

SUMMARY OF THE GROUP B NATIONS SURVEY

The survey was sent to 12 member federations in Group B. That was the members that participated in both tournaments 2019 and 2020 or in one of them. We had 2 questions...

1. *What is the current covid situation in your country?*
2. *Do your federation intend to participate in the World Championships Group B?*

PARTICIPATING IN SYKTYVKAR

4 member federations plan to participate in Group B tournament in Syktyvkar. That is Czech Republic, Great Britain, Ukraine and Slovakia.

7 member federations do not plan to participate due to the covid situation. That is Somalia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Latvia, Canada, Japan and China.

Mongolia has not yet answered.

I also got answer from Estonia and Hungary that they want to participate in Group A in Syktyvkar.

A COPY OF THE VERBATIM ANSWERS

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. The situation of covid is slightly better than last year. However now is coming omicron to the Czechia. We are now in situation 14 days before Danmark, Great Britain, Netherland and etc.
2. We want to participate in Syktyvkar WCS. Now we just waiting on official invitation and anticovid rules about championship, if we have to stay in Syktyvkar because of positive test it could be problem for lot of our players and members. /Jan Peter

GREAT BRITAIN

I am awaiting information from my coaches etc and assume we may enter a team.
/Lyn Gibb-de Swarte

SOMALIA

1. The covid situation in Sweden where most of the players live is almost the worst ever. New restrictions appeared today.
2. We do not intend to participate in Syktyvkar. /Hans Grandin

SWITZERLAND

- 1) the situation in Switzerland is bad. We have now more then 3 times more infected people than during the 2nd lockdown But now, no lockdown is forseen. The situation is going the same until then end of january at least.
- 2) We have the same opinion then Netherland. The financial situation is our main problem. If we organize everything and it's canceled, it would be a disaster for the federation. We have the same problem with the Women team for Sweden. If we organise the 2 championships and it's canceled without any financial help from FIB, we can stop the "Swiss bandy

federation". If one of us is in quarantine in Russia, it would be a big problem. (job and financial). For these 2 reasons, there is a weak chance that we would participate. The best solution for us is to postpone the championship for the next year. And not between november and february. /Thierry Page

UKRAINE

Ukraine is in yellow zone now. It's not bad, we don't have any extra limitation for vaccinated people. Last year we had the same situation. But in spring and autumn we usually have more COVID-cases. Ukrainian team is ready to participate in the WCS in Syktyvkar.

/Hennadii Babenko

NETHERLANDS

The situation is not good in the Netherlands. New records of infections every day, and also a fast increase in infections (average number of infections in a week raised +75% this week).

Since today, the number of persons in a hospital increased again. We are in a lockdown, might be extended after this week.

Because of the fact that the tournament can be cancelled at the last moment, we have quite high financial risks. Also, players and/or leaders have to stay in quarantine in Russia if tested positive. Mainly because of these two reasons, the chances are very small that the Netherlands will participate in Syktyvkar.

We prefer to move the tournament to October. If the WCS Group A can go on as planned in Syktyvkar, this also brings group A and B again on "equal level" what would be an added advantage.

The situation must change significantly on short term, otherwise this will be our final answer. /Frank Peters

SLOVAKIA

1. Situation in Slovakia is getting better. This week sport and cultural activities are open up. We don't have so many omicron cases. Hopefully this situation will stay like that. Hospitals are having less patients.

2. Slovakia is ready to play on WC. We would need to know what would be conditions to play in WC? Financial conditions, also conditions to enter Russia and what happened if somebody will get positive during the WC. Lot of questions to be answered. /Slovak Bandy

LATVIA

1. The situation is not good in Latvia. We have here a fast increase in infections, the number of persons in a hospital increases. We are not in a lockdown yet, but it might be imposed any day.

2. Because of the fact that the tournament can be canceled at the last moment, we have quite high financial risks. Also, players and/or leaders have to stay in quarantine in Russia if tested positive. Mainly because of these two reasons, the chances are very small that Latvia will participate in Syktyvkar. We prefer to move the tournament to October. If the WCS Group A can go on as planned in Syktyvkar, this also brings groups A and B again on an

“equal level” which would be an added advantage.

Unless the situation changes significantly, this is our decision. /Nikolajs Sergejevs

CANADA

1. Covid is increasing this month in Canada. Omicron is spreading quickly here. Here is an example of how bad it is in Canada. All NHL teams in Canada cannot have fans in the arenas. Starting from December 26 th 2021 till maybe end of January 2022

2. Canada will not be sending a team this year. Majority of players do not want to fly that far. They are worried they might contract COVID flying and stopping at different airports around the world. /Costa Cholakis

JAPAN

1. Although the infection has not spread since a year ago, the government's restrictions on international travel have been extended by the Omicron strain to a two-week hold period upon return, the same as before.

2. Unfortunately, both the men's and women's Japan teams will have to withdraw from the World Championships in March 2022. We would appreciate it if you could let us know if there is any change in your scheduled dates for World Championships. /Gen Ishioka

CHINA

2. Unfortunately, China Bandy are not able to participate in the Group B World Championships held on March 8-13. /Wu Dawei

Best regards

Kjell Anderstedt