



## 2021-2022 COMPETITION PROTOCOLS

Last Update **11/16/2021**

***Due to the ever-changing nature of COVID-19, this document will be updated as the Public Health Orders require or as required by the MGA. The MGA will aim to ensure 30 days' notice of communication of MGA-driven changes.***

### OBJECTIVE

To provide meaningful competition opportunities for all competitive members of the MGA in an environment that mitigates the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and keeps individuals safe.

### PRIORITIES

1. Adapt the competition environment to meet current public health measures and guidance.
2. Provide a competition environment in which all individuals feel safeguarded from the risk of COVID-19 infection.
3. Create a competition environment that meets the needs of athletes to set goals, perform, and receive feedback through judges' scores.
4. Develop a hosting strategy that provides consistency between competitions and reduces risk or burden on the Host Club, financial or otherwise.

### GUIDING DOCUMENTS AND PRINCIPLES

- [Current Public Health Orders](#)
- [MGA Return to Sport Guidelines](#)

### DEFINITIONS

- **Individuals:** anyone within the Host facility, including but not limited to athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, meet directors, etc.
- **Physical Distancing:** maintain a minimum distance of two meters between yourself and others
- **Face Masks:** properly fitting disposable medical masks or reusable fabric masks

## RISK MITIGATION MEASURES FOR COMPETITIONS

Risk mitigation must consider and apply across all relevant contexts (i.e., before, during, and after competition) and for all individuals:

### General Protocol

- All individuals 12 and older must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination status as dictated by the current Public Health Order. Exemptions may be granted if the individual meets Public Health's exemption standards and shows proof of supporting government-issued documentation prior to the meet. Those with exemptions should have their club notify the Host Club in advance.
- All Host Club must state the employee vaccination policy on the invitation.
- The maximum capacity for a competition with spectators shall be 24 athletes per session.
- Host Clubs shall make every effort to split the athletes in rotations in such a way that there are no more than 5-6 athletes per rotation and minimal mixing of clubs.
- Athletes rotate in circling fashion moving in clockwise manner around the gym (i.e., Olympic order not necessarily used).
- The number of coaches permitted is 1 coach for every 6 compulsory athletes and 1 coach for every 4 optional athletes. Exceptions may be made on a case-to-case basis with the meet director in advance. All coaches must be listed on the meet registration form to enter the facility.
- Host Club will provide the participating clubs with the rotation order a minimum of 2 weeks in advance of the competition to make appropriate preparations for coaches.
- Recommended volunteer positions include Medical/First Aid Person, Admissions + Check-In and Screening, Meet Director/Floor Manager, Music/Announcer, Live Scoring Assistant, Awards Coordinator, Cleaning Crew, Spotters (TG only). *Note: Where possible these positions may be fulfilled by the same individuals with the goal of reducing overall numbers within the facility.*
- Clubs should consider limiting spectator capacity to ensure adequate distancing. The club invite must state spectator capacity per athlete in advance of registration.
- Food service for Judges and Coaches must be served by a designated food handler wearing gloves using designated serving utensils and/or be prepackaged for self service
- Individuals must stay in the building once they have entered (i.e., no re-entry).
- Out of Province athletes are allowed to compete in MGA Sanctioned events however must meet all Public Health Orders related to travel. Additionally, it is recommended that priority be given to MGA athletes to compete at invitationals should space be limited.
- Host Clubs waiver is required to have wording regarding the release of liability to the Host Club and MGA in the case of COVID-19 transmission on registration form.

### Physical Distancing

- As much as reasonably possible, athletes from different clubs will be expected to refrain from intermingling.
- Host Clubs must consider ways to accommodate for physical distancing, for example:
  - Remove any extra or unnecessary equipment from the competition floor

- Provide additional floor or matted space for general warm-up, if possible
- Upon rotation to each event, one coach per club will approach the judges table to confirm the competition order and warm-up procedures
- There will be no march-in for award ceremonies:
  - Awards will be presented to the Top 3 Event and All-Around competitors in each level and age category, the remainder of the awards will be distributed to the club coach
  - Host Clubs will compile awards packages for each club to pick up at the end of the day to distribute upon return to their home gyms
  - Host Clubs are recommended to purchase non-dated awards.
- An area where distance can be maintained as much as possible must be designated for coaches' and officials' personal belongings to be stored during the competition.

