

Important update for players and participants regarding COVID-19 rules in Latvia

The Health protocol for players and participants on COVID-19-related rules, practices and restrictions during their stay in Latvia following the introduction of a four-week lockdown

Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Latvia, the government has declared an emergency situation for a three month period, providing for additional preventive measures. Nearly all stores, entertainment venues and schools will be shut, and services suspended. A stay at home order will be in effect from 8 PM until 5 AM.

FIDE has worked closely with the local Organizers and Latvian authorities on establishing this Protocol which determines rules and practices for players and all participants during the event.

The Protocol covers the following sections:

1. Special Conditions Under the Emergency Status in Latvia
2. Travel to Latvia
3. Transport and Accommodation
4. Safety Precautions
5. Symptoms of Covid-19
6. Testing
7. Tournament Hall, Spectators & Access Zones
8. Response in COVID-19 Positive Cases

All players and accompanying persons are **strongly advised to carefully read and follow the protocol** which has been designed following the most recent coronavirus restrictions issued by the Latvian government.

Breaking the rules of the Protocol may lead to disqualification of a player or even termination of the Tournament.

For any questions or queries, the players and participants should contact the Organisers on grandswiss@fide.com.

The Health Protocol for the 2021 FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss and Women's Grand Swiss:



**FIDE CHESS.COM
GRAND SWISS AND
WOMEN'S GRAND SWISS
2021**

25, October – 9 November 2021, Riga, Latvia

HEALTH PROTOCOL

Dear participants,

The health of Players, Officials and all individuals participating in the Grand Swiss remains FIDE's and the Organizer's top priority. FIDE (the "Federation") has worked closely with the local Organizers and Latvian authorities on establishing this Protocol. We kindly ask you to read it carefully. It sets out the framework that will govern Players, Officials and third parties and all participants in the FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss and Women's Grand Swiss. Since the FIDE Endorsed tournament Chess.com Lindores Abbey Blitz (hereinafter – Blitz) is considered as the side-event of the FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss and Women's Grand Swiss, the same health protocol applies to the players and staff of the tournament.

Each participant will play a critical role in securing his or her own health and safety, as well as that of others. Breaking the rules of the Protocol may lead to disqualification of a player or even termination of the Tournament. Therefore, adherence to all aspects of this Protocol is essential for maintaining a healthy environment and protecting everyone's safety. In case you have questions or doubts – please contact the Organisers team via e-mail grandswiss@fide.com.

The Protocol complies with the current Latvian legislation and the requirements in force from the 21.10.2021, when the state emergency status entered into force and new restrictions were introduced in Latvia. We note that the legislation is dependent on the dynamics of the epidemiological situation in Latvia and worldwide and is subject to change. It means that the health Protocol may be modified in case new regulations come into force. In such case, all participants will be informed personally as soon as any changes are made.

Special Conditions Under the Emergency Status in Latvia

Please, be informed that in the period from 21 October till 14 November 2021 an emergency status in the Republic of Latvia has been introduced with an aim to radically restrict further expansion of pandemics. Besides all the other preventive measures and restrictions introduced, all sport events are banned except for the high level tournaments (and official training sessions prior to them) that have been included in the calendar of the International Sports Federation (in Grand Swiss case – FIDE) and are listed as eligible on the official webpage of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia. Both respective events are listed here:

Grand Swiss <https://www.fide.com/calendar/51004>

Blitz <https://www.fide.com/calendar/52010>

Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia:
<https://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/media/14136/download>

During this period the curfew will have to be observed in Latvia from 8pm till 5am. However, the players and other accredited persons of the tournament will be exempt from this restriction as long as they commute between the playing area and the official hotel/accommodation.

The players and other accredited persons and organizers are subject to distancing themselves from other people who are not part of the tournament's epidemiologically safe system.

Travel to Latvia

Each Player will be permitted to bring accompanying persons (coaches, captains etc.), accredited by the Organizer. Please note that additional accredited persons will be required to do regular obligatory PCR testing at their own cost. Players and all other accredited persons will have to follow the same rules for entering Latvia.

