

IQA Events & COVID-19 situation assessment

(January 2021)

Summary of the survey feedback

All NGBs and national teams are impacted by containment and social distancing measures. National teams are primarily impacted by the limitations on organising practices and group workouts, and current travel restrictions. National Governing Bodies are impacted by the suspension and cancellations of tournaments and the whole season, and a loss of revenue associated with that. Some indicate that there's no perspective on when the situation will improve.

Every NGB has indicated that they want some sort of measures and policies regarding COVID-19 implemented at IQA events. The majority of the NGBs agree that equipment should be disinfected between games and that there should be additional sanitation stations and bathrooms. In addition, about half of the NGBs indicated that they would like to have even stricter measures and policies such as: mandatory masks (with exception for athletes and officials on pitch), more distance in the seating areas, separate seating areas which are limited for athletes and event volunteers, adapted gameplay schedules to reduce the contact between teams, set referee and volunteer crews, and either a negative PCR test prior to traveling or the event. Some NGBs even asked for stricter rules than the above mentioned ones.

There is a split in opinions on mandatory vaccination for IQA events. Some NGBs have indicated they would only attend if vaccination is mandatory, others want to leave the choice to the event attendees or are concerned about the local vaccination timelines not lining up with the event timing. Receiving the vaccine will be free of charge for most of the NGBs.

Opinions on how NGBs want the IQA to proceed with the IQA European Games are mostly divided between cancel, continue and no preference. General prediction of attendance does show that they will be more likely to attend a postponed event in December-February. Two of the NGBs who indicated the IQA should not host events as long as masks and social distancing are a norm, also indicated that they want to continue with European Games in June-August 2021.

A majority of NGBs in the Pan-American Games region prefer the IQA to cancel the event rather than continue or postpone. There is a small shift in likeliness to attend showing these teams also being more likely to participate in a postponed event.

NGB responses to the January 2021 IQA Events - Covid-19 survey

29 NGBs filled out the survey, of which 24 also filled out the survey in March 2020 and all 29 filled it out in August 2020. These are the summaries of the surveys in [March](#) and [August](#).

The following NGBs have filled out the survey: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Catalonia, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Situation assessment

Local containment and social distancing measures in place

All NGBs have indicated that there is some form of self-isolation, other containment, and/or social distancing measures in place. These measures vary in how strictly they are enforced.

Impact of containment measures on the national teams

- 0 NGBs have indicated that their national team has not been impacted by containment and social distancing measures.
- 27 NGBs have indicated that they cannot practice in person.
- 23 NGBs indicated that they cannot conduct group workouts.
- 12 NGBs indicated that they cannot fundraise.
- 14 NGBs have indicated that they have travel restrictions, including travel bans, isolation, or mandatory COVID testing upon return.

Impact of containment measures on national governing bodies

- 0 NGBs have indicated that their NGB has not been impacted by containment and social distancing measures.
- 13 NGBs indicated that their season has temporarily been suspended.
- 16 NGBs indicated that their season has permanently been suspended.
- 8 NGBs indicated that tournaments have been postponed.
- 20 NGBs indicated that tournaments have been cancelled.
- 16 NGBs indicated a loss of revenue due to the postponement or cancellation of events.

Other feedback on the containment and social distancing measures in your country?

- Harsher measures are expected due to the situation currently getting worse.
- It is impossible to predict when restrictions will lessen and it will be able to conduct group sports again.
- A 2021 schedule is constantly changing due to the changing measures and curfews in place.
- Local restrictions make it financially impossible to have training or competitions.
- Teams cannot host tryouts to select players for the national team.

Covid-19 policies at IQA Events

We are considering various measures and policies to implement at all our events to minimize the risks of COVID-19.

Which of the following measures and policies would you want the IQA to implement at the events?

- 12** - The IQA should not host events as long as masks and social distancing are a norm.
- 18** - Disinfecting equipment between games.
- 18** - Additional sanitation stations and bathrooms.
- 12** - Mandatory masks for all attendees (exception for athletes and officials on pitch).*
- 3** - Mandatory masks for all attendees at all times during the event.*
- 14** - More distance in grandstand/seating/spectator areas for spectators.
- 14** - Separate area limited for athletes & event volunteers in grandstand/seating/spectator areas.
- 9** - Work with a bubble-system throughout the whole event.
- 10** - Adapted gameplay schedule to minimize contact between teams.
- 14** - Set referee and volunteer crews.
- 12** - Mandatory negative PCR test prior to travel.
- 12** - Mandatory negative PCR test prior to attending the event.
- 12** - Mandatory full-coverage vaccination for all attendees prior to the event.**
- 3** - Mandatory first dose vaccination for all attendees prior to the event (for vaccines with multiple doses).**
- 0** - None (no measures).

Other COVID-19 measures and policies NGBs would like to see at IQA Events include the no huglines, dedicated water bottles instead of taps/fountains, no spectators at the event and contact tracing forms.

