



**WORLD CHALLENGE  
EUROPE**



SRO MOTORSPORTS GROUP

# COVID-19 PROTOCOL

ISSUE 1 – May 15th 2020

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### IMPORTANT

The information given in this document is intended to provide a framework to allow the GT World Challenge powered by AWS to get underway in Europe.

The information and instructions given may be overruled by:

- Legal requirements from the various Governments
- Instructions and regulations put in place by local authorities
- Instructions and regulations put in place by various National Motorsport Authorities (ASNs)
- Instructions and regulations put in place by the Circuits

Detailed instructions for each event will be published as soon as possible but are subject to change AT ALL TIMES up to and including the Event itself.

The aim of SRO Motorsports Group is to restart the 2020 season of GT competition without placing our personnel, officials, teams, drivers, media, sponsors, support events or any other people in jeopardy.

This framework is based on a phased opening during the 2020 season as follows :

Phase 1: race meetings without public

Phase 2: race meetings with limited public, but with no public access to the paddock, which will be reserved for those working in the various series.

Phase 3: race meetings with public but with restricted access to the paddock. At this stage, access may be given to the paddock but some areas (garages etc) will remain closed.

The remainder of this document applies to race meetings held according to Phase 1, events with no public. When it is possible to move to Phase 2, a new Protocol will be issued with all areas revised and reconsidered.

## A: GENERAL PRINCIPLES – PHASE 1

**The aim of this document is to create a COVID-SAFE environment in order to hold a race-meeting without public.**

In order to achieve this, the following procedures will be put in place.

- Teams must submit a list of personnel attending and where they are travelling from in advance of the event. This form will have to be returned to SRO by the Friday of the week before the event at the very latest. Only cases of force majeure will be handled afterwards
- All persons listed on the Essential Event attendants list must complete a **HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE** which will need to be submitted electronically at the latest on the Monday in the week of the Event (see appendix 1)
- Entry procedures will be set up at the track which will include:
  - Identity check and hand over of personal pass marked with “essential” sticker on the pass
  - **TEMPERATURE CHECK.** Any persons with temperatures higher than 37.5° will be sent to the medical delegate who will determine appropriate action and/or treatment.
- An isolation centre will be designated on site where any persons suspected of being infected or who fall ill during the event will immediately be taken. This will be staffed by medical personal in full protective gear (FFP2 masks etc). All personnel will be informed of the location of this room and the procedures they should follow in case of illness.
- The hygiene measures which will be taken, as well as the social distancing measures, will be specified in the remainder of this protocol.

**Important Note :** This “Protocol document” will be issued to all concerned.

Each cell (see section 2 below) will be under the responsibility of a named person, who will have to sign a document to confirm they have read and understood this Protocol document, and who will ensure that it is applied by everyone in their Cell.

Any people contravening the regulations may be removed from the site.

### 1: LIMITED NUMBERS

Teams, manufacturers and industries (tyre, fuel, brake, tear-offs suppliers, etc.) will be limited in terms of the numbers of personnel allowed to attend the track.

As a principle, only vital personnel will be allowed

Personnel with underlying health issues considered as vulnerable are advised not to attend.

- No parents, partners, friends
- No physios, team media personnel, team TV crews
- No guests, no VIPs
- No catering (depending on local regulations)

However, each driver will be allowed **one guest**, which may be a sponsor or partner, or a parent or guardian for drivers aged under 18.

Teams, manufacturers and industries should consider carefully whether each individual person's presence is vital on track or whether their work can be done remotely.

No cars will be allowed in the paddock areas.

## 2: LIMITED FUNCTIONAL CELLS

The aim is to divide personnel into small functional cells who will remain together throughout the Event, and to limit as much as possible contact between the cells.

Each Team will constitute a cell. They are expected to arrive and depart together, to remain together and not to mingle with other cells to the absolute minimum.

Other cells will include:

- SRO staff
- Sporting officials
- Technical
- TV
- ASN staff
- SRO media staff
- Etc

These cells will be encouraged to set up communications within their cell.

The SRO or GTWCE team messaging applications and videoconferences will be used. On the team messaging applications, sub-groups may be set up for private communication. (Please see article 8 on communication).

