

Ringette Saskatchewan (RAS)

COVID- 19 Vaccination Policy

Policy Pre-amble:

Ringette Saskatchewan (RAS) and its Associations have legal obligations to take every precaution reasonable in the current circumstances to protect the health and safety of its employees, volunteers, athletes, and stakeholders. Therefore, as a condition of participating in any Ringette Saskatchewan sanctioned activity, Ringette Saskatchewan has established this Vaccination Policy requiring the following persons (“Affected Persons”) to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their second dose) by October 17th, 2021:

- Players born in 2009 or earlier
- Ringette Saskatchewan Officials (On-Ice, Minor, Referees in Chief)
- Ringette Saskatchewan Bench Staff (head coaches, assistant coaches, junior coaches, trainers, instructors)
- Ringette Saskatchewan Volunteers (team managers, Association board members, officials, and volunteers serving in any other capacity within the Association)

All Affected Persons must present to Ringette Saskatchewan, or to their Association as applicable, evidence demonstrating that they have received a completed series of a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine by October 17th, 2021. It is the responsibility of the Affected Person to ensure there is sufficient time to receive both doses of the vaccine by October 17, 2021. Ringette Saskatchewan and its Associations will only collect, use, and disclose information regarding vaccination status in accordance with its Privacy Policy and all applicable laws.

Ringette Saskatchewan and its Associations will comply with the provincial human rights legislation and provide accommodation up to the point of undue hardship to any Affected Person who is unable to be vaccinated for substantiated medical reasons and/or on grounds protected under the provincial human rights legislation.

Any Affected Person who has not been granted an accommodation and who has not received the completed series of a Health Canada accepted COVID-19 Vaccine by October 17th, 2021, or who has not disclosed their vaccination status by that date, will no longer be eligible to participate in any Ringette Saskatchewan sanctioned activity until such time as they present satisfactory evidence that they are fully vaccinated.

At the present time, the policy does not apply to players born in 2010 or later, or to spectators.

1) Purpose:

- a) To continue to protect the health and safety of all Ringette Saskatchewan participants by requiring that certain individuals be fully vaccinated as a condition of participating in Ringette Saskatchewan sanctioned activities in accordance with defined timelines.

2) Definitions:

- a) **“Accepted COVID-19 vaccine”** means a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved for use by Health Canada.

- b) **“Affected Persons”** means vaccine-eligible players, Ringette Saskatchewan officials, Ringette Saskatchewan bench staff, Ringette Saskatchewan volunteers, Ringette Saskatchewan office staff.
- c) **“Fully Vaccinated”** means having received a completed series of a Health Canada accepted COVID-19 vaccine. An individual is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after receiving their second dose.
- d) **“Ringette Saskatchewan Official”** means an on-ice official, minor official, or any other person designated by Ringette Saskatchewan as a Ringette Saskatchewan official.
- e) **“Ringette Saskatchewan Bench Staff”** means head coaches, assistant coaches, junior coaches, trainers, and any other person or persons designated by Ringette Saskatchewan as bench staff.
- f) **“Ringette Saskatchewan Volunteer”** means a volunteer of an Association Board of Directors or volunteers serving in any other capacity within the Association.
- g) **“Organization”** means Ringette Saskatchewan or a registered Association as per the Ringette Saskatchewan Bylaws and Membership Policy.
- h) **“Participant”** or **“participants”** means any person registered with Ringette Saskatchewan or an Association, including the parents or caregivers of any minor aged participant.
- i) **“Sanctioned Activity”** means any game, on-ice practice, off-ice training, or any other activity involving players, bench staff, officials, and volunteers that is approved and sanctioned by Ringette Saskatchewan.
- j) **“Team”** means any group of individuals who gather for a Ringette Saskatchewan sanctioned activity, including but not limited to players, bench staff, on-ice instructors, and volunteers.
- k) **“Vaccine-Eligible Player”** means any player born in 2009 or earlier.
- l) **“Volunteer”** means any person registered by a Ringette Saskatchewan Association.

3) Policy Statement

- a) All Affected Persons are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in accordance with this Vaccination Policy as a condition of participating in any Ringette Saskatchewan sanctioned activities. As set out in more detail below, this Policy does not apply to players born in 2010 or later, or to spectators, at the present time.
- b) In addition to this Policy, Ringette Saskatchewan sanctioned activities will be subject to federal, provincial, and local public health regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- c) Public health guidance on measures for fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals continue to evolve which may require amendments to this Policy.
- d) This Policy is effective immediately.

