RESTARTING INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON TOURNAMENTS

SAFETY PROTOCOLS & OPERATING PROCEDURES

KOREA MASTERS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022
GWANGJU CITY, KOREA • 12-17 APRIL, 2022
Introduction

The widespread success of national vaccination programmes has allowed the opening up of many economies and international travel hence the release of this revised safety protocols document.

In the context of vaccination, a recent survey of Top 100 players shows that it can be expected that at least between 90-95% of all participating athletes are vaccinated and therefore protected against the most severe conditions of the COVID-19 disease. This fact is part of the background to starting a gradual revision of the COVID-19 safety protocols that were first introduced towards the end of 2020. As vaccinated players can still contract the disease and be infectious, it is however still seen as necessary for a period of time to keep a certain level of protocols in place to avoid spread of the virus.

In order to continue the resumption of international badminton, which is vital to the livelihoods of the players, the continued development of the sport and also to transition to hopefully a more normal playing and traveling environment as the world emerges from the pandemic, BWF has planned a three-stage action plan with regards to COVID-19 safety protocols in 2022.

BWF safety protocols as currently in place would form a ‘minimum’ set of standards to be implemented. Where local laws or requirements from local health authorities require additional measures, these must be met by participants. Otherwise, it would be expected that the tournament cannot be held.

BWF will not expect that participants have to be vaccinated to take part in international competition. However, where airlines or territories require vaccination for entry, BWF has no power to change such national government rules. BWF will not refuse sanction for a tournament because of national vaccination policies for participants.

The BWF COVID-19 Safety Protocols serve as a mandatory framework for Grade 1 and Grade 2 (Level 1 to 5).

The Current Situation in Korea

Republic of Korea (Korea) is continuing to battle a surge of COVID-19 cases, with an average of 350,000 daily cases recorded with the propagation of Omicron variant. However, despite the concerning high rate of infection, the risks are decreased as compared to the Delta variant which is cause for optimism. This has led the Korean Government to adjust its response measure to better fit the challenges Omicron presents.

Revised restrictions will be introduced starting 1 April 2022, where travellers arriving from this date will have less restrictions and may be granted special exemption from the on-arrival 7 days quarantine. In order to obtain the on-arrival 7 days quarantine exemption, participants must submit the applications to the Host Organiser – Badminton Korea Association (BKA) or apply for Q-CODE (applicable to Fully Vaccinated participants arriving from 1 April onwards).
General Guidelines and Preventive Measures

Players, coaches, tournament staff and volunteers all have a joint responsibility for ensuring that their movements take place in a way that limit any potential spread of infection. It is very important that the preventive measures are closely followed in accordance with the general guidelines of the health authorities.

In order to create a safe and secure environment during the competition period, kindly ensure that you follow the basic preventive measures at all times:

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- Cough or sneeze in your sleeve
- Maintain physical distancing (at least 1 metre)
- Wear a face mask at any time except for training and matches
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- If you have fever, cough or breathing difficulty, seek medical care immediately
- If you have mild respiratory symptoms, seek medical advice

Important Contact Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament Manager</th>
<th>Secretariat Office</th>
<th>COVID-19 Helpdesk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Han Woo Goo</td>
<td>Mr Lee Hwa Woo</td>
<td>Jang Jin Seok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:hanwg@bka.kr">hanwg@bka.kr</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lee@bka.kr">lee@bka.kr</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jjs5518@bka.kr">jjs5518@bka.kr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+82-10-8965-4613</td>
<td>+82-10-3702-8942</td>
<td>+82-10-6433-5499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>4 APR</td>
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<td>5 APR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pre-Arrival RT-PCR (A)</td>
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<td>11 APR</td>
<td>12 APR</td>
<td>13 APR</td>
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<td>Main Draw</td>
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<tr>
<td>KOR Open Antigen Self-Test (C) &lt;Suncheon&gt;</td>
<td>START OF MAIN COURT PRACTICE</td>
<td>START OF KOREA MASTERS 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Points

- There are 3 categories for entry into Korea for the Korea Masters 2022:
  - Fully Vaccinated
  - Vaccinated
  - Non-Vaccinated

- Vaccines - the Korean Authorities recognises the following WHO approved vaccines:
  - AstraZeneca
  - Pfizer
  - Janssen
  - Sinopharm
  - Moderna
  - Sinovac
  - Covishield
  - Novavax
  - Covaxin
  - Covovax