To enter Latvia, besides the usual travel documents (ID, visa etc.), you will have to present:

- PROOF OF HEALTH/VACCINATION
 - A valid in European Union interoperable COVID-19 certificate of vaccination or recovery from COVID-19; OR
 - A negative PCR test 72 hours before boarding the plane or entering Latvia; OR
 - An antigen test taken not earlier than 48 hours before boarding the plane or entering Latvia.

Please check online if your certificate and/or test result is valid in Latvia:
<https://covid19sertifikats.lv/verify>

The fact of vaccination or recovery from COVID-19 is confirmed only by [an interoperable EU certificate](#) (electronically on a smart device or printed out) or a certificate of vaccination or disease issued in the EU, EEA countries, the Swiss Confederation or the United Kingdom. Proof of recovery is valid for 11 to 180 days from the onset of the illness. If a person does not have such a certificate, the requirements applicable to unvaccinated or non-recovered persons shall apply.

- INVITATION LETTER
 - The invitation letter from Organizers stating that you are an ACCREDITED person in the internationally (included in FIDE calendar) and locally recognized (included in the list of eligible events) sports event which proves the essential character of travelling.
 - You will also be provided with the link to the official publication of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Latvia which confirms the eligibility of the event in case you are asked on the border.
- COVID PASS
 - Within 48 hours before entering Latvia all persons have to fill in the CovidPass questionnaire <https://covidpass.lv/en/> and get the respective QR code. It may be requested to be presented upon boarding your flight to Latvia. See the sample on how to complete the form if you are travelling from the third country and do not possess the EU recognized vaccination certificate:

New form Resend QR code

I arrive from the EU / EEA / UK / Switzerland

I arrive from third country

United States ▼

I HAVE a valid in European Union interoperable COVID-19 certificate for vaccination or recovery from COVID-19 issued

I DO NOT HAVE a valid in European Union interoperable digital COVID-19 certificate for vaccination or recovery from COVID-19

A valid COVID-19 test is required or the exceptions must be met!

Are you subject to the exemptions regarding 10 day self-isolation? ⓘ

Yes

No

New form Resend QR code

What is the substantial reason for your entry?

Accompanying underaged

Family reunion

Funeral

Receiving medical services

Returning in place of living

School/study

Transit

Work

There are no substantial reasons for entry

The substantial reason for your visit: WORK.

Within 24 hours upon arrival to Latvia, the players and other accredited persons of the international sports event are obliged to undergo laboratory testing for the diagnostics of COVID-19. If they arrive by plane from countries outside the Schengen Area (C arrivals) or by crossing the external land border, they may be asked to undergo laboratory testing for the diagnostics of COVID-19 at the closest testing site at the airport.

Obligatory testing of all the players and accredited persons will be provided at the official hotel of the tournament “AC Hotel Riga”, Marriott on the arrival day – 25th October. All the Staff involved in the Organization of the tournament will be tested prior to this date, so that to ensure their health checks have been done before any direct contact with the players and participants.

The costs of the PCR testing and the obligatory tests carried out on the border upon arrival will be covered by the Organizers for the players and the official staff of the tournament (arbiters, fair play officers etc.); however, the accredited accompanying persons shall cover these costs by themselves. The Organizers will provide their assistance for organizing the obligatory testing to the players and other accredited persons arriving before the official arrival date.

All the accredited persons, immediately after arriving at the hotel will have to sign a certification that:

- they will comply with all the current restrictions at the Republic of Latvia imposed for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 infection (including observing the curfew hours and keeping physical distancing from persons not being part of the tournament environment, i.e., not being accredited to the tournament);
- aside from participating in the tournament, the person will reside in the hotel/residence indicated in the certification;
- the person will take care of their medical costs. The Organizers strongly recommend that players and other accredited persons provide themselves with medical insurance; however, the Organizers will provide full cooperation and assistance to provide appropriate medical care upon necessity;
- the person will not use the public transport and will use only the vehicle ensured by the Organiser of the event to get to the playing venue and back to the official hotel;
- the person will monitor their health and immediately inform the Organizer on symptoms.

