



To the National Federations affiliated to FIBA with full rights

23 March 2020

Circular Letter n° 24

COVID-19 pandemic

Dear President,
Dear Secretary General,

First of all, we hope that this message finds you, your families and the basketball community in your countries healthy and safe.

We are writing to provide you with an update on the various actions taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Compliance with Public Authority Decisions

In these extraordinary circumstances, where the activities of more than 180 National Member Federations of FIBA (as of today) are impacted by the pandemic, it is paramount that our basketball community gives an example of responsible behaviour.

We thank you for following the instructions of the public authorities and encourage you to ensure that the members of our basketball family do the same.

The desire to play basketball, whether for professional or amateur purposes, must now give way to the need for protection of public health.

2. FIBA competitions

After successfully relocating the Women's Olympic Qualification Tournament from Foshan to Belgrade – for which we thank again the National Federations of China and Serbia – a number of games or entire FIBA competitions were postponed or cancelled in order to protect the health and safety of the participants:

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- Postponed:
 - o 4 games of the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers
 - o FIBA 3x3 Olympic Qualifying Tournament
 - o FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup
 - o FIBA 3x3 U18 Asia Cup
- Cancelled
 - o FIBA U16 Asian Championships (Men and Women)

On 12 March 2020, once it was evident that the outbreak was turning into a pandemic, FIBA was the first International Federation that issued a general suspension of its competitions.

On the following day, the FIBA Europe Board decided that 3 club competitions, FIBA EuroLeague Women, FIBA EuroCup Women and FIBA Europe Cup, will not resume play this season.

In the next weeks, a decision will be made regarding the Basketball Champions League, the Basketball Champions League Americas and the Basketball Africa League, after consultation with the respective national leagues and clubs. The same applies to our international competitions suspended at sub-Zone level.

It is important to remind you that the suspension of FIBA competitions still applies. This does not mean that preparations for future FIBA competitions are stopped. We are in continuous communication with event hosts, monitor the developments (which change almost daily) and prepare for the events where possible.

FIBA will continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis and will continue to follow the guidance of the World Health Organisation (WHO), public authorities and the FIBA Medical Commission.

Further information will be provided again next week, following the meeting of the FIBA Central Board by videoconference.

3. Olympic Games and Olympic Qualifying Tournaments

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) issued last night a new communication, which we attach for your information.

While the cancellation of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games is not on the agenda of the IOC, a 4-week consultation phase will now start with International Federations (including FIBA) and other stakeholders regarding the possibility of postponement.

FIBA has reminded the IOC that 1) the health and safety of our players is the number one priority, and 2) the qualification process has been completed only for Women's Basketball, with no less than 6 Olympic Qualifying Tournaments (two for 3x3 Basketball and four for Men's Basketball) still to be played.

We are of course in constant communication with the OQT hosts, are monitoring the reactions of various National Olympic Committees, and will keep you abreast of any developments in this respect.



4. Professional contracts and Basketball Arbitral Tribunal

The FIBA Secretariat has been approached a number of times in the last weeks regarding the status of employment contracts in professional basketball, especially in view of “force majeure” being often invoked as a reason to terminate contracts or not perform under them.

We wish to clarify that in case of financial disputes arising from contracts including a BAT clause, it will be for the BAT as an independent tribunal to decide. FIBA’s involvement is limited to transfer disputes and to the enforcement of BAT awards.

That said, FIBA wishes to encourage all registered players, coaches, agents and clubs to acknowledge the unique circumstances we are all going through and reach agreements with mutual concessions to the extent possible. It is important, especially during this period, to exhaust the possibility of amicable resolution of a dispute prior to seeking recourse to any courts. Our National Federations and Leagues are requested to facilitate such discussions, also to the best of their abilities, especially in cases where the championships have been cancelled.

FIBA has been informed by the BAT that the first case(s) involving COVID-19 as “force majeure” will be treated in an expedited manner and will be published with their reasoning on the FIBA website, so as to provide as early as possible relevant guidance to the actors in professional basketball.

Dear President,
Dear Secretary General,
Dear Basketball Friends,

As virtually every activity in our societies, our sport is heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. FIBA’s message is clear: the wellbeing of the basketball family is and must remain our number one priority. Therefore, please keep safe and follow the advice of WHO and of your national authorities.

The International Basketball Federation remains close to you in these difficult and uncertain times. Although the vast majority of our staff at the Headquarters and Regional Offices currently works from home, we will maintain frequent communication with you and continue to prepare well for the ever-changing conditions around us.

Basketball games will soon be back. In the meantime, please receive our Best Wishes for good health.

Yours Sincerely,

Andreas Zagklis
Secretary General

Attached: IOC communication

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