- Testing Plan – 1 mandatory RT-PCR On-Arrival Test and 1 Antigenic Test on 13 April.
- On-arrival quarantine (7-days) is still mandatory in Korea, however participants can be granted exemption by submitting Quarantine Exemption Application to BKA or applying for Q-CODE (only applicable for Fully Vaccinated).
- From 1 April, only arriving participants categorised as Fully Vaccinated will be allowed to perform On-Arrival RT-PCR test in Gwangju. All other arriving participants are required to perform On-Arrival RT-PCR test in Incheon (staying 1-night in Incheon).
- Participants arriving from Suncheon (Korea Open), must perform pre-arrival Antigenic test in Suncheon, prior to boarding the bus to Gwangju.
- In case of Positive test result – participant and direct contacts (roommates or doubles partners) will have to isolate for 7 days at the hotel or designated facility by Gwangju City at his/her own cost.
- In application of BWF safety protocol, if one of the doubles players test positive for COVID-19, the pair will be withdrawn, and their partner will be considered a direct contact.
- There will be NO Organisational Quarantine for the tournament and participants are allowed to go out to tournament venues, grocery stores, shops, and restaurants, after receiving the negative On-Arrival RT-PCR test result.
- Dine-in is allowed for all participants.
- Wearing of face mask is mandatory at all times, except on the courts during matches or training sessions.
- 6 practice courts are available at Gwangju Training Centre, as well as 2 warm-up courts.
- Accommodation must be in the official hotels chosen by the BKA.
- Team Managers’ meeting scheduled for Monday, 11 April at 18:00, at UTOP Boutique Hotel & Residence.
- The awarding of prizes must be done in accordance with the rules of social distancing in force.
COVID-19 Testing for Players and Team Entourage

To ensure the safest possible environment for players and entourage, BWF will be implementing a COVID-19 testing plan during the event (in accordance with the requirements imposed by the Korean Authorities), where all players and team entourage will be required to undertake series of RT-PCR and Antigenic tests. The aim is to as much as possible create infection free ‘environment’ within the tournament venues.

Teams are required to limit the number of personnel in their entourage based on a need-to-basis. Any accredited entourage over and above the accreditation limit will be required to undertake testing at their own cost. There will be mandatory tests per participant per event. Additional accreditation and costs for the test will have to be paid on arrival (accreditation: US$ 150 / arrival RT-PCR test: Free).

**EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL 2022**, Fully Vaccinated participants, upon arrival in Korea, will be transported directly to Gwangju and will perform the On-Arrival RT-PCR test upon arrival at the official hotel. After performing the On-Arrival RT-PCR test in Gwangju, Fully Vaccinated participants must remain in isolation until the issuance of their negative test results (up to 24 hours).

All other participants (Vaccinated/Partially Vaccinated/ Non-Vaccinated), upon arrival in Korea, must perform the On-Arrival RT-PCR test at the designated testing facility near Incheon Airport and must remain in isolation until the issuance of their negative test results (up to 24 hours). The accommodation cost for 1-night stay in Incheon will be borne by the Korean Government.

Participants who have tested negative for COVID-19 will be able to access the practice facilities from 10 April at Gwangju Training Centre.

The competition will commence on Tuesday, 12 April with 50% presence of spectators.

Entry Requirements

Entry conditions in Korea mainly depend on 4 factors:
- Visa or K-ETA
- Vaccination certificate
- Negative Pre-Arrival RT-PCR test result taken 48 hours before departure to Korea
- Quarantine Exemption Certificate or Q-CODE

The following documents are required to enter Korea:

- **Arrival in Korea** – all participants MUST arrive in Korea (via Incheon International Airport) by **8 April 2022**.
- **Visa** – participants who are required to apply for visa to enter Korea should contact BKA to receive a visa support letter. It is the responsibility of the Member Association to apply for the necessary visa in sufficient time, and all matters should be directed to the Embassy in charge.
- **Travel Insurance** – it is highly recommended for participants to purchase / have travel insurance with a minimum coverage of KRW 30 million (approximately US$ 25,000) for COVID-19 related medical / treatment expenses and hospitalisation cost. It is also recommended for participants to carry a physical copy of the insurance policy when traveling to Korea.

