



European Draughts Confederation

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REGULATORY PROTOCOL OF MEASURES FOR THE CONTRAST AND CONTAINMENT OF CONTAGION RISKS FROM VIRUS COVID-19 IN THE PRACTICE OF DRAUGHTS





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(In accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations and IOC advices)

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INTRODUCTION

The risk assessment was carried out following the criteria set out in the Guidelines, identifying in particular the possible sources of contagion that can occur in the places where the activities are carried out, at any level, taking into account the organization of the places and the specific sports practice.

The training and preparation activity for the game of DRAUGHTS is also possible in FAD mode (distance training) which, for the entire duration of the COVID-19 emergency, remains the training mode strongly recommended by the EDC to all Bodies and Sports associations.

It is also strongly recommended to carry out, where possible, an outdoor Draughts activity.

This Regulatory Protocol has been written in accordance with *World Health Organization (WHO)* recommendations and *IOC* advices. Eventually other National, Regional or other Territorial Bodies laws must be observed.

SPORT PRACTICE ANALYSIS

The game of Draughts takes place between two players, arranged on opposite sides of a board, which alternately move their "pieces". The pieces (pieces or kings) move diagonally, only on the dark squares not occupied by other pieces and have the possibility of taking (or "eating") the opposing ones, climbing over them. Captured pieces are removed from the board and excluded from the game. The player whose pieces are captured or who is unable to move on his turn to move has lost.

The practice of the game of draughts is therefore characterized by the coexistence of two players at a table on which a "draughts board" is placed, whose approved competitive size is equal to 50 cm (but it can also be 33 cm for the school activities), on which the pieces are placed, usually made of plastic or wood, which are moved alternately by the two players.

The beginning of the game (in the absence of health restrictions) is characterized by the usual gesture of the handshake with the mutual wish of "good game" by the two opponents. The most practiced specialties are divided into: (a) "international draughts" practiced on a board of one hundred squares, 50 of which are playable, with 20 starting pawns for each player; (b) "draughts variants on 64 squares, including English Checkers" practiced on a board of sixty-four squares, 32 of which are playable, with 12 starting pawns for each player.

The game can be played with the help of a special Draughts clock (competitive and high level competitions) or without (usually for youth categories up to 11 years and for school activities up to first grade secondary schools). In the case of the use of a clock, usually digital, this is activated alternately by the two players. The duration of the matches is variable, but based on the expected duration, it can be classified into three different levels: 1) Standard game; 2) Rapid; 3) Blitz; the duration of which can be divided as follows:

International draughts and others on 100 squares:

- the Standard game (where each player is allowed a time above 30 minutes inclusive for the whole game), with normal duration between 2h 30 'and 5h and 30'
- the Rapid game (where each player is allowed a time between 15 and 30 minutes inclusive for the whole game), with normal duration between 22 and 35 minutes;
- the Blitz game (where each player is allowed a time between 5 and 15 minutes inclusive for the whole game), with normal duration between 12 and 17 minutes

Draughts variants on 64 squares:

- the Standard game, with normal duration between 1 hour and 3 hours;
- the Rapid, with normal duration between 18 and 30 minutes;
- the Blitz, with normal duration between 10 and 15 minutes.

At least one of the competition official (the main referee) is always present during the different phases of the game, usually assisted by one or more collaborators (Referees), who together make up the so-called Direction of the competition, whose components supervise the regular course of games and on the application of the regulation, continually moving between the various game tables.

During the training time, the technician (instructor or trainer) can directly intervene at the game table to give technical advice and provide specific information, or through the magnetic wall-mounted didactic draughts board, or via Multimedia Whiteboard or video projector connected to a computer.

Normally, in the competition venue there are athletes and in some salient phases of the games some spectators, similarly, during draughts trainings at schools or Clubs; in addition to athletes and technicians, may be present, more rarely, some accompanying persons.

Borrowing from the Guidelines the danger factors associated with the dangerousness of the virus and the transmission mechanisms present in the scientific literature, both by air and by contact, it is possible to identify non-exhaustively the possible sources of contagion within the venue sporting activity. In the case of sporting events of great participation, such as student youth activities, in the various phases, spectators and technicians are usually spaced and kept at a distance (stands or reserved spaces) also in order to avoid any disputes and doubts about any suggestions otherwise possible.

