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GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING CHESS PLAYERS BACK TO THE PLAYING ARENA POST LOCKDOWN

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1.0 PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for returning chess players safely to the playing arena during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and a lockdown.

2.0 GUIDELINES

In light of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown declared to control the spread, the Government of Botswana (GoB) has announced steps to ease the lockdown regulations. This therefore means the return of athletes to their competitive arenas which may also result in the need for interim alteration of the playing norms where some changes may be long term and require financial resources.

This document therefore provides essential guidelines for the safe return of athletes to playing, and ensure prevention and spread of the virus among players, spectators and other stakeholders coming to tournaments.

3.0 SCOPE

The Guidelines apply to all Botswana Chess Federation Affiliates. It is strongly recommended that all employees read through these and ensure that we collectively and uniformly prevent the risk of spreading the disease.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

Lockdown: Close down of all non-essential businesses and restricting movements of goods, and confining people to their homes.

5.0 PROCEDURES

Tournament Safety: BCF will implement good hygiene and infection control measures to ensure that the Playing arena and tournaments are clean to allow the safe return of chess players. These measures include:

5.1 Players Hygiene

- 5.1.1 All chess players should use hand sanitisers provided as they enter and leave the tournament venue. Sanitisers must be placed at the entrance of every playing arena;

- 5.1.2 Chess players are encouraged to frequently wash hands thoroughly with soap to maintain hygiene and prevent the spread of the virus;
- 5.1.3 Chess players are discouraged to do handshakes and other contact methods of greeting;
- 5.1.4 Chess players playing in an enclosed environment should take regular breaks out into a fresh air area;
- 5.1.5 Chess players should avoid unnecessary contact with objects or surfaces that are frequently used or touched by other people such as door handles, rails and should wash hands after contact with such objects or surfaces;
- 5.1.6 Chess players should be encouraged to use own chess sets and clocks. Sharing of playing materials between players should be discouraged.

5.2 Personal Protective Equipment

- 5.2.1 Chess players should wear face masks all the time while in the that cover the mouth and nose at all times.

5.3 Social Distancing Measures

- 5.3.1 BCF will limit number of players per room and spread out playing rooms to allow more space between players;
- 5.3.2 Chess players sitting arrangements should be 1-2 meters away from each other;
- 5.3.4 Limit the number of chess players allowed in the elevators at any given time - no more than 2-4 people should be allowed at a time. Use of staircases to be encouraged;
- 5.3.5 Face-to-face meetings should be for 10 or fewer people. Meetings with more than 10 people should be conducted virtually;
- 5.3.6 Social distancing must also be practiced in own vehicles where a 60% occupancy should be allowed. A five seater vehicle is allowed to carry 3 passenger and a driver;

5.4 Pre-Screening

- 5.4.1 Chess players will undergo temperature screening each day for signs of possible COVID-19 infection before being allowed to enter the playing venue;

- 5.4.2 All spectators and visitors will be registered at playing venue entrances for traceability purposes;
- 5.4.3 Chess players with temperatures higher than 37.4 Degree C should be isolated and not allowed in. They should then be advised to seek medical help.

5.5 Communication

- 5.5.1 Communication and training on good hygiene practices shall be undertaken;
- 5.5.2 Chess players should go through re-orientation and re-induction processes on prevention of the coronavirus at the beginning of the tournament;
- 5.5.4 Chess players are encouraged to pack lunch to minimize movement during the day;
- 5.5.5 No hugs upon return;
- 5.5.6 Where possible, windows should be open to allow for ventilation.

7.0 Increased Environmental Cleaning

7.1 Implement frequent cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces in the workplaces, such as playing tables, door handles, bathrooms, pantries and elevator panels. This include the chess pieces after every game.

9.0 Sick Players/Athlete Isolation

- 9.1 An athlete who is sick or displays the symptoms of COVID19 in the playing venue should be removed to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people
- 9.2 A separate room should be identified for isolation of the sick people while waiting for medical assistance.
- 9.3 The local Public Health Service (997) should be called immediately to explain the situation and relevant information, such as their current symptoms.
- 9.4 While waiting for the advice of the Public Health personnel, the affected person should remain at least two metres from other people. They should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects and should cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in a bag or pocket then throw the tissue in the bin.

9.5 Players who may have gotten exposed to a person with COVID-19 should be advised to stay at home and not come in contact with others and get tested for the virus.

9.6 The suspected or contaminated playing venue should be closed pending thorough disinfection of it before the chess players can return into it.

10.0 PSYCHO SOCIAL SUPPORT

10.1 Pre-testing counseling is provided to the sick or suspect by the Public Health department;

10.2 Continuous calming and reassuring players through regular communication of what the Federation is doing so as to be as prepared in responding to the pandemic.

11.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

11.1.0 Tournament Organiser

11.1.1 To notify chess players of relevant arrangements and to provide the chess players with a copy of this return to playing guidance

11.1.2 To ensure that the chess players are aware of expectations and the required standard of play

11.1.3 To schedule the playing arrangement

11.1.5 Provide the chess players with the necessary PPE and sanitising/cleaning solutions.

11.2.0 Chess Players

11.2.1 To familiarise themselves with the Back to Playing Guidelines.

11.2.2 To adhere to the requirements of this document.

11.2.4 Prepared to come into work if deemed necessary.

