



**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021- 002**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF SURFING CAMPS AND THE CONDUCT OF SURFING LESSONS UNDER A MODIFIED GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act 9593 or the *Tourism Act of 2009*, the Department of Tourism (DOT) is mandated to promulgate rules and regulations governing the operation and activities of all tourism enterprises, including conduct of sports activities such as surfing;

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) *Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine* allows conduct of outdoor non-contact sports in areas under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ);

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that the operations of Surfing Camps and the Conduct of Surfing Lessons in various surfing destinations under MGCQ are in accordance with Minimum Public Health Standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, these *Guidelines for the Operations of Surfing Camps and the Conduct of Surfing Lessons* under a Modified General Community Quarantine are hereby issued.

**I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Section 1. Short Title.** – This Order shall be known as the “*Guidelines on the Operations of Surfing Camps and Conduct of Surfing Lessons under MGCQ.*”

**Section 2. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of these Guidelines, the term:

- a. “Community Quarantine” shall refer to the restriction of movement within, into, or out of the area of quarantine of individuals, large groups of people, or communities designed to reduce the likelihood of transmission of an infectious disease among persons in and to persons outside the affected area. (*IATF Omnibus Guidelines with Amendments as of 11 February 2021*)
- b. “Guest” refers to a visitor of the Surfing Camp or an individual checked-in at the resort or the hotel where the Surfing Camp is located.
- c. “Interzonal movement” refers to the movement of people, goods and services between provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities under different community quarantine classification. For this purpose, the National Capital Region shall be considered as one area. Provided that movements to and from areas under granular lockdowns shall be considered as interzonal movement even if within the same province or highly urbanized city. (*IATF Omnibus Guidelines with Amendments as of 11 February 2021*)
- d. “Intrazonal movement” refers to the movement of people, goods and services between provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities under the same community quarantine classification, without transiting through an area placed under a different classification. For this purpose, the National Capital Region shall be considered as one area. (*IATF Omnibus Guidelines with Amendments as of 11 February 2021*)

- e. “Minimum Public Health Standards” refers to guidelines set by the Department of Health (DOH) under Administrative Order No. 2020-0015, as well as sector-relevant guidelines issued by national government agencies as authorized by the IATF, to aid all sectors in all settings to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI), which refer to public health measures that do not involve vaccines, medications, or other pharmaceutical interventions, which individuals and communities can carry out in order to reduce transmission rates, contact rates, and the duration of infectiousness of individuals in the population to mitigate COVID-19. For this purpose, the Department of Tourism and Department of Public Works and Highways are recognized as the sector-relevant agencies with respect to tourism and construction, respectively. (*IATF Omnibus Guidelines with Amendments as of 11 February 2021*).
- f. “Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine” or MECQ refers to the transition phase between ECQ and GCQ, when these temporary measures are relaxed: stringent limiting movement and transportation of people, strict regulation of operating industries, provision of food and essential services, and heightened presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols become less necessary.
- g. “Modified General Community Quarantine” or MGCQ refers to the transition phase between GCQ and New Normal, when these temporary measures are relaxed: limiting movement and transportation, the regulation of operating industries, and the presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine become less necessary.
- h. “New Normal” refers to the emerging behaviors, situations, and minimum public health standards that will be institutionalized in common or routine practices and remain even after the pandemic while the disease is not totally eradicated through means such as widespread immunization. This includes actions that will become second nature to the general public as well as policies such as bans on large gatherings that will continue to remain in force. (*IATF Omnibus Guidelines with Amendments as of 11 February 2021*).
- i. “Surfing” refers to a sport and recreational activity of riding on the crest or along the tunnel of a wave while standing on a surfboard.
- j. “Surfing Camp” refers to an enterprise offering professional surfing lessons or programs from beginner to advanced level, and which has facilities, equipment, and instructional staff available for the execution of the program or lesson. A surfing camp may either be a stand-alone facility or an extension or part of a resort or a hotel.
- k. “Surfing Instructor” refers to an individual who provides professional knowledge and assistance on proper and safe surfing, for a fee, commission or any form of lawful remuneration and certified by any recognized international surfing organization.

**Section 3. Coverage.** – This Order shall apply to all DOT-Accredited Surfing Camps and DOT-Accredited Surfing Instructors conducting surfing lessons in areas under MGCQ.

## **II. OPERATIONS OF SURFING CAMPS AND CONDUCT OF SURFING LESSONS UNDER OTHER LEVELS OF COMMUNITY QUARANTINE**

**Section 4. Operations of Surfing Camps and Conduct of Surfing Lessons under ECQ, MECQ, and GCQ.** Unless otherwise allowed under the *Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine*, or otherwise declared by the President or the IATF-EID, the operations of surfing camps and the conduct of surfing lessons in areas under ECQ, MECQ, and GCQ shall be strictly prohibited.

## **III. OPERATIONS OF SURFING CAMPS AND CONDUCT OF SURFING LESSONS UNDER MODIFIED GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE**

**Section 5. Interzonal and Intrazonal Movement.** The tourism travel of persons across areas placed under MGCQ shall be subject to the uniform travel protocols of the IATF-EID, or any of its amendments by the DOT, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), or the Philippine National Police (PNP).

**Section 6. Prohibited Guests.** Unless otherwise allowed under the *Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine*, or otherwise declared by the President or the IATF-EID, individuals under the age of fifteen (15), those above sixty-five (65) years old, individuals with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks and pregnant women, shall not be allowed to visit Surfing Camps, subject to stricter age restrictions, if any, imposed by the LGU with jurisdiction over the surfing destination. (*IATF Omnibus Guidelines with Amendments as of 11 February 2021*)

**Section 7. Operational and Guests Capacity Limit.** Unless otherwise allowed under the *Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine*, or otherwise declared by the President or the IATF-EID, surfing Camps located in areas under MGCQ may be allowed to operate at a maximum of fifty percent (50%) operational and guest capacity, subject to the regulations of the LGU concerned.

**Section 8. Health and Safety Protocols and Standards.** As regards health and safety protocols and standards in the operations of surfing camps and the conduct of surfing lessons, Memorandum Circular No. 2021 - 004 shall apply by analogy or in suppletory character, and insofar as they are not inconsistent with any provision herein.

#### IV. OTHER PROVISIONS

**Section 9. Compliance with other relevant issuances.** Surfing Camps and Surfing Instructors shall comply with other relevant IATF-EID, DOT, DTI, DOLE, or DOH issuances on health and safety standards, as well as rules and regulations imposed by the LGU having jurisdiction over the surf camps and surfing instructors, which are deemed to apply to these Guidelines in suppletory manner or by analogy.

**Section 10. Penalties.** Any violation of this Order may subject any violating Tourism Enterprise to the appropriate fines and penalties including revocation of its DOT accreditation, in accordance with relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

**Section 11. Separability Clause.** If any portion or provision of this Order is declared null and void or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

**Section 12. Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect immediately upon filing with the University of the Philippines – Office of the National Administrative Register (UP-ONAR) and shall remain effective until otherwise superseded, amended, or repealed accordingly.

For guidance and strict compliance.

12 March 2021

**BERNADETTE ROMULO-PUYAT**  
Secretary

