



Media advisory on Working Conditions at the 2020 UCI Mountain Bike World Championships presented by Mercedes-Benz

Dear media representatives,

Since March of this year, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a significant impact on world cycling. Some 1330 international events have been cancelled or postponed – representing around 60% of the UCI International Calendar – affecting all eight disciplines of our sport and in particular road, **mountain bike** and BMX. Competitions have been getting back under way progressively since the beginning of July, and in this context of a **careful return to a controlled situation**, particularly in Europe, we are continuing with our preparations for the 2020 UCI Mountain Bike World Championships in Leogang-Salzburg on 5-11 October.

Since the overall health situation remains precarious, **we all need to take responsibility to ensure that we do not make matters worse**. Working conditions for all participants at the event will be unlike what we have become used to. First and foremost, **in Austria – as in all countries hosting international cycling competitions – the national regulations in force at the time of the UCI 2020 Mountain Bike World Championships presented by Mercedes-Benz will apply to all those taking part**. On 24 June, the UCI published the [protocol for the resumption of mountain bike competitions in 2020](#). As set out in this reference document for hosting cycling events which are affected by COVID-19, **the principle of the teams bubbles**, which is to be maintained throughout the seven days of competition, will govern the rules for all groups, including the media who will be attending the Championships.

In keeping with the necessary health requirements, **the UCI and the Organising Committee (OC) will do their utmost** to provide working conditions that befit the Worlds and which reflect the efforts made by your organisations to attend them this year in Austria, despite the current exceptional circumstances. We are aware of the financial impact of the pandemic on the media sector and what it takes to send journalists to cover these Championships.

All of the areas traditionally reserved for the media (in particular the media centre and press conference room, the TV compound, mixed zone and photographer podium) will be available but with restricted access to maintain a healthy environment for everyone involved. On the other hand, the **team area**, as explained later in this document, will be closed to maintain the protected team bubbles. All accredited persons will be **required to respect social distancing and wear a mask** at all times and in all areas of the Championships. Wearing a mask will also be the rule for media in all enclosed spaces (media centre, press conference room) and outside (XCO finish zone, DHI finish bowl, interview zone, podium, gondolas etc). All further measures detailed hereafter are subject to modification if the health situation requires. **Anyone failing to respect**

these requirements will lose their accreditation and be excluded from the UCI World Championships.

Testing

The presentation of a negative PCR test, carried out 72 hours before the start of the Championships, is necessary to collect accreditation. Without a PCR test, the journalist (even if his/her on-line accreditation request had already been accepted) will not have access to the event.

Accreditations

All categories of journalists (TV/radio, digital press and photographers) will be admitted to the Championships. **Journalists will be required to read and accept this document before submitting a request for accreditation.** The on-line accreditation system will open and close earlier (27 August – 20 September) to enable the organisers and the UCI to adapt the organisation of the media zones to the number of people requesting accreditation. All applications will be examined based on the number of people that it is possible to have at the venue. You will be notified of our decision at the latest once the on-line accreditation system has closed. Last-minute requests will be considered but given lower priority.

Media Centre

The lay-out of the tent that will accommodate the media centre (MC) will follow social distancing rules, in particular in the spaces between the workstations (150 centimetres). Alcohol-based gel will be made available by the organisers. **Mask wearing is mandatory throughout the event for all press and media representatives. This means that they must wear a face mask during the entire time they are on the event site (no spatial or area exceptions). This also applies to their workstation in the Media Centre, where masks must be worn.** The walkways between the rows of tables should only be used for getting around (and not to stop and chat). Journalists will be placed according to the organisation they work for and their nationality. As was the case in the past, photographers who need a LAN network will have a special area set aside for them. To guarantee social distancing, media using the MC will not be permitted to move any furniture (table, chair).

Press conferences

Press conferences for podium-finishers will still occur with the athletes and journalists present, while respecting security measures. The required space will be maintained between the athletes and the media (including recording material). A distance of 150 cm will be kept between the journalists' chairs. Journalists will only be allowed to stay in the room if they are seated. For questions and answers, the microphones will be cleaned every time a different journalist speaks. Athletes and media will use different routes to enter and exit the room. As in all media zones, it will be compulsory to wear a mask; this can briefly be removed by journalists when speaking and put back on as soon as they have finished.

Mixed zone

The concept of the mixed zone (MZ) is being maintained for all journalists (except for photographers, as is customary). The size of the MZ will be adjusted and adapted to meet safety requirements (to provide more space and ventilation). **Access to the MZ will be conditional on journalists wearing masks.** The required space will be maintained between the athletes and the media areas, and journalists will have to use a boom to attach their recording device.

