ACA Sprint Olympic & National Team Trials (in 2021)

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

As information changes, this document will be updated.
Reviewed and approved by the USOPC: 02/16/2021

1. Introduction

The ACA plans to hold the ACA Sprint Olympic & National Team Trials (in 2021) (“Trials”) at Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota, Florida, on March 19-21. Florida and Sarasota County Health Guidelines will dictate whether the event may run on those dates. While there are no current travel restrictions or quarantine requirements for Florida, the ACA closely monitors the state’s ever-evolving situation.

1.1 Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and other key contact information

- Dr. ___________________________ will serve as the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for the event. S/he will be at the venue during the event and will coordinate any necessary response. Dr. ___________________________ will also review all COVID-19 preparations on site, along with a designated ACA staff member, COVID Officers, and the LOC representatives. Dr. ___________________________ can be reached via email at _____________________.
- ___________________________, ________________________, and ________________________ will serve as the COVID Officers for this event. They will coordinate any necessary contact tracing and are the primary contacts for all COVID-related questions. The COVID Officers will report to the CMO.
- Tamara Adelberg is the Trials contact person and can be reached for general regatta information at acanationalevents@gmail.com.
- ___________________ is the regatta Chief Official and can be reached at _____________________.

1.2 Definitions

- **A-1 Participants** are athletes, coaches and other event participants that have direct contact with athletes or have access to athlete areas during the competition (when athletes/coaches are present).
- **A-X Participants** are all other volunteers helping with staging the event. The A-X Participants must always remain separated at a minimum of six (6) feet from A-1 Participants, since more stringent COVID countermeasures are in place for the A-1 Participants. All COVID-19 countermeasure applicable to the A-X Participants are also applicable to the A-1 Participants.
- **Covid Dispute Resolution Committee** consisting of a designated ACA staff member, Chief Medical Officer, and the ACA Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) representative or alternate will hear and decide on complaints regarding violations of COVID-19 countermeasures defined in this document. The Covid Dispute Resolution Committee may exclude the A-X Participant from the competition.
2 General Measures

2.1 Symptom Survey (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- Upon arrival at the event venue, A-1 and A-X Participants will be required to complete daily wellness (symptom) survey. This survey will be sent by automated email twice daily through the event. Failure to complete the wellness survey may result in disqualification from the event.
- Vaccinated A-1 and A-X Participants are not excluded from surveillance testing and are subject to the same testing, masking, and social distancing guidelines as all other participants.

2.2 Pre-event testing (A-1 Participants)

2.2.1 All cost associated with the COVID-19 testing are responsibility of the A-1 Participant.

2.2.2 Pre-travel testing (A-1 Participants)

- All A-1 Participants arriving at the competition venue on March 2, 2021 or later must submit a negative PCR COVID-19 test obtained not longer than 72 hours before arrival in Sarasota. The submission portal for this test will be available on the ACA website the week of March 1, 2021.
- **Anyone testing positive shall NOT travel to the event.** If you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, please contact Rok Sribar, ACA GM High-Performance Programs, for clearance, and see below:
  - The A-1 Participants who tested Positive for COVID since December 21, 2020, do not need to be tested unless they are currently experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19, in which case they will need to complete the standard pre-travel and pre-event tests. However, they need to provide evidence of a clearance to return to training from the ACA or USOPC approved doctor.

- The A-1 Participants who reside in the community should get a COVID-19 test on March 13, i.e., 72 hours before second testing conducted at the accreditation time. The A-1 Participants that arrive at the venue between March 2-13 will also need to be re-tested on March 13, 2021 and at the accreditation time.

2.2.3 Testing at the time of accreditation (A-1 Participants)

- Currently, the ACA plans to test all A-1 Participants for COVID-19 with a PCR test on March 16-17 (tbc). The actual testing date will depend on the PCR test turn-around time that the ACA can negotiate with the local testing lab(s) before February 26. The A-1 Participants will need to be in Sarasota by the COVID test date. The A-1 Participant who tests positive or misses the test on the accreditation date will be excluded from the event by the Chief Official.
  - The A-1 Participants who test positive shall have an opportunity to confirm the positive test with two subsequent confirmatory PCR tests. If either confirmatory test is positive,
the individual is considered positive and will remain excluded from the competition and must follow applicable local and state guidelines.

- Two negative confirmatory PCR test will be required for an individual to continue to participate.

