

COVID-19 Safety Protocol



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AFRICA**

Introduction

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BCA Council decided to postpone the All Africa U19 Championship that was scheduled in July 2020. After much consideration and in close collaboration with the host, Benin, the BCA eventually decided to host both the U19 and the U15 Championships in August 2021. Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it was also decided that a strict sanitary protocol will be put in place to protect all players and their entourage. The following are guidelines that shall be applied in Benin for the championships:

1. COVID-19 situation in Benin

The authorities in Benin have been fighting the pandemic with strict measures since March 2020. With the efforts of the government and other stakeholders, the country has managed to control the diffusion of the virus considerably. As at date, a weekly average rate of 31 positive cases is detected in the whole country. However, vigilance is still high and sanitary measures, like social distancing and wearing of masks, are also in place.

2. Preventive Measures during the Championships

All participants including players, coaches, officials, volunteers and other personnel must be jointly responsible for their behaviour and movement during the championships. It is very important that the preventive measures are closely followed in accordance with the general guidelines of the health authorities. To create a 'bubble', that is, a safe and secure environment during the competition, all players and their entourage will have to follow the following basic preventative measures at all times:

- ✓ Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ✓ Wear a mask at all times except when you are in your room, on court or eating.
- ✓ Maintain physical distancing at all times (at least 1 m).
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- ✓ Avoid gathering or socializing with strangers or people outside the sanitary bubble.
- ✓ In case of any symptoms, inform the organisers immediately.

3. PCR Tests

Testing will be done on arrival at the airport (\$100 per person). After testing, you will be pick up and dropped at your respective hotel. You will be required to quarantine (1 day) in your room until the result is obtained. If you are arriving by land, you will also be tested before travelling to the hotel. During your quarantine, you will not be allowed to leave your room and nobody else will be allowed to enter your room. Quarantine can be done in a single or double room (either 1 or 2 persons per room).

In competition testing may be carried out by the BCA (covered by BCA). Prior to departure, you will be tested again depending on your departure's timings.

4. PCR Tests Results Management

In case any person is tested positive, he/she will be quarantined in his/her room and a second test will be ordered. If the second test confirms the positive results, the person will remain quarantine in his/her room for a minimum period of 7 days. After 7 days, another test will be carried out and if the result is still positive another test will be done every 3 days thereafter.

In case the person has any symptoms that will require medical assistance, the organisers will facilitate transportation to a medical facility, either provided by the Benin government or at the cost of the Member Association concerned.

If a player is tested positive and the second test confirms the results, he/she will be withdrawn from the tournament. Any close contact will also be retested. In case the close contact is also positive, he/she will also be withdrawn from the tournament. A close contact is:

- i. A room partner
- ii. A doubles partner
- iii. Any person that was within 2 meters of the infected person, for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period, without wearing a face mask.

5. Accommodation

The IRSP Complex is a closed facility with strict controlled movement. The players will reside in dedicated rooms, as per bookings made, that is, single or double rooms. The accommodation is on a full board basis with breakfast, lunch and diner included. U15 teams and players participating in the U15 training camp from 19 to 21 August will be accommodated in Cotonou, in either Jeanne d'Arc hotel or hotel Paradisia, from 17 to 21 August. They will then move to Ouidah on 21 August.

In all accommodation facilities, all players and officials will be required to always have their mask on except when they are in their rooms. Movement will be allowed in the hotels' premises only. No players or officials will be allowed to leave the hotels and the complex of IRSP (for example, going to the supermarket or site seeing will not be allowed).

6. Catering

Food will be prepared by the hotel and served either in a dining hall or in the respective rooms. The organisers will confirm this in due course.

7. Transport

For the competition, no transport will be needed as the venue is within walking distance from the accommodation. For the U15 training camp in Cotonou, transport will be available on a daily basis. Social distancing and other sanitary measures will be applied in the buses.