## 3: HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

**No person who has any health concerns, or any symptoms such as fever, cough, etc before leaving home should travel to the event and must remain at home.**

Health checks will take place on entry to the circuit every day. This will include temperature checks.

Any person failing these checks will be excluded from the Event and everyone in their cell will be subjected to further tests and may be excluded from the Event as well.

Any participant developing symptoms should be reported to SRO and the Medical Delegate immediately.

All personnel attending an Event must be in possession of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needed for the duration of the Event.

**MASKS** must be worn by all people in attendance at all times, unless the nose and mouth are covered by appropriate safety equipment as required in the Sporting Regulations.  
The mask is to be changed two or three times per day according to the model.

**HANDS** must be washed frequently and thoroughly.

**HAND GEL** must be used if it is impossible to wash hands

**GLOVES, GLASSES AND VISORS** are to be used by the cleaning staff, those in the medical centre who may be in contact with COVID-19 cases and in special cases listed below. Those must be provided by the circuit.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING OF A MINIMUM OF 2 METRES / 6 FEET** must be maintained at all times, including:

- directions set up to avoid crossing in corridors or staircases
- individual timetables to avoid waiting

Circuits / Event Promoters are reminded that the medical personnel should be provided with personal protective equipment. This includes the personnel at the medical centre, those in the ambulances, and in the extrication team. The recovery personnel must have masks and gloves as a minimum.

#### **4. HOSPITALITIES AND CATERING**

According to local regulations, hospitalities / caterers may be forbidden. In this case, options will be made available for the sale of lunch boxes by the Circuit or Event Promoter.

If hospitalities are authorised, the following rules must be followed:

- Simple hospitality units (tents and trucks). Ventilation is essential.
- No buffets / self-service. Lunch boxes are preferred
- No fresh produce or items prepared by hand.
- No cutlery should be available in self-service.
- Tables must be placed at a minimum of 2 metres apart
- All surfaces must be disinfected regularly.
- Chairs should be on one side of the table only.

No communal water dispensers or coffee machines, no food dispensers. Individual bottles or cans only.

Circuit facilities such as bars and restaurants may be closed. If open, social distancing must be practiced, staff must wear masks and electronic payment should be favoured.

#### **5: FACILITIES / CLEANING**

**Each cell is responsible for keeping their own areas clean, disinfected and aerated.**

The Circuit/Event Promoter must ensure that:

- Garages are cleaned and disinfected before the start of the event. Teams are responsible for cleaning their garages regularly during the Event.
- Toilets and showers must be thoroughly cleaned at hourly intervals. The circuit/event promoter must make soap, disposable towels and hand gel available throughout the event and provide the cleaning personnel with the necessary PPE.

- Offices, race control, media centre and other areas including corridors, stairwells, lifts must be cleaned and disinfected before, during (in the evening or the morning) and after the Event. Vacuum cleaners should be avoided unless fitted with a HEPA filter. Rooms should be ventilated regularly. Particular attention to be paid to door handles, light switches, lift buttons etc. Foot-operated bins should be emptied regularly.

## 6: OFFICES

It is imperative to respect the safety distances in the offices. A space of 4 m<sup>2</sup> should be provided per person, leaving space for corridors etc.

- Marks on the ground for queues etc
- Individual desks, working back-to-back as a preference
- Sufficient air circulation / ventilation
- Equipment must not be shared (phone, screen etc) and must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

The following must be provided per office:

- Disinfecting wipes
- Rubbish bags that can be closed
- Foot-operated bins
- Hand gel
- Disposable towels

Offices must have windows and must be regularly opened to air

Doors should be kept open whenever possible.

## 7: TEAM GARAGES / TRUCKS /EQUIPMENT ETC

Trucks will be placed at greater distances from each other than usual. Teams should remain remote in the pit lane.

Garage doors must remain open.

Garages must be disinfected regularly.

Personal fans and ventilation systems are forbidden.

All equipment must be kept for personal use and must be disinfected before and after use and stored separately. This includes:

- Helmets
- Headsets
- Radios
- Phones
- Computers
- Overalls
- Balaclavas
- Individual tools

Shared tools (eg tyre guns etc) should only be used when wearing gloves.