TV and radio

The UCI, the event's host broadcaster Red Bull Media House, and the organising committee are developing a COVID-19 protection concept for members of the media working in the television zone. Further information will be provided at a later date to the media in question and will be based on the requirements set out by the Austrian authorities and the UCI's health protocol. In the commentary positions and production facilities of international broadcasters (trucks, rented office areas etc.), each company's individual policies shall apply.

The UCI and the organizing committee will provide rights-holders with reserved spots in the mixed zone. As mentioned above, there will be a required distance of 150 cm in these reserved spots which has to be maintained between the journalist / cameraman and the athlete. Based on this the microphone / recording device must be connected to a boom and the microphone must be covered by a plastic cover.

In case a TV team (Journalist and/or Camera-operator) will do interviews at other spots than the mixed zone within the accredited area, UCI reserves the right to withdraw immediately the accreditation due this non-compliant behaviour.

It will be compulsory for all media representatives to wear a face mask at all times in these interview areas. Otherwise access to these areas will be denied.

We will also allow **non-rights holders** (NRH) into the mixed zone for interviews. To maintain the required safety levels however, **the UCI reserves the right to refuse an accreditation request from an NRH at their sole discretion in order to limit the number of people present at any one time in the NRH corridor of the mixed zone.** Those whose accreditation requests are refused will be informed of the decision in a timely fashion, although no reason will be provided. In this context and exceptionally for this edition **Team Video Operators (TVO) will be considered as part of the Teams and not as part of the media.** Hence, they will not have access to the Mixed Zone and Media Centre.

The UCI will once again use **bibs with different colours** corresponding to the media rights categories (which will be set out in the media guide). These bibs will be handed out by the UCI TV representative under the following conditions: social distancing, compulsory face mask, bibs handed out in a plastic bag. The bibs will require payment of a deposit of 50 Euro payable in cash or equivalent (no official documents will be accepted). The bibs must be returned in the plastic bag that they were provided in. The point of contact for any questions related to audio-visual media is Susanne Lenz: susanne.lenz@uci.ch

Photographers

The number of photographers will be significantly limited this year in Leogang. We will be distributing 10 red bibs and 25 yellow bibs. Attribution of the bibs by category will be the sole responsibility of the UCI and the organisers. Red bibs will provide access to the XCO finish line, the B-zone (DHI) and finish bowl (DHI) as well as the photographer podium. Yellow bibs will provide access to the XCO finish-line photographer platform, the B-zone (DHI) and finish bowl (DHI) as well as the photographer podium.

Any photographer who is following a race will be required to maintain social distancing (150 cm) from each rider. Failing to do so may see them lose their accreditation. To ensure that the team bubbles is protected, it will be compulsory to wear a mask at all times.

The bib distribution and collection procedure has been adapted. Bibs can only be picked up at the accreditation centre (AC) during opening hours (which will be indicated in the media guide) and will require payment of a deposit of 50 Swiss francs payable in cash or equivalent (no official documents will be accepted). Bibs will then need to be handed back at the AC or at the media centre (to the UCI Media Centre coordinator Laura Folchi: l.folchi@wingsmedia.it). The bibs must be returned in the plastic bag that they were provided in, otherwise the deposit will not be refunded. **Bibs can only be worn by the named person.** Any change in photographer within an organisation during the event will require a new bib which will be provided under the same conditions as mentioned above (i.e. the same bib cannot be used by more than one photographer). Importantly, if a photographer does not return his/her bib, the second bib for the same media company will not be given to his/her colleague.

Team area

As mentioned earlier, **the team area is considered an area belonging to the team bubbles.** Therefore, no group other than that of the athletes and staff will have access to it. This applies to the media, partners, guests etc. Journalists will not be able to meet cyclists in this zone.

Conclusion

These arrangements may need to be adapted to reflect the prevailing health situation, scientific knowledge and any decisions taken by the relevant authorities at the time of the event. The Organising Committee and the UCI will take the necessary measures to comply with the applicable regulations.

Contact details

- **Louis Chenaille**, UCI Head of Media Relations, Louis.Chenaille@uci.ch
- **Susanne Lenz**, UCI TV Production and Broadcast Services Coordinator, susanne.lenz@uci.ch
- **Selina Hörll**, Press Manager Saalfelden Leogang, selina.hoerl@saalfelden-leogang.at

By submitting your accreditation request you declare that you have read and accepted the Media Advisory on Working Conditions at the 2020 UCI Mountain Bike World Championships presented by Mercedes-Benz.