4) Reasons for this Policy

- a) The health and safety of all participants is the top priority of Ringette Saskatchewan. The purpose of this Policy is to protect the health and safety of all participants by reducing the risk of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19, an infectious communicable disease, among all persons involved in Ringette Saskatchewan, and to promote the health and safety of all members of the ringette community in Saskatchewan, through vaccinations against COVID-19.
- b) This Policy is necessary to prevent, respond to, and alleviate any outbreak of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan because of the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present while participating in an organized ringette setting as a player and non-player, both on and off the ice.

These risk factors include close contact in predominantly indoor closed-space environments (e.g.: arenas, dressing rooms, etc.).

- c) The close contact nature of organized ringette makes compliance with social distancing impossible in certain circumstances and reduces the effectiveness of other infectious disease transmission protocols such as masking.

5) Vaccination Requirement and Records

- a) All Affected Persons are required to be fully vaccinated (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) by October 17th, 2021, or earlier.
- b) All Affected Persons must present to Ringette Saskatchewan, or their Association, as applicable, evidence demonstrating that they have received the completed series of a Health Canada accepted COVID-19 Vaccine by October 17th, 2021, or earlier.

6) Acceptable Documentation

Acceptable documents serving as evidence of COVID-19 vaccination include:

- i) A digital or physical Dose Administration Receipt i.e., QR Code on mobile phone or printed, wallet cards received at the time of vaccination.
- ii) Medical records signed by a licensed health care provider on that provider's letterhead indicating vaccine name and date(s) of administration.

7) Accommodation

- a) Participants under the age of twelve do not have to provide proof of full vaccination.
- b) Exception will be made for unvaccinated members who can provide a negative COVID test that includes the members name and completed within the last 72 hours. Testing will be done at their own expense.
- c) If a person is unable to receive a vaccination due to a medical condition or other grounds protected by applicable provincial human rights legislation, the participants may seek approval from Ringette Saskatchewan to attend without proof of vaccination through the below process:
 - i. Requests must be submitting in writing to Ringette Saskatchewan at executivedirector@ringettesask.com
 - ii. Requests must be submitted as possible and at least two weeks before the start of participation in Sanctioned Activity to allow
 - iii. The request must include documentation supporting the participants position that they are exempted from receiving a COVID vaccination
 - iv. This process is a shared responsibility. All parties should cooperatively engage in the process, share information, including answering reasonable questions or provide information about relevant restrictions or limitations, and consider potential solutions
 - v. Ringette Saskatchewan may grant or refuse the request to attend a Sanctioned Activity without proof of vaccination. Ringette Saskatchewan may also grant the request with conditions, such as masking, testing and social distancing.
 - vi. The decision of Ringette Saskatchewan is final.

8) Reporting and Record Keeping

- a) All documentary records about COVID-19 vaccinations and accommodations for Affected Persons will only be collected, used, retained, or disclosed by Ringette Saskatchewan or any of its

Associations as described in their Privacy Policy and as may be necessary for legitimate operational purposes or as directed or requested by governmental authorities or as may be required for legal purposes.

- b) Once an Affected Person's vaccination status has been verified it is determined there is no further need for retention of such records.

9) Unvaccinated Affected Persons

- a) Any Affected Person who has not received their completed series of a Health Canada accepted COVID-19 Vaccine by October 17th, 2021, or who has not disclosed their vaccination status by that date, will no longer be eligible to participate in any Ringette Saskatchewan sanctioned activity until such time as they present satisfactory evidence that they are fully vaccinated or
- b) Can provide a negative COVID test that includes the members name and completed within the last 72 hours.
- c) This Section does not apply any individual who has been granted an accommodation in accordance with Section 5.

10) Compliance

- a) Individuals who make false attestations about, or provide false documents related to, being vaccinated may be subject to disciplinary actions, up to and including permanent expulsion from Ringette in Saskatchewan.

11) Players born in 2010 or later

- a) At the present time, no vaccines have been approved by Health Canada for children born in 2010 or later. However, once a vaccine has been approved, Ringette Saskatchewan will consider how this Policy will be extended to players in those birth years. Players born in 2010 or later will still be required to comply with mask wearing, social distancing and cleanliness standards as required by Ringette Saskatchewan.

12) Spectators

- a) Ringette Saskatchewan is not extending the requirements of this Policy to spectators, including the parents or caregivers of players, at the present time. However, changes in the positions of authorities, including the Government of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Health Canada, Ringette Canada, and in numbers or severity of COVID-19 cases and/or in health guidance, may result in a vaccine mandate being imposed by Ringette Saskatchewan notification at a later date as a condition of continued spectator involvement.
- b) It should also be noted that a vaccination requirement for spectators may be imposed at any time by the owners/operators of any facility used by an Association and/or any of their teams.

13) Modifications

- a) Ringette Saskatchewan reserves the right to amend this policy from time to time as circumstances change.