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Covid-19 protection concept
Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross World Cup Finals
in Sion-Veysonnaz
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Table of contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Personal responsibility	4
3. WHO guidelines for the assessment and mitigation of risks associated with crowds in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic	5
4. Swiss-Ski requirements	5
5. 'Covid-19' organisational measures at the competition venue in Veysonnaz	5
5.1 Official 'Covid-19' representative	5
5.2 Working group	6
6. Basis for the Covid-19 protection concept	6
7. Specific regulations for the organisation of the Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross World Cup	7
7.1 General information	7
7.2 Risk analysis	7
7.3 Accreditations	7
7.4 Protective masks	7
7.5 Hygiene and protection measures	8
7.6 Testing for Covid-19	8
7.7 What to do in the event of flu-like symptoms	8
7.8 Tracing/QR code	8
7.9 Organisation of the competition	9
7.9.1 Transport	9
7.9.2 Restaurants at competition venues	9
7.9.3 Team leaders' meeting	9
7.9.4 Press conference	9
7.9.5 Medal presentation ceremonies	9
7.9.6 Draw ceremony and distribution of race numbers	9
7.9.7 Spectators	9
8. Communication	9
8.1 Sharing information	9
8.2 Heads of sectors	10
8.3 Provision of information	10
9. Use of ski lifts	10
10. Accommodation	10
11. Restaurants on site	10

12. Responsibilities.....	10
13. Plan of the event (attached).....	11

1. Introduction

As part of the organisation of the Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross World Cup competitions in Veysonnaz – without spectators but with around 500 people consisting of the athletes, accompanying officials, support staff (volunteers, members of the army and civil protection), and media – a Covid-19 protection concept, approved by the medical authorities of the canton of Valais, is required to ensure the safety of all these people.

The Covid-19 protection concept is also approved by Swiss-Ski – with the support of the group of experts associated with the Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO).

The local organisation committee (COL) has obtained the approval of the cantonal authority to organize the World Cup disciplines. The protection concept is designed to cover the three phases of the event (set-up, competition days, clear-up).

The Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross World Cup in Veysonnaz will involve the following groups of people:

- ▷ RED group
- ▷ BLUE group
- ▷ YELLOW group

The basic protection concept for organising the Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross World Cup competitions is based on the documents provided by Swiss-Ski, which apply from 1 November 2020 until further notice. It takes account of regulations and requirements at cantonal level. It also takes account of the requirements of the International Ski Federation (FIS).

In order to keep participants informed and cover any changes to regulations by the authorities, the organisation's website has a dedicated section that is constantly updated. We encourage all concerned to check this information at regular intervals.

→ worldcupveysonnaz.com/covid (available in French and English)

2. Personal responsibility

The protection concept relies on personal responsibility in accordance with general recommendations that are consistent with WHO guidelines for reducing the transmission risk for acute respiratory infections. The basic principles underpinning the rules for preventing transmission of infection are as follows:

- ▷ Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 30 seconds
- ▷ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with your hands
- ▷ Prevent any viral infections of the upper respiratory tract
- ▷ Sneeze or cough into your elbow
- ▷ Respect social distancing of 1.5 m
- ▷ Masks to be worn at all times, even when 1.5 m social distancing is observed (restaurant area, meeting points, transport, etc.)
- ▷ Stay at home if you have any Covid-19 symptoms or flu-like symptoms
- ▷ Compulsory registration with the 'SwissCovid' app
- ▷ Compulsory registration with the tracing app that will be made available

3. WHO guidelines for the assessment and mitigation of risks associated with crowds in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

The Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross World Cup competitions being organised in Veysonnaz, where the media will be welcomed, must be regarded as a 'mass gathering' as there is a non-negligible risk of disease transmission and exacerbation of the pandemic.

The FIS and Swiss-Ski are asking the local organisation committee, in collaboration with the cantonal authority, to assess the associated event risk with the help of the WHO checklist for the assessment and mitigation of risks associated with crowds in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an operational tool that allows the organiser to host the best possible competitions in a context of the Covid-19 pandemic and thereby avoid any unfortunate spreading of the disease.

In this particular context, skiing is a non-contact sport, so the transmission risk for the epidemic is low.

There is, however, a degree of risk associated with around 700 people coming together and working in groups to ensure these competitions go smoothly.

4. Swiss-Ski requirements

- ▷ The health of the athletes, employees, volunteers, and media attending is a priority for both the local population and Swiss-Ski.
- ▷ Swiss-Ski operates in a spirit of solidarity and ensures strict compliance with federal directives: containing and combating Covid-19 is of the utmost importance to Swiss-Ski.
- ▷ Anti-Covid-19 processes and rules must be clear and understandable for all partners. They help those responsible for the event to keep things safe.

