the Team Delegation List may enter the locker room. Cleaning staff may only enter the locker rooms when they are empty of all other individuals.

Doping Control Room

The doping control area must be sufficiently large to ensure a hygienic distance of at least 1.5m between the persons present. There must be a clear spatial separation between the doping control room and the waiting room; if necessary, additional rooms must be provided here. There must be a possibility for the players and the Doping Control Officer to wash their hands. The toilet area must be accessible without violating the hygienic distance, and the required distance of at least 1.5m must be maintained except during the visual inspection. The Doping Control Officer must wear an FFP2 face mask, as must the players and team doctor(s) / team follower. Doping Control Officers must follow the protocols in this document. The protocols in "The FIBA League Testing with COVID-19 Modifications 2020-2021" and following updates in the mentioned document will also be applied.

Playing Court Access

The court area must follow precise and frequent hygiene protocols and must always be kept within the safety enclosure. Ample access to alcohol hand sanitiser will be available. All material entering the playing court will follow the same control standard: bottles, towels, physio / medical bags, folders / computers.

Players, coaching staff and club staff will leave their belongings which are not essential in the locker room / office. Before entering the court, players, coaching staff and club staff must have disinfected their hands using an alcohol hand sanitiser. Teams and referees will follow circulation signs to access court, people who may cross paths with them (Unified Scorers, security staff, IFPC camera operators, cleaning staff etc.) must always wear FFP2 face masks and respect physical distancing measures.

The clean / soiled areas should be clearly marked - removal of soiled material (play clothes - towels - rubbish) must strictly follow the circuit. Special control will be in place for entrances / exits, for example if an individual must go to the locker room for equipment and then enter the playing court again.

No individuals other than the players, coaching staff, referees, team attendant sweepers, technicians, accredited EB Staff, cleaning staff responsible for the playing court and backstop units may step on the playing court. Staff responsible for the playing court must be very strict with hygiene and disinfection.

Clothing, Footwear, Team Bench Area

Each team will have a person in charge of organising clothing and footwear for cleaning and disinfection. Single use towels and bottles, one towel per player will be provided, which is non-transferable both in the locker rooms and on the court. Each player, coach and staff member will have their own bottle that must be identified and cannot be shared with anyone. Water, isotonic drinks, food, bottles and drinks coming from outside the facility that have not been approved by team staff may not be used. No uncontrolled food or drinks must be brought from outside the facility.

Team bench areas will have individual chairs. Except for the players on the scoresheet and the head coach, all other individuals in the team bench area will wear FFP2 face masks.

Balls

One person will be responsible for disinfecting balls after practice and games. To properly and thoroughly clean and disinfect basketballs after each use, teams should engage in the following procedure, recommended by Spalding:

- Mix 1.2ml of dishwashing liquid per every 3.75l of water
- With a clean cloth or towel, wipe the ball with the mix
- Further wipe the ball with water alone
- Allow the ball to air dry
- Once dry, spray the ball with an approved disinfectant

Repairs / Technical Incidents

Only accredited personnel (arena, IFPC, other) may access the playing court area including the scorer's table to perform a repair. If so, players and referees must move far away from the repair. Once the task is completed, cleaning staff will carry out a correct cleaning of all surfaces that have been handled.

Team Attendants

Sweepers must wear an FFP2 face mask, they must keep a safe distance, they must have an alcohol hand sanitiser bottle and paper towels to disinfect and dry any ball that leaves the playing court prior to play resuming.

Team Attendant rebounders are prohibited, with this activity carried out by players and / or coaching staff.

Scorer's Table

Direct contact between individuals sat at the Scorer's Table and players / coaching staff / referees must be avoided at all costs. The tasks do not allow a safety distance of 1.5m therefore all individuals must always wear an FFP2 face mask when going to / from the scorer's table as well as when they are at the scorer's table. Communication between the referees and all individuals at the scorer's table requires a minimum 1.5m distance is always maintained.

Medical Assistance

In terms of an on-court treatment in the case of an acute trauma it is recommended that the player's location on court must be considered Medical Area and adhere to a safety distance (1.5m radius) immediately. It is recommended that only one practitioner is approaching an injured player at first. All practitioners and first-aiders, when examining the player, are recommended to follow the safety procedures.

If a player or other member leave the arena, e.g. a player must be transported to hospital for an XR-MRI examination, high levels of safety equipment must be used (including full protective equipment for the ambulance crew, FFP2 mask for the player, ensuring this is compliant with the medical safety requirements for medical personnel in that country).

Entertainment

Entertainment personnel are prohibited from stepping onto the playing court at any time, as are any moving objects. The Euroleague Basketball Medical Services will study any proposed entertainment activities. Any entertainment activity must fully respect and protect players, coaching staff and referees by not crossing paths in Zone 0 at any time, with a full proposal shared by the home club, requiring approval from Euroleague Basketball prior to its execution.

Personal Hygiene

Individuals must avoid:

- Entering or leaving the playing court at the same time as either team / another group
- Spitting or clearing their nose
- Wiping the ball with any element of clothing or a towel
- Licking their hands
- Touching their mouthguard
- Shaking hands with anyone else
- Giving a high five to anyone else
- Sharing any cups, food, towels, clothing
- Swapping shirts

Toilets

Soap and warm water must be available with hands washed after every toilet use. Toilets must be cleaned and disinfected continuously throughout the day. Physical distancing must be respected inside toilets.