## **8: PERSONAL CIRCULATION AT THE TRACK**

A one-way system will be put in operation, to avoid people crossing in the corridors. This must be followed by all concerned.

Stickers will be placed on the ground to show the way.

Different cells will be forced to use different doors.

Lines will be marked on the ground at a safe distance in any place where people may have to wait.

Individual timetables will be set up to avoid queuing wherever possible.

Limits will be placed on the number of people allowed in any room at any time, including lifts / bathrooms etc. Only one person per lift at any time.

## **9: COMMUNICATION**

Remote communication is to be favoured at all times.

- Greater use of the team messaging application
- Phones
- Radios

Radios / earphones / headsets must be disinfected regularly and must not be shared.

Additional groups will be set up on the Team Messaging for different cells which should be used for communication between teams and suppliers etc.

- Pirelli
- Fuel
- Logistics
- etc

Video conferences will be set up using Amazon Chime that will be used for briefings, the organization meeting, stewards hearings etc. All the details will be supplied in advance of the Event.

PLEASE SEE THE SPORTING CHAPTER IN THIS DOCUMENT FOR MORE DETAILS ON BRIEFINGS ETC.

## **10: SUPPORT EVENT PADDOCKS**

Each support series will be required to remain in their own paddock area, and not to mix with the other series.

Support series will be expected to follow the regulations set by SRO for the paddock as a whole but are expected to apply their own protocols within their paddocks and for their own sporting and technical procedures. They are requested to share any documentation and to help SRO to maintain a Covid-safe event.

Support Series will be allowed to dismantle straight after the end of their last race and leave the Circuit, this in order to space out the departure of personnel and trucks from the event.

## **11: ENTERTAINMENT / EVENTS**

No additional fan entertainment, including grid walks, pit walks, autograph sessions, entertainment and amusement arcades, will take place during the event.

Shops may remain open as long as they maintain standard social distancing / masks etc.

## **12: TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION**

Travel by car should be favoured, but with a maximum of two people per vehicle (one in front and one behind). As a consequence, additional parking passes will be made available per team.

Shared accommodation in caravans, camping cars, trucks etc is not authorized.

## B : MEDIA

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

#### 1: CLOSED EVENTS

##### Events will be closed to the media

No accreditations will be accepted, no media will be authorised to be at the event.

Those who have already requested permanent passes have been told that accreditation is on hold. The media accreditation links on the website have been suspended.

Circuits have been informed that no media will be accepted, and that they cannot accept any press. Should local media be accepted by other means, SRO reserves the right to close the media centre or insist that any such people work elsewhere.

All teams/brands will be informed that their media teams will not be accepted: only one official photographer nominated per brand will be authorized.

Non-SRO passes (ASN or circuit) will not be valid.

#### 2: AUTHORISED MEDIA PERSONNEL

##### GT World Challenge

- Minimal SRO staff
- SRO photographers (2 or 3) who must be working exclusively for SRO
- 1 nominated photographer per manufacturer present.

##### For support series

- Max 1 press officer
- Max 1 photographer OR videographer

##### Circuit personnel

If circuit wants representation, max 1 press officer and 1 circuit photographer may be in attendance, in their office, in the media centre.

The circuit must provide for technical assistance for the media centre (internet, screens, power etc)

There is no need for hostesses, national press officer, photocopiers, pigeonholes etc

#### 3: OFFICES / EQUIPMENT

Max 25 people (SRO team – Brand photographers – support races photographer and press officer); spread throughout the available space in the media centre

- Masks, gloves, gel etc
- Plastic bags for overalls
- Tabards to be issued, disinfected, and to be kept for the season
- No drinks dispensers, coffee machines etc. Bottled water to be supplied.

#### 4: CONDITIONS FOR AUTHORISED PHOTOGRAPHERS

- Only SRO photographers (red tabards) will be allowed in the pit lane.
- Manufacturer photographers are only allowed in their part of the media centre and around the track.
- Support series photographers/videographers are only allowed in their part of the media centre and around the track during their sessions
- Access to pit garages is prohibited for the SRO Communications Team and the Manufacturer photographers

NO access to pit garages, paddocks for support teams, trucks etc.

