



ABSTRACT

Disaster Management Act, 2005 - COVID -19 - Resumption of Swimming Training Activities and Competitions in Sport Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) / Non-SDAT Swimming Pool Facilities - Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)- Orders - Issued.

REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT (DM-4) DEPARTMENT

G.O. (Ms) No.295

Dated: 26.02.2021

சார்வரி, மாசி 14
திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2052

Read:

G.O. (Ms.) No.84, Revenue and Disaster Management
[D.M.4 (2)] Department, Dated 31.01.2021

XXXX

ORDER:

Considering the recommendations of the expert team of Doctors and Public Health specialists and based on the directives of Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, State-wide lockdown was extended from time to time and lastly extended up to 28.2.2021 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with certain restrictions and relaxations along with guidelines vide G.O.Ms.No.84, Revenue and Disaster Management (DM.IV) Department, dated 31.1.2021.

2. In the Government Order read above, among other things orders were also issued for permitting Swimming Pools to function by following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

3. The Government after careful examination, hereby issue Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Resumption of Swimming Training Activities and Competitions in Sport Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT)/Non-SDAT Swimming Pool Facilities as in the Annexure.

(By order of the Governor)

RAJEEV RANJAN
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To
The Additional Chief Secretary / Commissioner of
Revenue Administration, Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Youth Welfare and Sports
Development Department, Chennai-600 009.
The Principal Secretary/Member Secretary, SDAT, Chennai -84.

Copy to:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-600 009.
The Private Secretary to Chief Secretary to Government,
Chennai-600 009.
SF/SC.

//Forwarded By Order//

Jeeyms
26/2/22
SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) AND GUIDELINES FOR RESUMPTION OF SWIMMING TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITIONS IN SDAT/Non-SDAT SWIMMING POOL FACILITIES.

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While the national lockdown mandated closure of Sports activities in the country from 25th March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) had stopped training activities at its centers. However, Government of Tamil Nadu vide G.O.MS.No.245, Revenue and Disaster Management (DM-II) Department, Dated: 18.5.2020 grant permission and issued SOP for conducting sports activities in sports complexes and stadia in SDAT for the purpose of training of sportspersons preparing for national and international events.

2) Subsequently, Government of Tamil Nadu issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on (a) Opening of Gymnasium Vide. G.O (Ms) No. 405, Revenue and Disaster Management(DM-II) Department, dated 06.08.2020 and resumption of Training of Sportspersons in Swimming Pool vide G.O. (Ms) No. 774, Revenue and Disaster Management, (D.M-IV) Department, dated 18.12.2020.

3) Furthermore, the Government of Tamil Nadu have permitted functioning of Swimming Pools following the Standard Operating Procedure vide G.O. (Ms) No. 84, Revenue and Disaster Management (D.V-IV) Department, dated 31.01.202.

4) The Government in the SOP issued for resuming Sports Competitions have observed that the competitions may resume, provided no orders of the local authorities prohibit such facilities to resume operation i.e. micro-containment zones and are meant to serve as safety guidelines for organizing the sports competition in consonance with any other guidelines issued by District administration while granting such permission.

BACKGROUND

Tamil Nadu Government is following a phase-wise unlocking of activities. In continuation of this process, Tamil Nadu Government have allowed resumption of activities at swimming pools subject to strict adherence to standard operating procedure issued by the Government.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

This SOP outlines various generic precautionary measures to be adopted in addition to specific measures to be ensured at swimming pools to prevent spread of COVID-19. Swimming pools in Containment Zones shall remain closed.

This SOP applies to all SDAT / Non-SDAT swimming pools allowing such facilities to resume operations outside containment zones and are meant to serve as safety guidelines for operating the facility in consonance with any other guidelines issued by Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation in Chennai and District Collectors in other places while granting such permission.

PROMOTING COVID APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Simple public health measures are to be promoted to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 infection. These measures are to be observed by all, Swimmers / Coaches/ Visitors/Competitors/staff in these premises at all times and they should furnish the Consent Form as provided in the **Annexure -I**. These include:

- i. Physical distancing of at least 6 feet to be followed as far as feasible, in Swimming pool (use of alternate lanes in opposite direction), deck, sitting arena, shower areas etc.
- ii. Use of face covers/masks to be made mandatory, at all times, except when the swimmer is in the Swimming pool. The guidelines on how to wear a medical mask safely are given in **Annexure-II**.
- iii. Practice frequent hand washing with soap (for at least 40-60 seconds) even when hands are not visibly dirty. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (for at least 20 seconds) can be made wherever feasible. The guidelines on hand hygiene are given in **Annexure-III**.
- iv. Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly.
- v. Self-monitoring of health by all and avoid use of swimming pool if one is suffering from symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.
- vi. Spitting shall be strictly prohibited.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE POPULATION

Swimmers/ Competitors /coaches/ visitors/ staff who are at higher risk i.e. age 65 years or more, pregnant women, children below 10 years, and those who have underlying medical conditions or co-morbidities must avoid using swimming pool.

PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AT SDAT / NON-SDAT SWIMMING POOL.

- i. Prior to resumption of activities, all work areas, common utility areas, railings of the pool gymnasium/physiotherapy centers (if attached to pools) etc. shall be sanitized with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution (alternatively 70% alcohol-based disinfectant for use on metallic surfaces). Thereafter this will be done on a regular basis.
- ii. Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution or 70% alcohol-based disinfectant for use on metallic surfaces) of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs/handles, elevator buttons, hand rails, chairs, tabletops, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) and floors, walls etc. to be done before start of activities, at the end of the day and at other appropriate times at all locations.
- iii. All sanitary staff shall use appropriate mask, heavy duty gloves, face shields, aprons.
- iv. Provisions would be made for multiple hand washing stations and hand sanitizers for the use of swimmers/Competitors/ coaches/ visitors/staff. Provision of soaps in toilets and hand sanitizers in other common areas in sufficient quantity must be ensured.
- v. Deep cleaning of all drinking and hand washing stations, washrooms, showers and Lavatories shall be ensured.
- vi. Swimmers/ Competitors/ coaches/ visitors/ staff should be advised to dispose of used face Covers /masks in separate covered bins placed in common areas.
- vii. Swimming pool shall ensure adequate and regular water filtration and chlorination as per laid down standards.
- viii. The swimming pool management may make suitable provisions for Contact-less payments.

- ix. All personal training equipment belonging to any swimmer/coach shall be disinfected every time before use.
- x. Sharing of personal articles such as soaps, towels, water bottles, swimming kit any other utility must be avoided by all.
- xi. Ensure availability of covered dustbins and trash cans in sufficient disposed as per guidelines.

PLANNING FOR OPERATIONS, SCHEDULING AND MONITORING OF ACTIVITIES OF SDAT / NON-SDAT SWIMMING POOLS.

(a) Institutional arrangements.

- i. Management and Monitoring Committee (MMC) shall be responsible for overall implementation of protocols outlined in the SOP.
- ii. Nodal Officers shall be sensitized on the basics of COVID-19. He/she shall be well versed with the SOPs issued by Government of Tamil Nadu, as amended from time to time.
- iii. Prior to resuming operation of swimming pools, every user and staff shall be sensitized on COVID appropriate behavior, which are to be implemented at the swimming pool.
- iv. 100% coverage of Aarogya Setu application among all persons using the pool is desirable. The use of Aarogya Setu app shall be made mandatory for all athletes and staff at the centre. Use of Aarogya Setu may continue on best effort basis on compatible mobile phones. This will facilitate timely provision of medical attention to those individuals who are at risk.

(b) Physical distancing

- i. Physical distancing of 6 feet in the premises of the pool shall be ensured. For swimming, alternate lanes of the pool shall be used from both directions to maintain physical distancing, to the extent feasible.
- ii. Staggering of swimmers for different events/training sessions to be done, to allow for adequate physical distancing.
- iii. Locker rooms for swimmers/ coaches may remain in use provided there is adequate ventilation and regular disinfection.
- iv. Physical distancing of 6 feet also will be followed in shower rooms and change areas.

(c) Crowd management

MMC monitoring shall be ensured to detect crowding at the pool, visitors' gallery, common areas etc. and prompt steps must be taken to avoid such crowds.

(d) Ensuring ventilation

- i. As far as feasible, natural ventilation must be ensured and use of small enclosed spaces must be discouraged.
- ii. Circulation of outdoor air needs to be increased, as much as possible, by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods.
- iii. For air-conditioning/ventilation, of closed enclosures, the guidelines of PWD shall be followed which emphasizes that the temperature setting of all air conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-30° C, relative humidity should be in the range of 40-70%, intake of fresh air should be as much as possible and cross ventilation should be adequate. Air handling unit needs to be cleaned prior to switching on.

(e) Making available COVID related supplies.

- i. Appropriate arrangements for personal protection devices like face covers/masks, heavy duty gloves, face shields, aprons and other logistics like hand sanitizers, soap, Sodium Hypochlorite solution (1%) etc. shall be made available by management.
- ii. Provide an adequate supply of calibrated thermal guns.
- iii. Ensure availability of covered dustbins and trash cans in sufficient numbers to manage waste.

(f) Creating awareness

Provisions must be made for display of Posters/standees/AV media on preventive measures against COVID-19 at prominent places in the premises of the swimming pool.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS.**(a) Risk assessment**

- i. Swimmers, Competitors, coaches, visitors and staff shall submit a declaration to the management stating that they
 - a. are not suffering from any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19;
 - b. have not come in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19;
 - c. Are not residing in an active containment zone.
- ii. It is the responsibility of the owners/authorities/agencies, etc., in-charge of the swimming pools concerned to ensure complete adherence to prescribed protocols and to secure declaration from respective users and staff that any activity undertaken shall be in full compliance to these protocols.
- iii. Thermal screening of all swimmers/competitors/coaches/visitors/staff shall be undertaken prior to allowing access to the pool.