Medical Room

Only one player per room may be treated in order to maintain the preventive measures (a maximum of two simultaneously since there are two rooms in the infirmary). No player or staff member, out of team doctor or physiotherapist, may pass through the infirmary if a player is being treated. Single-use paper must be used for each per stretcher and removed after each treatment.

Isolation Room

Establish a designated physical space for isolation in arena. Any individual who experiences symptoms will immediately contact the home club COVID-19 Manager and be taken to the Isolation Room.

Practices

All individual practices and team practices, held in the practice facility, arena or in any other facility, must follow the minimum standards of the protocols. All playing courts, locker rooms, massage tables, gym equipment, practice equipment, balls must be cleaned and disinfected before and after every use. Any object that must be used inside an individual's mouth must be sterilised after every use.

Except for players and the head coach, all other individuals must wear FFP2 face masks during practices. Any coaching staff member who has direct physical contact with players must wash their hands frequently.

Administration / Media / Suppliers

Access control, protection and circulation measures must be established in relation to each zone, proximity to the teams and to clean areas.

General Protection Measures

- The number of people present must be limited
- Substitute personnel are necessary to be available to cover key positions as defined by the home club
- A list of all personnel specifying working hours must always be maintained

COVID-19 Manager

All clubs must appoint a COVID-19 Manager, who will be responsible for the execution of the protocols and will be the point of contact for all individuals. If the COVID-19 Manager cannot attend a home game, another member of staff must assume the function.

Educational Session

Clubs medical staff must conduct at least one educational session to review the requirements and recommendations set forth in this document and give all Zone 0 individuals the opportunity to ask questions. Required topics that must be covered include:

- Hygiene Rules of Conduct
- COVID-19 symptoms
- Testing protocols
- Travel
- Physical distancing
- Hand washing
- Domestic hygiene
- FFP2 & other face masks, including best practices for correct usage and removal
- Daily health monitoring

Team Doctor Medical Assessment Form

Prior to every game the Team Doctor will proceed to sign a form (TEAM DELEGATION LIST) where the names of all team members appear and certify they have successfully passed the medical assessment and PCR test (specifying the date). The medical assessment will require body temperature to be below 37.5°C – clinical monitoring -- pulse oxymeter - control of personal conduct and hygiene measures – mental health control. The home team doctor will perform the medical assessment and sign a form for the three referees once they have arrived in the arena pre-game. Referees must provide a copy of their last PCR test to the home team doctor.

Daily Health Monitoring

All individuals are recommended daily to record their own body temperature, any symptoms associated with COVID-19, close contacts with other individuals, their blood oxygen saturation.

Physical Distancing

At all times outside games and practices, individuals must refrain from unnecessary contact, and maintain 1.5m distance from each other. If that is physically impossible then an FFP2 face mask must be worn.

Security Staff

Those in Zone 0 must use an FFP2 face mask. Those in Zones 1, 2, 3 must use a face mask and disposable gloves. They will strictly adhere to their positions and circulation areas, maintain physical distancing. An adequate number of security personnel will guarantee that the zoning protocols are respected by all individuals.

Cleaning Staff

Those in Zone 0 must use an FFP2 face mask and disposable gloves. Those in Zones 1, 2, 3 must use a face mask and disposable gloves. They will strictly adhere to their positions and circulation areas, maintain physical distancing. An adequate number of cleaning staff will be assigned in order to clean and disinfect all areas before and after use.

Photographers

Every individual is responsible for the disinfection of his / her material. Those in Zone 0 must use an FFP2 face mask, whilst those in Zones 1, 2, 3 must wear a face mask when inside the arena. All photographers in Zone 0 and Zone 1 must additionally provide a vaccination certificate or a negative PCR test result within 48 hours to tip-off.

Press Conferences

The Press Conference Room will be disinfected prior to every use. Players / head coaches will enter and exit through a different door than the media unless there is only one door in which case players / head coaches will only enter and exit when all media are sat down. All microphones will be disinfected and adequately protected. The media will never be closer than 3m from the speaker's table. Any microphones / recorders that they wish to position on the speaker's table must be handed to home club personnel who will disinfect the device before placing it on the speaker's table.

Ambulance Service

Every practice and game needs emergency personnel including an ambulance on site. First aid assistance for spectators and priority assistance for players in case of an emergency, may potentially represent a strain on public health care resources. If so, clubs must reach an agreement with their hospital(s) to ensure that professional care is provided without putting excess strain on public health care resources.

Statement of Health Questionnaire (Yes / No)

All individuals in Zone 0 and Zone 1 (excluding players, coaching staff, referees) must agree to complete and sign a statement of health questionnaire as well as adhere to the hygiene rules of conduct. The questionnaires must be collected by the home club COVID-19 Manager for every game. Individuals in Zone 0 must use an FFP2 face mask, whilst those in Zones 1, 2, 3 must wear a face mask when inside the arena / practice facility.

