

ISSF recommend members assess risks before sending athletes to Tokyo 2020 test event

By Michael Pavitt (<https://www.insidethegames.biz/index.php/writers/24080/michael-pavitt>) 🕒 Sunday, 1 March 2020 ()

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The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) has told member associations to deliberate over whether to travel to the upcoming Tokyo 2020 test event due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The Ready Steady Tokyo test event is scheduled to take place from April 18 to 25.

Athletes are due to compete at the Asaka Shooting Range, a temporary venue for the Games.

With the deadline for entries approaching, the ISSF have recommended its members assess potential risks for athletes' health in travelling and coming in contact with people from different countries.

"As a result of the existence of already introduced restrictions, operational measures undertaken by governments and dynamics of the virus, the ISSF recommends you deliberate making travel arrangements," a statement read.

"Of course, each Member Federation that has athletes invited to the Test Event is free to make any decisions on their trip to Japan and participation in the competitions.

"The ISSF is monitoring the situation and desires to avoid any risk for those athletes who obtained the quota places and earned the right to take part in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

"We will continue updating you on a regular basis of situations related to the test event."

Over 88,000 cases of the coronavirus have been confirmed worldwide, with more than 3,000 people having died.

China has had the majority of cases with 79,828.

Around 250 cases have been recorded in Japan, with six deaths reported.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has already cancelled a training camp in South Korea ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Games because of coronavirus concerns.



The Tokyo Marathon was downsized today as Japan tightens restrictions due to the coronavirus ©Getty Images

Dozens of events, including World Championships and Olympic qualifiers, have been postponed, cancelled or relocated because of the virus.

The IOC and Tokyo 2020 have insisted the outbreak will not force this year's Olympics and Paralympics to be postponed or cancelled.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical and scientific director Richard Budgett has urged athletes to follow the advice of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The IOC official said it was "vital" athletes adhered to the advice of the WHO on the virus, officially known as COVID-19.

It includes avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections and frequent hand washing.

IOC doyen Richard Pound said earlier this week that the organisation had until the end of May to make a decision on the Games, should one be required.

Tokyo 2020 and Government officials have repeatedly claimed the Games will go ahead as scheduled despite the outbreak of the virus.

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About the author



Michael Pavitt (<https://www.insidethegames.biz/index.php/writers/24080/michael-pavitt>) Senior reporter

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Since joining [insidethegames.biz](https://www.insidethegames.biz) ([insidethegames.biz](https://www.insidethegames.biz)) in 2015, Michael Pavitt has covered a variety of international multi-sport events, including Baku 2015 European Games, the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games, Sapporo 2017 Asian Winter Games and Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade. He has also reported on the UCI Presidential election in Bergen in 2017, as well as attending the IOC Session in Lima and three ANOC General Assemblies.

✉ Contact Michael (<mailto:michael.pavitt@insidethegames.biz>)

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