Dear Team Leaders

World Sailing Medical Commission Update

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

On 30th January 2020, the WHO Director General has declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. On 11 March, the World Health Organisation declared that COVID-19 has become a pandemic due to the speed and scale of transmission rather than the severity of the disease. This severe public health challenge requires close co-operation between international agencies, governments and event organizers, in order to protect the health of athletes, as well as the general public.

In response to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, World Sailing now has a section on the website dedicated to health to support the athletes and all sailing event organizers. The purpose is to help the sailing community to follow advice provided by the Medical Commission. This webpage is accessible at https://www.sailing.org/sailors/medical/index.php.

On Sunday 22 March, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that to safeguard the health of all involved and to contribute to the containment of COVID-19, the Executive Board (EB) of the IOC will step up its scenario-planning for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The full communication from the IOC is available here - https://www.olympic.org/news/health-and-safety-paramount-as-ioc-executive-board-agrees-to-continue-scenario-planning-for-the-olympic-games-tokyo-2020.

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

Being aware of the potential dangers of this outbreak, following advice and decision of their national health authorities, World Sailing, Event Organisers and Class Associations have decided to cancel or postpone some Olympic qualification events. World Sailing is exploring all possibilities to conduct the Olympic qualification events, protecting the health of the athletes and respecting the health regulations of the hosting territory of the event.
We continue to be in close communication with the World Health Organisation (WHO); the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission Games Group and public health experts in order to closely monitor the development of this outbreak, advised countermeasures and make qualified decisions.

World Sailing Medical Commission is grateful for your cooperation and for all help received from International organizations, agencies and other various parties in preparation of the advice and guidelines published on our website.

World Sailing Medical Commission
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