



Section COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Policy

Introduction

Skate Canada: Alberta/NWT- Nunavut Section (the “Section”) is committed to providing and maintaining a safe competitive environment for all. Accordingly, the Section has implemented a Mandatory Vaccination Policy for participants across the Section attending select events.

This policy requires that, in accordance with the terms set out below, all persons subject to this policy be vaccinated for COVID-19 or provide an acceptable alternative, either through a valid negative test or an approved medical exemption.

This policy complies with the general measures and recommendations to help combat the spread of COVID-19 as established by provincial and territorial health authorities. However, additional safety policies may be applied based on local requirements or the requirements of venues.

The Section has legal obligations to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect the health and safety of both the skating community and the public. This policy is mandatory for all participants, who are involved in or attending Sanctioned Activities.

Failure to comply with this policy could lead to denial of entry, removal from the event or further discipline, up to and including a lifetime ban from entering competitions in the Section.

General Comments

- a. Participant includes skaters, officials, staff, coaches, spectators, and volunteers who are 12 years of age and older who are involved or attending Section Sanctioned Activities.
- b. All Participants taking part in the Sanctioned Activity must follow all guidelines indicated in this policy. Failure to comply will lead to denial of entry or removal from the Sanctioned Activity.
- c. The Section reserves the right to pursue additional discipline if appropriate in the circumstances.
- d. Provincial, territorial, and regional COVID health orders as well as venue operator health and safety protocols must be followed at all Section Sanctioned Activities. This includes, but is not limited to required COVID testing, limitation in the number of Participants in the venue, daily health attestations, mask mandates, social distancing mandates and other such measures required by applicable health authorities.

- e. If any provincial, territorial, or regional health order or policy of a facility exceed the minimum requirements of this Policy, those orders supersede this Policy, and all Participants must abide by the requirements set out in those orders.
- f. Sanctioned Activity means any events set out on the Section Event Calendar which includes on-ice practice, outdoor or indoor warm up, or onsite training related to the event, as well as any seminars, camps, workshops, and courses that are hosted or run by the Section.
- g. The Section reserves the right to apply additional health and safety measures beyond those mandated by government and/or the sport venue at its sole discretion.

2. Implementation

- a. All Participants must be fully vaccinated by November 30, 2021, subject to any approved alternatives to vaccination.
- b. “Fully vaccinated” means the required doses of a World Health Organization approved vaccine.
- c. A Participant is fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose has been administered or four weeks after their first dose of a single dose vaccine.
- d. It is the responsibility of a Participant to ensure that they receive the required doses of a COVID vaccine.

3. Verification of Vaccination

- a. All Participants over 12 years of age wishing to participate in Sanctioned Activities must provide proof of full vaccination.
- b. Participants over 18 years of age must present personal identification issued by an institution or public body that has the name and date of birth of the Participant on the identification.
- c. If the Section is uncertain whether a Participant is under 12 years of age, the Section may request that the Participant provide acceptable proof of their age.
- d. All Participants who turn 12 after this policy comes into effect are required to be fully vaccinated with an accepted COVID-19 vaccine within eight (8) weeks of this Policy coming into effect or turning 12 years old.

- e. Participants who cannot provide proof of vaccination will not be permitted to participate in any Section Sanctioned Activities under any circumstances except in accordance with the provisions set out below.
- f. Proof of vaccination must be verified prior to entering a venue and attending the Sanctioned Activity.
- g. Proof must be in the form of a valid provincial or territorial proof of vaccination documentation.

4. Alternatives to Proof of Vaccination

a. Negative Test

- i. If a Participant is unable or unwilling to receive a COVID 19 vaccination, the Participant must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test within the previous 72 hours.
- ii. To be valid, tests must be:
 - 1. Results presented as an original or printed copy. Photographs of test results are not sufficient;
 - 2. Privately-paid and obtained from a private facility;
 - 3. Use a Health Canada approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR, or lab-based PCR test; and,
 - 4. Completed within the past 72 hours.
- iii. Further, these test results must show the type of test, time of sample collection, clear indication of a negative result, and details regarding the laboratory that completed the test.

b. Medical Exemption from Vaccination

- i. Participants are exempt from the mandatory vaccination and testing requirements if they have a valid medical exemption.
- ii. To qualify for a medical exemption, Participants must show an original, signed letter from a physician or nurse practitioner.

iii. This letter must include:

1. The Participant's name that matches their identification. This is only required for Participants who are 18 years of age and older;
2. Physician's or nurse practitioner's complete information, including:
 - a. Their name
 - b. Phone number
 - c. Contact information
 - d. Professional registration number; and,
 - e. Signature
3. A statement that there is a medical reason for the Participant not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
4. The duration that the exemption is valid.

iv. If the Section or facility operator is unsatisfied with the documentation provided, the Participant may not participate in Sanctioned Activities.

5. General

- a. Failure to provide proof of vaccination, valid negative test or medical exemption will result in the immediate withdrawal of the Participant and/or team from the Sanctioned Activity.
- b. No refund will be provided.
- c. The Section is committed to creating a safe, positive, and inclusive environment in which all Participants can participate in sport and are treated with respect and fairness. The Section has a zero-tolerance policy for any intimidating and/or inflammatory behaviour and comments from Participants (and their parents/guardians) towards any member of the Section or facility operators who are requesting information or enforcing the terms of this policy or any provincial, territorial, or regional health order.
- d. Any abusive behaviour and harassment will be reported, and the Participant may be subject to disciplinary action.

6. Spectators

- a. Spectators are required to follow the procedures set out above. If spectators are not able to demonstrate that they are fully vaccinated, have a valid negative test or medical exemption, they are not permitted to enter into the facility where a Sanctioned Activity is taking place.
- b. Spectators must follow the health and safety policies of any venue hosting a Sanctioned Activity.

7. Return to Skate Protocols

- a. The Section's Return to Competition Protocols remain in effect and must be followed by all Participants.

8. Modification

- a. The Section reserves the right to amend this policy from time to time as circumstances change and to align with updated health and safety recommendations as necessary.

9. Expiry

- a. This Policy will expire on August 31, 2022, unless extended by the Section before this expiry date.