

ITSF meeting in “Château Les Tourelles”

The FIVB hosted a special operational meeting for International Team Sports' Federations in the FIVB Headquarters on 1 November, where representatives of FIBA, FINA, IRB, ICC, IBAF, IHF, IIHF, FIFA and the FIVB gathered to strengthen their ties as team sports by discussing common objectives and policies and WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency).

A number of medical issues including planning for pandemics, changes to the doping list and age-cheating featured on the agenda for the meeting,

The main debate dealt with issues related to the H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu, in particular with regard to the measures to be adopted just before or during an event should a player or players be diagnosed as having the H1N1 virus or if there is a suspected case or cases. The group of physicians gave accounts of their own experiences since the first outbreak in April and decided on a common resolution on the planning for the H1N1 pandemic at international and national sporting events as follows:

Recommendations following consultation with the World Health Organization (WHO):

- Players diagnosed with H1N1, by laboratory confirmation, should refrain from any sporting activities (for a minimum of 7 days after the appearance of the first symptoms).
- Single dose vaccination against the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus is recommended, as a preventive measure, provided that the players do not have existing underlying medical symptoms (;). Players who have an allergy to the egg protein should consult their physician before getting the vaccine.
- Education for all players and their entourage of the strict rules of prevention such as hand washing, use of individual water bottles & towels, coughing etiquette and avoidance of contact with infected people;
- **All players diagnosed with the H1N1 virus should be removed from competition and be isolated from the team until the player is no longer contagious to prevent further spread of the virus**
- Concerning the potential for postponement of competitions and sporting events, the medical representatives of team sports do not advise cancellation or postponement of national and international competitions in the current situation.

However, should global public health conditions relating to the pandemic deteriorate this position would be reconsidered;

- Regular consultation of the WHO webpage (www.who.int) is highly recommended. Specific technical advice pertaining to sporting events during the pandemic can be requested of the WHO Mass Gathering Team (massgatherings@who.int). Currently, the WHO has not recommended any restrictions for national or international travel.