

# WCA Competition Safety Policy

Version 1.5

## Purpose

This policy provides a directive from the Board of Directors of The World Cube Association (WCA) to all WCA Staff and WCA Community Members on measures that must be abided by and recommendations with regard COVID-19 to ensure that WCA Competitions adhere to localized governmental policy and we minimize the spread of infection amongst not only our own WCA Community, but the wider public as we return to competitions.

## Scope

This policy applies to all WCA Staff, WCA Competition Organizers and WCA Community members in their capacity as competitors, volunteers or spectators at WCA Competitions. This policy sets out WCA's commitment in relation to:

1. Approach to the holding and cancellation of WCA Competitions
2. Directives and recommendations at WCA Competitions to minimize the spread of the virus.

Since the WCA itself does not organize competitions, the WCA are not responsible for damage or injury incurred at WCA-recognized competitions, including contraction of COVID-19.

## Policy

### Return to competitions

In order for a competition to be approved and sanctioned by the WCA the WCA Delegate(s) must prove to the Board of Directors beyond a reasonable doubt that holding of competitions in the region is safe and the following conditions are met:

1. Public gatherings are allowed by law in the jurisdiction in which the competition will take place (relevant government or state website links will be required to verify);
2. The competitor limit is not greater than half the maximum number of people allowed at public gatherings;
  - 2.1 Combined limits on spectators and competitors are not permitted although separate competitor and spectator limits are encouraged.
3. There is no legal or venue requirement for mandatory social distancing;
4. There is no guidance from local governments that prohibits the running of the competition and;
5. The WCA Delegate and Organizers produce a detailed risk management plan outlining all steps being taken to ensure that the competition is run as safely and efficiently as possible.

Where cases in a Country or Region are both low and stable, the Board may delegate the responsibility of checking competition safety plans to a combination of the WCA Delegate, Senior Delegate, and Regional Delegate.

The Board of Directors retains the right to require other conditions to be met in order for a competition to be recognized and sanctioned by the WCA. Additionally the Board has the right at any time to withdraw approval and cancel a competition where it may no longer be possible to hold safely.

The recommendations set forth in this policy may be waived at the discretion of the WCA Board, if community transmissions are near-zero within the region the competition serves and the competition

abides by all local government advice.

## **Holding of competitions**

In addition to the above section on requirements for return to competitions, the following are recommendations in place for organizers who have the approval of the Board to continue with their competitions:

### **1. General**

- 1.1 All attendees should keep at least 1m (3ft) apart for the duration of the competition.
- 1.2 It is recommended that attendees wear face masks at the venue, especially when social distancing is not possible (for example, while competing or judging).
- 1.3 All attendees should be encouraged to sanitize their hands upon entrance to the venue and at regular intervals throughout the competition.
- 1.4 Any attendee showing symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the competition and should be asked to leave if they present at the venue.
- 1.5 Competitions should not accept or offer on the spot registrations.

### **2. Competitors**

- 2.1 It is recommended that competitors disinfect their puzzles before submitting at the start of the round.
- 2.2 Competitors should refrain from touching the competition surface when they are not in the process of an official attempt.
- 2.3 It should be the competitor's responsibility to return the puzzle to the cover after the completion of the attempt.
- 2.4 Competitors may bring their own cover (e.g. clear plastic) to place over the competition supplied mat or timer provided the function of the equipment is not affected.
  - 2.4.1 Competitors are responsible for any modifications made to timing equipment and will not be eligible for any extra attempts if the function of the equipment is affected by the competitor's cover.
- 2.5 Competitors are permitted to disinfect the timing equipment prior to beginning their attempt.
- 2.6 Competitors should not borrow puzzles from other attendees and should bring all required puzzles to the competition.
- 2.7 Competitors should bring their own pens; however competition organizers must still supply pens as required.

### **3. Officials**

- 3.1 The following recommendations are in relation to judges:
  - 3.1.1 Each competitor is to have the same judge for the duration of the round.
  - 3.1.2 Judges are to maintain at least a 1m (3ft) distance at all times unless interaction with the competitor is required by the regulations (i.e. lifting the cover to start an attempt).
  - 3.1.3 Judges should bring their own pens; however competition organizers must still supply pens as required.
  - 3.1.4 Judges may bring their own device to time inspection which should be checked by the Delegate; however competition organizers must still supply stopwatches as required.
- 3.2 The following recommendations are in relation to scramblers:
  - 3.2.1 Scramblers should be situated no closer than 1m (3ft) from any other scramblers.
  - 3.2.2 Scramblers should have access to hand sanitation as required.
  - 3.2.3 Scramblers should bring their own pens; however competition organizers must still supply pens as required.
- 3.3 The following recommendations are in relation to runners:
  - 3.3.1 Runners should maintain a distance of at least 1m (3ft) at all times unless required to place a cube on a solving station.
  - 3.3.2 Runners should not come into contact with competitors puzzles.

3.3.3 Runners should have access to hand sanitation as required.

#### 4. Spectators

4.1 Competitions must not completely prohibit non-competitors from entering the venue.

4.1.1 Competitions may limit spectators to one guest per competitor.

4.1.1.1 Minors are always permitted to have at least one guest.

4.2 It is recommended to limit the number of spectators allowed in the venue.

#### 5. Venue Layout

5.1 Venues should be spacious with plenty of ventilation throughout the competition.

5.2 The following recommendations are in relation to competition stations.

5.2.1 There is to only be one solving station per table.

5.2.2 Tables should not be within 2m (6ft) of any other table.

5.2.3 There should be one competing station per competitor allocated to the group, it is not recommended to have a competitor waiting area.

5.2.4 If seated, judges seats should be placed at least 1m (3ft) from the seat of the competitor.

5.2.5 Stations and equipment should be disinfected between each group.

5.3 Sanitation areas should be readily available throughout the venue and should be accessible at each entrance, competing station, the scrambling area and for any spectators.

#### 6. Schedule

6.1 The following are recommendations to take into account when planning the schedule of an upcoming competition.

6.1.1 There should be more time allocated than usual to account for any required disinfecting including recommended disinfecting of equipment between groups.

6.1.2 Fewer events are held to limit the time any one attendee spends at the competition venue.

## Official Guidance

### General Advice

The WCA recommends that the advice of the World Health Organization is read and followed:

1. [WHO COVID-19 Main Page](#)
2. [Protective Advice](#)
3. [Travel Advice](#)

Please also refer to government resources in your own Country or Region. Be mindful of the amount of misinformation available on social media with regard to COVID-19 so use government recommended sites and advice.

## Conflict of Advice

In the case where there is conflicting advice between the WCA and local governments it is required that the more restrictive requirement is followed.

## Review

This policy is considered permanently in effect until repealed by the Board of Directors. The Board will be responsible for reviewing the policy fortnightly and providing appropriate updates to the community.