

# **QNB Asia Cup Doha 2021 – Entry to Qatar and Covid 19 information for elite athletes and officials**

Dear athletes and officials, thank you for considering a trip to Qatar to participate in the Asian Cup.

We would like to reassure you that COVID-19 case rates in our country have been at a low level for a long time and we have suppressed a third wave through extremely high vaccination rates and public adherence to precautions. Qatar has also successfully continued to host major international competitions in 2020/21. We expect that November's Asian Cup will go ahead as planned.

This document sets out what you need to know, in order that you fully understand the conditions under which you will compete.

## **Bubbles & Quarantine**

A bubble in the sports context refers to an arrangement where competitors and officials stay isolated from the general public. Overseas participants enter the bubble immediately on leaving the airport. Local athletes participating in the elite race enter the bubble at the event hotel 48 hours prior to the competition. At this time, all those in the bubble will receive a PCR test. You may not leave the bubble, except to attend the competition and related events.

## **Special Exemption Certificate**

[Qatar's travel policy can be found here](#)

At time of writing, Qatar only allows entry for those vaccinated or recovered. However, the LOC will arrange a visa and Special Exemption from these restrictions. It is recommended that you request this Special Exemption Certificate whether vaccinated or unvaccinated.

It is issued subject to your agreement to strictly follow the 'bubble' arrangements which will be explained in detail on your arrival in Qatar.

Approval takes approximately 10 days. Allow adequate time prior to travelling to Qatar.

## COVID-19 testing and vaccination requirements

The following tests are required:

Type	When	Payment	Notes
PCR	Before travel but within 72 hours of <u>arrival</u> in Qatar	By athlete or national federation	Travelers need to arrange their own testing in their home country. Recommended to allow for transport delays.
PCR	On arrival in Qatar	By LOC	Will take place at the bubble hotel. A negative test will result in isolation within the hotel and withdrawal from competition.
PCR	Pre-departure (optional, if the PCR on arrival is more than 72 hours old before departure flight time)	By athlete or national federation	LOC will provide testing facility in event hotel for those who require a PCR test to return to their home country. Cost 160 QAR (45 USD approx.)

Because of the bubble system, it is not a requirement to have been vaccinated. However, if you have them, you are advised to bring a vaccination certificate and/or a certificate of recovery. These may provide exemption should additional PCR tests be mandated.

## Ehteraz - Pre-arrival & Contact Tracing App

### Preregister vaccination and test certificates

Before arrival and after receiving PCR test results, you must pre-register online at [www.ehteraz.gov.qa](http://www.ehteraz.gov.qa).

### Mandatory app

All visitors to Qatar must carry a smart phone with the Ehteraz app. You will not be allowed to leave the airport without it. To ensure compatibility on your device, we recommend it is installed before travel. Ehteraz is available on the App Store and Google Play.

Ehteraz requires a Qatari SIM card which you can buy at the Duty Free shop on arrival at Hamad International Airport.

Your Ehteraz status will be *yellow*. This will dis-allow you from entering any facility outside the bubble. Be warned that this includes your hotel should you leave outside the bubble arrangement!

## **Arrival & Departure**

International teams should ideally arrive on Tuesday 23rd November or, at least, on the morning Wednesday 24th November. PCR Testing will be carried out from 8am to 11 am.

It is recommended that you schedule your return flight for the 26th (late afternoon, evening time) or 27th November.

Note: If a PCR test is required for travel to your home country or onward destination, we can arrange this for you at your expense. If traveling back home on the recommended dates, the PCR test received when entering the bubble (72 hours) will also be valid for your return journey.

For your comfort and convenience, we provide Hamad International Airport's five-star Al Maha meet & assist service. They will complete the customs procedure on your behalf. You will require the following documentation:

- Passport with minimum six months validity
- Competition visa (arranged by LOC -appendix 1)
- COVID-19 special exemption documentation (arranged by LOC)
- PCR test certificate showing negative result

Transport to the bubble hotel will be provided. Further details to follow.

## **Flights**

Our travel partner is Qatar Airways, who will offer reduced ticket prices and flexibility on cancellation. Further details to follow.

## **Accommodation**

The competition hotel is JW Marriott, located in Doha's West Bay district, situated ten kilometers and 10 minutes drive from the race venue.

It is mandatory to stay in the official hotels and favourable rates have been arranged for you

## **An important disclaimer**

This document is intended to aid your decision whether to attend the Asian Cup in Doha and to help you to plan your trip. However, all information is subject to change driven by mandates by the government of Qatar and other restrictions. You are advised to ensure that

your airline and/or travel insurance cover the eventualities of changes of date and cancellation.

Qatar is a world leader in major events organisation and we look forward to providing the best experience for you at the Asian Cup Doha 2021.

## Appendix 1 – Exceptional Entry Permit application steps

An Exceptional Entry Permit and visa are required in order to travel to Doha. The LOC will facilitate and apply for those documents should the applicant fulfil all the requirements and permission is granted by the responsible local authorities. The below procedures will be followed:

Step 1	Applicant books his /her flight ticket to Doha.
Step 2	Each National Federation must submit to the LOC each (one by one) participants' flight details, in addition to electronic copies of a valid passport (with at least 6 months validity from entry date) and country of residence. <a href="https://bit.ly/asia-tri-cup-doha-visitor-form">https://bit.ly/asia-tri-cup-doha-visitor-form</a> <b>Obligatory for all travelers!</b>
Step 3	LOC applies in behalf of the applicant for visa and Exceptional Entry Permit
Step 4	LOC informs the applicant by email of the application status. Approval process takes approximately 10 days.  Note that the LOC cannot be held liable in the event of a rejection. You are advised to ensure that your flight is refundable or insured against this eventuality.
Step 5	A negative Covid 19 PCR is mandatory before travel to Qatar (72 hours in advance of the travel date, proved by a certificate).
Step 6	Delegates arriving at the Doha airport will be transferred to the official hotel and tested again. Room isolation is mandatory until the results are available (within 24hours)

**Important:** Following the submission of the flight details to the LOC, no booking change can take place, as in that case the approval process must be cancelled and start over. The LOC will not reimburse any flight ticket bought in advance of the Exceptional Entry Permit to Qatar approval and official communication. As this is a lengthy procedure, we advise all participants to apply in advance of the entries deadline.