

HUNGARIAN NATIONAL SKATING FEDERATION MAGYAR ORSZÁGOS KORCSOLYÁZÓ SZÖVETSÉG

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New restrictions announced in Hungary

update 11th November

The Hungarian Government has introduced new restrictions (484/2020 (XI.10 Korm.rendelet) valid as of 11th November 2020. Below please find the list of actions and their impact on the Santa Claus Cup International Competition in Figure Skating and Ice Dance.

1. A curfew is instated between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.

There is a general curfew, however, the Government made some exceptions, including the athletes who are registered by their National Federation and they are participating at a training or a sports competition, or they are on their way between the location of their training/competition and their home, place of residence, or accommodation, which has to be justified by an official document. **The HNSF and the Organizing Committee will provide this document upon accreditation.** Besides, we kindly ask all National Federations to prepare a statement that includes a confirmation that the participating athletes are their registered skaters and therefore have permission to participate at sports competitions. A list of participants will be sent to all National Federations.

2. There is a general ban on events. All forms of assembly are forbidden.

This restriction normally would include sports competitions, however, there is an exception. All sporting events must take place behind closed doors, without spectators. It means that the HNSF is able to organize this event, but we have to refuse the entry of chaperones. **Only skaters, officials, coaches, team leaders, medical personals and the members of the Organizing Committee are allowed to enter the facility. It is not possible for Chaperones to wait outside, as it would be considered as an assembly.** We kindly ask all Federations and Clubs who have skaters entered to this event to report their final decision about participation to the OC at scc@hunskate.hu by 16th November 2020 at the latest.

3. Hotels may only host business travellers.

Unfortunately, the regulation forgets to mention the accommodation needs of sport related participants despite making many exceptions in other parts of the regulation. As the OC has a corporate contract with the official hotel, all guests booked by the HNSF are considered business travellers. It is therefore suggested that participants make the hotel reservation through the OC. It is possible to make own arrangements, in this case **make sure that you ask for an invoice issued for the company / club / National Federation. Keep this invoice with you all the time, should a policeman ask for it, it can prove that you are on a business trip. For this reason, the OC will issue invoices about hotel payments only for the company / club / National Federation. It is not possible to issue accommodation invoice for a private person.** As all officials will sign a work contract with the HNSF, the OC will issue a statement that they are staying at the official hotel on work purpose.

4. Restaurants must close, but food delivery remains possible.

This means that it is not possible to eat in any restaurant, except for the ones in the hotels. Takeaway is possible, it is hard to say how many service providers take this opportunity. **The OC agreed with the official hotel in a special price for buffet meals.** For 16 Euros / person / meal it is possible to have lunch and dinner at the hotel in buffet style, without drinks. **If you make your hotel reservation with us, please put a note on it to clarify which meals you would like to pre-order.** You will get a meal voucher at the accreditation after payment is done. Of course, you can decide to use this service upon arrival at the hotel, in this case you pay directly to the hotel and the price will be 18 Euros.

5. Recreational facilities, including gyms, indoor swimming pools, ice rinks, museums, theatres, and zoos, must be closed.

There is an exception for athletes who have permission from their National Federation to compete at sports competitions. Thus, the confirmation requested in point 1 shall cover this rule as well.

So far no change has been communicated on how to enter Hungary, which means that the regulations issued on 31st August and extended on 1st October remain in effect (see below):

A statement was issued on 31st August by the Hungarian Government that the borders of Hungary are closed as of 1st September. However, some exceptions were made, please find below a citation of the statement, that is only a part of the whole regulation, valid for non-Hungarian citizens intending to participate at an international competition in Hungary.

Provisions concerning non-Hungarian citizens:

The Provision states that in passenger traffic non-Hungarian citizens cannot enter the territory of Hungary unless exception is determined by law or government regulation.

Such exceptional case is when the person in question intends to travel to Hungary in order to participate at a sports/cultural/ecclesiastic international event of paramount importance.

A non-Hungarian citizen, who

- a) is a participant – not a spectator – of an international sports event held in Hungary,**
- b) possesses an invitation letter (addressed to his/her name) issued by the official organizer of the international sports event held in Hungary,**
- c) arrives by the invitation of a Hungarian sports organization or a national sports federation and**
 - ca) is a competitor who has a competition license,*
 - cb) is a sports professional,*
 - cc) is a person taking part in the implementation of the sports event*

can enter the territory of Hungary if he/she has one negative (at the time of taking the test, the test could not identify the CoV-2 coronavirus in his/her system) SARS-CoV-2 PCR test that were taken maximum three days prior the entrance and he/she can certify it with a document in Hungarian or English.

Besides the above-mentioned exceptions that make it possible for non-Hungarian citizens to participate at sport competitions, the Hungarian National Skating Federation is willing to help officials invited by the HNSF to participate at the event as a member of the technical panel. In case the mentioned PCR tests are at a charge at their country, the HNSF will cover the cost of these tests if a proper invoice issued for the HNSF is provided.

For athletes and other officials including judges entered by their National Federation the cost of the PCR tests are at their own charge.

The HNSF is ready to issue the necessary invitation for all participants of the event.

Should there be any restrictions or required PCR tests for the participants returning to their home country after the competition, the HNSF is taking no financial responsibility.

Budapest, 12th November 2020

Orsolya Váradi
Director General