

RESTARTING INTERNATIONAL
BADMINTON TOURNAMENTS

SAFETY PROTOCOLS & OPERATING PROCEDURES

YONEX SWISS OPEN 2022
BASEL, SWITZERLAND • 22-27 MARCH, 2022





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1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline the various measures put in place to create the safest environment for all stakeholders involved in the tournament including players, organising committee work force, volunteers, media and technical officials.

In addition to these guidelines the host organising committee will strictly follow the advice and measures put in place by their local and national health authorities.

As the situation around COVID-19 hopefully improve as time goes by, the host, in consultation with the BWF may remove some of the guidelines and/or provide dispensation to some of the described procedures. If, however the situation worsens the host, in consultation with the BWF may also strengthen the guidelines and request additional requirements be put in place.

1.1 The Current Situation in Switzerland

The entry requirements are regularly reviewed based on the latest epidemiology situation in each country. The current requirements can change at any time.

Overview: national rules and bans

From Thursday, 17 February, the following protective measures have been lifted throughout Switzerland:

- mask requirement in shops, restaurants, as well as in other public settings (facilities, venues and events)
- mask requirement in the workplace
- access restrictions regulated by COVID certificate (3G, 2G and 2G+-rule) to facilities and venues such as cinemas, theatres and restaurants, as well as events
- permit requirement for large-scale events
- restrictions on private gatherings

Isolation and mask requirement in certain settings until 31 March.

Persons who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 will still be required to isolate. This is to prevent people who are highly infectious from infecting others.

The mask requirement on public transport and in healthcare institutions will remain in place.

1.2 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 preventative measures at all times:

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- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Wear a mask at all times, unless you are on court or eating
- Cough or sneeze in your sleeve
- Maintain physical distancing (at least 1.5 m)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care immediately
- If you have mild respiratory symptoms seek medical advice

1.3 Important Contact Details

Tournament Director: Julien Tissot, +41 79 367 47 96, jt@swissopen.com

Tournament President: Christian Wackernagel, + 41 79 426 46 43, wacki@swissopen.com

COVID-19 Manager: Rocco Verrelli, +41 76 397 16 38, rv@swissopen.com

For any other services: registration@swissopen.com



1.4 Key points

- Fully vaccinated participants (with a vaccine approved in Switzerland) can enter Switzerland without any restrictions.
- Not fully vaccinated participants or those who are vaccinated with a vaccine not approved in Switzerland must contact the host for participation certificate (2.1 c).
- As per BWF regulations, all players/entourage must obtain a negative PCR test certificate 72 hours prior to their arrival to Switzerland. This must be submitted online prior to travel to Switzerland: <https://form.jotform.com/220548022527450>
- A mandatory antigen test will be carried out on-arrival at the official hotels between 20-22 March. Participants must present their passport when undergoing the on-arrival testing. A positive antigen test will be followed up by a PCR test to confirm the result.
- Arrival of qualification/reserve players must be in a way that their on-arrival test results (antigen and potential follow-up PCR) are received before the Team Managers meeting.
- Arrival of main draw players must be in a way that their on-arrival test results (antigen and potential follow-up PCR) are received before their first scheduled match. The last possible testing slot is at 12:00 (noon) on 22 March.
- Participants with prior COVID-19 infection (11-90 days before the tournament) can be exempted from the BWF testing if they show official proof of recovery certificate (2.2).
- The host will be able to assist with organizing antigenic or PCR tests for departure upon request, at players own cost. Tests must be booked no later than 12:00 (noon) on Wednesday, 23 March via email: covid@swissopen.com.
- Participants with a positive PCR test result must self-isolate immediately for minimum 5 days in the hotel and are therefore withdrawn from the tournament.
- As per BWF protocols, doubles partner and/or roommate of a COVID-19 positive patient are automatically classified as close contact.
- Unvaccinated and not fully vaccinated participants who are deemed close contacts are required to withdraw from the tournament.
- Fully vaccinated participants who are deemed close contacts can avoid withdrawing from the tournament if they test negative when requested to do so and if they move to a single room and undertake a daily antigen test at their own expense.
- The team managers' meeting will be held on Monday, 21 March at 18:30.
- It is mandatory for all participants to wear face masks/face shields at all times and physical distancing measures must always be followed.
- Movements to food outlets or convenient stores will be allowed. During these activities local authority protocols must strictly be followed.
- Two warm-up courts and nine practice courts will be available during the tournament.
- Player match analysis video recordings will not be permitted, video recording of the matches will be available on request from the host.
- Mixed zone interviews and prize presentations will be conducted following the physical distancing rules.



