

Modified WHO Mass Gathering COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool for Basketball Mass Gathering Events Organisers

*Instructions for authorities and organizers of basketball events planning mass gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic
Version 2 – 7 August 2020*

The content of this Risk Assessment tool has been updated to reflect new WHO guidance and new evidence on both COVID-19 and mass gatherings, as well as feedback from end-users. Additional improvements have been made to the way the information is organized and presented: the Decision Tree is now built into the tool and a new tab dedicated to Risk Communication has been added. The expanded tool now includes six tabs: 1. Instructions; 2. Decision Tree; 3. Risk Evaluation; 4. Risk Mitigation; 5. Decision Matrix; 6. Risk Communication.

Version 1 was published on 25 May 2020 under the title "Guidance for the use of the modified WHO Mass Gatherings Sports: addendum risk assessment tools in the context of COVID-19 for basketball mass gathering events organisers".

Routine planning for mass gatherings includes conducting risk assessments to determine the overall risk of disease spread connected to a mass gathering. In view of the current outbreak of COVID-19, the World Health Organization (WHO) has developed this risk assessment tool for sporting events. It includes a risk evaluation, risk mitigation, and risk communication strategy developed for use by host countries and organizers of mass gathering to assess the specific risk of COVID-19.

There are three pillars to the modified WHO Mass Gathering Sports Addendum Risk Assessment Tool:

1. Risk Evaluation
2. Risk Mitigation
3. Risk Communication

This risk assessment tool includes all the factors from the generic WHO risk assessment tool for mass gatherings as well as additional considerations relating to sporting events, to enable event organizers to determine a more accurate overall risk score.

This tool must be completed in this Excel spreadsheet (see following tabs), as the scores are automatically calculated there. The tabs contain a decision tree providing an overview of the entire process, the risk evaluation, and the risk mitigation for sports event organizers to complete. Instructions for use of the individual components are provided in the respective tabs. After the risk evaluation and risk mitigation have been completed, the scores you receive in the Excel spreadsheet for both sections will need to be entered into the decision tree accessible through the second tab ("2. Decision Tree") or the decision matrix found via the fifth tab ("5. Decision Matrix") for the overall risk score to be determined. The final tab ("6. Risk Communication") details the importance of clearly communicating your plans and findings with your staff, participants and general public and provides considerations for the event's risk communication strategy.

This risk assessment should be used in conjunction with the Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19 found on the WHO website

(https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331764/WHO-2019-nCoV-Mass_Gatherings_Sports-2020.1-eng.pdf) and in the WHO COVID-19 app for smartphones, WHO Academy. To accurately provide answers to the following risk evaluation and risk mitigation questions, organizers must be knowledgeable about the current COVID-19 outbreak. The organizers should reference the daily global COVID-19 situation reports provided by WHO as well as the national COVID-19 situation reports, if available.

Risk assessment must be conducted with input from local public health authorities. Personnel with expertise in mass gatherings, risk assessment, basketball operations, sporting/training features, epidemiology, infectious disease control measures and risk communication must be engaged from the initial stages of planning.

For the overall risk to be determined, factors under consideration include:

- the current stage of the COVID-19 outbreak and known transmission dynamics
- the geographical distribution and number of participants, and their individual risk profile
- the basketball event risk assessment
- the mitigation measures that are currently in place or feasible for event

It should also be noted that risk assessment is a cyclical process, as demonstrated in the figure below. Recording and reporting on the findings of the risk assessment; communicating key messages to the public, participants and event staff; and monitoring and reviewing the risk assessment must continuously occur throughout the planning stages of a basketball mass gathering. As the figure displays, this tool should be continuously updated to account for changing information.



It is important to remember that while mitigation measures can reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections, they cannot completely eliminate the threat. It is WHO's view that all countries with community transmission should seriously consider postponing or reducing mass gatherings that bring people together and have the potential to amplify disease and support physical distancing. Any decisions can be supported through the use of WHO tools, in particular the Sporting Addendum Risk Assessment for Mass Gatherings during COVID-19.

If movement restrictions and further national measures have been established in a country, the WHO risk assessment tool does not apply. However, when the process of re-opening/conducting mass gatherings is being considered after movement restrictions have been lifted, it will be critical to ensure any decisions are based on a risk assessment, such as the WHO Mass gatherings COVID-19 risk assessment tool.