### **Hand and Respiratory Hygiene**

- Host Clubs must ensure they have adequate supplies for appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol-based) should be available at entrances and exits, at each event and any other necessary areas in the facility.
- Tissues and garbage bins should be available throughout the facility.
- All judges and volunteer tables (scoring, music, first aid, etc.) should be stocked with hand sanitizer, wipes, tissues, and garbage bins.
- Washrooms must be well-stocked with soap, hot water, paper towel, and tissues and checked regularly for necessary refills.
- All individuals must practice proper respiratory hygiene such as cough or sneeze into a tissue, or into your sleeve/elbow if a tissue is not available; dispose of the tissue and wash or sanitize your hands immediately.
- Any athletes touching their uncovered face at any time must go and sanitize their hands immediately to the adjacent sanitizing station.
- Signage on symptoms, proper hand, and respiratory hygiene (i.e., cough into elbow), and physical distancing must be posted throughout the facility; at a minimum, signage should be placed at all common entrances and where people tend to congregate.

### **Face Masks**

- All individuals must wear a face mask at all times, in addition to any masking requirements in the Public Health Orders. Athletes may choose to remove their mask only when they are warming up or performing.
- No deductions apply to athletes who choose to wear masks for competition.
- Any host club/facility's policies that exceed those in the Public Health Orders must state its policy on the meet invitation, so all parties know before registering.
- Host Clubs shall have disposable masks to provide should a participant forget to bring one. Host Clubs may choose to charge a reasonable rate for each disposable mask.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- The Host Club will be responsible for instituting a cleaning and disinfecting schedule, including time between each session to clear judges' tables, wipe down mats and equipment, and clean common areas or surfaces such as door handles, tables, and chairs, scoring and audio equipment, and washrooms.
- The Host Club shall have cleaning/disinfecting supplies readily available for spot cleaning as necessary; if an athlete's head or face or any bodily fluid comes into contact with the equipment or mats, it must be cleaned before the next athlete's turn.
- A thorough cleaning and disinfecting of the facility must take place at the end of each session.
- The competition schedule must factor in cleaning time between each session as well as time for individuals to enter and exit the facility safely.

### **Screening and Contact Tracing**

- The Host Club is responsible for conducting active screening of anyone entering the facility, including athletes, coaches and staff, judges, and volunteers; active screening constitutes:
  - Confirmation from the COVID-19 - Screening Questionnaire has been completed prior to entry
  - Temperature checks with a non-contact thermometer are recommended
- Should a case or close contact be identified by Public Health, the Host Club will direct Public Health to the MGA which has a centralized database of all participant phone numbers.

### **Officials**

- For MAG/WAG maximum 2 judges per event at one table with plexiglass dividers.
- Maximum of 7 judges for TRA and 5 judges for DMT/TUM separated at tables with plexiglass dividers.
- MGA will provide the plexiglass dividers for the Host Club.
- Selection meets may have additional judges if required; Judging Chairperson and Host Club must discuss in advance to ensure space can accommodate.
- The D1 Judge will be responsible for recording each athlete's score and submitting scores to the Meet Scorekeeper.
- Volunteers for Uneven Bars and Beam will be provided to assist with timing. These volunteers must be 2 m away from the judge's tables. The judges will be responsible for timing of Floor and Vault warmups as required.
- The judges must bring their own calculators, timing devices (timer or phone) and writing utensils to the competition. Judges will be provided an individual packet of judging sheets prior to competition by the MGA.

### **Cancellation of Competitions**

- Clubs must state their COVID refund policies (including administrative fees) on their invitation.

- For all other refunds, the regular MGA Competition Refund policies apply as per the Program's Technical Regulations.
- Any exceptions will be reviewed by the MGA Board of Directors in conjunction with the Host Club.
- It is recommended that Host Clubs work with companies that have refundable deposits in case of cancellation