1. Fever in the past 14 days?
2. Cough in the past 14 days?
3. Sore throat or limb pain in the past 14 days?
4. Difficulty breathing in the past 14 days?
5. Reduced sense of taste and smell in the past 14 days?
6. Contact with a COVID-19 patient in the past 14 days?
7. Been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the past 14 days?
8. Been COVID-19 tested? (If yes, when and how?)
9. Have you read and understood the Hygiene Rules of Conduct?

If the answer to at least one of the first eight questions is yes, access and accreditation will be decided by the home club COVID-19 Manager in consultation with the home team doctor.

Euroleague Basketball's Medical Staff may request to see the Statement of Health Questionnaires from a team at any time during the season.

Testing

PCR / RAT Testing

Before starting PCR / RAT tests, teams must ensure that all persons to be tested have provided written consent (including transmission of results to a designated physician and / or employer, GDPR, data protection, medical confidentiality).

All players and coaching staff will have a PCR or RAT test at Gameday-3 prior to every away game. All players and coaching staff will have a PCR or RAT test at Gameday-2 prior to every home game if their PCR testing laboratory guarantees in writing to deliver laboratory results no later than the next morning. If this guarantee does not exist, all players and coaching staff will have a PCR or RAT test at Gameday-3 prior to every home game.

Non-vaccinated players and coaching staff will have a PCR or RAT test at Gameday+0/+1/+2. PCR/RAT testing can take place immediately after the game, or the next day, or two days after the game. Vaccinated individuals will be exempt from post-game testing.

Gameday always refers to a EuroLeague or EuroCup game. All individuals will receive their PCR test result. All PCR Tests must be RT-PCR nasopharyngeal.

PCR/RAT Testing of players, coaching staff, direct team environment	Testing Time
Once per week (including exempted)	Gameday-3 (Visiting Team) Gameday-2 (Home Team)
Only Non- Vaccinated	Gameday +0/+1/+2

Anytime two EuroLeague / EuroCup games take place within three days, the first Gameday -3 / Gameday-2 test remains valid for the second game in the same week. Special procedures must be arranged when necessary (e.g. team takes a PCR test at the away game city, with the support of the home Team Doctor or at the Domestic League away game city).

Anytime entry requirements to a country require additional PCR testing (for example on Gameday-1 upon arrival to the country), the visiting team delegation and referees must be tested. The Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer may also require additional PCR testing on a case by case basis. The home Team Doctor must support the visiting team and referees to comply with their PCR testing.

Non-Club Activity

In the event of any type of activity outside the team that involves players or coaching staff (national team competitions, travel to high-risk areas...) they must undergo special control measures before being able to re-join the team.

Upon returning to the team, the player or coaching staff member must immediately undergo a PCR test. They must not have any type of contact with any other player or individual, nor may they return to normal team activities until a negative PCR test result is obtained.

PCR /RAT Test Laboratory Results Communication

All PCR/RAT test laboratory results both positive and negative must be communicated immediately to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Services:

Testing Exemptions

Individuals who have been vaccinated or previously tested positive for COVID-19 and subsequently received medical clearance will be exempt from further post-game PCR /RAT testing if:

- The Team Doctor sends the “Request For Exemption Form” via email to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer
- The Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer approves the individual’s PCR /RAT testing exemption, in which case he shall send the PCR/RAT Testing Exemption Certificate to the Team Doctor via email

Vaccinated person

Persons will be considered vaccinated if they have received the authorized vaccinations and the required dosage officially recognized in any country/region in which the Euroleague Basketball clubs are operating in, and those approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and World Health Organization (WHO), will have the opportunity to be exempt following the guidelines stated above.

For further information, the major vaccines generally accepted in most regions for clarification are provided below. In case the pertinent vaccination certificate of an individual is not on the list below, please make sure to include the necessary official reference and documentation proving that the certificate is valid in the country/region that the club is operating in to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer.

A person is considered to be fully vaccinated if he/she:

- Has received 2 doses within a minimum of 19 days and 7 days have passed (Pfizer/BioNTech)
- Has received 2 doses within a minimum of 21 days and 14 days have passed (Oxford/AstraZeneca/Sputnik V/ Sinopharm)
- Has received 2 doses in a minimum of 25 days and 14 days have passed (Moderna)
- Has received 1 dose from Janssen and 14 days have passed

- Has received 1 dose from AZ and a second dose from Pfizer/Moderna and 14 days have elapsed
- Has passed the disease and received 1 dose from Pfizer/Moderna/AZ/Sputnik/Sinopharm and 14 days have passed
- Has received 2 doses within a minimum of 21 days and 7 days have passed (Nuvaxovid)

Subjects who have had a PCR confirmed Covid-19 infection may also get the testing exemption. We strongly recommend all the subjects who have passed Covid-19 receive a vaccination within 6 months from the date of medical discharge. The testing exemption for individuals who have recovered from the Covid-19 infection will only be valid for 180 days from the date of the initial official positive test result.

Conditions of Use For the RAT

Any rapid antigen test that meets the EU standards for health, safety, and environmental protection, hence has the distinctive “CE” marking can be used. In the case that the desired testing kit does not have the mentioned marking, teams will contact the Euroleague Medical Officer before using the kit for approval. Tests conducted using kits that have not been approved by the Euroleague Medical Officer will not be accepted.