2 COVID-19 Testing for Players and Team Entourage

To ensure the safest possible environment for players and entourage the host organising committee will be implementing a COVID-19 testing plan during the event. **Players and team entourage will be required to undertake a mandatory COVID-19 test upon arrival.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please have your passport ready when testing.

The cost of this **test will be borne by the LOC and BWF.**

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.

2.1 Entry requirements

Entry restrictions to Switzerland have been lifted, except for passengers arriving from a risk area. Participants traveling from a high-risk country are allowed to enter Switzerland if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a) Show proof of vaccination with a vaccine that is recognized in Switzerland
- b) Participants of sporting events

Please refer to the official website official website to check your travel eligibility: <https://travelcheck.admin.ch/check>

The following documents are required to enter Switzerland:

a) VISA

Participants who are required to apply for VISA to enter Switzerland shall contact the tournament host 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.

Participants travelling from outside the Schengen area, shall contact the Swiss Embassy in their country for more information on the current entry requirements to Switzerland. Select your country on the following website:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/representations-and-travel-advice.html> then choose "Website of the Swiss representation in XXX". Under contact, you should find an e-mail address with @eda.admin.ch.

b) Vaccination certificate

Fully vaccinated travellers can travel to Switzerland without any restrictions. Please ensure that you carry digital/printed version on your vaccine certificate with you, as this may be requested by the Border Control Authorities. The vaccines that are recognized in Switzerland are:

- Pfizer/BioNTech (BNT162b2 / Comirnaty® / Tozinameran)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273 / Spikevax / COVID-19 vaccine Moderna)



- AstraZeneca (AZD1222 Vaxzevria®/ Covishield™)
- Janssen / Johnson & Johnson (Ad26.COVS.S)
- Sinopharm / BIBP (SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell))
- Sinovac (CoronaVac)
- COVAXIN®
- Novavax (NVX-CoV2373/ Nuvaxovid™/ Covovax™)

c) Support letter from the host

In order to support the entry process to Switzerland, **non-vaccinated participants and those who have been vaccinated with a vaccine that is not recognized in Switzerland**, shall contact the tournament host for a provision of a participation certificate. Kindly contact registration@swissopen.com to have this supporting document provided. Kindly print out and carry this with you when traveling to Basel.

Please note: Specific COVID-19 insurance is not currently required to enter Switzerland however all participants must have personal insurance covering any situation included COVID-19 hospitalization, quarantine and any other costs. The Local Organising Committee is not responsible for any insurance costs related to COVID-19 during the tournament.

Please note that the above listed criteria are for the entry requirements to Switzerland. In addition, it is a BWF requirement that all participants of the tournament show proof of a negative PCR test 72 hours prior to arrival (see below).

2.2 Testing Strategy

The testing strategy is divided into the following:

- a) Pre-arrival test:** all players/entourage must obtain a negative test certificate 72 hours prior to arrival in Switzerland. This requirement includes foreign and Swiss players/entourage living in Switzerland. The cost of the pre-arrival test is to be borne by the respective Member Association(s)/player(s).

All accredited personnel accessing GREEN areas should supply the following information prior to departing to Switzerland for the competition:

1. Declaration of vaccination status, and the required proof of vaccination.
2. Confirmation and supporting evidence if you have tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of the tournament.
3. Confirmation and evidence of a negative pre-arrival PCR (72h prior to arrival).

Please submit your details here: <https://form.jotform.com/220548022527450>

- b) Arrival test:** Players/entourage to be tested upon arrival at the official hotel, with results to be received within 30 minutes.

Exemption from the BWF testing requirement:

If the participant can satisfy the condition for proof of recovery, and in the absence of local regulations/guidelines on waiver/exemption for people who have recovered from COVID-19, the person concerned:

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- a) Do not have to submit the 72-hour negative pre-arrival PCR test result, and
- b) Exempted from the on-arrival antigen test conducted at the tournament

The BWF requirement for proof of recovery are as follows:

- the person has tested positive at least 11 days before the date of the tournament
- the positive test is no longer than 90 days before the date of the tournament
- show proof of medical discharge memo/letter issued by the relevant state authority which must contain name of the person (as per travel document used to enter the country) and date of infection which must fall within 11-90 days (inclusive) before the date of the tournament

OR

In the case of a positive test, show certificate of recovery letter from a licensed healthcare provider or public health official stating proof of recovery and that the positive test is likely to be a 'false positive' due to a negligible viral load. This letter must also state the initial date of infection (11-90 days before) and contain details such as full name (as per travel document) and you are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

c) Additional testing on request

Testing will be available throughout the week for those who require a travel certificate. This includes those who travel for back-to-back events and require a pre-arrival PCR test for the following week's tournament and/or travel requirement. The cost of these tests must be borne by the participant. **Any additional tests must be booked via email: covid@swissopen.com – please send your request no later than 12:00 (noon) on Wednesday, 23 March.**

2.3 Testing Method

The arrival tests will be conducted using the rapid antigen test kits with the swab sample being administered by a medical professional.

