

Media advisory on working conditions at the 2020 UCI Road World Championships Imola – Emilia-Romagna

Dear media representatives,

Since March of this year, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a significant impact on world cycling. Over 1300 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 resumed since the beginning of July, and in this context of a careful return to a controlled situation, particularly in Italy, the 2020 UCI Road World Championships will take place in Imola – Emilia-Romagna, from 24 – 27 September.

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 Italy – as in all countries hosting international cycling competitions – the national regulations in force at the time will apply to all those taking part at the UCI 2020 Road World Championships. The UCI published the protocols to be observed when road cycling competitions are reintroduced during the 2020 season on 19 June. As set out in this reference document for hosting cycling events in the current period, the principle of team and peloton bubbles, which are to be maintained throughout the four 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 teams of the UCI and the Imola – Emilia-Romagna Organising Committee (OC) will do their utmost to provide working conditions that benefit the UCI World Championships and which reflect the efforts made by your organisations to attend them this year in Italy, despite the current circumstances. We are aware of the financial impact of the pandemic on the media sector and what it takes to send journalists here to cover the Championships.

All of the areas reserved for the media at the Enzo and Dino Ferrari Autodrome (in particular the media centre and press conference room, the TV compound, mixed zone and photographer podium) will be maintained but with restricted access to ensure a safe environment for everyone involved. However, please note that the team bus park, as explained later in this document, will be closed and this to maintain the team bubble. All accredited persons will be required to respect social distancing and wear a mask at all times and in all areas of the Championships. Failure to respect these requirements will lead to the person involved being excluded from the UCI World Championships. All further measures detailed hereafter, which are subject to modification as the health situation evolves, are based around the precautionary principle.

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 be closing on 16 September to enable any adaption of the infrastructures to the number of people requesting accreditation. All applications will be examined based on the number of journalists accredited. You will be notified of our decision at the latest after the on-line accreditation system has closed. Last-minute requests will be considered according to the possibilities.

Media Centre

The lay-out of 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. As mentioned before, mask wearing is mandatory throughout the event for all 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 around (table, chair).

Press conferences

Press conferences for podium-finishers will still occur with the athletes and journalists present, with security measures being respected. 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. Post-conference interviews between journalists and cyclists from their country (the "Nation's Corner") will be carried out in such a way as to ensure that everyone involved is kept safe, and in the presence of a representative from the National Federation and from the organisers/UCI. Journalists will have to use a boom to attach their recording devices. Athletes and media will use different routes to enter and exit the room. It will be compulsory to wear a mask in this area, which can briefly be taken off by journalists when speaking and put back on as soon as they have finished.

TV and radio

The UCI, the event's host broadcaster Eurovision, 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 Italian authorities and the UCI's health protocol. In the production facilities of international broadcasters (trucks, rented office areas etc.), each company's individual policies shall apply.

As was the case in previous years, the UCI and Eurovision will provide rights-holders with spots that they can reserve 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. It will be compulsory for all media representatives to wear a face mask at all times in these interview areas.

As was the case in previous years, 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 its 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.

The UCI will once again use bibs with different colours corresponding to the media rights categories (as set out in the media guide that will be distributed a week before the event). These bibs will be handed out at the booking office of the host broadcaster 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 Euros payable in cash (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 Tobias Friedrich, UCI TV Production and Broadcast Services Coordinator: Tobias.Friedrich@uci.ch.

Mixed Zone

The concept of the mixed zone (MZ) is being maintained for all journalists (except for photographers, as is customary). The dimensions of the MZ will be adjusted and adapted to meet safety requirements (to provide space and ventilation). Access to the zone 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.

Photographers

The number of photographers will be limited this year at Imola – Emilia-Romagna. We will be handing out 10 red bibs and 30 yellow bibs. Attribution of the bibs by category will be the sole responsibility of the UCI in coordination with the organisers. Red bibs will provide access to the finish line and the area beyond it, and the podium platform. Yellow bibs will provide access to the finish-line platform and the podium platform. Any photographer who is following a race will be required to wear a mask at all times and maintain social distancing (150 cm) from each rider. Failure to do so may see them lose their accreditation. We will be maintaining the concept of two official UCI and organiser photographer scooters. Due to the reduced number of photographers this year, we are currently looking into an image pool system and will inform you of our decision at a later date.

Similarly, we are also considering the idea of one bib for any person who is authorised to have access to the finish area, including “red bib” photographers. 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 shown in the media guide) and will require payment of a deposit of 50 Euros payable in cash (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 bib, the second bib for the same media company will not be given to his colleague.

Team bus area

As mentioned earlier, the team bus parking is considered an area belonging to the team/peloton bubble. Therefore, no group other than the athletes and staff will have access to it. This applies to the media, partners, guests etc. Journalists/TV crews 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 all necessary measures to conform with any and all regulations in force.

Contact details

- Louis Chenaille, UCI Head of Media Relations, Louis.Chenaille@uci.ch
- Tobias Friedrich, UCI TV Production and Broadcast Services Coordinator, Tobias.Friedrich@uci.ch
- Roberta Ceppi, Media Relations, MediaRelations@extragiro.it
- Massimo Marani, Press Office, Press@extragiro.it

BY SUBMITTING YOUR ACCREDITATION REQUEST, YOU DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ACCEPTED THE MEDIA ADVISORY ON WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE 2020 UCI ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Photo credit: UCI