Please see link for a list of approved vaccinations by the EU.

https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness_response/docs/covid-19_rat_common-list_en.pdf

Post-Game Testing

All players and coaching staff who are not exempt, will take a Rapid Antigen Test at Gameday +0/+1/+2. Testing can take place immediately after the game, or the next day, or two days after the game. The timing of the tests intends for the test to be conducted at the earliest possible time upon return. The post-game RAT must be performed by the Team Doctor, who will send the filled “Rapid Antigen Test List” by email to pcr@euroleague.net. In case of a positive result, a regular PCR test will be compulsory.

In case teams have compulsory PCR tests scheduled on Gameday +0/+1/+2, for reasons such as travel and/or local health regulations or similar, the teams will use their compulsory PCR tests instead of the Rapid Antigen Tests.

Other Conditions

The RAT will be used in cases where the PCR test cannot be performed, or in cases to help in the decision-making process to have an objective criterion where the PCR test result cannot be obtained within the necessary time frame. *(For example: when a player feels sick on game day)* It cannot be used to replace the mandatory testing including, but not limited to the PCR tests for travel and pre-game competitions already required. It is to be used only for additional input for the following situations. The result of the RAT test must immediately be shared with the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer, especially before sharing it with any third parties.

Pre-Game Arrival in Arena

All individuals with access to zone 0 must have their body temperature checked upon arrival to the arena. If their body temperature is 37.5°C or above they will be taken immediately to the Isolation Room, with the Home Team Doctor performing a check-up of the individual. In case a body temperature of 37.5°C or higher is recorded, the home team doctor will check the individual's temperature two more consecutive times with 10 minutes in between readings. If a member of the visiting team has a fever or other symptoms, and the home team doctor has decided to perform the RAT test, it will be performed in the presence of both Team Doctors. If no visiting team doctor is available, a healthcare-oriented representative of the team (e.g. a physio) will be present. Each team will use their own kits for testing. If the visiting team has no RAT kits readily available, the home team will provide the RAT kit to the visiting team. The Home Team Doctor will decide whether the individual can continue or whether they must remain in the Isolation Room until they leave the arena after the game has ended. The Home Team Doctor must call the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer immediately to notify him of their decision.

In the case of a negative result, team members who are listed on the Game List will be allowed to participate in the game if the home team doctor sees no other obvious health risks for the individual's participation.

In the case of a positive result, the individual will be isolated and must take a compulsory PCR test after separation from the team. Following the positive RAT result, remaining team members must also take a Rapid Antigen Test immediately. The same protocol will be applied to all individuals with positive results. The situation will be reported to Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer immediately.

Travel Day & Game Day

In case a team member has fever or other symptoms on a day of travel or on a game day, and there are no options to take a PCR test, a Rapid Antigen Test shall be performed by the team doctor. If no team doctor is available, it shall be performed by a healthcare-oriented representative of the team (e.g. a physio). The team doctor is responsible for the validation of the test result(s), and all the following decisions to be taken.

In the case of a negative result, the player will follow Team Doctor's instructions according to his health status.

In the case of a positive result, the individual will be isolated and must take a compulsory PCR test after separation from the team. Following the positive RAT result, remaining team members must also take a Rapid Antigen Test immediately. The same protocol will be applied to all individuals with positive results. The situation will be reported to Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer immediately.

Positive PCR Test Result

A crisis plan will be established to analyse and make decisions. The positive test result must be notified to the individual, to the public health authorities, by email to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer attaching the laboratory result, as well as the individual being immediately isolated, in the previously prepared room in case they are in the arena or practice facility. They shall be assessed and transferred with the ambulance team using personal protective equipment. All areas where the patient has accessed will be disinfected.

Immediate Re-Test

Unless otherwise indicated by the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer, the entire team delegation must be re-tested immediately, with all individuals in self isolation until receiving the PCR test result. An extensive log of contacts will be documented in order to selectively initiate any other measures. In case the symptoms are mild and respond well to symptomatic treatment, the PCR positive patient must stay at home. If they are asymptomatic, they will follow a physical training program at home, as prescribed by the strength & conditioning coach / physiotherapist.

In case of clinical complications and / or duration of symptoms (fever > 38°C, cough, chest pain or dyspnea) for more than five days and / or worsening of the general state, the patient will be referred to hospital for a more detailed evaluation.

All other individuals will follow the regular detection test and work normally. A close contact is defined as being less than 1.5m from each other without wearing a face mask for 15 minutes or more. Close contacts for the past two days must be documented.

All subjects who have received a full vaccination schedule and those who have had a PCR confirmed Covid-19 infection within the previous 180 days are exempt from quarantine. The exemption for individuals who have recovered from the Covid-19 infection will only be valid for 180 days from the date of the initial official positive test result.

False or Doubtful Positive PCR Test Result

In case a club receives a false or doubtful positive PCR test result, the individual will be retested twice on two consecutive days. If the second and third PCR test both are negative, the individual will be considered negative.