No media shuttles. Scooters authorized for use on the safety roads, or cars (1 photographer per car) where circuits allow. Strict rules to be followed on use of the roads

Photographers to keep their distance around the track (especially at windows)

Videographers etc to use long arms for microphones.

#### 5: CONDITIONS FOR ACCESS TO THE CIRCUIT

Media passes will be supplied in advance by post. No media accreditation centre

Testing / confidential health questionnaire in advance

Manufacturers must nominate one photographer for the full season – no changes except for force majeure

#### 6: ASSISTANCE FOR REMOTE MEDIA

A document will be produced listing all the facilities made available for media to follow at home:

- Live streaming
- Live timing
- Results
- Reports
- Videos

No Podiums, no press conferences

A Messaging application for Media will be set up and monitored to allow remote media to ask questions

If there is an interest from media, online conferences with drivers will be set up.

## C : TELEVISION & TV CREW

### 1: TV CREW

The numbers at the track will have to be kept to a strict minimum.

Access to track and TV compound only.

Cameramen around the circuit should be fine as they work alone.

RF camera crew to have access to pit wall, grid and parc fermé, keeping at a two-metre distance. Provisions to be made on starting grid.

No access to garages or team trucks.

TV crew in trucks to maintain social distancing and wear PPE when necessary.

Pre-event interviews to be conducted remotely with drivers requested to record and send video messages following TV's specifications.

TV commentary to be done remotely.

A pit lane reporter will be authorized, wearing full protective gear with mask, visor and gloves, and using a long-arm microphone, or using a boom pole over 2 metres long.

TV interview area with backdrop where social distancing can be put in place for one-to-one interviews away from the pit lane.

Drivers to provide photos in advance instead of usual photo shoots, following strict guidelines to be issued to teams.

### 2: CHANGES TO EVENT FUNCTIONALITY

No podiums, no press conferences.

Social distancing to be maintained. Use of an interview area set up with a microphone

Onboard cameras to be fitted by previous appointment, using full PPE and disinfection.

### 3: ASSESSIBILITY FOR REMOTE WORKING

Use of the FTP to be extended to more teams and media.

Option for teams to order specific footage in advance – costs to be discussed

3 min video news release that can be used by anyone.

## D : TEAM RELATIONS

### 1: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Instructions will be added to the sporting regulations (or via a Sporting Note / Bulletin if documents have already been issued) to state that teams not abiding by these guidelines will be reported to the Stewards. This could include sporting penalties for teams, for places where a monetary fine might be considered inconsequential.

Instructions can be altered during an event and may be altered event by event depending on other instructions from the local government and/ or ASN.

### 2: DISTRIBUTION OF STICKERS AND OTHER ITEMS

Detailed guidelines will be produced for each Series with the sizes / colours etc of all stickers, plus file, in order for teams who so wish to produce their own stickers.

An order form will be produced listing all items that a team may require for each team to mention how many they need to be returned by (set date). This form will be given to Logistics who will prepare the package and put it in the garage before the team arrives. This includes:

- Stickers
  - o Door panels
  - o Numbers
  - o Windscreen banner
  - o National Flag
  - o Category stickers
  - o Pirelli
  - o Total/Elf
  - o Assetto Corsa
  - o Truck
  - o Garage walls
- Patches
  - o Pirelli
  - o GT World Challenge powered by AWS
  - o Total 24 hours of Spa
- Armbands
- Totem and Starting Grid packages (not needed if closed to the public and limited team personnel)
- Pit Panels
- ADR
- GPS / Lumirank package

\*Sponsors to confirm if teams can produce stickers due to exceptional circumstances. TBC

### 4: PODIUMS / PRESS CONFERENCES

Standard podiums will be impossible. The aim is to reduce groups of people of any sort.

A trophy collection pedestal will be set up, to which a microphone will be rigged so the driver goes on his own, picks up the trophy and speaks into the microphone.

## **5: PARC FERME**

See Technical chapter F.

## **6: GRID AND STARTING PROCEDURE**

No grid walk, no check for access onto the grid. All gates opened to speed up the procedure, social distancing between teams. No VIPs.

