

Information on new Hungarian border measures introduced as of 1st September 2020 and implications for EJYOC 2020

Dear Participants, Parents, Team Officials and Federation Officials,

As we wrote last Thursday, the Hungarian Government announced new travel restrictions for those entering the country starting on 1st September and valid for at least 30 days. You may have read in your home media, that this is a full travel ban, or that Hungary has completely shut down its borders. The decision is however a bit more complicated than that simple statement and the government decree published on Sunday night (30th August) confirms that entering Hungary is still possible for those taking part in sports events. This is valid for basically all sport events starting from the UEFA European Super Cup level to orienteering district championships.

As of today, the entry condition for those attending a sport event is an invitation letter from the local organiser with exact names and ID card data for all participants, team officials and competition officials plus two negative COVID-19 PCR tests not older than 5 days and made 48 hours apart (in English or Hungarian language). Those entering with such negative tests will **not** need to be quarantined in Hungary after entering. According to this decree – which is valid until 1st October, for now – spectators are not allowed to enter under this exemption.

The decree also writes, that for UEFA football matches, presenting 1 negative PCR test from the last 3 days is enough. The government reserves the right to apply (different) special measures for major sports events such as EJYOC (hopefully the same as for UEFA matches). So basically, this means that all countries are "yellow", if you want to take part in a sport event.

The full text of the government decree can be found here (and downloaded from the top right corner): <https://magyarkozlony.hu/dokumentumok/3c26563b389056f4b8ca6b5e062f333d196f6dcb/megtekintes>, page 6170, 12-13. §

Some of you may have seen, that the coronavirus situation in Hungary rapidly deteriorated during the last few days with the number of positive tests going up from 73 on 26th August (the date of our last letter) to 292 on 30th August. Still, experts believe that the reason behind the rise in numbers is very much local. 11 days ago, the Prime Minister announced that there will be major changes in travel restrictions from the 1st of September and that people should not book travel to the Mediterranean countries afterwards. For many people, this meant that this was the last chance to travel, go to the beach, etc. We had two consecutive weekends with perfect summer weather and every tourist destination was full. Freshmen camps in the universities happened last week in good weather. This is seen as potential reasons for the increasing numbers. We believe and hope for a significant decrease by 9th September, when the effects of the travel restrictions should be known.

We can't extend the team entry deadline forever, as we need to make pre-payments for the accommodations booking, especially for those willing to stay in accommodation "A". Therefore, the latest date we need your commitment is 10th September, i.e. we will further extend the team size deadline to this date. Our plan is to review the situation on 8th September, make a statement / decision on 9th September whether EJYOC should go ahead and then you still have one day to decide

whether you are willing to participate with the restrictions or not. Then we will need to receive the pre-payments by 15th September.

The entry cancellation regulation is thus modified as follows: if an entered Federation withdraws its entry between 11th September and 13th October, it will receive an 80% refund. As per IOF Competition Rule 7.9., (If the event (or part of the event) has to be cancelled due to reasons outside of the organiser's control e.g. weather conditions, destruction of terrain, the organiser may retain a minimum proportion of the entry fee in order to cover committed costs.), the organiser will retain 20% of the entry fees from all those entered on 10th September 24:00, if EJYOC 2020 will be cancelled due to COVID-19. Between 14th-20th October, the refund is 50%.

Some more questions we got from the IOF Office and short answers:

Q1: Is it certain that the decree of the government allowing international sports events special status, i.e. no quarantine requirements as long as 2 negative tests are registered, is going to stay in place?

A1: It can't be certain, but it's extremely likely that it will stay in place. We absolutely agree, that if quarantine is imposed, then EJYOC can't go ahead. But at the moment, the government is desperate to restart school on 1st September. As long as there is offline school, there will be orienteering events also, EJYOC included.

Q2: What is happening in Hungary after it is known that there is a significant increase in cases etc? Is there a lot of pressure to close things down?

A2: For the government, this would be a last resort. It's crucial for the economy to not close down totally. Politically, it can also be a disaster and political gains are extremely important for our government. They have said multiple times, that the country can't be shut down again and allowing Hungarian people some freedom is paramount.

Q3: What do you think is the most likely scenario? What recommendation would you give?

A3: I'm not an expert virologist, but the absolute numbers you see are still not overly concerning (although the trend is). I believe the travel measures will have some effect. My recommendation would be to wait a few weeks until the effects roll through the system.

As stated earlier, our next scheduled communiqué will be released on 9th September. But if you have some more questions, please let us know at info@eyoc2020.hu

Until then, stay healthy!

Sincerely yours,

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