Players Return to Play Protocol

The return-to-play protocol includes a total of 7 days for the vaccinated, and 10 days for the non-vaccinated players, from the first positive test or from the last day with symptoms (the latter of the two). After a positive PCR test result, a new PCR test will be repeated for the patient 24 hours later to confirm the positive result, with the patient isolated in quarantine throughout. To fill the Return To Play Form, all individuals will need to provide two negative PCR tests and Cardiac screening including troponin testing, electrocardiogram and an echocardiogram. The Return To Play Form will be filled once the individual has completed the

minimum quarantine period and is considered to be healthy enough to come back to competition by the Medical Services of the club..

Protocol for Players with Positive PCR Test Results following Quarantine

Following the quarantine period, if the PCR test is still positive and the Cycle threshold value (Ct) is more than or equal to 35, the player will be authorised to play. However, if the individual provides two consecutive PCR tests with CT value equal to or over 30, he will be authorised to play.

The use and the availability of CT value test may be limited in some countries, please communicate any such issues to the Medical Officer immediately.

The Team Doctor must fully complete the Return to Play form once all the steps above have been executed, and email this to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer. The player will be authorised to play in EuroLeague / EuroCup games only after receiving written confirmation from the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer.

Non-Players Return to Activity Protocol

The return-to-activity protocol must follow the public health authorities' guidelines in place, remaining in quarantine as requested. In order to be able to return to activity, they must produce a negative PCR test.. The Team Doctor must complete the Return to Play form once all the steps above have been executed, and email this to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer. The individual will be authorised for EuroLeague / EuroCup games only after receiving written confirmation from the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer.

Following the quarantine period, if the PCR test is still positive and the Cycle threshold value (Ct) is more than or equal to 35, the individual will be authorised to activity. However, if the individual provides two consecutive PCR tests with CT value equal or over to 30 he/she will be authorised to return to activity. The use and the availability of CT value test may be limited in some countries, please communicate any such issues to the Medical Officer immediately.

Public Communication

Positive PCR Test Results will not be communicated publicly unless authorisation has been received from both the individual and from Euroleague Basketball.

Transportation

Individuals must wear an FFP2 face mask in all methods of transportation (other than their private car if they are alone) from leaving their home until they return home for games, unless they are sat more than 1.5m from anyone else in which case they can remove their FFP2 face mask. All individuals must carry their own bottle of alcohol hand sanitiser which must be used frequently.

Seats will be assigned to maximise the distance between everyone. In buses the row behind the driver's seat will always be kept empty. Aside from the bus driver and one translator if necessary, only those members of the Team Delegation who have been PCR tested at the same time as the players and coaching staff are authorised to travel on the bus.

In-transit catering will be limited, and where necessary will be pre-packaged servings with single use disposable cutlery, plates / bowls, napkins and bottles / cans.

If the COVID-19 Manager is not in the Team Delegation, a member of staff who is in the Team Delegation must assume the functions of the COVID-19 Manager for the entire duration of the trip.

Teams flying on scheduled flights should obtain priority check-in, use fast track lanes at security checks; use airport lounges, avoid entering any airport shop and be the last passengers to board the airplane, all in order to avoid contact with the general public. The same principles apply when connecting between flights.

Teams travelling by train should book a charter train or an entire carriage for the team delegation with no other individuals permitted entry to the same train / carriage.

Gameday Transportation

Arrival and departure of teams and referees to / from the arena will be in a car / minibus / bus, with drivers using an FFP2 face mask, and will never occur at the same time. Buses are to be disinfected before teams enter. They must all enter a dedicated, covered entrance to the arena. Security will lead teams and referees to their respective locker room avoiding cross paths with other individuals. For departure the same process must be followed in reverse, again with no group departing the arena at the same as another group.

Hotels

The COVID-19 Manager must contact the hotel prior to the team travelling, in order to ensure that health & safety measures in the hotel with regards to hygiene, catering, security are of the required standard. Teams should stay on an exclusive floor / sector in order to minimise crossing with other hotel guests. Should this be impossible due to the hotel configuration, teams should aim to have an exclusive hotel entrance / exit, exclusive meeting / dining room, exclusive elevator. Players and coaching staff are not to access common areas such as wellness, gym or bar. Elbows are to be used for elevator buttons, handrails and door handles instead of hands.

Team Delegation List

When configuring the travel party, teams shall minimise the size of these, identifying at risk individuals based on their age and / or underlying health conditions and avoiding travel where possible. It is recommended that a Team Doctor be part of the travel party.

Personal Belongings

Everyone must always carry their luggage / personal belongings. Hotel staff are not permitted to handle any luggage / personal belongings at any time.

Physical Distancing

Individuals must maintain as much as distance as possible, always at least 1.5m away from hotel staff as well as any other guests.

Meals

Adequate amounts of food and beverages must be distributed prior to player and coaching staff arrival in the meal room. If food is distributed in buffet format, the meals may not be distributed by hotel staff, instead players and coaching staff must serve themselves individually. Tables are to be cleared only after all players and coaching staff have left.

Rooms

It is strongly recommended to accommodate all individuals in single rooms. Rooms must be well ventilated every day, whilst cleaning staff must be arranged to enter rooms only when the team is outside the hotel. However, during shorts stays (1-2 nights), it is recommended to request the hotel not to clean the rooms to avoid any unnecessary risk of potential contamination.

