

EASE TALKS

The voice of European Sport Employers



2nd edition

The implementation of the Covid health pass and its consequences for the sport sector in Europe


Context

The European Association of Sport Employers gathered European sport employers' representative for a time of exchange around the implementation of the Covid health pass and its consequences for the sport sector in Europe.

The consultation of sport employers' representative provided EASE with interesting data about the regulations including covid certificate at national level for the sport sector.



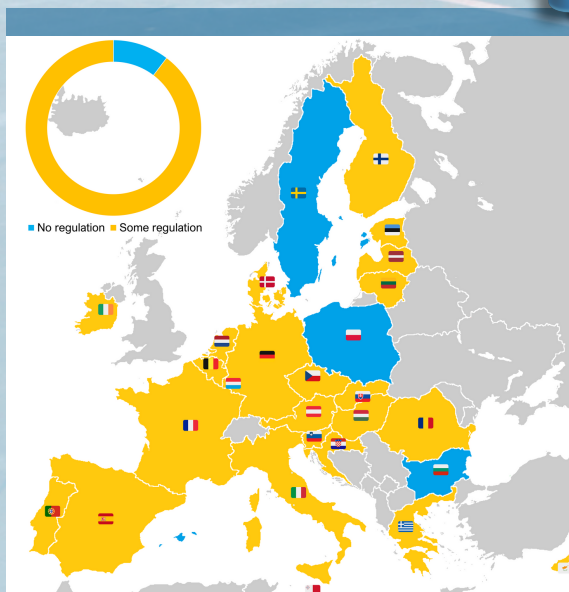
The implementation of Covid pass for the sport sector in Europe:



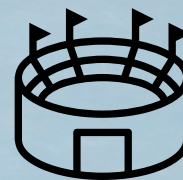
The Covid pass has had a differentiated application given the sub-sectors of sport. In November 2021, 24 countries out of the 27 of the European Union implemented a Covid-certificate system to attend high-level sport events in stadiums and arenas therefore affecting the professional sports. At the same date, 14 out of 27 EU countries implemented a Covid-pass for the practice of associative/not-for-profit sports. Finally, 15 out of the 27 EU countries implemented a similar restriction on the active leisure sector (fitness clubs, climbing, ...). Note that in the following data, a country is considered to have implemented a covid certificate measure to one of the subsectors even if the measure as ended or only applies to part of its territory.

A differentiated application given the countries on various criteria:

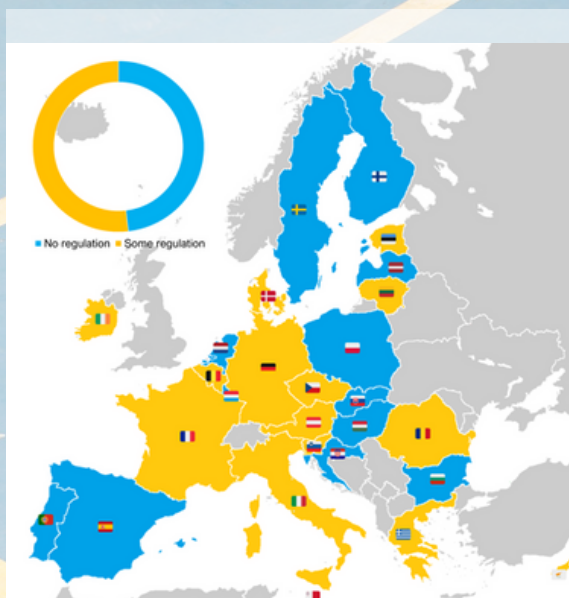
- Differentiation between indoor / outdoor sporting activities
- Differentiation between youth sports / adult sports (often non requested for minors in this case)
- Differentiation depending on the epidemic situation in local regions (mostly for federal states)
- Differentiation depending on the number of participants to the sport activities (the pass become requested from a certain number of people participating in the sport activity)



Attendance in stadiums



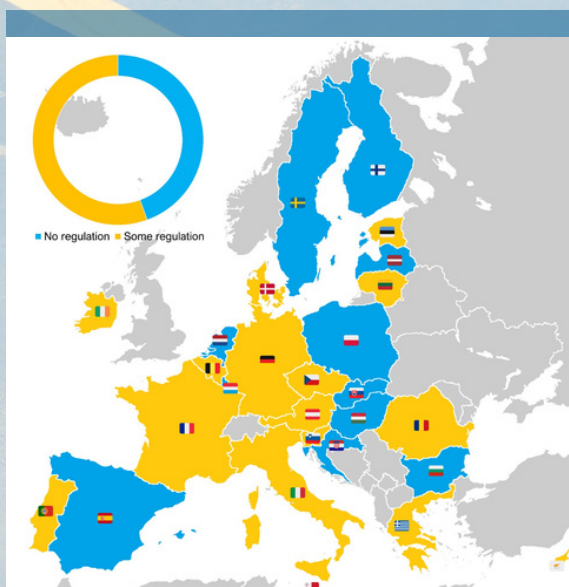
24/27 countries



Associative / not-for-profit sports



14/27 countries



Active leisure



15/27 countries

The sport employers' consultation raised some issues linked to the implementation of the covid health pass:

- Legal difficulties due to Constitutional rules that prevent to ask people for a proof of vaccination (Netherlands, Finland).
- Operational difficulties due to the need for more workers to control the pass (France) or political oppositions that want to block the implementation
- The opposition of some clients or players to get the Covid pass has led to:
 - a decline in sport practice
 - issues linked to employment in countries where the covid pass is requested to work in the sport sector or at least for profession in contact with the participants in physical activity (Italy, France)
- Financial difficulties as the implementation of the Covid pass could lead to a drop in activity that doesn't compensate the stop of state aids (Belgium).