Coronavirus – latest information received by IGF

----as of 13 March 2020 - latest updates in red ----

The IGF will endeavour to provide regular and relevant updates on the coronavirus (Covid-19) to the IGF Board, IGF Athlete Commission, IGF Medical Commission, IGF Competitions Committee, IGF International Technical Officials (ITOs) and IGF Olympic staff based on information received by the IOC, Tokyo 2020 and other key Olympic stakeholders.

13 March 2020: Update from Tokyo 2020

Tokyo 2020 IF Services sent an update in response to the World Health Organisation Director-General’s remarks on 12 March.

“As we have done thus far, the Organising Committee, the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee will monitor the situation carefully while seeking the advice of the World Health Organisation.

We will continue to coordinate our response with the Government of Japan, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and other stakeholders as we prepare for a safe and secure delivery of the Tokyo 2020 Games in July this year.”

12 March 2020: IOC Statement, Update from the IOC and Letter from ASOIF

Extract of the IOC statement on the Olympic flame lighting and the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 (for full IOC statement, click here)

“With the lighting of the Olympic flame in Olympia today, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirms its full commitment to the success of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. We remain absolutely in line with our Japanese hosts in our commitment to delivering safe Olympic Games in July this year.”
Letter from the IOC to update Summer Olympic International Federations on the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) – excerpts:

“WHO position on COVID-19

As you are no doubt aware, the World Health Organisation (WHO) yesterday declared that COVID-19 has become a pandemic due to the speed and scale of transmission rather than the severity of the disease.

You can find the full WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at the Mission briefing on COVID-19 - 12 March 2020 here.”

“Communication with athletes

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep athletes informed on the impact of COVID-19, the IOC continues to publish the latest information and advice on the Athlete365 public platform.”

“Tokyo 2020 qualification system impacts

We understand the significant challenges faced by athletes and sporting organisations, particularly in terms of travel regulations and the varying restrictions on the organisation of events which continues to change daily.

As a result, we are focused on assisting IFs to address any challenges and in particular the delivery of Olympic qualification events. Our goal is to help find consistent and credible solutions to replace any missed opportunities for athletes.

In doing so we want all athletes to have fair access to qualification events and for qualification to take place on the field of play and working with you to create fair alternatives to lost qualification opportunities. This includes working closely with IFs to approve any necessary changes to the dates and locations of events and any necessary adaptations to the qualification systems.”

Letter from ASOIF to Summer Olympic International Federations on the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) – to read the letter, click here.
11 March 2020: Update from Tokyo 2020 IF Services

Update from Tokyo 2020 on restrictions on entry to Japan – to read the information contained in the email, click here.

5 March 2020: Update from the IOC, IGF Statement and Presentation from Tokyo 2020

Excerpts from IOC Sports Department letter to Secretaries General of Summer Olympic International Federations:

“COVID-19 update

COVID-19 continues to cause significant challenges for international travel for several countries and has highlighted the need to meet all requirements of the relevant health regulations in all countries hosting sports events. The IOC continues to be in close communication with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WHO has not declared a pandemic and the cases are still clustered, with the respective national authorities focusing on containment measures.

The following sites which we previously provided remain the best sources of the latest information:

- Coronavirus 2019 – WHO
- Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation reports – WHO
- Travel restrictions, flight operations and screening – SOS International
- Destination List - Centers for Disease control and presentation (CDC)”

“Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

The IOC EB received a report on all the measures taken by Tokyo 2020 and the Tokyo and Japanese authorities to address the COVID-19 situation and expressed its full commitment to and confidence in the success of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. To support these measures, a joint task force was recently created, involving the IOC, Tokyo 2020, the host city of Tokyo, the government of Japan and the WHO.

To read the full IOC EB statement on the COVID-19 and the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 click here.

The IOC EB also reiterated the importance of all stakeholders being aligned in communications messaging, and in this regard, we remain available to discuss any aspects of messaging and communication with you.”
“Communication with athletes

Keeping athletes informed remains critical in addressing the on-going challenges of COVID-19. To assist with providing clarity to athletes, the IOC is maintaining a page on the Athlete365 platform dedicated to providing information on COVID-19 and advice for athletes. In addition, today the IOC President sent an open letter directly to the athletes. We continue to encourage athletes to speak with their IFs and their respective IF and NOC Athletes’ Commission regarding COVID-19. The IOC Athletes’ Commission also remains available to assist your Athletes’ Commission with any necessary communications.”

See also IOC Medical Director Q&A

IGF statement:

The IGF’s position on Coronavirus is as follows:

The preparations for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 are continuing as planned. Countermeasures against infectious diseases constitute an important part of Tokyo 2020’s plans to host safe and secure Games. Tokyo 2020 will continue to collaborate with all the relevant organisations that are carefully monitoring any incidence of infectious diseases and will review any countermeasures that may be necessary with all the organisations concerned. In addition, the IGF is in close contact with the IOC, World Health Organization as well as its own medical experts. We have full confidence that the relevant authorities in Japan, will take all the necessary measures to address the situation.

Presentation from Tokyo 2020

Tokyo 2020 shared the presentation “Information to all Tokyo 2020 Stakeholders on COVID-19” with its stakeholders – to access this presentation, click here

28 February 2020: Letter from the IOC

Excerpt from IOC Sports Department letter to Secretaries General of Summer Olympic International Federations

“Information concerning the coronavirus and the preparations for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

The preparations for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 are continuing as planned. Countermeasures against infectious diseases constitute an important part of Tokyo 2020’s plans to host safe and secure Games.

Tokyo 2020 will continue to collaborate with all the relevant organisations that are carefully monitoring any incidence of infectious diseases and will review any countermeasures that may be necessary with all the organisations concerned.
In addition, the IOC is in contact with the World Health Organization as well as its own medical experts. We have full confidence that the relevant authorities, in particular in Japan and China, will take all the necessary measures to address the situation.

Tokyo 2020 is working in cooperation with the National and International Federations ahead of test events and is following guidance from the Japanese authorities.”

27 February 2020: Interview with the IOC President on the current state of preparation for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 – to read full interview, click here