5. 'Covid-19' organisational measures at the competition venue in Veysonnaz

5.1 Official 'Covid-19' representative

Dr. Gérald Gremion: Tel. 079/644 69 53

gerald.gremion@chuv.ch

The tasks involved will be as follows:

- ▷ Interface with cantonal and federal authorities
- ▷ Point of contact for teams
- ▷ Support for teams from their arrival at the competition venue and making contact with Swiss-Ski and FIS officials
- ▷ Implementation of tracing
- ▷ Implementation of relevant framework conditions
- ▷ The official 'Covid-19' representative is also part of the COL task force with a view to ensuring information is properly circulated.

5.2 Working group

A working group will be set up for the World Cup. This will consist of the following people:

- ▷ Official 'Covid-19' representative from the COL
- ▷ Representative from the FIS
- ▷ Representative from Swiss-Ski
- ▷ Representative from the COL

The working group will decide on the approach to follow and the measures to take if accredited persons show symptoms and test positive for infection with Covid-19.

6. Basis for the Covid-19 protection concept

The basis for the protection concept for organising the World Cup competitions is governed by the following documents:

- ▷ Basis for the protection concept designed by Swiss-Ski
- ▷ FIS group
- ▷ Risk analysis
- ▷ Zonal plan
- ▷ List of accredited participants

Basis for the protection concept designed by Swiss-Ski for organising the World Cups:		
▷ Directives and recommendations from the Federal Social Insurance Office (FSIO)		
▷ Directives from the FSIO for the organisation of major events		
▷ FIS requirements (groups of people and test protocols)		
▷ Approach in the case of positive tests for Covid-19		
▷ Allocation of responsibilities		
Appendix for the RED group	Appendix for the BLUE group	Appendix for the YELLOW group

The details are set out in the RED, BLUE, and YELLOW appendices and will be adapted by the local organisation committee (COL) to the local circumstances. These colour groups contain different groups of people. The colour scheme for the groups of people is as follows:

RED	Anyone travelling with the World Cup entourage or in direct contact with it. More specifically, these are the athletes (including forerunners), trainers, supervisors, service staff, athletes' immediate management, the FIS, start line judges, and cameramen in the starting house, the finish area, and the leaders' area ('kiss and cry').
BLUE	All persons actively involved in organisation on the course, at the start/finish area or based at other positions during competition: volunteers, course officials, civil protection, army, external businesses
YELLOW	All members of the media such as broadcasters, journalists and reporters from television, newspapers, online portals, and radio, photographers, and technicians

Any one person can only belong to one colour group without exception (jury).

The groups must never mix.

There are coloured armbands to identify which of the different groups people belong to. Security personnel at the entrance to each area will screen people accordingly. The tracing system will record anyone entering or leaving an area associated with a specific colour. It will be up to the organiser to keep an up-to-date list of accredited persons (surname, first name, phone number, address, attendance times).

In addition, a zonal plan defining the corresponding areas is being created for the four colour groups. The flow of people will be managed so the three colour groups do not mix.

7. Specific regulations for the organisation of the Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross World Cup

Description of the measures required for the safe organisation of the Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross World Cup disciplines.

7.1 General information

The sanitary requirements for epidemiological prevention purposes have been issued by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), the Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO), and Swiss Olympic. They apply to all sports events. They are available via the following links:

▷ [FOPH](#)

▷ [FOSPO](#)

▷ [Swiss Olympic](#)

By way of reminder, the basic measures were described in the 'Personal responsibility' section.

7.2 Risk analysis

A risk analysis will be performed before the competitions in accordance with the model provided by Swiss-Ski and sent to the cantonal authority with the authorisation request for the competition. The model can be found in Appendix 2.

7.3 Accreditations

Any person requiring accreditation will be allocated, based on their role, to one of the colour groups and will have to complete the (good) health questionnaire provided by the FIS. If the person answers 'Yes' to any of these questions, a Covid-19 test will be performed on site. The person will be kept in isolation until the test result is received. Other obligations apply to the RED group, which are set out in the appendix for the 'RED' group under the heading 'Obligation to inform and report'.

7.4 Protective masks

Masks must be worn during all competitions. Exceptions apply, and these are defined in the various colour documents (in particular for athletes during actual competition or volunteers performing physically demanding work).

