



Best Practice Measures to Protect Public and Athlete Health at the Tokyo Olympics: Comparison Table



PRINCIPLE	BEST PRACTICE	IOC ATHLETES PLAYBOOK
PUT PUBLIC HEALTH FIRST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Covid-19 advisory committees that include player associations, Sport Governing Bodies (SGBs) and a range of experts including epidemiologists, engineers, medical professionals and others – GAA/GPA • Have a 'plan-B' and measures that can be quickly adapted to respond to the changing public health situation - AFL/AFLPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No involvement of player associations • No plan-B communicated in the event of an outbreak. Outbreaks are continuing to cause the postponement and cancellation of major sporting events (i.e the Indian Premier League) • No specific risk assessment communicated per high risk places, people (in particular, paralympians), sports and venues
PROTECT ATHLETES FROM RISKS OF HARM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No waivers for players – MLB/MLBPA • Full and comprehensive insurance for the entire period of training and competition, including for Covid-19 – NHL/NHLPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playbook requires athletes participate at their own risk • Limited insurance coverage only which does not cover full risks arising
CLEARLY DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe international travel including rigorous pre-departure testing; exclusive use of private transport; mandatory quarantine at hotel while maintaining access to training and gym facilities – international cricket/FICA • Enhanced co-ordination and protections around fixturing and player load, including use of additional substitutions, mandatory rest periods and load management protocols – European football/FIFPRO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-departure testing may be insufficient given increased transmissibility of highly infectious new variants. Concerns surround the quality control measures governing the process and integrity of results • Sport specific measures yet to be sufficiently detailed
EFFECTIVE TESTING, TRACING AND ISOLATION	<p>Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily RT-PCR testing all athletes, which may be supplemented by lateral flow antigen tests (some countries / sports testing 2-3x/ daily) - NBA / NBPA) <p>Tracing and screening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide wearable tech to monitor proximity, heart rate, blood pressure and temperature and to enable contact tracing that can be supported by dedicated SWAT teams - NFL / NFLPA <p>Isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated hotel isolation facilities with a proper level of care and comfort - various sports 	<p>Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient detail in relation to implementation and how the integrity of results will be ensured • No remedy / grievance process outlined for athletes who may return false positives • Heavy reliance on rapid antigen testing may not effectively detect asymptomatic spread <p>Tracing and screening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact tracing via a smartphone app that has experienced several technical problems. In addition to privacy concerns, apps are not an effective method of contact tracing generally and will be impractical for many athletes • Misplaced emphasis on testing for fever – this is hit or miss as it is non-specific-symptomology and may produce discriminatory results • Uses outdated definition of close contact – focussing on prolonged rather than cumulative contact of 15 minutes or more <p>Isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient detail in relation to the designated facilities, care and support provided to athletes in isolation



PROPER TREATMENT & CARE

Clinical care

- **Tailored treatment and rehabilitation** programs for positive Covid-19 cases – various sports
- **Mandatory cardiac screening pre being certified fit for RTP** – various sports

Mental health

- Access to on the ground **mental health support**, network of counselling services and ongoing outreach with player MH & wellbeing professionals – NZ Rugby / NZRPA

Clinical care

- **Insufficient detail in relation to the treatment and rehabilitation measures provided to athletes**

Mental health

- **No mention in Playbook about athlete mental health or wellbeing support**

EASY ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE PPE

- Arrange for the **acquisition and distribution of medically approved face masks** for all athletes competing – WNBA / WNBPA

- **"BYOM" - Bring your own masks** onus on athletes to ensure supply. Masks offer additional protection against the virus however vary significantly in quality and effectiveness. Requiring athletes to BYOM will produce vastly different standards of protection which may detrimentally impact the whole Games community. **The IOC must procure and distribute standardised medically approved masks for all involved in the delivery of the Games**

ATHLETE EDUCATION

- With player associations, **develop easy to understand interactive materials**, Q&A sessions and reiterate key messages throughout training and competition environments – NFL / NFLPA

- Emphasises role of Covid-19 Liaison Officers (CLOs) - **unclear what qualifications CLOs must have, the training they will receive or how they will effectively communicate and educate athletes**

SAFE AND SECURE LIFE AT THE GAMES

Accommodation, travel, distance and dining

- **Individual rooms, modify means of travel and assess, communicate and enforce capacity limits** for all indoor environments – NBA/NBPA

Accommodation, travel, distance and dining

- **Shared rooms significantly increase the risk of transmission** to athletes and their teammates
- **Does not specify precise physical distancing measures for dining areas, gyms, locker rooms or other common shared spaces**
- **Dedicated vehicles can still be Covid-19 incubators and require individualised attention** per mode of transport, duration of journey and number of passengers. Public transport still contemplated in some cases

Ventilation

- **Proper ventilation** - specific review of air changes per hour (ACH) in all indoor spaces; adaptation and modification of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC); installation of high-efficiency particulate absorbing filters (HEPA) and air conditioning systems to improve air circulation and outdoor airflow – NHL / NHLPA

Ventilation

- **The review, adaptation and modification of HVAC systems not shared or communicated** and must be urgently addressed
- **No evidence that opening a window every 30 minutes is sufficient** or how this can be reconciled with the stifling hot conditions of Tokyo in the summer