- **Vaccination Certificate** – Korean Authorities only recognise these WHO approved vaccines – AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sinopharm, Moderna, Sinovac, Covishield, Novavax, Covaxin, Covovax, and Janssen. The vaccination status of a participant will determine the level of entry requirements into Korea:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccines (WHO)</th>
<th>AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sinopharm, Moderna, Sinovac, Covishield, Novavax, Covaxin, Covovax</th>
<th>Janssen</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully Vaccinated</td>
<td>Received 3 doses</td>
<td>Received 2 doses</td>
<td>Required to apply for Quarantine Exemption Q-CODE (for 1 April arrival)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Received 2 doses (2nd dose between 14 -180 days from date of entry)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated</td>
<td>Received 2 doses (2nd dose less than 14 day or more than 180 days from date of entry)</td>
<td>Received 1 dose (less than 14 days or more than 180 days from date of entry)</td>
<td>Submit Quarantine Exemption Form &amp; Flight Ticket to BKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially Vaccinated</td>
<td>Received only 1 dose</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submit Quarantine Exemption Form &amp; Flight Ticket to BKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Vaccinated</td>
<td>Never received vaccination</td>
<td>Received 2 doses (incl. Booster)</td>
<td>Required to apply for Quarantine Exemption Q-CODE (for 1 April arrival)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Positive</td>
<td>Received 3 doses (incl. Booster)</td>
<td>Received 2 doses (incl. Booster)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Received 2 doses and tested positive AFTER 2nd dose (2nd dose less than 14 days or more than 180 days from date of entry)</td>
<td>Received 1 dose but tested positive AFTER 1 dose (1 dose less than 14 days or more than 180 days from date of entry)</td>
<td>Submit Quarantine Exemption Form &amp; Flight Ticket to BKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Received 2 doses but tested positive BEFORE 2nd dose (2nd dose less than 14 days or more than 180 days from date of entry)</td>
<td>Received 1 dose but tested positive BEFORE 1 dose (1 dose less than 14 days or more than 180 days from date of entry)</td>
<td>Submit Quarantine Exemption Form &amp; Flight Ticket to BKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Received only 1 dose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Never received vaccination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Pre-Arrival Negative COVID-19 Certificate** – all participants must submit a pre-arrival negative COVID-19 RT-PCR certificate with the test taken within **48 hours** prior to departure to Korea.

*PCR test based on DNA amplification (RT-PCR, LAMP, TMA, SDA, NEAR, etc.) are valid; antigen/antibody detection tests (RAT, ELISA, etc.) are not valid. All forms of self-administered tests are NOT valid regardless of test type.*
The certificates should be uploaded to:

| BWF Jotform | [https://form.jotform.com/220761885566467](https://form.jotform.com/220761885566467) |

This includes participants living in Korea. A physical copy of the certificate may be required at the airport on arrival. The test certificates should in English.

The Team Managers is responsible for uploading all team members’ negative test certificates onto the above links and email.

Number of test certificates should tally with the number of participants submitted in the accreditation list.

- **Quarantine Exemption Certificate** – applicable to:
  o Participants categorised as Vaccinated / Partially Vaccinated / Non-Vaccinated and arriving from 1 April 2022

  Quarantine Exemption application form, together with copy of flight tickets must be submitted to BKA by 2 April 2022. BKA will then liaise with the Korean Government / respective Embassies, who will issue the Quarantine Exemption Certificates. Participants must hold 6 printed copies of the Quarantine Exemption Certificates for their travel to Korea.

- **Q-CODE** – applicable to participants categorised as Fully Vaccinated and arriving from 1 April 2022 onwards. Fully Vaccinated participants must apply for the Q-CODE at 48 hours prior to departure to Korea. The link to Q-CODE:
  
  [https://cov19ent.kdca.go.kr/cpassportal/biz/beffatstmnt/main.do;jsessionid=gPwbAX4WgFHn9U46Oj9qcznGIAGbSmqzrOvOWhVu.prd-cpass-was22?lang=en](https://cov19ent.kdca.go.kr/cpassportal/biz/beffatstmnt/main.do;jsessionid=gPwbAX4WgFHn9U46Oj9qcznGIAGbSmqzrOvOWhVu.prd-cpass-was22?lang=en)

- **Past Positive** – participants who have previously been tested positive are allowed entry into Korea, but they MUST still present NEGATIVE Pre-Arrival RT-PCR test result, taken 48 hours before departure to Korea.

**Testing Strategy**

The testing strategy is divided into the following:

- **Pre-Arrival Test – 5 APR & 6 APR**: All participants must obtain a negative RT-PCR test certificate 48 hours prior to their departure to Korea. This requirement includes foreign and Korean participants living in Korea. The cost of the pre-arrival test is to be borne by the respective Member Association(s) / player(s).

  The certificate must be emailed and uploaded to the above email address and Jotform link.
• On-Arrival Test – 7 APR & 8 APR: Participants categorised as Fully Vaccinated arriving in Korea will be transported directly to the official hotel in Gwangju. They will perform the On-Arrival RT-PCR test (complimentary) upon arrival in Gwangju, with results to be issued within 24 hours - they will need to isolate in their hotel rooms until they received their negative test results.

All other participants arriving in Korea will need to perform the On-Arrival RT-PCR test (complimentary) at the designated testing facility in Incheon, with results to be issued within 24 hours - participants will need to isolate for 1-night (complimentary) in designated quarantine hotel in Incheon. Upon receiving their negative test results, they will be transported to Suncheon.