What is the cost of receiving a covid vaccine in your country/NGB/area?

The vaccine will be free of charge in 26 of the NGBs who responded to the survey. One NGB indicated it will cost between 2-3 USD and for another one it will be between 5-7USD. One NGB indicated that the cost still has to be determined.

What is the earliest date by which your full team of players will have received the vaccine (following your local vaccine rollout plan)?

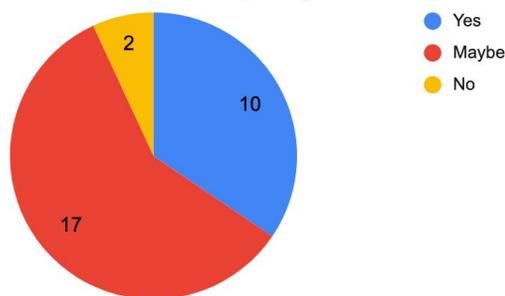
Out of the 29 NGBs, 14 NGBs report that they are scheduled to receive the vaccine before the end of September. 5 NGBs report that they will likely receive the vaccine before the end of 2021. 2 NGBs report that they are scheduled to receive the vaccine after 2021. Lastly, 8 NGBs report that the vaccination date is unknown.

When looking more closely at the information, we can state the following:

- Out of the 18 European NGBs, 12 NGBs report that they are planning to receive the vaccine before the end of September. 2 NGBs report that they are scheduled to receive the vaccine after the end of September, but before the end of 2021. Lastly, 4 NGBs report that the vaccination date is unknown.
- Out of the 7 Pan-American NGBs, 4 NGBs report that they are likely to receive the vaccine before the end of 2021. 1 NGB reports that they are set to receive the vaccine after 2021. 2 NGBs report that the date is unknown.

Will a mandatory vaccination policy at IQA events impact or limit the attendance of your team? And motivation for the answer.

Impact on attendance by a mandatory vaccination policy



Yes:

- No access to vaccines, late roll-out of the vaccination plan, some players might not want to get the vaccine, uncertainty over when players will be vaccinated.
- Too risky to attend if there is no mandatory vaccine plan, some players might not attend if vaccines aren't mandatory.

Maybe: Uncertainty over when players will be vaccinated, some players might not want to get the vaccine, uncertainty over whether players will have access to the vaccine in time for the event.

No: No impact as vaccination will be the maximum protection against covid, will only attend if vaccination is mandatory.

Other feedback on the COVID-19 measures and policies at IQA events.

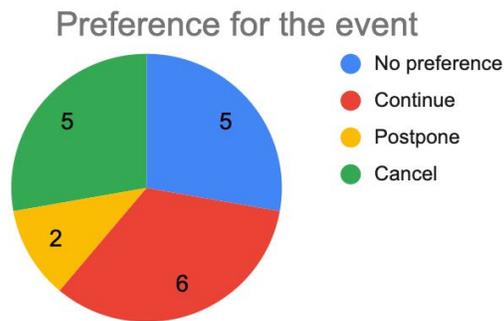
- In current situations a strict bubble concept is mandatory.
- Request to be considerate of the smaller NGBs.
- People should not be excluded from mandatory vaccination due to religious beliefs, only for medical reasons.
- As long as measures are necessary, there shouldn't be IQA events.
- Events should be done in accordance with restrictions required by the host country. However, mandatory tests and vaccines would add extra costs.
- Players' age group is going to be the last group eligible for the vaccine, which makes it harder to predict vaccine roll-out.
- Nothing is too much if it means to keep players safe.
- Request not to host international events until Summer 2022.

IQA European Games 2021

Something

18 NGBs who filled out the survey are in the IQA European Games area.

Considering the current situation, what is your preference for the event?



6 NGBs want the event to continue in summer 2021 (June - August).

2 NGBs want the event to be postponed to winter 2021-2022 (December - February).

5 NGBs want the event to be canceled.

5 NGBs had no preference regarding postponement or continuation of the event.

Likelihood to attend

1. In summer 2021 (June - August)



Summary of reasoning given, sorted by likelihood (see chart above)

0: No responses

1: No time to train, will have to self isolate upon return, not sure the situation will be good enough, uncertainty about vaccinations, local restrictions, mandatory tests and vaccines, financial reasons

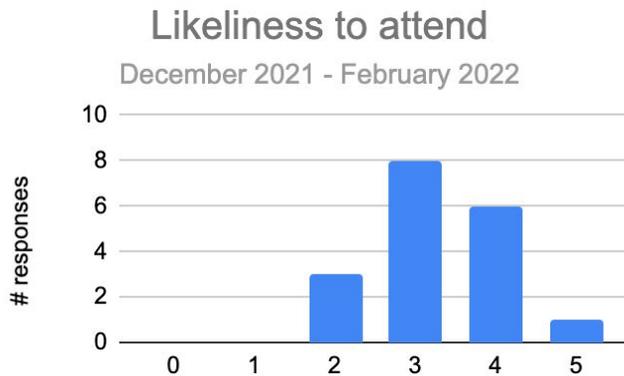
2: No work-outs for the team, no time to put a national team together and train, lots of uncertainty about when restrictions will be lifted or when they will be able to train. Not sure about the expenses. Uncertainty about wanting to play when not vaccinated.

