



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'AUTOMOBILE

FIA FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

2022 Media Access Protocols





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1. Introduction

Formula 1 Media in 2022

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on working life around the world, the entire Formula 1 community changed the way it worked in order to adapt to new pressures and conditions, including the media.

The FIA, together with Formula 1 and the teams, has worked throughout the pandemic with the aim of a safe and incremental return to pre-pandemic levels of access. Significant steps were taken in this regard during the 2021 season, and the FIA thanks the written and photo media for their diligence and respect of the protocols over the past two years.

As the world emerges from the impacts of COVID-19, the priority of the FIA remains the safety of all participants and attendees at its events. This document details the latest protocols and requirements for accredited Formula 1 media, and may be updated and changed at any time throughout the year.

The local health regulations of the country in which a Grand Prix is being held take precedence over any event-specific protocol and must be followed at all times.

All of the access protocols and information set out will only be successful if all accredited media respect and adhere to what is required of them. The priority of the FIA and all stakeholders is on the safe running of events for all involved, and to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on the continued running of the championship.

It is therefore a requirement as part of the FIA's Accreditation Guidelines for all members of the Formula 1 media to read this document carefully and respect all of the protocols detailed herein.

The FIA Formula 1 Communications team is available should you require any further clarification or have any questions.

Updates to the weekend format

The 2022 FIA Formula 1 Sporting Regulations, first published in October 2019, outline a new weekend format that changes the timing of activities during the event.

- The Formula 1 events now take place over three days, rather than four, meaning that there are no official activities scheduled for the Thursday of a Grand Prix weekend. Media Centres will be open from Thursday lunchtimes, and teams are encouraged to provide one-to-one opportunities for the media on Thursdays.
- The official Drivers' Press Conference will take place on Friday mornings, and the Team Representatives Press Conference on Saturday mornings. More details can be found in Chapter 6 of this document.

2. Accreditation

Permanent Accreditation

The deadline for permanent accreditation for the 2022 FIA Formula One World Championship is 15 February.

Once you have applied for your permanent 2022 pass, please note the following: Access to events in 2022 will still be subject to the requirements set out in Appendix S to the International Sporting Code and all local health authority requirements. In the majority of cases, we will no longer stipulate social distancing within the media centres.

We therefore require **no longer** all permanent passholders to use the Accreditation Management System to indicate which events they plan to attend during this season* – all permanent passes will be activated at each event.

It is possible that local regulations may require us to impose limitations on the media centres at some events in 2022. In these cases, the FIA F1 Media Delegate will notify the permanently-accredited media as far as possible in advance and it will be necessary for all media representatives to apply for such races individually. In such scenarios we will accommodate as many people as possible and operate a rota system in case of over-subscription.

Specific details regarding entry requirements (such as travel requirements, COVID-19 testing etc.) will be detailed in due course.

All other media must apply race-by-race, except where a Grand Prix takes place in their home country, in which case they must apply to the National Press Officer for that event.

*Please note that this does not apply for the pre-season tests, which must be applied for separately to any permanent media applications

3. Remote Working

Written Media Content Portal

One of the key introductions made since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic was the creation of the F1 Written Media Portal, which provided access to a suite of key resources allowing media to report remotely on Formula 1 events.

The Written Media Content Portal will remain active for 2022, allowing access to the FIA Press Conference live feed, broadcast feeds and live timing pages.

Each permanent publication has already been allocated a login to the portal. Please contact FIA F1 Communications if you have any difficulties connecting to your account or if you need a copy of the User Guide.

Temporary access to the Portal may be requested by race-by-race and national media applicants.

Pool Content

While the majority of restrictions on access have now been lifted, it remains the case that certain areas remain restricted, and therefore some pool content will remain available for the media:

- Editorially rights-free imagery from restricted locations where applicable
- Audio files for transcription purposes from all FIA Press Conferences
- Audio files for transcription purposes following Free Practice 2, Qualifying and the Race

4. Paddock Access

General Rules

The COVID-19 Code of Conduct ([Appendix S to the International Sporting Code](#)) governs behaviour for all persons at Formula 1 events, and as in 2021, all attendees must adhere to this Code. Many key aspects of Appendix S will be updated for 2022*, including:

- All attendees are required to be fully vaccinated (as defined by the health authorities of their country of residence). Proof of vaccination status will be required when collecting media accreditation.
- Testing regime adapted
 - o No more pre-event testing required, note that testing may still be required to enter certain countries and is the responsibility of the attendee to arrange
 - o No other mandatory on-site testing. It will be highly recommended that all Attendees are tested onsite within 24 hours of their arrival at the venue
 - o Onsite testing available if needed
- The interaction between groups will now be permitted. It is highly recommended to reduce interactions between groups wherever possible.
- Masks must be worn at all times at the venue except whilst at a personal workstation.
- Any interviews with team personnel must be pre-arranged with the team.
- Each accredited party must fill out all required documentation relating to COVID protocols and are responsible for submitting them within the appropriate deadlines.

