

World Sailing Medical Commission Update
26/03/2020

This is an update from the World Sailing Medical Commission in relation to the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated "COVID-19").

On 30th January 2020, the WHO Director General has declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a *Public Health Emergency of International Concern*.

On 11 March, the World Health Organisation declared that COVID-19 has become a pandemic due to the speed and scale of transmission rather than the severity of the disease. This severe public health challenge requires close co-operation between international agencies, governments and event organizers, in order to protect the health of athletes, as well as the general public.

In the present circumstances and based on the information provided by the WHO, on 24 March IOC President and the Prime Minister of Japan have concluded that the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo must be rescheduled to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021, to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community.

We understand the significant challenges faced by athletes and Member National Authorities (MNA's), particularly in terms of travel regulations and the varying restrictions on the organisation of events which continues to change daily.

Being aware of the potential dangers of this outbreak, following advice and decision of their national health authorities, World Sailing, Event Organisers and Class Associations have cancelled or postponed some Olympic qualification and multi class International events. World Sailing is exploring all possibilities to conduct the Olympic qualification events, protecting the health of the athletes and respecting the health regulations of the hosting territory of the event.

In response to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, World Sailing now has a section on the website dedicated to health to support athletes and all sailing event organizers and sailing communities. The purpose is to help the sailing community to follow advice provided by the Medical Commission.

The World Sailing webpage is accessible via <https://www.sailing.org/medical/index.php> and contains the following resources:

Advice on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) including:

- World Sailing Guidance to Event Organisers for the Protection of the Health of Sailing Communities
- WHO, Cigna Global and CDC recommendations and factsheets
- WHO Risk Assessment Matrix Tools and Reference

Medical Guidelines for the International Teach Coach

Medical References including:

- World Sailing Medical Action Plan (MAP)
- World Sailing On-Water Emergency Response recommendations
- World Sailing Trauma Recovery Kit recommendations

World Sailing believes it is very important to provide the latest medical advice to athletes which we have loaded onto the World Sailing website:

<https://www.sailing.org/medical/index.php>

World Sailing continues to be in close communication with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission Games Group public health experts in order to closely monitor the development of this outbreak and advised countermeasures. The World Sailing Medical library will continue to be updated as necessary

Please do not hesitate to contact medical@sailing.org if you would like to arrange any direct discussions with the World Sailing Medical Commission.

Wishing everyone continued health and safety

World Sailing Medical Commission
26/03/2020
MD/NN