The test result can be obtained within 15-20 minutes.

2.4 Testing Procedure

The official testing will be carried out in the official hotels according to the below testing plan.

Test	Date	Day	Testing schedule	Expected results
Arrival test	20 March	Sunday	10:00-14:00	Results are expected within 30 minutes
	21 March	Monday	and 16:00-20:00*	
	22 March	Tuesday	08:00-12:00*	

*Arrival timeline – Qualification and reserve list players

Players must arrive to Basel on time for their on-arrival test result to be received before the start of the Team Managers Meeting. Should a participant test positive on the on-arrival antigen-test, a follow up PCR test will be carried out to confirm the result – the result of any potential follow-up PCR test must be received before the Team Managers Meeting. Kindly factor this in for your arrival. (The PCR test result can take up to 24 hours to receive.)



***Arrival timeline – Main draw players**

Main draw players must arrive to Basel on time for their on-arrival test (including any potential follow-up PCR results) to be received before their first scheduled match. The **latest on-arrival test opportunity** in the official hotels **is at 12:00 (noon) on Tuesday, 22 March**.

The following **procedure** will be followed for the **on-arrival tests**:

1. Pick-up by transport of the YONEX Swiss Open organization at the place of arrival
2. Transfer to the official hotel
3. Check-in to the hotel → No accreditation will be provided at this point
4. On-arrival Anti-gen test and wait for the test result (30 minutes)
5. Test result is received
 - a. If negative → check-in → the accreditation pass will be provided
 - b. If positive → participant will be isolated in their hotel room, and do a PCR-test to confirm the Anti-gen test result. (The PCR test result can take up to 24 hours to receive.)

All testing activities are mandatory and a requirement to get an accreditation and access to the tournament. Accreditation passes will only be issued once negative tests have been obtained.

In addition, if BWF request a test to be taken this cannot be refused. If players/coaches have symptoms they may request a test or be required to take a test.

2.5 Protocols in the Case of a Positive Test

In case of positive test, the host organising committee will inform the BWF. The following protocols are in place in Switzerland for positive cases:

If you have received a positive test and you are not already in isolation, self-isolate immediately. Follow the [Instructions of isolation](#) and avoid all contact with other people. Inform everyone you share a room with or with whom you have been in comparable regular and close contact in the 48 hours preceding the onset of symptoms, or if you did not have any symptoms, from the date the sample was taken. If you are sharing a room with other people, move to a single room to isolate yourself.

Further information on the isolation regulations are available in the following document: [instructions on isolation](#).

In the ideal case, the Cantonal office will inform positive patients when they can end their isolation. If a patient doesn't receive instructions, the **isolation must last at least 5 days**. Depending on the patient's state of health however, it may last longer. **Patients can come out of isolation if at least 5 days have passed and they have had no more symptoms for the last 48 hours**. An exception applies if the only symptoms the patient experiences are continued loss of sense of smell or taste or a slight cough. These symptoms can take longer to fully disappear. The patient can come out of isolation if he/she has these symptoms alone.



Close contacts

The BWF close contacts are defined as doubles partner and roommate. **The BWF protocols for close contacts are determined by vaccination status.**

- **Fully vaccinated** participants who are deemed **close contacts can avoid withdrawing from the tournament if they test negative** when requested to do so and if they **move to a single room and undertake a daily antigen test at their own expense.**
- **Unvaccinated and not fully vaccinated** participants who are deemed **close contacts are required to withdraw from the tournament.**

It is extremely important that all participants respect the physical distancing, mask wearing, no gathering protocols, to limit the number of participants to be defined as close contacts.

Participants must have personal insurance covering any situation included COVID-19 hospitalization, quarantine, and any other costs. The Local Organising Committee and/or BWF is not responsible for any insurance costs related to COVID-19 during the tournament.

3 Protocols for Players and Team Entourage – Pre-Tournament

3.1 Pre-arrival testing (carried out in Home Country)

All players/entourage must obtain a negative test certificate 72 hours prior to their arrival in Switzerland. This requirement includes foreign and Swiss players living in Switzerland. This is to ensure that all participants start the tournament with some assurance that they are COVID-19 free. The pre-arrival test is at the Member Association/team/player/entourage own cost.