Any non-compliance with COVID requirements may result in the removal of accreditation.

*These updates are subject to change and pending final approval of the World Motor Sport Council

Specific Requirements – Written Media

- Members of the written media may enter the paddock at any time during the event. They may move around the neutral areas of the paddock freely.
- Teams are responsible for managing personnel in their own areas within the paddock and pit lane, and therefore any access should be approved by them in advance. The wearing of face masks is mandatory it is highly recommended that any interviews or meetings last no more than 15 minutes.
- Media entering team areas without invitation will have their access rescinded and may face further sanction.
- Recording equipment (dictaphones, microphones, mobile phones etc.) must be cleaned before and after interviews to prevent potential virus transmission vectors.
- The Written Media Pen that allows members of the media to conduct interviews with drivers after they have completed their TV Pen interviews after the race, will continue to be implemented and should be used for any group interviews, including the mandatory interviews after Qualifying and the Race.
- The Written Media Pen will be mandatory for any team not providing a post-race virtual media session with their drivers.
- Teams are under **no obligation** to supply additional access to their team areas, team personnel in the paddock and media must respect their policies regarding media interaction in this space.
- The FIA will be notified of any breaches in this protocol and access will be rescinded for those found to be in breach.
- Media are permitted access to the pit lane at when there are no active sessions ongoing, unless otherwise indicated.
- Permanently-accredited media have access to the grid before the race – grid access will be restricted at some events where the grid is smaller for health and safety reasons to prevent overcrowding. **All permanently-accredited media wishing to access the grid must request a grid sticker on the Saturday of the event.** Race-by-race media may only access the grid in the event that there is spare allocation of grid stickers after all permanent media have been accommodated.

Specific Requirements – Photographers

- Accredited photographers may enter the paddock at any time during the event. They may move around the neutral areas of the paddock freely but must not come together in large groups.
- Teams are responsible for managing personnel in their own areas within the paddock and pit lane, and therefore any access should be approved by them in advance. The wearing of face masks is mandatory it is highly recommended that any interviews or meetings last no more than 15 minutes.
- Photographers entering team areas without an invitation will have their access rescinded and may face further sanction.
- Permanent photographers may register for pit lane access during free practice as happened prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This allocation is limited and will be managed by the FIA F1 Communications Team.
- A rotation of pit wall tabards will return, operated in the same way as it did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Permanently-accredited photographers have access to the grid before the race – grid access will be restricted at some events where the grid is smaller for health and safety reasons to prevent overcrowding. **All permanently-accredited photographers wishing to access the grid must request a grid sticker on the Saturday of the event.** Race-by-race photographers may only access the grid in the event that there is spare allocation of grid stickers after all permanent media have been accommodated.

Some areas of the circuit may remain restricted. In these cases, and depending on the space available, the FIA Media Delegate will select a fixed number of photographers to cover them, and all photographers/agencies will have to make available a selection of images to the FIA Pool free of rights. Photo agencies that have the capability of sending, editing and uploading live will be prioritized for these selections.

5. Trackside Photographer Protocols

In general, previous restrictions whilst working trackside no longer apply except in cases where the local health authority regulations impose specific requirements. It is reminded that any COVID-19 protocols have no impact on photographer Red Zones and photographers should never shoot from a Red Zone.

The key implications of this are as follows:

- The use of any photographer towers or platforms may be restricted. The number of places available will be determined by the size of the structure, and stickers will be allocated to ensure that any required limitations are enforced
- Where applicable, the use of photographer shuttles may be restricted according to requirements of the local health authorities.
- Photographers may now enter fan areas, including where agreed with the FIA Media Delegate and local promoter the use of grandstands, and if contracted to do so may also enter hospitality areas and the Paddock Club, provided they have the relevant accreditation to enter these areas.

6. Press Conferences

FIA Press Conferences will be run with a hybrid in-room/virtual solution wherever possible, allowing media onsite into the Press Conference Room to ask questions face-to-face, with interactive remote access via a videoconferencing platform remaining an option for permanent media not attending.

It will be the case that at some events where social distancing is required by the local health authorities the number of seats in the Press Conference Room is limited, and space will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The changes to the weekend format mean that press conferences will take place as follows:

- Drivers' Press Conference – 2hrs on Friday morning (commencing 3hrs30m before the start of FP1) featuring all drivers.
- Team Representatives' Press Conference – 1hr on Saturday morning, (finishing no later than one hour and 30 minutes prior to the start of FP3), featuring up to six representatives.
- Post-Qualifying and Post-Race Press Conferences remain unchanged.



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