

North Rhine-Westphalia extends Corona Protection Ordinance: More spectators allowed for sports events

Clear signals for amateur and popular sports in North Rhine-Westphalia / states agree on rules for spectators at nationwide team sports events

The government issued a notification:

On Tuesday, 15 September 2020, the state cabinet has decided to extend the corona ordinances up to and including 30 September 2020. There are changes, especially in the field of sport: more spectators are allowed in the sports facilities in all areas.

Further, in view of the special challenges in team competitions with corresponding fan interest, the federal states have agreed on a common strategy on the question of spectators at national team sports events and also at Bundesliga games. For the first trial run lasting six weeks, nationwide team sports events with spectators can be held again if strict rules for hygiene and infection protection are observed.

Minister-President Armin Laschet: "We have promised to make a clear decision on the framework conditions for the many thousands of sports clubs in North Rhine-Westphalia. Sports events exist with the support of the fans, with the surrounding crowd - this applies to Bundesliga games as well as to amateur and popular sports. That is why we sought an exchange with amateur sports and advocated a steady, uniform solution for nationwide sporting events in the district. We are now implementing both of these in applicable law, thus creating another bit of responsible normalcy. With reliable infection protection concepts and limits on capacity, the clubs can again infuse life into their sports facilities. Thus: hygiene concepts, protective measures and a cautious approach have priority."

Health Minister Karl-Josef Laumann: "Sports have been put to a tough test in recent months. All are aware that the sports exist due to spectators and the atmosphere in the stadiums. Many have sorely missed that. Similarly, it is clear: Protection against infection and thus the protection of health must have top priority. Therefore, we have a careful approach for again allowing a limited number of spectators. However, only when the regional infection occurrence is observed, and special hygiene and infection protection measures are ensured. This will certainly be a new challenge for everyone concerned. All in all, until now we have coped with the challenges very well. And I am confident that we will be successful in this case too, if every spectator follows the special conditions on site in a disciplined and responsible manner. "

New rules for sports events

From 16 September 2020, more than 300 spectators may again be present at sporting events or competitions, if a special hygiene and infection protection concept is provided. In case of more than 1,000 spectators - as with other events - an upper limit of one third of the capacity of the sports facility applies. The regulation on the number of participants in contact sports has also been extended in favour of sports with unusual team sizes so that all players who are required by the respective sport can now take part in the game - even if the maximum number of 30 is exceeded. The state government is thus implementing what was decided last week at a joint summit with representatives of sports clubs and associations. Special regulations apply to trial run of nationwide team sports events.

Agreement of States for nationwide team sports events

The federal states have agreed today on the following key points for allowing spectators to Bundesliga games and other nationwide team sports competitions:

- In a six-week trial run, the hygiene concepts, which serve as the basis for allowing spectators to nationwide sports events, shall be tested.
- The current pandemic is taken into account. No spectators will be allowed to events if the 7-day incidence per 100,000 population at the venue is equal to or greater than 35 and the occurrence of infection cannot be definitely contained.
- The requirement of a distance of 1.5 meters must be ensured by reducing the maximum occupancy of spectators, equalising the flow of visitors at entry and exit and by prohibiting the selling of drinks and consumption of alcohol.
- It is compulsory to wear a mouth and nose cover until the seating or standing place is occupied. Sufficient ventilation must be provided at the event locations.
- The permitted number of spectators is determined individually for each venue. The maximum permitted capacity during the six-week trial run is 20 percent of the respective stadium or hall capacity if there are more than 1,000 spectators.

The amendments in all ordinances of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia shall come into force on Wednesday, 16 September 2020.

The relevant ordinances will be published on www.land.nrw later in the day.

This press release is also available on the internet on the website of the State Government
www.land.nrw

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