Transportation and Accommodation

After landing at Riga Airport the organizers will provide the transportation to the official hotel of the tournament – “AC Hotel Riga”, Marriott: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/fact-sheet/travel/rixac-ac-hotel-riga/> Only players and other accredited persons will reside in the official hotel of the tournament. Players are requested to use the masks in the public areas of the hotel. Meals will be provided as a self-service buffet in the hotel’s restaurant, using personal safety items (masks, plastic gloves). For safety, a player may request individual catering in the room, informing the Organizer before the tournament. So that to avoid a direct, extended exposure to the other participants of the tournament prior to the complete health checks, a room service will be provided for the course of the first meals, until the PCR test results will be available and proved negative.

Everyday transportation to and from the playing venue will be provided by the Organizer. However, the playing venue is approximately 8-10 minutes walking distance from the official hotel: <https://www.hanzasperons.lv/en/about>

The participants and other accredited persons are not allowed to use public transportation.

During this period a curfew will have to be observed in Latvia from 8pm till 5am. However, the players and other accredited persons of the tournament will be exempt from this restriction as long as they commute between the playing area and the official hotel/accommodation. A special confirmation besides the official accreditation of the tournament will be prepared to justify commuting outside the eligible hours.

The players and other accredited persons and organizers are subject to observing social distancing from people who are not part of the tournament’s epidemiologically safe system. However, this does not mean they are not allowed to be outside the premises (e.g., have a walk in fresh air within the eligible hours) if such contact is avoided.

Safety Precautions

According to Latvian legislation:

- Wearing face coverings (cloth or surgical-type mask) is mandatory in public indoor places. It means it is mandatory to wear masks in supermarkets, at the airport, in public transportation, etc.). International sports competitions are exempt from this rule which means that players are not obliged to wear a mask during the games in the playing hall. Players are welcome to bring their own masks and use them also during the games if feasible. The Organizers will also provide the masks for the convenience of the players and other accredited persons.
- All individuals shall maintain physical distancing (a minimum of 2m distance) at all times throughout the tournament, to the extent possible.
- It is recommended to wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or, if soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based sanitiser. Hand sanitisers will be provided both in the public areas of the hotel and the playing venue.

Symptoms

All the accredited persons are obliged to monitor their health during the tournament. Any player or other accredited person or Organizer's employee who develops symptoms should immediately self-isolate and contact the Medical Officer of the tournament to determine the next steps and to administer PCR testing if appropriate. The players and accredited persons must also immediately notify Medical Officer if they suspect that they have come into contact with someone who has COVID-19.

The following are common symptoms of COVID-19:

- Cough,
- Shortness of breath,
- Chest pain,
- Feeling feverish, chills,
- Muscle pain (not exercise-related),
- New loss of smell or taste,
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhoea),
- Sinus or cold-like symptoms (headache, congestion/runny nose, sore throat),
- Fever (temperature $>37.5^{\circ}$ C).

Testing

All accredited persons will be subject to COVID-19 testing. Testing of all accredited persons will be conducted using saliva-based PCR testing. The testing will be carried out in the official tournament hotel "AC Riga Hotel", Mariott.

Participants that require a nasal swab-based test before the departure should inform the Organizers at least 3 days before the day when the test must be done.

The testing schedule for the accredited persons is as follows:

Date	Persons	Location	Test	Providing the test
Up to 72 hours before travelling	All accredited persons without European digital COVID-19 certificates	Any	Saliva based PCR test	Participants themselves
October 24	All the accredited persons directly involved with organization of the tournament and being exposed to players and official staff of the tournament upon their arrivals; Hotel staff in direct contact with the players and other accredited persons	At the official hotel	Antigen test	Organizers
October 25	All accredited persons	Upon arrival at the official hotel	Saliva based PCR test	Organizers
October 27	All accredited persons	At the official hotel	Saliva based PCR test	Organizers
October 30	All accredited persons	At the official hotel	Saliva based PCR test	Organizers
November 2	All accredited persons	At the official hotel	Saliva based PCR test	Organizers
November 5	All accredited persons	At the official hotel	Saliva based PCR test	Organizers
November 7, 8 or 9	Accredited persons who need a negative test for returning to their home country	At the official hotel	As necessary for each participant	Organizers

The Organisers of the Tournament can decide on an extraordinary test if it is deemed necessary. The PCR testing for organizers, FIDE principals, arbiters and players will be done at the expense of the organisers. Accompanying persons are obliged to do COVID -19 testing according to the schedule provided above at their own expense.