3: Uncertainty about when resuming practice, travel restrictions, uncertainty about vaccinations, generally too many uncertainties.

4: Motivated players want to attend.

5: No responses

2. In winter 2021-2022 (December - February)



Summary of reasoning given, sorted by likelihood (see chart above)

0: No responses.

1: No responses

2: Mediocre weather, interruption of the national league, too many uncertainties to give an actual timeline but probability is higher than it happening in the summer, depending on whether trainings are possible and whether vaccinations have taken place.

3: Higher possibility due to vaccinations planning, travel restrictions might be possibility lifted, more time to prepare (economically and training)

4: Full vaccination for the team, more ability to train,

5: Motivated to go if travel is allowed and vaccines have been given.

What is the latest time your NGB would need a decision regarding the continuance of the event in summer 2021 (June-August)?

The majority prefers three to four months prior to the event as the latest timing to make a decision.

Other feedback on the IQA European Games 2021.

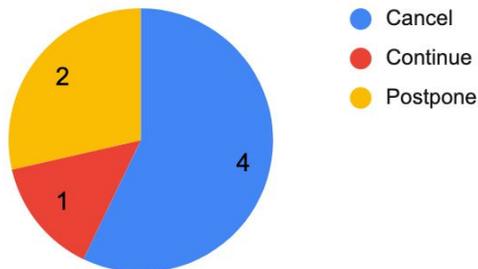
- The event might be very cold if postponed to December-February, indoor venues or a warmer destination are preferred.
- Having the event in winter might clash with national leagues.
- Multiple NGBs stress the importance of an early announcement.
- The NGB board has been in transition to a new board and players will decide on the attendance should the event be hosted this year.
- Players and officials have no experience with the new rulebook and likely won't have the opportunity to get that prior to European Games this year.
- Kind words to the IQA for the work put into the events.

IQA Pan-American Games 2021

7 NGBs who filled out the survey are in the IQA Pan-American Games area.

Considering the current situation, what is your preference for the event?

Preference for the event



1 NGBs want the event to continue in summer 2021 (June - August).

2 NGBs want the event to be postponed to winter 2021-2022 (December - February).

4 NGBs want the event to be anceled.

0 NGBs had no preference regarding postponement or continuation of the event.

Likelihood to attend

3. In summer 2021 (June - August)



Summary of reasoning given, sorted by likelihood (see chart above)

0: No vaccines available, social distancing applies, event will be in winter so covid will be in peak, have decided to not attend the event.

1: Highly unlikely that the team will be able to prepare for the event or travel safely.

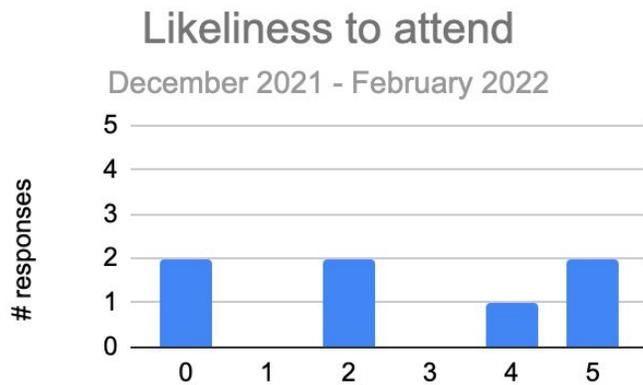
2: Uncertainty regarding vaccination, not enough time to obtain mexican visa, financial capacity

3: No responses

4: No responses

5: Minimal impact on travel.

4. In winter 2021-2022 (December - February)



Summary of reasoning given, sorted by likeliness (see chart above)

- 0: Too many uncertainties, have decided to not attend the event
- 1: No responses
- 2: Too small vaccination window, regular season would be impacted, too many uncertainties
- 3: No responses
- 4: Vaccination is a higher possibility, Mexican visa will be obtainable, fundraising will be possible.
- 5: Much more likely to be able to get a full team, vaccination should be completed by then.

What is the latest time your NGB would need a decision regarding the continuance of the event in summer 2021 (June-August)?

The majority prefers five months prior to the event as the latest timing to make a decision.

Other feedback on the IQA Pan-American Games 2021.

- Would need a decision as soon as possible due to professional obligations of the athletes.
- Will support the IQA in any decision taken regarding the event but would prefer the event not to go ahead.