As sources of possible contagion within the sports site must be necessarily taken in consideration the organization of places, sports practice, as well as the presence of different people.

From what is briefly described, it is clear that there is no "physical contact" intended in the strict sense, meaning, "contact between the bodies of athletes". On the other hand, there is a minimum "proximity" in the frontal direction, between the two players, less than 1 meter, represented by the width of the plate and the table on which it is placed to allow the game.

In this phase the possible way of transmission, and contagion, is by "air".

Another possible way of transmission in this phase is of "contact" represented by the use of "sports equipment" by both players, such as the board, pieces and clock.

In training sessions, some players may be replaced by other players or by the coach who follows multiple athletes and boards. Both ways of transmission of the contagion are repeated with similar methods in the use of spaces, in possible contact, in the use of the equipment present, in the moments of halting or entrance and exiting.

The analysis conducted is general, not exhaustive, and cannot be, given the diversity of the individual locations that may have a varied size and architecture. The in-depth analysis will be carried out by the Legal Representative of the Draughts Clubs or by the Body which, where the actual conditions deviate significantly from those analyzed in this Protocol, will have to personally evaluate the appropriateness of adopting further measures always to reduce the risk of contagion.

GENERAL MANDATORY RULES

All subjects involved in the sport of Draughts and the management of affiliated Clubs and bodies recognized by the EDC, or where the activities are organized, are required to comply with the general rules of containment of contagion already issued by the Competent Authorities and in force on the date of publication of the Protocol and subsequent amendments that may occur both nationally and regionally.

Any person involved in the exercise of the sport of Draughts and the management of the affiliated Clubs and the bodies recognized by the EDC or where the playing activities are organized, is held in any case, aware of the legal consequences in case of violation, not to go at the training or gaming venue:

- ✓Following the measurement of body temperature equal to or greater than 37.5 ° C;
- ✓if subjected to the quarantine measure or positive to the virus;

- ✓if you have symptoms of respiratory infection;
- ✓if you have a family member with the symptoms of COVID-19 infection;
- ✓if he is in self-isolation or lives in a family in self-isolation.

The physical presence at the venue where the dowry activity of persons, including non-members, is carried out, is possible only after they have read the general mandatory rules (shown at the site of the activity with evidence) and in the absence of risk factors listed above.

It should be remembered that the Ministry of Health Circular of March 9th 2020 defines "close contact", not in the physical sense of actual contact, but in the sense of close contact, with respect to the risk of a probable or confirmed case of Covid -19, the close presence in direct contact (face to face) at a distance of less than 2 meters and lasting more than 15 minutes, relative to a person who has been in a closed environment (for example classroom, meeting room, waiting hall of the hospital) and therefore can also be assimilated to spaces intended for training and play.

In doubtful cases, the Legal Representative or the person to whom the organization of the activity is formally delegated, may proceed to specific anamnestic evaluation.

GENERAL PREVENTION AND PROTECTION MEASURES

Following the specificities that emerged from the risk analysis phase, it is possible to define a set of prevention and protection tools aimed at risk managing itself. It is emphasized that prevention and protection measures should not be understood as alternatives but as minimum endowments for the purpose of contrasting contagion in relation to the current epidemiological situation in progress.

At present, the main recommended infection prevention measures are:

- ✓ Physical spacing fixed at least 1 meter between people, always protected by protective masks, limiting stopping frontally and avoiding the same for a duration of more than 15 minutes;
- ✓ Hand hygiene (thorough washing with soap and water and / or through the use of a sanitizing hydro alcoholic solution dispenser);
- ✓ Hygiene and sanitization of surfaces and playground equipment;
- ✓ Prevention of the dispersion of the so-called "droplets" (droplets of breath expelled by infected people through saliva, coughing, sneezing or even just talking) through the use of masks, always in all gaming environments;
- ✓ Prevention of the dispersion of the so-called "droplets" during the game phases (training and competition) through the use of personal protection masks and visors for all technicians, match officials and especially for athletes during matches or front training sessions lasting more than 15 minutes; the protective visors can also be replaced by special transparent dividing panels, with a suitable "slot" (opening in the lower part) (H = 15-18 cm) useful for the movement of the pieces;
- ✓ Prevention of the dispersion of the so-called "droplets" by maintaining a front distance between the contenders of 1 meter and allowing support on the table in the reflection phases exclusively to the player who is responsible for moving.