2.3 Accreditation of the event participants (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- Accreditation will occur on March 16-17 (tbc) after the preliminary COVID-19 testing. The ACA will communicate details of the test and accreditation locations a week before the event.
  - All A-1 Participants will be accredited at this time and accreditation will also open for the A-X Participants.
  - Subsequent accreditation of A-X Participants will be done in coordination with the event staff.

2.4 Venue Access (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- Only accredited participants will be allowed on the regatta venue.
- Access to the venue will only be available at specified times.

2.5 Facemask requirement (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- Facemasks covering both the mouth and nose are always required for all participants at the venue. Surgical masks (N95/KN95) are preferred. Neck gaiters are not acceptable.
- Athletes must wear a facemask until after launching and before landing at the take-out.
- Please refer to the CDC guidance on facemasks.

2.6 Temperature checks (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- All participants entering the event venue will have their temperature checked at the entrance. Anyone who registers a temperature above 100.4 degrees will have a temperature evaluated by the COVID Officer or CMO at medical station. If the second temperature check shows an elevated temperature, the participant will not be allowed to enter the venue.
- Anyone experiencing a temperature above 100.4 degrees will be referred to the local Urgent Care facility and may need a negative, rapid COVID-19 test to be allowed on the venue.

2.7 Hand sanitizing

- Hand sanitizers will be located at all building entrances and throughout the venue. It is required to use them upon entering or exiting a bathroom, building, or touching surface someone else may have touched.

2.8 Distancing
• It is essential to maintain physical/social distance from other people. Please always keep a minimum of six (6) feet of physical/social distance.
• Areas of high traffic will be controlled with traffic flow diagrams to prevent bunching.

2.9 Acknowledgment and Reporting of symptoms (A-1 and A-X Participants)

• Should any participant experience COVID-19 related symptoms, they shall contact the ACA staff and the medical team as soon as possible. Event medical staff will evaluate the participant and determine appropriate next steps for treatment. Based on the participant’s evaluation, the event medical staff will decide whether the participant will be excluded from the competition. Failure to report symptoms will result in exclusion from the event and may result in other disciplinary actions.

2.10 Symptomatic A-1 and A-X Participants

• Should any participant develop signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they shall not attend training, competition, or travel to the venue.
• Anyone participating in the event while developing any of these signs or symptoms shall notify the ACA staff and Medical event staff immediately. The ACA will make arrangements to have the participant evaluated by the event medical staff.
• Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include:
  • Fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, congestion, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, headache, diarrhea, sore throat, nausea, and vomiting.

• Please refer to the CDC guidance on symptoms.
• Symptomatic participants will be evaluated by the regatta CMO and may be required to provide a negative PCR COVID-19 test before being allowed to participate.
• Symptomatic participants experiencing a temperature above 100.4 degrees will be referred to the local Urgent Care facility and may be required to provide a negative PCR COVID-19 test before being allowed to participate.

2.11 Isolation of sick A-1 and A-X Participants

• Any participant who becomes ill while in the venue will be asked to isolate in the medical area until the event medical staff can evaluate him/her.
• Upon evaluation, the participant may need a COVID-19 test.
• If the COVID-19 test is positive, the participant will need to isolate and follow all applicable local and state guidelines.
• The person who tests positive will be asked to assist with contact tracing.

2.12 Contact Tracing

• Any participant who had close, sustained contact with individual testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to follow state and local guidance on quarantine procedures.
• The CDC currently defines Close Contact as:
• “Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over 24 hours starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days before test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.”

• Close Contact participants will be excluded from continued participation in the event, with the following exception:
  
  – Any participant identified through contact tracing as a high-risk contact who remains symptom-free and has completed COVID-19 vaccination or tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of that exposure and can produce the relevant negative test result will be allowed to continue in the event.

2.13 Special Note for Members of Team Boats

• It is the responsibility of club coaches and teams to maintain strict isolation of the team boat athletes. This isolation is needed to protect the team boats from interruptions due to sickness or COVID-19 exposure. This means that athletes competing in team boats can room together but should not socialize with anyone else. These athletes should not rely on mask-wearing and physical/social distancing alone to protect against exposure to any infectious disease.

2.14 Spectators

• Spectators will not be allowed on the regatta venue; however, they may watch the competition from the park side of the venue. The LOC does not control this area. Signage will be posted encouraging social distancing for all spectators on that side of the venue.