Participants who are subjected to perform On-Arrival RT-PCR in Incheon need to notify BKA’s COVID-19 Helpdesk Manager (details below) which hotel you have been assigned to. This is to ensure transport arrangement to take you from Incheon to Suncheon, after you have received your negative test results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BKA COVID-19 Helpdesk</th>
<th>Notify via Email / Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jang Jin Seok</td>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jjs5518@bka.kr">jjs5518@bka.kr</a></td>
<td>Team:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+82-10-6433-5499</td>
<td>Assigned Hotel:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Room No:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Additional Testing – 13 APR: The Korean Authorities require all tournament participants to perform 1 Antigenic Self-Tests after arrival in Korea. Host organiser will distribute the Test Kit and Test Guide to participants upon arrival in Gwangju.

• Pre-Departure Test – 15 APR: Participants who require a negative RT-PCR certificate to travel to their next destination (leaving Korea) and falls outside of the mandatory tournament test, to proceed to check with BKA for assistance to secure the test needed. Please note that the cost of this test will be borne by the Member Association(s)/player(s).
  o The cost of RT-PCR test is US$110 (per test) and can be paid via Credit Card or Cash.

Testing Procedure

Testing will be carried out in secure environments at the designated testing facility near Incheon Airport, and the official hotel in Gwangju, according to the testing plan below.

The BWF, Korean Government and BKA will fund 1 RT-PCR test (On-Arrival) and 1 Antigenic tests (Self-Test or nurse). Any tests above that, will be borne by the participant.
RT-PCR Testing centre’s operation timings are as per below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Incheon</th>
<th>Gwangju</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 7 APR</td>
<td>According to</td>
<td>According to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>their arrival</td>
<td>their arrival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 8 APR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 9 APR</td>
<td></td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>Sunday, 10 APR</td>
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<td>Monday, 11 APR</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 12 APR</td>
<td></td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 13 APR</td>
<td>08:00-12:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 14 APR</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 15 APR</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 16 APR</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 17 APR</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All testing activities are mandatory and a requirement to get an accreditation. Accreditation passes will only be issued to green group personnel once negative On-Arrival test have been obtained.

In addition, if BWF request a test to be taken this cannot be refused. If participants have symptoms, they may request a test.

**Testing Method**

The RT-PCR testing method requires having a swab of the nose and throat taken, and the sample is analysed to confirm whether the individual is infected or not. The RT-PCR test result can be obtained within 24 hours.

The Antigenic testing method require having a swab of the nose taken and tested using the Self-Test Kit provided by Host Organiser. The Antigenic test result can be obtained within 20 minutes.

**Protocols in the Case of a Positive Test**

In the case of a positive test or an identification as direct contact, all associated costs for participants will be covered by the participant’s insurance coverage. BKA and/or BWF are not responsible for any insurance costs related to COVID-19 during the tournament.

In case of positive RT-PCR test:
- The participant should inform BKA’s COVID-19 Helpdesk.
- The participant, in relation with the BKA, will have to isolate for **7 DAYS** at participant’s own cost in the hotel room, or at the designated facility by Gwangju City. This automatically results in a withdrawal from the tournament.

In case of positive Antigenic test (Self-Test):
- The participant should inform BKA’s COVID-19 Helpdesk.
- A further RT-PCR test will be done to identify if the participant is positive or not.
The participant will have to isolate in his/her room waiting for the test result (up to 24 hours). This may result in a withdrawal from the tournament depending on the timing of the RT-PCR test result.

IF the RT-PCR test is positive, refer to the information above. If the RT-PCR test is negative, the participant can keep on participating the event.

In case of non-conclusive test:
- The participant should inform BKA’s COVID-19 Helpdesk.
- A further RT-PCR test will be done to identify if the participant is positive or not.
- The participant will have to isolate in his/her room waiting for the test result (up to 24 hours). This may result in a withdrawal from the tournament depending on the timing of the RT-PCR test result.
- IF the RT-PCR test is positive, refer to the information above. If the RT-PCR test is negative, the participant can keep on participating the event.

In case of direct contact:
- Direct contacts (roommates or doubles partners) will also have to isolate for 7 days at the hotel at his/her own cost or designated facility by Gwangju City.

Contact Tracing

In connection with contact tracing, other participants can be asked to do self-isolation and undergo further testing. Kindly note that any roommates and all doubles partners are automatically classified as direct contact.

All direct contacts of a positive case are required to be tested. If the direct contact’s test result is negative, he/she has not to isolate. If the direct contact’s test result is positive /she must undergo a mandatory 7 Days self-isolation period.

It is extremely important that all participants maintain safe physical distancing and wear face masks in order to minimize the number of contact cases that will need to be isolated.