



**UNITED STATES
OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE**
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 325N
Washington, DC 20004

Background

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, President Biden issued Geographic Presidential Proclamations suspending the entry to the United States of foreign nationals, regardless of citizenship, who have had a physical presence in a restricted nation at any point in the 14 days before their arrival. Foreign nationals (excluding legal permanent residents) may not enter without receiving a National Interest Exemption 212(f) waiver from the Department of Homeland Security. The following countries are restricted:

Africa: South Africa **Asia/Middle East:** China and Iran **Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.K. **South America:** Brazil

Note: Transit through any of the listed nations (ex: flight lay-over) constitutes as having a physical presence.

U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee National Interest Exemption for Events and Training

On August 11, 2020, DHS issued a National Interest Exemption notice to the USOPC for international athletes, essential staff, and their dependents participating in **senior-level international competitions and training**. On January 25, 2021, President Biden's administration extended the National Interest Exemption 212(f) waiver. The Government Relations office is facilitating the waivers through U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Instructions for NGBs

1. Complete the waiver request spreadsheet (included) for each traveler(s) at least seven (7) days prior to the expected arrival to the United States. **Note:** if the traveler(s) needs to secure a visa in addition to a travel waiver, submit the waiver request at the same time as the visa application. Send the completed request to Nick Lowenthal, Inbound Travel Assistant @ Nick.Lowenthal@usopc.org
 - a. Please make sure the information provided for an individual requesting a waiver matches what is on their passport. The USOPC is not able to guarantee a valid waiver will be issued in time for travel if the information in an initial request to U.S. Customs and Border Protection is provided incorrectly.
 - b. In Column L ("Airline, Flight Number and Date"), for each traveler please write either: 4+ Week Stay: Yes/No, in addition to their relevant flight information.
2. Submit a one-pager document describing the COVID-19 protocols for the event. Please include language about efforts to test and isolate and the CDC's information about [vaccinated travel](#).
3. Within five business days of submission, the USOPC will notify the NGB of the waiver status. When clearance is granted, the USOPC will provide a confirmation letter as evidence of a 212(f) waiver.
4. Advise the traveler(s) to check the information on the U.S. Embassy website in the country where they reside. Each embassy may have specific instructions for individuals to travel on a National Interest Exemption. If asked, the traveler(s) should provide the USOPC waiver confirmation letter.

Additional Information:

- An individual's role at an event must be clearly defined (i.e., Athlete, Coach, Trainer, etc.) Family members and certain support staff may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Travelers must agree to follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocols upon arrival in the U.S., to include quarantine. Please find the CDC's protocols [here](#).
- At this time determination of a waiver's validity length (either 30-day, single-entry, or, 1-year, multiple-entry) is decided on a case-by-case basis by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The purpose of the trip must relate to the NGB/event organizer.
- The waiver, if granted, does not exempt travelers from inspection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or exempt them from standard entry requirements, including visa, passport, and any other necessary documentation requirements.