The result must be submitted online: <https://form.jotform.com/220548022527450>

All players/entourage should also possess an original copy of the negative test certificate to be presented at the check-in counter at the point of departure and at the local Immigration upon arrival at the tournament airport if necessary.

3.2 Safety on Flights and in Airports

Players and team entourage should strictly follow guidelines issued by the aviation authorities and airlines concerned. General personal hygiene measures such as regularly washing hands, not touching face, physical distancing and wearing face masks are highly recommended.

4 Protocols for Players and Team Entourage - During Event

4.1 Transport from airport to hotel

Upon arrival at EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg, Basel Railway Station SBB or Basel Badischer Bahnhof, participants will be transported from to the official hotel. Physical distancing measures will be followed on the shuttle buses.

Players/team entourage are required to wear face masks at all times during transport.



4.2 Hotel

The official tournament hotels are Hotel Novotel and Hotel Dorint. Both hotels will have safety measures in place to ensure safe environment for participants.

Athletes are able to book single/double or twin rooms in both hotels. However kindly note, that should one of the occupants of a double/twin room test positive, the roommate will be considered a close contact and will therefore need to follow the protocols outlined under 2.5.

Upon arrival to the official hotel participants will undergo a Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test. The tests will be conducted in a dedicated testing room.

After the test, participants must wait for the test result (30 minutes) and check-in to their rooms once the results are confirmed.

Athletes and entourage, who have received their negative test results will be able to travel to the venue. Practice will be available from Monday, 21 March at St-Jakobshalle Hall 2.

Please note: Each hotel room is equipped with a kettle. Participants are able to use the kettle to prepare coffee/tea/cup noodles etc., however, **cooking in the hotel room is strictly prohibited.** In case the fire alarm is triggered due to such activity, participants will be responsible for the costs incurred.

4.3 Accreditation

Players and team entourage that have been tested and obtained a negative result, will be designated green and be given a green accreditation. The green group primarily includes all stakeholders who will come into direct contact with players and team entourage. Everyone within the green group will be required to undertake a COVID-19 test as defined. No personnel are allowed to access tournament facilities and transport without an accreditation pass. (Players are not permitted to access the practice facilities or use transport before collecting accreditation.)

Green group personnel:

Players	Visual Reality
Team entourage	Hawkeye
Umpires	Shuttle control
Referees	FOP management team
Line judges	Player assembly point managers
Physios	Anti-doping
Tournament doctors	Prize presentation ushers and presenters
BWF staff	BWF and LOC appointed Media
Infront staff	Green zone area cleaners
Stringers	

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The number of complimentary accreditation passes available for Team Officials is dependent on the number of competing player(s) from the same Member Association, as stated in the tournament prospectus.

A limited number of additional accreditation passes will be available for purchase for approved Team Officials at a fee of USD\$150, charged to the respective Member Association, and payable at the tournament. These additionally accredited Team Officials will also have to bear the cost of all their COVID-19 tests conducted in connection with the tournament.

4.4 Accreditation Zones

The tournament venue will be divided into two zones – Green and Red. The green zone broadly includes all areas where players, entourage and TO's will be congregating such as the FOP, players' lounge, secretariat and TO's areas and the red zones include all areas outside of this.

Red zone personnel will not be allowed to move to any of the green zone areas.

4.5 The Competition Venue

The competition venue is St-Jakobshalle, Basel.

Shuttle buses will operate between the official hotel and the competition venue and practice venue. Players and entourage as well as bus drivers are required to **wear face mask/face shields at all times during transport.**

It is **mandatory for all green and red zone personnel to wear face masks/face shields at all times**, except for players preparing or playing for matches, or umpires when sitting in the umpires' chair.

4.6 Warm Up Courts

Two warm-up courts will be available for players throughout the event.

To ensure physical distancing is carried out, a maximum of 8 players are permitted to use each warm up court at any one time. In addition, the warm up courts are strictly limited to those players with upcoming matches. BWF and the local organising committee seek the assistance of the players to ensure these measures are implemented.

The warm up area will be cleaned regularly.

4.7 Practice courts

Nine practice courts will be available for players throughout the event. The practice courts are located in Hall 2 of St-Jakobshalle. Regular transport will be provided between the venue and the official hotel.



The local organising committee will design the practice court schedule in a way that limits the number of players within the practice area at any one time.

The practice hall will be cleaned regularly.

4.8 Players' Lounge

There will be a players' lounge at the venue. However, 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 to reduce the risk of exposure. Players and entourage should practice good hygiene when in the stadium.

