

May 17, 2021

Risk of holding the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics under the pandemic of the new coronavirus infection (COVID-19)

Joint Committee of the Academic Consortium on Emergency Medical Service and Disaster Medical Response Plan during the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020

The Academic Consortium (AC2020), which considers the emergency and disaster medical system for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, has sent message to maintain the emergency and disaster medical system. We have also submitted various recommendations and guidelines.

However, as of late May, less than three months before the scheduled event, the pandemic of the new coronavirus infection (COVID-19) since the end of 2019 has not yet been resolved. It is essential to avoid the spread of infections caused by this event and the consequent medical burden among our community. We need to prepare and take action depending on the impact, no matter how it will be held.

There exists much uncertain factor to hold the Olympic games, in addition it is difficult to predict the infection status with high accuracy. Therefore, the AC2020 Joint Committee proposes the following points from the perspective of the academic society.

1. Principally, professional organization in each area should evaluate risk to hold the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. On the other hand, about evaluation method, we should refer the following one published by Tokyo (https://www.2020games.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/news/2018/0309_2137.html).

2. If we chose to hold the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, the following matters are indispensable, and we should thorough them.

- Vaccination to concerned parties including of athletes, staff, media, and volunteers
- Infection prevention and movement restriction based on advance plans

3. If we consider domestic spectators to participate in, we should limit the number and take similar action like topic 2, based on the regional medical system.

4. In case of spread of the infections to the whole country during or after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, along with the movement of people, we should deal with it as a “Disaster”. Therefore, each medical institution should prepare for medical system in disaster.

AC2020 will continue our activity based on acknowledge from area of our specialty.