Referees

General Precautions

Referees must take special precautions and protective measures in the context of the current conditions in order to reduce their risk of infection. They must avoid any risky contacts in all environments, and observe hygiene rules of conduct (physical distance, FFP2 face mask, hand washing). Referees must wear an FFP2 face mask in all methods of transportation (other than their private car if they are alone) from leaving their home until they return home for all game nominations.

PCR/RAT Testing of referees	Testing Time
Once per week (for everyone)	Gameday-3
Only Non- Vaccinated	Gameday +0/+1/+2

Referees must assign one validated PCR testing laboratory in their home city, arranged through their general practitioner or a validated hospital. For Gameday+0/+1/+2 testing, the PCR or RAT test must take place in the city where the referee resides, obtaining support from the home Doctor, the Domestic League or Euroleague Basketball Medical Services accordingly. If a Referee does not have any nominations for a period of 10 or more days, they may stop PCR testing until their next nomination.

If referees require assistance from EB Medical Services to arrange a test, the request should be made at least 5 days prior to the date of the mentioned PCR/RAT test. Referees will not be guaranteed to take a test unless if the request is made less than 5 days in advance.

Anytime two EuroLeague / EuroCup games take place within three days, the first Gameday -3 / Gameday-2 test remains valid for the second game in the same week.

PCR Test Laboratory Results Communication

All PCR/RAT test laboratory results both positive and negative must be emailed immediately to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Services For the RAT test results, only in case a laboratory/testing station authorized result is not available, a picture of the RAT result will be e-mailed to pcr@euroleague.net

Testing Exemptions

Individuals who have been vaccinated or previously tested positive for COVID-19 and subsequently received medical clearance will be exempt from further post-game PCR /RAT testing if:

- The referee sends the Request For Exemption Form via email to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer
- The Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer approves the individual's PCR /RAT testing exemption, in which case he shall send the PCR/RAT Testing Exemption Certificate to the referee via email

Vaccinated person

Persons will be considered vaccinated if they have received the authorized vaccinations and the required dosage officially recognized in any country/region in which the Euroleague Basketball clubs are operating in, and those approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and World Health Organization (WHO), will have the opportunity to be exempt following the guidelines stated above.

For further information the major vaccines generally accepted in most regions are provided below for clarification. In case the pertinent vaccination certificate of an individual is not on the list below, please make sure to include the necessary official reference and documentation proving that the certificate is valid in the country/region that the club is operating in to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer.

A person is considered to be fully vaccinated if he/she:

- Has received 2 doses within a minimum of 19 days and 7 days have passed (Pfizer/BioNTech)
- Has received 2 doses within a minimum of 21 days and 14 days have passed (Oxford/AstraZeneca/Sputnik V/ Sinopharm)
- Has received 2 doses in a minimum of 25 days and 14 days have passed (Moderna)
- Has received 1 dose from Janssen and 14 days have passed
- Has received 1 dose from AZ and a second dose from Pfizer/Moderna and 14 days have elapsed
- Has passed the disease and received 1 dose from Pfizer/Moderna/AZ/Sputnik/Sinopharm and 14 days have passed
- Has received 2 doses within a minimum of 21 days and 7 days have passed (Nuvaxovid)

Persons who have had a PCR confirmed Covid-19 infection may also get the testing exemption. We strongly recommend all persons who have passed Covid-19 receive a vaccination within 6 months from the date of medical discharge. The exemption for individuals who have recovered from the Covid-19 infection will only be valid for 180 days from the date of the initial official positive test result.

All referees (including those with exemptions) should pass a PCR/RAT test at least 2 times every month. If they have not been tested for reasons of travel, they should receive a PCR or RAT test always on a GD-3. Conditions of Use For the RAT

Any rapid antigen test that meets the EU standards for health, safety, and environmental protection, hence has the distinctive “CE” marking can be used. In the case that the desired testing kit does not have the mentioned marking, teams will contact the Euroleague Medical Officer before using the kit for approval. Tests conducted using kits that have not been approved by the Euroleague Medical Officer will not be accepted.

Please see link for a list of approved rapid antigen tests by the EU. https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness_response/docs/covid-19_rat_common-list_en.pdf

Airports

Referees should avoid entering any airport shop and should be the last passenger to board the airplane, in order to avoid contact with the general public.

Hotels

The Euroleague Basketball Officiating Department will contact the hotel prior to Referees travelling, in order to ensure that health & safety measures in the hotel with regards to hygiene, catering, security are of the required standard.

Referees are to eat all their meals in the hotel, either in their individual rooms or using a physical distanced table in the hotel restaurant. If a referee requires a meal during a time when the hotel catering services are not available, they shall use a suitable delivery service with the support of the hotel reception.

In-Game Physical Distancing

Players / Head Coaches / Referees are not required to maintain physical distancing during games. Referees must maintain physical distancing when huddling together at any time.

During an Instant Replay System review if Referees cannot communicate clearly with the IRS Operator, they are able to temporarily stand closer than 1.5m to the IRS Operator.

Return to Play Protocol

The return-to-play protocol includes a total of 14 days from the first positive test or from the last day with symptoms (the latter of the two). After a positive PCR test result, a new PCR test will be repeated for the patient 24 hours later to confirm the positive result, with the patient isolated in quarantine throughout. A PCR test will be repeated 10 days after the first positive. Cardiac screening including troponin testing, electrocardiogram and an echocardiogram may be performed 12 or 13 days after the first positive. A PCR test and antibody test may be performed 14 days after the first positive. A referee must produce two negative PCR tests and a positive antibody test before being cleared to return.