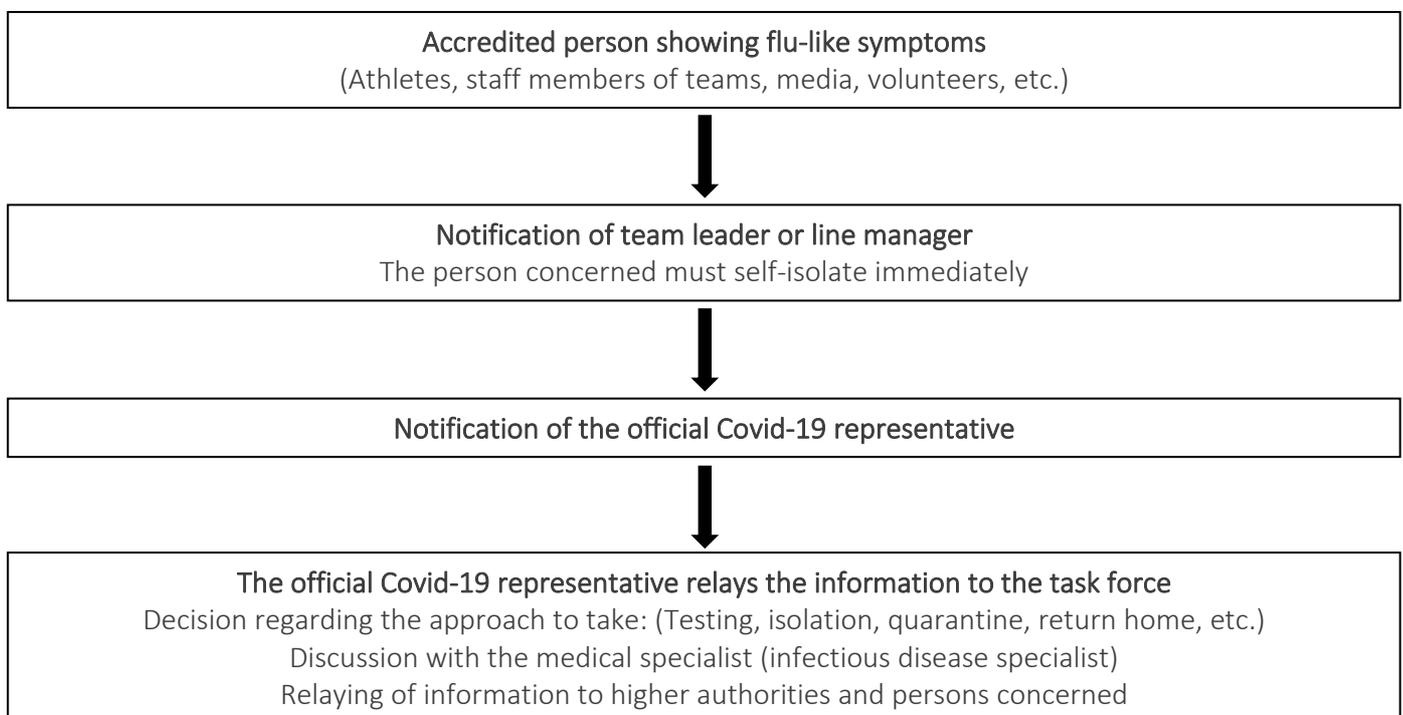
7.5 Hygiene and protection measures

Regular sanitisation of contact surfaces. There will be sufficient sanitiser dispensers at strategic transit points, particularly in all the colour areas. Each person is obliged to sanitise their hands when entering a given area. Stocks of masks will be available. Security agents will be trained to manage the flows of people and prevent any crowding. Bins will be provided at the exits of areas for people to dispose of used masks.

7.6 Testing for Covid-19

The RED group, media, army, civil protection, course staff, and hotel personnel will have to be tested. The process is set out and described in detail in the 'RED' appendix. The person tested has to meet the costs. Tests carried out on volunteers are paid for by the COL.

7.7 What to do in the event of flu-like symptoms



7.8 Tracing/QR code

Thorough tracing of close contacts will be performed with suitable diligence. A close contact is defined as a prolonged (> 15 minutes) or repeated contact where 1.5 m social distancing is not observed and no protective measures are taken. The following applies to the implementation of contact tracing:

- ▷ During competitions, a list of all persons present will be drawn up and kept for at least 2 weeks so it can be forwarded to the health authorities if required. This directive applies to all colour groups.
- ▷ All persons present and accredited in any of the colour groups will need to have registered with the SwissCovid app.
- ▷ All persons present and accredited in any of the colour groups will need to have registered with the tracing app provided by the COL.

7.9 Organisation of the competition

7.9.1 Transport

Transport of the different groups of people to the competition venue must be organised on an individual basis. If teams or countries are unable to organise their own transport, this will be organised via the COL. During transport, there must not be any contact or mixing with other groups of people (apart from drivers wearing an FFP2 mask).

7.9.2 Restaurants at competition venues

A separate restaurant area must be provided for each group of people. For the RED group, tables or areas separated according to team/country will be displayed within the restaurant area. GastroSuisse rules apply, which stipulate a maximum of four people per table.

