

COVID-19



FOREWORD

Following the measures taken by both the Belgian Government and the Regional Government (Wallonia, Brussels-Capital Region, Flanders) against SARS-CoV-2 (the COVID-19-virus), we will organise official games and tournaments as normal. However, as the virus is still among us, BQF will also take some measures to ensure the safety of our players, officials, volunteers and spectators. These measures are written down in the following policy.

First and foremost, we want to stress the following:

Players, coaches, referees, volunteers and spectators must not come to a team practice or gameday, be it a league day or a tournament, if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or had any high-risk contact with someone who has COVID-19 in the two weeks leading up to a gameday. We want to emphasize how important this is, so that you will not put any other attendee at risk of contamination.

Please note that BQF can always make changes to this policy if the national or regional governments change the measures due to changes in the situation or we notice that organising gamedays cannot be organised safely.

Through this policy, BQF is doing all it can to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus during BQF organised events. In case of contamination, BQF cannot be held responsible.

I – CLUB- AND TEAM PRACTICES

As most clubs have restarted their practices, BQF has good faith that these practices are organized in a responsible manner and that every club has taken their own measures to avoid the spreading of COVID-19.

II – LEAGUE DAYS

If a league day cannot be held at the foreseen location because of local or national restrictions, the league fixture shall be postponed to one of the back-up dates (see league schedule proposition). In case of local restrictions, the home team should contact BQF as soon as possible.

If a team cannot join a league day because of regional restrictions (e.g. regional lockdown), the league day shall proceed with the remaining teams. Games involving the team that could not join, shall be postponed to a back-up date (see league schedule proposition). In this case the team should contact BQF as soon as possible. One or several individual members of a team not being able to play because of quarantine measures shall not be grounds for the postponement of a league day.

If a venue cannot provide at least one changing room per club, no changing rooms will be used.

III – EUROPEAN QUALIFIER AND BELGIAN QUIDDITCH CUP

If the European Qualifier or Belgian Quidditch Cup cannot be held at the foreseen location because of local or national restrictions, the tournament shall be cancelled. In case of the European Qualifier, the 2019 European Quidditch Cup spot division shall be taken into EQC 2021.

If a team cannot join the European Qualifier or Belgian Quidditch Cup because of regional restrictions (e.g. regional lockdown), the EQCQ shall proceed. If that team had a qualifying spot for the European Quidditch Cup 2020, it would keep that spot and the remaining teams will compete for the remaining spots. In this case, the team should contact BQF as soon as possible.

One or several individual members of a team not being able to play because of quarantine measures shall not be grounds for postponing or cancelling the EQCQ.

IV – LOCAL REGULATIONS

As the league days will be organised on different locations and for each location there might be local regulations next to regional and national regulations, each home-team must provide BQF with the correct information on these local regulations. BQF will then pass on this information to every playing team and potential non-playing volunteers or referees and put this information in the Facebook event.

BQF will gather information on local regulations for the European Qualifier and Belgian Quidditch cup and pass this on to the teams, put it in the tournament guide and in the Facebook event.

These local regulations must be followed by each attendee of the league day or tournament.

V – CONTACT AND CONTACT TRACING

Please note that BQF is not a tracing organisation. This means that providing contact information to BQF does not exempt the participant from their individual responsibility to track their close contacts and pass them on to authorities if requested.

4.1 Players and referees

Contact

As regional governments and the Belgian government allow outside contact sports and competitions, players and referees can have physical contact during games as normal. We however prohibit hugging lines at the end of a game and physical contact in between games. Players and referees from different teams or clubs are allowed on the (artificial) grass pitch during and between their own games. They should, however, always keep a 1,5-meter distance from players and referees from other clubs when not playing, except in case of emergency.

Non-playing volunteers and coaches are obligated to wear a mask off the (artificial) grass pitch during all BQF organised events. Time- and scorekeepers who do not belong to the same club or same bubble must wear a mask while standing or sitting next to each other unless they can keep a 1,5-meter distance.

Contact tracing

From now on, teams should save the contact information from all their players who participate in a tournament or league game for 2 weeks. When sending non-playing referees to a league day, teams must also save an email address and phone number for those referees. For the European Qualifier and Belgian Quidditch Cup, referees will be able to sign up through a separate form, where they will also have to give their contact information. This way BQF can, in case of suspected contamination of one of the attendees of a game, contact all the people or teams who were present.

Please note that BQF will only use this information in case of a suspected COVID-19 contamination and will delete this information 2 weeks after each game or tournament.

4.2 Non-playing volunteers, and coaches

Contact

Non-playing volunteers, and coaches are also allowed on the (artificial) grass pitch during and in between games. Non-playing volunteers and coaches should not have physical contact with players from another team and keep a 1,5-meter distance from them, except in case of emergency.