If after 14 days the PCR test is still positive and the Cycle threshold value (Ct) is less than or equal to 35, the referee will not be authorised to return. If the Cycle threshold value (Ct) is more than 35, a serology (antibody) test will be made. If the referee does not have positive Immunoglobulin G (IgG), they will not be authorised to return. If the referee has positive Immunoglobulin G (IgG), they will be authorised to return. The use and the availability of CT value test may be limited in some countries, please communicate any such issues to the Medical Officer immediately.

An approved Doctor must fully complete the Return to Play form once all the steps above have been executed, and the Referee must email this to the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer. The player will be authorised to officiate EuroLeague / EuroCup games only after receiving written confirmation from the Euroleague Basketball Medical Officer.

Referee Coaches

Referee Coaches are prohibited from accessing Zone 0 inside arenas.

International Feed Production Company

International Feed Production Company (IFPC) personnel must avoid any risky contacts in all environments, and observe hygiene rules of conduct (physical distance, face mask, hand washing). They will always wear a face mask in all methods of transportation (other than their private car if they are alone) from leaving their home until they return home for all gamedays, with an FFP2 face mask strongly recommended.

IFPC personnel regardless of the zone(s) in which they perform their duties must complete a statement of health questionnaire and submit this to the home club COVID-19 Manager. Their paths must not cross those of players, coaching staff and referees, unless physically impossible in which case this must be kept to a bare minimum. No unnecessary conversations are to take place with any Zone 0 individuals.

Production Trucks, OB Van, Satellite Uplink Truck

These must be equipped with disinfection kits, with minimum 1.5m distance between individuals who will always wear a face mask, with an FFP2 face mask strongly recommended. Plexiglass sheets can alternatively be installed between each work position. Hygiene Rules of Conduct must be displayed in the English and local languages inside all vehicles.

Closed rooms must be aired out for 10 minutes three to four times during gameday. Equipment surfaces and door handles must be cleaned with a surface disinfectant before production begins and after breakdown.

On-Court Personnel

Every individual is responsible for the disinfection of his / her material. They must wear an FFP2 face mask anytime they are inside the arena. They must stay by their equipment only when strictly necessary, otherwise they must be away from the playing court / seating bowl altogether. Camera and microphone operators may not be closer than 1.5m from any other individual and may not move from their fixed position during the game. Camera and microphone operators are prohibited from approaching the team bench area at any time.

Flash Interviews / Mixed Zone

No one will stand closer than 1.5m from any player or head coach at any time. All equipment such as microphones will be disinfected and adequately protected. Only 2m boom microphones will be permitted.

Locker Room Access

There will be no locker room access for the IFPC.

Media

Media personnel must avoid any risky contacts in all environments, and observe hygiene rules of conduct (physical distance, face mask, hand washing). They are advised to wear a face mask in all methods of transportation (other than their private car if they are alone) from leaving their home until they return home for all gamedays, with an FFP2 face mask strongly recommended.

Media personnel regardless of the zone(s) in which they perform their duties must complete a statement of health questionnaire and submit this to the home club COVID-19 Manager. Their paths must not cross those of players, coaching staff and referees, unless physically impossible in which case this must be kept to a bare minimum. No unnecessary conversations are to take place with any Zone 0 individuals.

Media personnel must be accredited by the home club, with full contact details provided. They must always wear a face mask inside the arena.

Media In-Arena Seating Area

Media personnel are recommended to be sat more than 1.5m from each other, however they can be sat closer than 1.5m from each other as they must always wear a face mask, with an FFP2 face mask strongly recommended.

Rights Holders Commentary Positions

Rights holder personnel are recommended to be sat more than 1.5m from each other, however they can be sat closer than 1.5m from each other if they wear a face mask. If their commentary positions are in Zone 0 then they must use an FFP2 face mask. In Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3 an FFP2 face mask is strongly recommended. Commentators sat more than 1.5m from anyone else regardless of the Zone may remove their face mask only when they are commentating live, at all other times they must wear a face mask.

Equipment

Every individual is responsible for the disinfection of his / her material. Media are prohibited from recording any audio prior, during or after games, except for previously authorised flash interviews, mixed zone interviews, press conferences. Accredited radio personnel are exempt from this prohibition when recording audio as part of their professional obligations.

Flash Interviews / Mixed Zone

No one will stand closer than 1.5m from any player or head coach when at any time. All equipment such as microphones will be disinfected and adequately protected. Only 2m boom microphones will be permitted - handheld or other microphones are prohibited.

Practices

Authorised media access during practices will follow the same protocols as for Flash Interviews / Mixed Zone.

Press Conferences

The Press Conference Room will be disinfected prior to every use. Players / head coaches will enter and exit through a different door than the media. All microphones will be disinfected and adequately protected. The media will never be closer than 3m from the speaker's table. Any microphones / recorders that they wish to position on the speaker's table must be handed to home club personnel who will disinfect the device before placing it on the speaker's table.

Locker Room Access

There will be no locker room access for any media.