(b) At the entry and exit points

- i. Entrance to have mandatory hand hygiene (sanitizer dispenser) and thermal screening provisions.
- ii. Only asymptomatic persons (swimmers, competitors, coaches, visitors and staff) to be allowed in the premises.
- iii. Separate gates, if feasible, should be used for entry and exit.
- iv. Swimmers, competitors, coaches, visitors and staff to be allowed entry only if using face cover/ masks. The face cover/mask has to be worn at all times inside the premises, except for the time the swimmer is in the pool.

(c) Precautions to be observed at the swimming pool

- i. Swimmers and coaches shall be screened by properly calibrated thermal guns at the entry of pool deck.
- ii. Wash hands with soap and water/ use hand sanitizer at the time of entry to the pool deck.

- iii. Swimmers must take shower before entering and after exiting the pool.
 - iv. Verbal cues should be kept to minimum and screaming should be avoided.
 - v. Swimmers shall avoid taking pool water in their mouth and if required, spitting shall be done only in the pool gutter.
- (d) **Activities in Common Areas – Changing Rooms, Showers, Locker Rooms, Visitors' Gallery/Audience Stand, etc.**
- i. Ensure physical distancing norms in all common areas.
 - ii. In cafeteria, seating arrangement should ensure adequate physical distancing.
 - iii. Cafeteria staff should wear mask and hand gloves and take other required Precautionary measures.
 - iv. Use of gymnasium (if available in the swimming pool complex), should be in accordance with Government of Tamil Nadu guidelines.
 - v. In the kitchen, the staff should follow physical distancing norms at workplace.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED IN CASE OF A SUSPECT CASE IN THE PREMISES.

- I. Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others.
- II. Provide a mask/face cover till such time he/she is examined by a doctor.
- III. Immediately inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or call the state or District helpline.
- IV. A risk assessment will be undertaken by the designated public health authority (District Rapid Response Team /treating physician) and accordingly further action be initiated regarding management of case, his/her contacts and need for disinfection.
- V. Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found positive.

RAJEEV RANJAN
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

/True copy/

26/1/22
26/1/22
SECTION OFFICER

Annexure 1***Members / Athlete Consent Form for resumption of swimming*****Consent Form**

Name - _____

D.O.B - _____ Gender - _____

Stadia/DSC - _____ Sport - _____

City - _____ State - _____

- I hereby acknowledge the risks associated with resuming swimming activity at the centre under the present COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- I hereby acknowledge that the risks involved, necessary precautions and protocols for resumption of activity have been duly informed to me by _____ (DS&YWO/Stadium Officer / Authority concerned)
- I hereby acknowledge the SDAT cannot guarantee the complete elimination of risks posed by COVID-19 through the implementation of the precautions and protocols identified by the SDAT officials
- I hereby declare that I am willing to resume swimming activity at the centre on my own consent without the influence of any other party and I shall adhere to suggested safety precautions and protocols at the SDAT centre

(Signature of Swimmer/ Members)_____
(Signature of Officer)_____
(Name of Swimmer / Members)_____
(Name of Officer)

- *DS&YWO - District Sports and Youth Welfare Officer
- *DSC - District Sports Complex

Annexure 2

Guidelines for use of mask

HOW TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

who.int/epi-win

Do's →



Find the top side, where the metal piece or stiff edge is



Ensure the colored side faces outwards



Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose



Cover your mouth, nose and chin



Inspect the mask for tears or holes



Avoid touching the mask



Remove the mask from behind the ears or head



Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it



Discard the mask immediately after use, preferably into a closed bin



Wash your hands after discarding the mask

Don'ts →



Do not wear a loose mask



Do not touch the front of the mask



Do not remove the mask to talk to someone or do other things that would require touching the mask



Do not leave your used mask within the reach of others



Do not use a ripped or damaged mask



Do not wear the mask only over mouth or nose



Do not reuse the mask

Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from COVID-19. Maintain at least 1 metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, even while wearing a mask.

EPI-WIN



World Health Organization

Annexure 3

Steps of Hand Hygiene

Hand-washing technique with soap and water

1 Wet hands with water

2 Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces

3 Rub hands palm to palm

4 Rub back of each hand with palm of other hand with fingers interlaced

5 Rub palm to palm with fingers interlaced

6 Rub with back of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked

7 Rub each thumb clasped in opposite hand using a rotational movement

8 Rub tips of fingers in opposite palm in a circular motion

9 Rub each wrist with opposite hand

10 Rinse hands with water

11 Use elbow to turn off tap

12 Dry thoroughly with a single-use towel

13 Hand washing should take 15-30 seconds

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/True copy/

20/11/22
 SECTION OFFICER