2.15 Testing and Tracing Specific Dispute Resolution

• Disputes arising from contact tracing and test findings will be heard by the COVID Dispute Resolution Committee.

3 Venue

3.1 Bathrooms/Porta Johns

• Toilets will be cleaned and disinfected every two hours.
• Hand sanitizer will be positioned adjacent to toilets and must be used before and following toilet use.

3.2 Pontoons

• The ACA will limit the number of people at any given time on the pontoons to no more than necessary to ensure safe launching and landing. There must be an adherence to the minimum distance of six feet. All people on a pontoon must wear a mask that covers the mouth and nose.
The members of the Events Committee will manage the adherence to this rule. Everyone must comply with their instructions.

Masks may only be removed once the boat is on the water.

3.3 Other Notes (A-1 and A-X Participants):

- The participants are responsible for providing his/her PPE. Please bring extras. If needed due to lost, damaged, or poorly fitting PPE, some will be offered on-site.
- Athlete eating and drinking-related to sports performance is permitted. However, it is recommended that extra measures are taken when removing masks to ensure sufficient social distancing from other participants. We recommend 12 feet (2x 6 feet) distance while eating or removing covers to drink.

3.4 Competition Area

3.4.1 Launches

- Disinfectant wipes will be located at all launches.
- Occupants of the boat should be no more than a driver and an official or volunteer.
- Wearing a mask is mandatory for all motorboat drivers.
- Wearing a mask is always mandatory for officials.
- The boat driver is responsible for disinfecting the steering wheel, motor key and the gear lever upon shift start and completion.

3.4.2 Starter’s Area

- The starter’s area will have disinfectant wipes available.
- The starter will disinfect the starting system before and after each change of shift.
- All people in the starting area will wear masks. The starter may remove his/her mask for the actual starting process.

3.4.3 Boat Holders (if any):

- The boat holders will transport themselves to the start area to ensure proper social distancing or if necessary, will be transported to the position by a dedicated driver.
- The boat holders enter the start bridge one after another in their designated lanes, beginning with the most distant lane. Leaving the start bridge will be done in the reverse order. Usually, the start bridge is not connected to shore and boat holders are transported to their pontoon by motorboat.
- Masks are mandatory for all boat holders.

3.4.4 Aligner’s Hut:

- The Aligner’s Hut will have disinfectant wipes available.
- The Aligner will disinfect all work surfaces before and after each change of shift.
• The Starter, and the Aligner must adhere to the minimum distance regulations within the aligner’s hut.
• Masks are mandatory for all people in the aligner’s hut.

3.4.5 Timing:
• All members of the timing team will be masked and maintain social distance while in position.
• The timing team will sanitize any contactable timing devices between uses by differing team members.

3.4.6 Media (if any)
• Only accredited media will be allowed at the venue.
• Media will take part in the wellness (symptom) checks and temperature checks on their participation days.
• Interview zones will be set up with appropriate social distancing. All interviews will be conducted with masked participants.
• Any photos without masks must be taken with appropriate social distancing – the minimum of twelve (12) feet.
• No on-water media launches permitted.
• Photographers will not be allowed on the starting platform and must shoot from the shore, maintaining at least six feet of physical/social distance between photographers.
• Media members must fill out the Credential Request Form and submit it to the ACA for approval. This form will be available on the ACA website the week of March 1, 2021.
• Our requirements state that all “A-1 participant” needs to follow the same protocol, including testing. This requirement would include Media unless Media is always masked and kept at least twelve (12) feet away from A-1 participants. In that case, the Media is considered an A-X participant, and the A-X protocol applies to the Media.

3.5 Social Celebrations/gatherings
• There will be no social gatherings at the venue. The A-X Participants shall refrain from all person-to-person contact, including handshakes, “high five,” fist bumps, etc.

3.6 Announcers/Broadcast crew (if any)
• Announcers will wear masks when not actively commenting on a race.
• A sneeze guard will be installed between the announcers in the Finish Tower.
• To increase audibility, the commentators may remove the mouth/nose protection while commenting.

3.7 Media Inquiries Regarding COVID-19
• The ACA’s communications staff will work with the Trials event staff and medical team and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee to provide relevant information regarding COVID-19-related procedures or questions.
• All inquiries should be directed to Aaron Mann, Communications Manager, or Rok Sribar, ACA GM High-Performance Programs. All official communications regarding the Trials related to COVID-19 will come from ACA’s official communications channels.