Regional / National Authorities Restrictions

If media are prohibited from entering the arena due to regional / national authorities' restrictions, Euroleague Basketball will provide additional remote access to players and head coaches.

Spectators

Regional and / or national regulations regarding spectator access to arenas will be followed including seating distribution. The following are the recommended minimum standards:

- Spectators will access the arena in different time lapses depending in which section their ticket is located
- At arena access the use of hand sanitiser is compulsory
- Electronic tickets to be used in order to avoid the use of paper, unless physically impossible
- Seat distribution will follow a pattern that allows physical distancing as per the regional / national regulations

Spectators must always wear face masks inside the arena covering chin, mouth and nose

Physical Distancing

At all times spectators must refrain from unnecessary contact and maintain 1.5m distance from each other. If that is physically impossible then a face mask must be worn.

All spectators must have their feet no closer than 1,5m from the team bench area / scorer's table. If necessary, the home club will leave one or more rows of seats in the fixed tribunes vacant. To ensure the safety of the teams, the club will use extra ushers to enforce the proper use of facemasks (covering chin, nose and mouth) and the conduct of the fans in the seats in close proximity to the playing court and/or benches.

Loose Ball

Spectators must never touch any loose ball at any time, instead waiting for a Team Attendant to collect and disinfect the ball.

Courtside Seats

If authorised by the regional / national authorities, courtside seat spectators must follow all regulations contained within the Bylaws, the Health & Safety Protocols as well as:

- Have their feet no closer than 1,5m from the playing court
- Always wear an FFP2 face mask covering chin, mouth and nose
- Reach their seats from the fixed tribune and depart from their seats via the fixed tribune, never moving inside the arena on the playing court level.

Euroleague Basketball Club Pandemic Response Guidelines

Clubs must use the Euroleague Basketball Club Pandemic Response Guidelines as reference when managing spectators. Items to which attention must be paid include:

- 1.5m physical distancing must be respected in all queues both outside and inside the arena, as well as in vomitories prior to entering each specific seating area
- All seats and surfaces must be disinfected before and after each game; constant monitoring and sanitisation of concession and public areas are necessary throughout the game
- Hand sanitisation stations need to be available at points where many spectators congregate such as entrances, exits, concessions and toilets
- Where possible, only electronic methods of payment for concessions are to be used

References

- Basketball England Return to Play Guidance Document (United Kingdom)
- COVID-19 Protocol for FIBA Competitions v2
- FIBA Restart Guidelines, Version 2.0
- Estrategia de Deteccion Precoz, Vigilancia y Control de COVID-19 (Spain)
- European Handball Federation Back to Handball – Hygiene Concept
- FIFA Return to Football International Match Protocol Version 1.0
- Guia Competicion Fase Final Liga Endesa 19 / 20 (Spain)
- Guia de Reincorporacion a la Practica Deportiva en el Deporte de Competicion (Spain)
- Indicazioni per la RIPRESA degli allenamenti delle squadre di calcio professionistiche e degli arbitri (Italy)
- Instructions for starting the training process of top athletes and other athletes in the sports system of the Republic of Serbia in the implementation of prevention and reduction of disease risks COVID-19 (Serbia)
- International Swimming League Prevention and Intervention Protocol
- K League Guidelines for COVID-19 (Republic of Korea)
- Konzept für den Sonderspielbetrieb zur Wiederaufnahme der Saison 2019 / 2020 BBL (Germany)
- Leitfaden für den Trainings und Spielbetrieb 2020 / 21 Version 2.1 (Germany)
- Medical protocol and recommendations for testing Liga Portugal (Portugal)
- Medidas de actuación vuelta a los entrenamientos en l'Alqueria del Basket – Valencia Basket (Spain)
- Medidas de tratamiento y vuelta al entrenamiento AEMB (Spain)
- Pandemia COVID-19 situacion actual y retorno a los entrenamientos FC Barcelona (Spain)
- Pla del desconfinament progressiu en el sector esportiu de Catalunya SGE (Spain)
- Protocol for the resumption of training and match play across all professional football competition in Denmark during COVID-19 (Denmark)
- Protocolo de actuación para la vuelta a los entrenamientos de los equipos de LaLiga (Spain)
- Protocolo Sanitario para la Liga Endesa y las demás Competiciones Profesionales Organizadas por la ACB Temporada 2020/21 (Spain)
- Raccomandazioni Federazione Medico Sportiva Italiana (Italy)
- Recomendaciones para evitar los riesgos sobre la salud en la vuelta a la competición en el fútbol RFEF (Spain)
- Recommandations sur le deconfinement COVID-19 AMCFP (France)
- Return to football advisory protocol TFF (Turkey)
- Rules of the organization of training units for Czech league teams LFA (Czech Republic)
- Task force Sportmedizin Sonderspielbetrieb im Profifussball DFL (Germany)
- Protocolo FIGC 2021-22 (Italy)
- NFL_NFLPA Covid-19 protocol for 2021 Training Camp and Preseason
- Estrategia Deteccion Precoz, vigilancia y control Covid-19 – Ministerio Sanidad – (Spain)
- Stagione 2021 – Indicazioni generali per la pianificazione – Fed Italiana Pallacanestro (Italy)