Individuals, including Players, who refuse to follow their testing and monitoring requirements will be prohibited from taking part in the tournament. Furthermore, such individuals may be subject to permanent removal from the Tournament if they persist in their refusal.

All the accredited persons who join the tournament later will be subject to the individual testing plan following the same principle that there will be no direct contact with players without a proof of a negative COVID test followed by the regular (72h interval) PCR tests.

Tournament Hall, Spectators & Access Zones

According to the current Latvian legislation, international sports events that have been recognized by the International Sports organization (in Grand Swiss case – FIDE) and validated by the National Sports Authority can be organized following the special epidemiologically regime, i.e., only accredited persons with the valid interoperable EU digital COVID-19 certification and/or regular PCR testing can take part.

While personal health preventive measures have to be observed (distancing, washing hands etc.), players are allowed to take masks off during the games in the playing area.

The playing area will be regularly disinfected to ensure the safety of players and staff. The playing venue provides appropriate ventilation (<1000ppm).

Spectators at the international sports events will **not** be allowed. For the security of the players, only official accredited persons (representatives of FIDE and/or Organizer) with valid EU digital COVID-19 certificates and/or undergoing regular PCR testing will be allowed to the playing area. Internal access to other playing venue areas is defined in the separate protocol provided by the Organizers.

It is allowed to provide the broadcast, live coverage and preparation of the audiovisual materials of the recognized sports event. Thus accredited representatives of the broadcast, video and media representatives will be eligible to the playing venue considering the strict preventive measures, such as regular COVID testing and use of personal safety items (masks), as well as observing physical distance.

Note: However all the accredited persons of the tournament will be subject to regular testing regardless of their vaccination status, as the general rule - the Latvian Covid19Verify application will be used to check the validity of the European digital COVID - 19 certificates and tests. Only tests with QR codes will be considered valid. The app does not store any personal data. For the purpose of checking the persons eligibility , ID documents will be checked (a passport or an ID card).

Response in COVID-19 Positive Cases

A person whose COVID-19 positive test has been confirmed or symptoms appear (fever, difficult breathing, cough etc.) will immediately quarantine in his/her hotel room and inform the Medical Officer. The hotel will provide the person with the in-room catering, hygiene items and other essentials for their well-being. The Medical Officer will monitor the persons health condition. The person shall not exercise, and shall not participate in any activity or have any contact (other than remotely) with any other person for the duration of their isolation. The person shall remain in isolation until a responsible doctor and Medical Officer decides otherwise. Games scheduled for the participant during the isolation period cannot be played and the outcome will be decided according to regulations.

The Medical Officer will contact the National Safety and Quality Health Service (SPKC) to evaluate the epidemiological situation in the tournament, decide on further recommendations and actions, as well as to detect the contact persons. The *contact persons* are considered to be those who have been in close contact (closer than 2 metres and longer than 15 minutes) with the COVID-19 positive person or are otherwise highly exposed to the infection.

The following restrictions will apply for the contact persons:

- Persons with European digital COVID-19 certificate shall monitor their health condition and in case of appearance of COVID-19 symptoms shall go under self-isolation.
- Persons without a European digital COVID-19 certificate shall immediately self-isolate in their hotel rooms and a PCR test shall be carried out as soon as possible, but no later than within 36 hours. The self-isolation can be terminated only with the decision of the Medical Officer, and it will depend on several factors like:
 - Existence/absence of symptoms;
 - Proof of vaccination;
 - Proof of regular PCR testing within the tournament time;
 - Proof of recovery from the COVID-19 within the last 6 months.

Medical Officer & Tournament Organizers

Medical Officer of the tournament: Karina Avisane +371 27138371.

Tournament Director: Egons Lavendelis, +371 29876891.

General contact information on all the Grand Swiss related issues: grandswiss@fide.com.