A strict maximum number of people per car on the grid - three per car excluding the driver(s). Any cars with more than the maximum to be reported to the Stewards for a sporting penalty (drive-through)

With no grid walk, the starting procedures may be reduced, with the pit lane closing at the ten minutes board.

## **7 : TEAM RELATIONS OFFICES**

No counters at the track; reduce to the maximum the number of people face to face.

Online versions of all the forms (driver nomination, starting driver etc) will be available on (link to website).

## E : SPORTING

### 1: ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS

This is the responsibility of the ASN so specific rules will be put in place at each event.

However, SRO will provide the ASN with a dossier of the information needed, meaning that ALL drivers and teams will have to submit photos of the following documents for checks to take place in advance of the event:

- both sides of the licence
- medical certificate if applicable
- ASN visa if applicable
  
- General photo and close-up photo of the label of each item of clothing
- Photo and close-up photo of the label on the helmet
- Photo and close-up photo of the label on the FHR
- Photo and close-up photo of the compulsory series and sponsors patches on the overalls

These items will be compiled into a document which will be sent back for signature and must be returned.

### 2: BRIEFING

The team managers' briefing will take place by Digital group (Amazon Chime) to allow team managers to ask questions.

The Drivers briefing will take place by videoconference or on Chime and must be watched by all. The presentation will also be supplied as a pdf document.

After watching all team managers and drivers must confirm receipt to indicate that they have attended the briefing.

### 3: CONTACT AT CIRCUIT

The contact between people at the circuit will be drastically reduced. This includes using the Team Messaging Application for all questions.

There will be no runners and no contact with the pit marshals, who will remain on the wall.

### 4: SPORTING PERSONNEL / OFFICIALS

A reduced sporting staff will be present at the event. There will be no direct contact between staff and teams, and all questions must be given over the Team Messaging application.

Teams will not have access to Race Control or the Sporting offices.

The race director will communicate using the team radio and screen messages.

The Stewards may use video-conferencing means to hold hearings.

All documents will be sent via team messaging or email, and receipt must be confirmed.

All footage from Pit Gantry cameras must be uploaded on a specific site instead of handing in the cards.

The official leading car and safety car will run with the SRO driver only, with no co-driver.

## 5: PIT STOPS

Final regulations for the pit stops will depend on the ASN procedures in force for the event.

At all times the following procedures should be followed

- Pit lane personnel to wear face masks or full helmets instead of just goggles and balaclavas
- Teams to maintain a distance from other teams on each side
- 2 m distance to be maintained, including on the pit wall and in the garage
- Overalls and other driver equipment to be disinfected regularly
- Cockpit to be disinfected (wiped with sanitary wipes or using a disinfectant spray) regularly including steering wheel, dashboard, seat, radio
- Teams to wear gloves before touching shared equipment / tools

The following changes are advised concerning the pit stop and will be confirmed in the Appendix 1 / Supplementary Regulations for the Event:

### SPRINT

If the mandatory driver-change pit stop has to be extended for mandatory disinfection of the car, the only way to do this is to impose a pit stop time in Pro and Silver Cup as well. The disinfection procedure cannot be rushed or done in such a way as to have a competitive element.

This would also imply the cancellation of the Pit Stop Challenge until further notice.

Suggested procedure is as follows:

- Car stops.
- Driver 1 exits with help from driver assistant mechanic.
- Mechanic to disinfect car fully
- During this time the two mechanics with a red armband can change the tyres
- Each tyre must be deposited behind the line by the mechanic with the red armband. No personnel on the other side of the line may take or catch the tyre.
- Once the tyre change has taken place and both mechanics are the other side of the line, Driver 2 may get in to the car, with help from the driver mechanic

Suggested time for pit stop:

Pro/Silver: Pit lane delta + acceleration / deceleration + 20 seconds for tyres + 10 additional seconds for disinfection

Pro-Am / Sports Club: pit lane delta + acceleration / deceleration + 30 seconds for tyres + 10 additional seconds for disinfection

Note: driver assistant mechanic to be fully dressed with gloves / mask / glasses

### ENDURANCE

Pit stop to be adjusted for mandatory disinfection of the car.

