



Athletics South Africa

Return to Play

Competition and Training

ASA Covid-19 Compliance Document

Updated 7 October 2021



HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS DURING ATHLETICS COMPETITIONS DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Below are the Health and Safety protocols that will be implemented at all competitions organised by Athletics South Africa, its provincial and/or members.
- 1.2. All Covid-19 health and safety protocols will be followed including screenings, documentation, sanitising, social distancing, masks etc.

2. Competitions

- 2.1. Only events approved by ASA or one of the provinces will be allowed to take place during the above-mentioned **Alert Level 1** State of Disaster. This is to ensure the relevant health and safety protocols will be implemented.
- 2.2. Events that take place without the approval of ASA or one of the provinces during the above-mentioned State of Disaster, will be reported to the South African Police Services to be dealt with in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the above-mentioned State of Disaster
- 2.3. All participants at ASA events will undergo health screening (see Health Questionnaire in Appendix 1).
- 2.4. A Covid-19 compliance officer will be appointed for every competition.

3. Licenses

- 3.1. Only licensed athletes will be allowed to participate in ASA events during the above-mentioned State of Disaster. To prevent gathering, no licences will be sold on race day. All licences will be available from provincial officers on days other than race day, preferably online.

4. TRACK AND FIELD

4.1. Stadium

- 4.1.1. The athletics stadium shall be cleaned 72 hours before the meeting, including the track, infield areas i.e. High Jump & Pole Vault, Long Jump, and toilets and all rooms that will be used on the day of the meeting
- 4.1.2. No training between the cleaning of the stadium and the meeting will be allowed in the stadium.

4.2. * Covid-19 compliance officer and self-isolation area

- 4.2.1. There will be a dedicated isolated room, clearly marked, situated away from the Medical/Physio facilities used for the competition.
- 4.2.2. A Compliance Officer will be appointed for every event.
- 4.2.3. All Technical Officials will be workshopped on the Covid-19 health and safety regulations.
- 4.2.4. The Compliance Officer will liaise with the local health authority.

4.3. Access to Stadium

- 4.2.3. There will be only one controlled entrance to the stadium.
- 4.2.4. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance gate and everybody entering must sanitize their hands.
- 4.2.5. Everybody entering the stadium must undergo the Health and Safety questionnaire for screening that will contain the following information: identity number, contact number, place of residence, specific health enquiries, temperature and symptoms enquiry (see Health Screen questionnaire, Appendix 1).
- 4.2.6. If anybody volunteers symptoms or presents with a temperature above 38 degrees Celsius they can't be allowed into the stadium and they will be held in an isolation facility for referral to the local health authority (see suspected positive cases and contact tracing protocol).
- 4.2.7. Social distancing will be respected while this enquiry is being done.
- 4.2.8. Everyone will be masked.
- 4.2.9. If somebody would like to leave the stadium temporarily, he/she must be issued with a pass-out token and on returning to the stadium they must again go through the process of screening and hand sanitising

4.4. Arena/competition area

- 4.4.3. The maximum number of participants in the arena/competition area at any one time will not exceed **2000** (including athletes, technical officials, volunteers, medical team, media/broadcasting team, and stadium workers) and depend on the size of the venue – maximum 50% capacity. No spectators will be allowed.
[This will be reviewed at each national state of disaster level.](#)
- 4.4.4. As soon as the athletes completed their event, they must leave the competition area.
- 4.4.5. Technical officials, volunteers, relevant stadium staff, medical staff and registered members of the media/broadcaster team must leave the arena/competition area as soon as their responsibilities are completed. Social distancing and masking must always be maintained.

4.5. Technical Officials and Volunteers

- 4.5.1. Technical Officials must report at least 2 hours before the start of any meeting for a COVID-19 regulations and protocol briefing session.

4.6. Call Room and warm-up area

- 4.6.1. A maximum of **250** people (athletes, coaches, officials, medical) will be allowed in the warm-up area at any given time.
- 4.6.2. Strict social distancing/masks/sanitising etc. would be implemented during warm up.
- 4.6.3. The Call Room will be in the open and not in a building.

4.7. Ablution blocks

- 4.7.1. All ablutions would be sanitized continuously and kept clean as per Covid-19 protocols.
- 4.7.2. Entry to the ablution area will be regulated to adhere to social distancing.

4.8. Equipment

- 4.2.3. All equipment must be sanitized before it is handled and at regular intervals. This includes starter gun, electronic timers, stop watches. Starting blocks must be sprayed with sanitizer after each start.
- 4.2.4. All hurdles, starting blocks and stadium equipment must be sprayed with sanitizer on the morning before each meeting and between each event.
- 4.2.5. All equipment used at field events must be cleaned with sanitizer after each attempt, including high Jump and Pole Vault mats must be sprayed with sanitizer after each attempt.

4.3. Athletes

- 4.3.3. Athletes must always wear masks except during the time period that they will be participating.
- 4.3.4. Field event athletes will be required to wear masks when they are not competing.
- 4.3.5. Athletes are not allowed to congratulate each other by physical contact.

4.4. Coaches and Media

- 4.4.3. Coaches of participating athletes will be allowed in the stadium, but not on the track or the infield.
- 4.4.4. Members of the media and broadcasting team will only operate in dedicated media areas such as the mixed zone.
- 4.4.5. The total number of members of the media, and broadcasting team in the arena/competition area will be limited and regulated by the Compliance Officer.
- 4.4.6. No spectators will be allowed at the stadium.