The use of these actions, as risk mitigation measures in Draughts game venues, are every time compatible with the Draughts Sport activity. In particular, the use of masks and visors is compatible with the metabolic load and with the sporting gesture.

In addition to the listed measures, it is considered appropriate that further mitigation measures, which act in a coordinated way to allow more effective management, may also be taken.

Based on specific results of the sport analysis and the risk assessment carried out on the Draughts activity as sport, the following organizational, procedural and technical measures are identified.

MANAGEMENT OF ENTRANCE, PERMANENCE AND EXIT OF ATHLETES AND OTHER SUBJECTS

- People with respiratory infection symptoms cannot access the sports or training center of an organization;
- Persons with a body temperature of 37.5 °C or higher cannot access the sports or training venue of an organization;
- At the entrance to sports or training venues, it is necessary to measure the temperature of all people (preferably the use of a "non-contact infrared thermal scanner");
- People without masks with adequate shape and adherence to cover the face from the chin up to above the nose cannot enter the structures;
- The Presidents of the Clubs, the Legal Representatives of bodies or their delegates, must ensure that all their members (licensed and otherwise) wear masks during their stay in the premises and during training or competition sessions, maintaining the expected physical distances;
- The Presidents of the Clubs, the Legal Representatives of the premises of the Bodies or their delegates will have to ensure that hand sanitization devices are present at the entrance of the premises, inside the playing venue and on every jury's table;
- The Presidents of the Bodies or their delegates must guarantee, in concert with the competition officials, that they will be able to impose sanctions and the immediate expulsion, that all the athletes in the race wear masks and protective visors (not mandatory in the case of transparent dividing panels interposed between the contenders) during all the game and training phases that foresee a frontal stay of more than 15 minutes;
- Competition officials must ensure compliance with the general protection and prevention measures and may impose penalties (a first warning, a second warning with a lost game) and immediate expulsion (for serious cases) or expulsion from the competition to the third warning (assigning in the event of expulsion all the lost matches, for the purpose of any rating), with particular attention that all athletes during the competition wear masks and protective visors (not mandatory in the case of transparent dividing panels interposed between the contenders) during all phases of play and training that require a frontal stay of more than 15 minutes and that the support on the game table, in the reflection phases, is carried out exclusively by the player who is responsible for moving;
- Athletes under the age of 18 cannot access the premises unless accompanied by a parent or by those who have parental responsibilities, who must comply with the Protocol;
- Promote regulated entrance / exiting times and procedures (possibly deferred or at least staggered) so as to avoid contacts and gatherings in the common areas as much as possible (entrances, waiting rooms, rooms dedicated to the activity, etc.) and, in any case, to quota the steps so that the physical distance of at least 1 meter is always respected between anyone;
- At the entrance, a dispenser with sanitizing gel must be available with the obligation of sanitizing the hands for all people who access the office; near the official's table a poster with instructions from the Ministry of Health for the correct washing of hands with sanitizing solution must be clearly displayed;
- For each day of activity, the legal representative of the Clubs, the Body or its delegate will have to draw up a list of the people present in the venue, that is, athletes, instructors, coaches and other people. The list must be kept for at least 30 days.