An organised self-service system (with each person getting their own food) is authorised as long as people keep their distance and wear masks.

When a table becomes available, support staff will have to sanitise and clean it.

7.9.3 Team leaders' meeting

The number of people attending the team leaders' meeting (TCM) must be kept to a minimum, namely representatives from the FIS, whose number is to be decided by the FIS, three representatives from the LOC, and a maximum of one representative per country (10 m² per person). It must be possible for external parties to participate in meetings via a live online connection. The preferred option will be videoconferences.

7.9.4 Press conference

There are no plans for a press conference. Media wishing to hold an interview with an athlete can do so at the finish of individual events based on a schedule defined in advance by the main press officer.

7.9.5 Medal presentation ceremonies

Medal presentation ceremonies are held in the finish area only or at the competition venue. Participation is limited to the athletes and a representative from each of the FIS and the COL.

7.9.6 Draw ceremony and distribution of race numbers

The draw ceremony and distribution of race numbers, which are normally held in public, have been cancelled. Race numbers will be picked up by a team member. The race number can also be issued at the TCM.

7.9.7 Spectators

There will be no spectators in the finish area or outside (FIS and LOC).

- ▷ Social distancing will be respected in all areas. People need to stay 1.5 m apart.
- ▷ All movement of people at the venue must observe a one-way system. People are advised not to stop in narrow sections. Masks will need to be worn upon entering the finish area. Masks must be worn the whole time at the competition venue.

Security personnel will be present to ensure these measures are observed.

8. Communication

8.1 Sharing information

It is also very important to share information with organisers of previous and future World Cups. This makes it possible to learn from experience and anticipate problems in good time. World Cup competitions can only take place if everyone abides by the framework conditions and supports each other.

8.2 Heads of sectors

All heads of sectors must be informed in advance of any protection measures applicable on the basis of the current basic protection concept for the World Cup and any appendices it contains.

8.3 Provision of information

Information boards must be erected showing applicable safety information. Regular reminders of the safety instructions in place will also need to be relayed via the public address system. In particular, this information channel will need to be used to stop people gathering at entrances and exits.

9. Use of ski lifts

National and cantonal protection regulations apply to the use of ski lifts, as does the operator's own protection concept. In terms of using ski lifts, it is essential not to mix colour groups or mix customers of the resort with staff members involved in the World Cup (volunteers, members of the army or civil protection).

All persons using ski lifts, whatever their colour group, must wear a mask.

10. Accommodation

- ▷ Any planning of accommodation must be based on the advice and recommendations of the local health authorities. Social distancing requirements must be respected at hotels.
- ▷ The GastroSuisse protection concept (GastroSuisse link) applies without exception.
- ▷ At meals, the RED group will not mix with other customers as the restaurant is strictly reserved for the teams only.
- ▷ Sufficient sanitary and restaurant facilities must be provided for each colour group.
- ▷ Restaurants will ideally involve some kind of service. A buffer arrangement is also possible, however.
- ▷ Closed rooms must be well ventilated at regular intervals before the arrival of each new group.
- ▷ Tables and other surfaces must also be sanitised as soon as a group leaves the table.

11. Restaurants on site

- ▷ Persons belonging to the RED group (racers, trainers) will be able to eat at the Le Montrouge restaurant in a reserved area.
- ▷ Persons belonging to the BLUE group (organisational staff, volunteers, army, civil protection) will be able to eat in a reserved room and area.
- ▷ These two groups must not mingle under any circumstances.
- ▷ The public may not come into contact with these groups of people at any time.

12. Responsibilities

- ▷ The organisers responsible for arranging the competition are also responsible for implementing and monitoring the measures prescribed. The official 'Covid-19' representative is responsible for ensuring these measures are observed.

- ▷ Before receiving accreditation, all persons involved in organising a World Cup discipline must sign a declaration confirming they have read and understood the basic protection concept and the relevant colour appendix. This will ensure people receive individual training and that measures are implemented properly.
- ▷ Those participating in the event (athletes, officials, volunteers, members of the press) are obliged to implement the measures prescribed in a consistent manner and to report immediately any symptoms of illness to the official Covid-19 representative.
- ▷ The protection concept is made available to all World Cup organisers and to the operators of facilities and is published on the Swiss-Ski website ([swiss-ski.ch/corona](https://www.swiss-ski.ch/corona)).
- ▷ Systems operators/external businesses are responsible for the corresponding framework conditions and protection concepts for the respective system(s).
- ▷ All those involved shall abide by the protection concept in a spirit of solidarity and with a high degree of personal responsibility!

13. Plan of the event (attached)

Person responsible for the basic protection concept for the Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross World Cup competitions in Veysonnaz

Dr. Gérald Gremion

gerald.gremion@chuv.ch

+41 79 / 644 69 53