5. ROAD, CROSS COUNTRY AND TRAIL RUNNING EVENTS

- 5.1. The maximum number of participants in the arena/competition area at any one time will not exceed **2000** (including athletes, technical officials, volunteers, medical team, media/broadcasting team, and stadium workers) and depend on the size of the venue – maximum 50% capacity. No spectators will be allowed. This will be reviewed at each national state of disaster level.
- 5.2. A Dedicated Covid-19 compliance officer will be appointed for each event (see Events and Competition officer list).
- 5.3. All the specifications listed above will also apply, where applicable, to road and cross-country and trail runs. Event organisers should ensure social distancing is implemented.
- 5.4. There will be only one controlled entrance to the stadium.
- 5.5. The following should be applied to the START:
 - Staggered starts will be employed - no mass start
 - Small groups going off at intervals
 - Start batches/group sizes to be not more than **250** participants. Where the start is 15m or wider, at the organisers discretion, the start batches/group sizes may increase to 400.
 - Chute sizes (fencing) to be ample square footage to allow 1.5m social distancing
 - Runners times to be calculated “mat to mat” and not “start gun to mat” as with a mass start
 - Pre-screening area to check temperature, sanitize and collect screening form of athletes (see Health Screen questionnaire, Appendix 1).
 - Runners to wear masks until they start the race and after they finished running.
- 5.6. Masks to be worn by workers/volunteers at all times.
- 5.7. Water points with ample water tables to mitigate aggregation and manned by masked volunteers (who will sanitize hands and tables before replenishing sachets).
- 5.8. All water sachets to be pre-ordered (72 hours) and treated and safely kept for race day. The volunteers who handle the sachets will wear masks & gloves and be screened before the event.
- 5.9. Volunteers and race marshals will be trained in the Covid 19 protocols and will enforce acceptable social distancing and wear masks at all times. They will make sure water bottles are not shared. Only water sachets that are supplied at the official water stations by the trained marshals or volunteers will be allowed.
- 5.10. Timing and results will be done electronically to avoid gathering at the finish line. Open/overall prizes must come from the earliest start batch only - using Gun to Mat (the prize contenders need to have a fair race against each other) and the age group prizes can be awarded to mat to mat competitors, if it is not possible to start them all in one batch.
- 5.11. Athletes must vacate the finish area immediately after finishing the race and must wear masks after they finished the race.
- 5.12. Prize giving may be held with the correct social distancing and regular sanitation of all equipment used. Volunteers to wear mask & gloves at all time. Any monies due will be transferred electronically.
- 5.13. No lucky draws will be allowed. If T-shirts are available, they will be distributed on finishing. The volunteers will enforce strict social distancing when doing this.

- 5.14. Vendors offering food and drink are permitted, but correct social distancing in queues and wearing of masks must be enforced. It is at the discretion of the event organisers to allow vendors – Covid compliance measures must be enforced at all times.
- 5.15. All surfaces at the venue, including tables and toilets, must be sanitised regularly.

It is at the discretion of the Event Organiser to apply or limit the application of the recommendations in this document. The capacity of the venue, as well as the ability to comply with these regulations will determine the final number of participants and vendors at each venue.

CONTACT TRACING AND SUSPECTED POSITIVE CASES PROTOCOL

PRE-EVENT (COMPETITION OR ROAD RACE)

Any entr ee that ‘failed’ the health screening at the start of the event will not be allowed in the stadium (track and field) or enter the race (road race). They will be moved to the clearly marked isolated area. This area will be separate from the competition medical room. The entr ee will be referred to a health practitioner or a health authority. All people that the affected person had come into contact with, i.e. travelled to the race or same household, will not be allowed to partake and also be referred to the health authority. Representatives of the health authority will, where possible, be present at the screening. Since the athletic competition will only last for a few hours and all entr ees screened at the start, the biggest risk will be the post event. Therefore, the following steps will be followed.

POST EVENT:

Register will be kept of all athletes, officials, coaches, media and stadium staff. The register will be kept for 6 months.

- Register will reflect name, address, ID number, telephone (cell) number. Those from outside the city where the event will be hosted will need to provide detail of health practitioner or local health authority.

All athletes, officials, coaches must undertake to monitor symptoms post event up to 14 days and if symptoms develop must contact the Covid compliance officer of the specific event (track and field) or race (road, cross or trail run).

- The participant should self-isolate and get tested.
- All other participants will be informed and advised to self-monitor.
- In addition, a full list of other personal contacts post the event or race or places visited should be supplied and made available to the local health authority for tracing and monitoring.

Any person who shows symptoms should get tested and self-isolate. The test results should be made available if negative, the athlete can resume activity, but if tested positive, should remain in isolation for at least 14 days and be retested and show a negative result before taking part in any other event under the auspices of Athletics South Africa.

***Covid-19 Compliance Officer**

The compliance officer's duties are to:

Put the necessary measures in place as approved by ASA.

Provide a schedule for monitoring the compliance of the event.

Maintain the standard of compliance as it is approved in the operational plan.

Ensure the safety of the participants by adhering to the Covid-19 regulations.

Ensure contact-tracing measures at all entry points to the facility.

Ensure that all the necessary Personal Protective Equipment is available: this includes sanitisers, soaps and clean water.

Ensure that masks are worn at all times in indoor venues and for non-athletes during the training and competition.

Ensure that the facility is cleaned before and after use.

Ensure there is provision for isolation for all the suspected cases.

Keep contacts of all relevant Health officials to report all cases and to seek support.

Requirement:

Preferably a health related qualification.

South African citizens only.

Additional Skills.

Computer literacy.

Communication skills.

Writing skills.