Non-playing volunteers and coaches are obligated to wear a mask off the (artificial) grass pitch during all BQF organised events. Non-playing time- and scorekeepers who do not belong to the same bubble must wear a mask while standing or sitting next to each other unless they can keep a 1,5-meter distance.

Contact tracing

If a team sends a non-playing coach to a gameday, they must also send their name with the roster and save their contact information for 2 weeks. If the team sends a non-playing volunteer to a league day, they must also save their contact information for 2 weeks. For the European Qualifier and Belgian Quidditch Cup, volunteers will be able to sign up through a separate form, where they will also have to give their contact information. This way BQF can, in case of suspected contamination of one of the attendees of a game, contact all the people who were present.

Please note that BQF will only use this information in case of a suspected COVID-19 contamination and will delete this information 2 weeks after each game or tournament.

4.3 Spectators

Contact

Spectators are allowed at BQF-organised events. They are, however, not allowed to enter the (artificial) grass pitch. Spectators must always keep a 1,5-meter distance from all players, coaches, referees and volunteers, except from those who are already in their contact bubble. Spectators are obligated to wear a mask during all BQF organised events.

Contact tracing

Spectators must send BQF their contact information (email address and phone number) through a google form, which will be sent out to the teams and can be found on the Facebook event. They can also give us their contact information by filling out a paper form, present at the game venue itself if they didn't have the chance to do it in advance. This paper form will be brought to the league day by the home team's point of contact (see BQL guidelines), who will return the form to BQF at the end of the league day. BQF will provide the form on tournament days. This way BQF can, in case of suspected contamination of one of the attendees of a game, contact all the people who were present.

Please note that BQF will only use this information in case of a suspected COVID-19 contamination and will delete this information 2 weeks after each game or tournament.

VI – WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF (SUSPECTED) CONTAMINATION

If any player, coach, referee, volunteer or spectator experiences alarming COVID-19 symptoms* or tests positive for the virus, within 2 weeks after a game day they attended, they are obliged to contact BQF. In the first case, we also highly recommend this person consults their doctor and takes a test.

In any case BQF guarantees the anonymity of the (possible) contaminated attendee and will not, under any circumstances, pass on their name.

In case of suspected COVID-19 contamination, BQF encourages this person to take a test and communicate the result of this test to us. We will, however, already contact all gameday attendees, so they are aware of a possible contamination and are able to take measures if needed. Afterwards BQF will let all attendees know whether the test was positive or not. Even though outside contact sports form a low risk for contamination, we would still advise all attendees to take a test.

In case of confirmed contamination, BQF will contact all gameday attendees so they are aware of possible contamination and are able to take measures if needed. Even though outside contact sports form a low risk for contamination, we would still advise all attendees to take a test.

* If you are uncertain which symptoms to be aware of, please check the recommendation from Sciensano, Chapter 1:

[FR] https://covid-19.sciensano.be/sites/default/files/Covid19/COVID-19_procedure_GP_FR.pdf

[NL] https://covid-19.sciensano.be/sites/default/files/Covid19/COVID-19_procedure_GP_NL.pdf

[DE] https://covid-19.sciensano.be/sites/default/files/Covid19/COVID-19_procedure_GP_DE.pdf

VII - MATERIAL AND DISINFECTANT

Home teams should, as they are also responsible for the game material (balls, hoops and brooms), also provide disinfectant to decontaminate their material.

All teams should bring disinfectant for their own players to avoid possible cross-contamination.

For tournaments, BQF will provide disinfectant which will be used to clean the materials in between games. BQF will also provide disinfectant hand gels for spectators, referees, volunteers and tournament staff during tournaments.

The materials that must be decontaminated in between 2 games are: all balls, brooms, hoops and poles used in those 2 games.

VIII – REINFORCEMENT AND FOLLOW UP

To make sure all players present follow this policy, BQF asks that each team appoints a person responsible for the compliance of the policy within their team.

BQF acknowledges that it requires major adjustments to comply with all the rules in the policy and that a rule can sometimes be forgotten. Therefore, penalties for not following the policy will never simply be handed out, but the people or teams involved can expect a warning, first an oral one and then a written one.

If this is not sufficient and a team or individual player deliberately continues to break the rules, more severe consequences will follow, such as suspension of a player or team forfeit. We would also like to remind everyone that wrong behaviour during a match or match day can be sanctioned under unsportsmanlike conduct and can result in a yellow or even red card.

Please also note that breaking certain rules in the policy (e.g. not wearing a mouth mask where necessary) may result in a fine issued by official authorities.