



March 1, 2022

Update Notice Regarding Goyang 2022 World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships

As we continue to plan towards attending the Goyang 2022 World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships, we would like to provide all participants with the most recent information that we have. Since the updated event outline was distributed January 27th, 2022 we have sent numerous emails to the event organizers and World Taekwondo seeking clarity on the event entry procedures. Unfortunately, none of our concerns or questions have been addressed. **At this time, we would like to advise all participants to hold off as long as possible before booking and paying for flights to the event.** While we cannot change our deadline for submission of all information, we would advise all participants to not book flights until the day of March 7th, 2022. This will give us as much time as possible to continue to seek clarity and answers from both the event organizers and World Taekwondo.

Below are a number of questions and concerns we continue to receive from participants and parents, along with as much information as we have:

- Is there a way to get the Letter of Invitation required for visa applications right now?
 - We have requested for the event organizers or World Taekwondo to provide this to our federation immediately but have not heard anything in response. The event outline indicates this will be provided after registration, which unfortunately requires confirmed flight and hotel bookings.
- Is there anyway Taekwondo Canada can apply for an expedited visa application process on behalf of the National Poomsae Team?
 - After much consultation with the Korean Embassy in Ottawa, our request for a group visa application has been denied. We have also been told that they cannot provide us with an expedited review and must follow the visa application process as outlined through their website.
- If it takes at least 14 days for an entry visa to be approved and we have to mail our passports in, how will we ensure we have our entry visa and passports before our confirmed flights depart?
 - Unfortunately, we do not have an answer for this. It will be incredibly tight for many to meet the deadlines if mailing in their passports and application. There is definitely a risk that flights and accommodations will be booked and paid for, but you may not meet the requirements to actually fly and enter Korea.
- What happens if we don't receive a Quarantine Waiver Certificate?
 - If you do not receive a Quarantine Waiver Certificate you will be required to isolate at a government facility for 7 days, at your cost. In the event that this occurs, you will likely not be available to participate in the event.
- How likely is it that we will have our Quarantine Waiver Applications approved?
 - We cannot answer this question. This is not up to either the event organizers or World Taekwondo. It is a Korean government process so we are unable to get any information on the likelihood these will be approved.
- As a parent travelling with our child to the event, how do we apply for both an entry visa and Quarantine Waiver Certificate?
 - We have asked this question numerous times and have not received an answer. We have requested through the organizing committee to submit parental Quarantine Waiver Certificates with the rest of our National Team application. Again, as we have had no answer, we have no information on this.



- As a parent travelling with our child to the event, how can we be expected to book and pay everything up front without knowing if we will receive an entry visa and Quarantine Waiver Certificate?
 - We completely appreciate this perspective and are unable to provide an answer. There are significant financial risks associated with the timelines and processes as outlined by the event organizers. We are doing our best to provide you with the appropriate information, and we share your same concerns.

In terms of accommodation booking, we would advise all participants planning to travel early to Korea to only book host hotel accommodations through Taekwondo Canada for the actual event dates (April 18th through to April 25th). It is substantially cheaper to book into the same hotels through other booking methods. However, for the actual event dates (April 18th through to April 25th) the organizing committee has included the following note in the information package:

**** Note: Teams with NO confirmed and paid booking in the official hotel via OC [organizing committee] will not be able to participate due to COVID-19 restrictions and overall safety. The participating teams are required to submit the hotel reservation only via the WT GMS registration system [Simply Compete]. No other registration method will be accepted.***

There is nothing that indicates that arriving early and booking accommodations outside of the event dates would limit athletes from participating in the event. However, please note that we have not received any confirmation from the organizing committee that that is indeed the case. ***Planning to arrive in Korea before the official event dates and booking different accommodations are outside of the scope of what Taekwondo Canada can advise on.***

As accommodations for the event date must be booked via Taekwondo Canada using the WT GMS system [Simply Compete] and local organizing committee agency, an invoice for the entire National Team booking will be sent to Taekwondo Canada after team entry. Upon receipt of this group invoice, each participant will be contacted and send an individualized invoice for their accommodation costs as per the WT GMS entry details. These invoices will need to be **paid in full within 3 days of receiving them**. We would anticipate receiving the organizing committee's booking agency invoice around March 10th to 13th, so we would expect to have the individual invoices sent shortly thereafter. Based on this estimate, receipt of payment would likely need to occur sometime between March 13th and 16th. Please note that if the organizing committee's booking agency has informed us of the following accommodation cancellation policy:

- Cancellation between March 11th and 20th: No penalty, free cancellation.
- Cancellation between March 21st and 31st: 50% of accommodation fees refunded.
- Cancellation April 1st and beyond: No refund.

All participants will be responsible for their event accommodation fees, including any cancellation fees. If the organizers cancel the event and provide Taekwondo Canada with a refund on the accommodation bookings, participant fees will be returned.

Considering all the above questions, concerns, and information we currently have, there is a high probability that any athletes (not just Canadians) will face mandatory isolation upon arrival in Korea. This could impact the feasibility of the event running, and there is a potential that the event is cancelled while team members are already in Korea. We feel that we need to express our concerns to all team members, parents, and families so that each of you can make decisions and assume the level of financial risk that you are comfortable with.