4.9 Catering

Catering will be provided by the official hotels. Breakfast is included in the room rate. The hotel restaurant will also be open for lunch and dinner, these arrangements will be at participants' own cost.

Order of delivery service outside the hotel catering hours will be available. Arrangements shall be made at the hotel reception desk.

Movements to food outlets or convenient stores will be allowed throughout tournament duration. Participants are required to follow the local health authority protocols, wear a mask as necessary and observe social distancing protocols.

4.10 Players' Seating Area

A player seating area will be available at the competition venue with limited number of seats.

It is important that players and team entourage follow the physical distancing measures that are in 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.

Player match analysis video recordings will not be permitted. Video recording of the matches will be available upon request from the host.

4.11 Changing Rooms

It is highly recommended that players avoid using dressing room showers unless absolutely necessary. All players/coaches/managers/entourage are encouraged to go back to their respective hotel rooms upon completion of their match/duty.



4.12 Physio Services

Physio services will be available throughout the competition. The tournament physios are part of the tournament testing programme and will be allocated green zone accreditation passes.

Location and setup details to be clarified. Both the physio and the player must wear face masks/face shields during treatment. The physio bed and equipment will be disinfected after each treatment.

4.13 Anti-Doping

Anti-doping will be implemented as per BWF regulations.

4.14 Stringing Service

Stringing service will be provided by YONEX free of charge for YONEX sponsored players and CHF 20.- will be charged for non-YONEX players. More information on stringing arrangements will be provided during the team managers meeting.

4.15 Official Briefings

The team managers meeting will be held at the tournament venue, St. Jakobshalle in the Traforaum at 18:30 on Monday, 21 March.

4.16 Security

Regular security checks will be conducted throughout the facilities.

Dedicated security personnel will regulate the flow of movement at the competition venue. In order to limit the traffic especially on narrow corridors, the flow of movement will be kept one-directional.

5 Protocols for Players and Team Entourage - During match

5.1 Assembly Point

Physical distancing measures must be closely followed at the players assembly area. 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.

Once a match is ready to be called on court, technical officials will be announced and march on first. Players will then be announced on court separately.



5.2 Pre- and Post-Match Protocols

Instead of shaking hands, players can touch rackets with their opponents or nod/put their hand across their chest when greeting the match officials.

5.3 Coin Toss

The umpires will ensure that there is adequate space between players during the coin toss. The coin will be disinfected between matches.

5.4 Shuttle Dispenser

A shuttlecock dispenser will be provided at each end of the court. When a player wants to change the shuttlecock and is allowed to do so by the Umpire, the player can return the used shuttlecock into the shuttle box and take a new shuttlecock from the dispenser.

5.5 Coaching

Only one coach per player/pair per match is permitted on the field of play.

5.6 Intervals and Breaks in the Game

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 on the opposite side. Players are requested not to leave any unpleasant items in the player boxes 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.

5.7 Walk off Procedure

After the end of each match, the players will walk off court following the umpire. Physical distancing measures shall be closely followed during the walk off.

5.8 Cleaning of Court Equipment

The following equipment will be cleaned and disinfected frequently:

- Players boxes
- Shuttle dispensers
- Net tape
- Umpire tablet



- Umpire chair (seat, handles, steps)
- Service judge chair
- Service height measuring device

6 Protocols for Players and Team Entourage - Post match

6.1 Media Obligations

The players will be required to undertake post-match media obligations as outlined in the BWF Regulations. There will however be new protocols in place to ensure the safety of players, media and translators.

The mixed zone or media interview area will be stationed nearby the field of play exit as per previous tournaments. It is mandatory for media personnel who come into contact with the athletes to undergo COVID-19 testing and therefore all interviews carried out in the mixed zone and/or interview area will be conducted by media who have tested negative for COVID-19. The interviews in the mixed zone and/or interview area will be conducted under physical distancing rules. Media and translators required to wear face masks.

Post-match on court interviews will not be carried out.

6.2 Prize presentations

Before each presentation, the players will be required to sanitise their hands. Children and other entourage are not permitted in the presentation area.

Prize presenters and ushers are required to be tested negative for COVID-19 before entering the green zone. They will wear face mask throughout the ceremony.

Should 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 be handed them from presenters. A group photo observing physical distancing rules will be carried out at the end of each presentation.

Further information on the prize presentation will be provided at the Team Managers' meeting.

7 Breaches of COVID-19 Safety Protocols

The BWF has introduced specific penalties for breaches of the COVID-19 safety protocols. An overview of the breaches and penalties can be found under Chapter 2, Section 2.5.1 of the BWF Statutes: <https://corporate.bwfbadminton.com/statutes/>

End