Suggested procedure is as follows:

- Car stops.
- Driver 1 exits with help from driver assistant mechanic.
- Once Driver 1 is across the line, the refueling may begin.
- During refueling, mechanic to disinfect car fully
- Once refueling has finished, the two mechanics with a red armband can change the tyres.
- Each tyre must be deposited behind the line by the mechanic with the red armband. No personnel on the other side of the line may take or catch the tyre.
- During the tyre changes, Driver 2 may get in the car and be assisted by the mechanic.

Note: driver assistant mechanic to be fully dressed with gloves / mask / glasses

For six- and twenty-four-hour races:

- If no driver change takes place, disinfection need not take place. The driver stays in the car. Refuelling and tyre changes take place according to standard procedures.
- If a driver change takes place but no tyre changes are planned, the car can restart as soon as the car has been disinfected. However, the second driver cannot enter until after the end of the refueling.

Further details on means of disinfection during the pit stop will be given asap.

IMPORTANT NOTE: if stricter procedures are in place for an individual event, further changes may be imposed.

For example, if fewer personnel are authorised during the pit stop:

- One mechanic at a time for the tyre change. This could still be shared by two tyre mechanics, but only one in the working lane at any one time
- Data engineer and additional mechanic (driver aide, windscreen etc) only allowed in the pit lane after the tyres have been changed
- Driver change to take place either before or after the refueling /tyres

## F : TECHNICAL

### 1: SCRUTINEERING GARAGE

- All scrutineers and data technician have to sit minimum two metres from each other
- Tables, chairs etc have to be disinfected before using them
- The doors of the garage have to remain open as long as people are inside
- Scrutineers and data technician have to wear masks, gloves and safety goggles
- All material and scales have to be disinfected after each use
- All material has to be put on separated table or place with enough cleaning and disinfectant material

### 2: INITIAL SCRUTINEERING

- Following strict timetable, must foresee a bit more time
- Car can be pushed by only 3 team members
- Only 2 team members can go into scrutineering garage and have to wear mask and gloves and respect physical distancing when doing measurements. One Scrutineer will follow and write down measurements on own document.
- They will have to disinfect any tool they have used for taking measurements
- Paper Technical passports will not be used, technical information will be filed on pc
- If sealing of weight and or restrictor has to be done, this will be done inside team pit garage but only with open garage door and all team members being minimum 2 meters from the car
- Check and sealing of refueling rig and refueling rig restrictor has to be done in front of team's pit garage with team members being 2 meters from the unit.
- Teams are not permitted to touch the inspection tools.

### 3: PARC FERME

- Parc fermé will be in the garages except for cars chosen for scrutineering
- Parc fermé in the garages means also that team members have to stay minimum 2 meters from the car in order for the data technician to collect data. After each FP session when data technician collects data in the garage, team members have also to stay 2 meters from the car.
- Cars chosen for scrutineering have to be separated by enough space to respect physical distancing and have to drain the fuel. Max 2 team member can stay around the car.
- Cars will be called for scrutineering, same process as for initial scrutineering but measurements will be taken by scrutineers while only 1 team member can stay in the scrutineering garage.
- After scrutineering cars will be pushed by max 3 team members back to own pit garage to remain in parc fermé situation.

### 4 : COMMUNICATION

Communication from and to scrutineers has to go only via online or via radio communication.

**APPENDIX 1  
MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

This questionnaire must be completed by each person attending an event and returned in advance along with the list of personnel in attendance. Further details will be given before each Event.

**QUESTIONNAIRE COVID - (EVENT NAME)**

LAST NAME :

FIRST NAME :

AGE :

FUNCTION AT THE EVENT :

TEAM :

SINCE MARCH 2020 : In which country have you been in confinement ?.....

In which town ?.....

SINCE MARCH 2020 : During the period of confinement, have you travelled ?

In which country or area ?.....

HAVE YOU CAUGHT COVID- 19 ? YES NO

If YES – on what date ? .....

Result of the PCR test if taken ( + ) ( - )

Result of the blood test if taken ( + ) ( - )

I confirm that the information given above is correct

Signed by :

Date :