

**For the attention of:**

European Athletics Member Federations  
European Athletics Council  
European Athletics Commissions

Copy: World Athletics President, World Athletics CEO

Lausanne, 19 March 2021  
Circular Letter 2021/13

**Items covered in this letter:**

- Review of sanitary protocol from Torun 2021 European Athletics Indoor Championships
- Extraordinary Executive Board meeting Wednesday 24 March

Dear Friends,

As you know since the end of the highly successful Torun 2021 European Athletics Indoor Championships we have been faced with a number of reports of positive cases of COVID-19 mainly from athletes after testing conducted upon arrival in their home country.

We would like to clarify the situation regarding these positive cases and update you on the work that was done together with the Local Organising Committee and the Polish health authorities to establish a strict medical and sanitary protocol at the European Athletics Indoor Championships. This in order that you may have the full and complete picture, irrespective of media reports, on what was planned and carried out, who and how many were tested and on how we propose to take forward the lessons learned to our next events.

The medical and sanitary protocol established for Torun involved a PCR test before traveling, a LAMP test upon arrival in Poland, with a confirmatory PCR test if needed due to a positive result, then during the championships a further LAMP test (as of the fifth day), and finally a PCR test for most of countries prior to travelling home.

All athletes, plus all member federations staff, event staff, guests, volunteers, and technical suppliers, in all a total of 1,920 people, were tested according to the above protocol.

In addition, the sanitary rules that stipulated the mandatory use of a mask at all times, social distancing and the washing and disinfection of hands were duly communicated to all of you the member federations, including the need for immediate isolation and quarantine in the case of suspicious symptoms or a positive result in testing. Abiding to these rules was the individual responsibility of each and every person attending the event.

Further investigation surrounding the reported positive cases, traces all these back to two hotels. There have been no reported positive cases involving member federations, event staff, officials, volunteers or guests staying in any of the other hotels.

Unfortunately, the investigation also uncovered that the aforementioned strict sanitary protocol that should also have been followed in team hotels was not always fully respected. For example, the obligatory wearing of masks at all times, except during meal times and while athletes were competing, was not respected in some hotels. This was particularly the case on the evening the competition ended and before the departure home of many teams.

While European Athletics, of course, has a moral duty and obligation to provide a safe environment for all athletes and staff participating at its events, according to the sanitary rules of the host country, respect for these rules is the personal responsibility of every individual.

European Athletics will now fully review and revise our sanitary procedures and protocol based on the experience of Torun to enhance and improve the protocol for future European Athletics events. On Wednesday, 24 March the European Athletics Executive Board will hold an extraordinary meeting online to discuss the impact of the reported outbreak of positive athlete COVID-19 cases on the remaining European Athletics events this year that include the European Athletics Team Championships Super League, 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Leagues.

It is however of paramount importance, and here we request your full support, that you as member federations reinforce the work we are doing on the medical and sanitary protocol for our events by educating the athletes on the importance of complying with these regulations. It is after all to maintain their safety and the health and safety of their fellow athletes and member federation staff.

We thank you for your support in these difficult times as we seek to return everyone back to events, safely and securely.

Kind regards,



Dobromir KARAMARINOV  
Interim President



Christian MILZ  
CEO