8. Venue

The venue will be closed to the public and other unaccredited personnel. Only players, officials, tournament staff, teams' personnel, VIPs and other authorized persons will be allowed in the venue. Players will be required to always have their mask on, except when on court and warming up. Each team will be allocated a seating arrangement for the duration of the tournament.

9. Accreditation

Accreditation will be delivered on arrival. All teams must provide the passport size photo of each delegation member at latest 14 August 2021.

10. Temperature Testing

All accredited persons will be screened each time upon entering the competition venue. Anyone with temperature over 37.6°C measured on the forehead will not be allowed inside the venue and will have to wait in isolation before a second temperature check is conducted. The second screening will be carried out with a different device. If the second temperature check returns a temperature below 37.6°C, the person can proceed as normal.

Should the second temperature check return a temperature of 37.6°C or more, the participant may be required to self-isolate/take a PCR-test/withdraw from the tournament. The BCA will consult and be guided by local health authorities and the BCA's decision will be final.

11. Team's Seating Area

In the venue, each country will be assigned a designated area in the stands. It is important that players and team entourage follow the physical distancing measures that will be place in the seating area. As general advice, all players/coaches/managers/entourage are encouraged to go back to their respective hotel rooms upon completion of their match/ duty. This is to avoid crowding and reduce the risk of exposure.

12. Protocol for Players and Team Officials in the FOP

Assembly Point

It is mandatory to wear masks in the assembly point area and physical distancing measures must be closely followed. Before players are called on court, umpires will carry out the players' clothes inspection. Umpires, service judges and players are all required to wear their face masks and follow physical distancing during the inspection, marching on and off court.

Pre and Post Match Protocol

No hand shaking will be allowed, and players should greet each other and the officials via signs and gestures (nodding, touching of rackets, hand on chest with eye contact or others).

Shuttles Dispenser

A shuttle dispenser will be available on each side of the court. Used shuttles should be thrown in a dedicated basket while new shuttles should be taken directly from the dispenser. There won't be any need to approach the service judge for changing of shuttles.

Coaching

Only one coach per player/pair will be allowed on court.

Intervals and Breaks during the match

After the end of each game, the Service Judge will stand by his own chair until the end of the interval.

At change of ends, players are required to carry their own bags and place them into the player box/basket on the opposite side. Players are requested not to leave any unpleasant items in the player boxes/baskets such as plasters, bandages, plastic bottles, food etc. Kindly take every item with you. When line judges/floor assistants mop the court, the Umpires must ensure that the players are standing by the player boxes during the cleaning procedure.

Cleaning of Court Equipment

The following court equipment will be regularly cleaned:

- ✓ Court
- ✓ Players basket/box
- ✓ Shuttle dispenser
- ✓ Net tape
- ✓ Umpires chair and tablet
- ✓ Service judge chair
- ✓ Service height measuring device

13. Protocol for Players and Team Officials – Post Match

Media Obligations

In case its required, players will have to undertake media interviews after their matches. The mixed zone or media interview area will be stationed nearby the field of play. The interviews in the mixed zone and/or interview area will be conducted under physical distancing rules. Media, translators and players will be required to wear face masks at all times.

Prize Giving Ceremony

Before each presentation, the players will be required to sanitize their hands. Prize presenters will wear face mask throughout the ceremony. Shall players request to wear a face mask during the ceremony, this will be allowed.

During presentations, physical distancing measures will be followed, and prize presenters will be instructed not to verbally communicate with players. Players shall pick up the prizes from trays, rather than receiving their prizes from the presenters directly. A group photo observing physical distancing rules will be carried out at the end of each presentation.

14. Breaches of these COVID-19 Safety Protocols

In case of any breach of the COVID-19 safety protocol, as listed in this document, the BCA in consultation with the Refereeing team will take the necessary actions against the infringer (and his/her member association). Actions taken may include warnings and disqualifications.

15. Contacts

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