DISTANCE AND HYGIENE RULES IN THE VARIOUS PHASES OF SPORT ACTIVITY

- Handshake and any physical contact between those present at the sports or training venue are prohibited (the usual gesture may be replaced by a nod and / or the symbolic gesture of union of both hands by each player);
- To ensure, however, the distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) between the players, the board must be placed on tables with a side depth of not less than 1.20 meters (3 feet and half), allowing support on the table in the reflection phases only to the player who belongs the move;
- During matches or front training sessions lasting more than 15 minutes (all matches excepting Draughts variants on 64 squares - Blitz games), in addition to the mask, the players must wear protective visors; it will not be mandatory to use visors if the game tables are equipped with special transparent dividing panels, with a suitable "slot" (opening at the bottom) (H = 15-18 cm (half a foot) useful for moving the pieces);
- The tables may have a size of less than 1.20 meters (3 feet and half), but in any case not less than 1 meter only by being able to use dividing panels or carrying out outdoor activities;
- Players or spectators, who approach the table to watch the games, will not be able to stop for more than 1 minute and will still have to stay in an area at the distance of at least 1 meter between anyone always equipped with masks is ensured;
- Players have to frequently sanitize their hands with sanitizing solution, which they will personally procure and which will always be available to them for exclusive and personal use; the Clubs or organizing body of an event may, however, provide for specific personal mini-devices or for each table to be made available to athletes, in order to prevent any possible risk of contagion; the sanitization of the hands will have to be carried out, before making a move, in case of involuntary contact of own exposed parts of the body (e.g. face, nose, mouth, etc.) and in any case, before meeting new opponents and before repositioning at the table after getting up and at the end of each training or round. It is forbidden to bring your hands to the eyes, nose and mouth during the entire duration of the game; in case of need, provide a new hand sanitization first;
- The use of video projection or the use of a multimedia whiteboard or a magnetic didactic mural, which only the instructor and the coach can use, is strongly recommended for the didactic and presence training phases;
- Instructors and coaches must wear, in addition to the mask, a splash guard visor designed to further contain the issue of "droplets" and avoid, as far as possible, to approach the table at a distance of less than 1 meter.

MANAGEMENT OF SYMPTOMATIC CASES

It will be the legal representative of the Club or the organization:

- Identify in the training or play venue a space dedicated to the possible isolation of those who manifest the onset of symptoms attributable to COVID-19 during sports activities.
- Develop a procedure for the management of the athlete or other person present on the sports site who may experience symptoms attributable to COVID-19 during sports activities.
- Draw up a list of the people present to be shown in the event of a request from the Health Authority.

HYGIENE PRACTICES

Within the site, the ability to comply with the following hygiene requirements must be guaranteed:

- Wash your hands frequently, also through special disinfectant gel dispensers or with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently.
- Maintain the interpersonal distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) in the waiting and resting phases;
- Maintain an adequate minimum interpersonal distance, however not less than 2 meters (6 feet) in the case of frontal activities without personal (masks and visors) or general protections (dividing panels);
- Never touch your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands;
- Sneezing and / or coughing in a tissue avoiding contact of the hands with respiratory secretions; if you do not have a handkerchief available, sneeze into the inner fold of the elbow;
- Avoid leaving clothing worn for physical activity in places shared with others, but store them in backpacks or personal bags and, once back home, wash them separately from other clothing;
- Always drink from disposable glasses or personalized bottles;
- Immediately dispose of paper tissues or other used materials (well sealed) in suitable containers;
- Sanitization of all premises before reopening according to the indications provided by the Competent Authorities;
- Preventive sanitization also of air conditioning systems and, where there is no air recirculation function (eg. open window or other outdoor air recirculation system, according to current national regulation), they cannot be used for air conditioning of the rooms;
- Wear contagion prevention devices for access to the planned training and play activities;
- Upon access, everyone must sanitize their hands with hydro alcoholic solutions made available to them for this purpose;
- Maintain the interpersonal distance of at least 1 meter during the activity and in the waiting and resting phases;
- Do not consume food in the training or competition venue;
- Ensure an adequate air change of at least 10 minutes every 60 minutes, inside the premises where training and / or teaching or play activities take place.

For the purposes of implementing good hygiene practices, the following must be available to the people present:

- Information procedures posted in the access areas, in the activity areas, in the restrooms;
- Sanitizing gel dispenser;
- Collection containers dedicated to potentially infected waste (disposable tissues, masks / respirators) and relative sealing bags;
- Indications on the correct methods and times of ventilation of the premises;
- Specific air filtering activities in high density closed rooms of people or activities, for example through air purifiers equipped with HEPA filters intended to decrease the amount of aerosols;
- Information on daily cleaning and periodic sanitization;
- Prohibit the exchange between people present of devices such as smartphones, tablets, etc. and sports equipment; alternatively adequate sanitizations must be provided.

In addition, those who practice the activity have the obligation:

- To disinfect their personal belongings and not to share them (visors, flasks, handkerchiefs, test tools, etc.);
- To arrive at the site already suitably dressed for the activity that will take place or in such a way as to use common spaces to change and equipped with sealing bags for the collection of potentially infected waste;
- Not to touch objects and fixed signs.