



RINGETTE
SASKATCHEWAN

Return to Ringette Guidelines 2021-22



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PREAMBLE

To date, Saskatchewan residents have done a good job following public health orders to help manage transmission of COVID-19 in the province. However, positive case numbers are increasing in some communities and there is concern community transmission is starting to take place as we move into the winter season.

If COVID transmission continues to increase in the province, increased public health measures may need to be implemented. This may include limiting gathering sizes in communities or regions that are at higher risk, as well as potentially regionalizing competition or suspending play altogether, if necessary.

To ensure a successful 2021-22 ringette season – from beginning to end – it is the responsibility of every player, coach, team official and spectator to ensure they are following the public health measures and doing their best to control the spread of COVID-19.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

The Return to Ringette Guidelines included in this document are intended to be used for the purposes outlined in this document. Ringette Saskatchewan strives to provide relevant and timely information; however, information known about COVID-19, and recommended health and safety measures can rapidly change, and no guarantee can be given at this time to the accuracy of the document. This information is accepted on the condition that errors or omissions shall not be made the basis for any claim, demand, or cause for action.

This is not a legal document and the Return to Ringette Guidelines is to be used as a guide only. This document is not meant to provide legal advice. Do not rely on this document or treat it as legal advice.

This is not a substitute for actual legislation or orders of the Provincial Health Officers throughout Canada. In the event of ambiguity or conflict between the Return to Ringette Guidelines and the Public Health Act of a Province, regulations and orders within that Act will prevail.

Ringette Saskatchewan's Local Associations must comply with requirements of their provincial and local governments and health officials.

DEFINITIONS

Close Contact – If you are fully vaccinated, you may not be considered a close contact. Close contacts include

- Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and lives with a positive case, has direct physical contact with a positive case, or is exposed to their infectious body fluids. This will include the positive case's caregiver, intimate partner, child receiving care from the case, etc.
- Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and has shared an indoor space with a case for a prolonged period of time (e.g., social gatherings, workplaces, etc.), without adhering to appropriate individual-level and any setting-specific risk mitigation measures.
- Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and has had a close-range conversation with a positive case or has been in settings where a case engaged in singing, shouting, or heavy breathing (e.g., exercise), without adhering to appropriate individual-level and any setting-specific risk mitigation measures.

Non-Close Contact – Fully vaccinated individuals, [with a few exceptions](#). Anyone (regardless of vaccination status) who has shared an indoor space with a positive case, including closed spaces and crowded places (e.g., social gatherings, workplaces, etc.), with adherence to appropriate individual-level and any setting-specific risk mitigation measures (e.g. wearing a mask, practicing social distancing);

- Anyone (regardless of vaccination status) who has had a close-range conversation with a case or has been in settings where a case engaged in singing, shouting, or heavy breathing (e.g., exercise), with adherence to appropriate individual-level and any setting-specific risk mitigation measures (e.g. wearing a mask, practicing social distancing)

Not a Contact – only transient interactions (e.g. walking by the case or being briefly in the same room) or as a result of local community transmission

Local Association – membership defined in the RAS's Bylaws i.e. Regina Ringette, Saskatoon Ringette, Buffalo Plains Ringette, and Prince Albert Ringette

Medical Mask – a disposable mask designed to fit tightly against the face to be used when participants are not able to maintain physical distancing

Non-Medical Mask – a disposable or reusable mask that is not designed to fit tightly against the face to be used when participants are able to maintain physical distancing

Physical Distancing – to avoid close contact with others – 2 meters

Provincial Ringette Organization – Ringette Saskatchewan

Rule of Two – one of the two coaches must be a certified female coach. The Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable, and justifiable. Its purpose is to protect participants (especially minors) and coaches in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring more than one adult is present. There may be exceptions for emergency situations.

INTRODUCTION

This document contains a series of guidelines and recommendations for how we continue with ringette activities in a safe way. It is essential that all decisions regarding the timing and protocol for a resumption of a ringette activity must adhere to Federal, Provincial and Local Public Health Authorities.

The safety of our athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators is our number one priority. Those unable to demonstrate adherence to the guidelines may be subject to sanctioning from Ringette Saskatchewan and their Local Association.

Due to the uncertain aspects these guidelines are expected to change based on new or updated safety procedures outlined by Provincial and/or Federal Authorities or feedback received by Ringette Canada. If there is any conflict between language in the written Return to Ringette Guidelines and the online version, the online version will prevail.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Mitigating Risk

Each Local Association can determine how best it wants to mitigate risk. For some Associations, this may mean not offering a program or it may mean significantly changing how participants interact on the ice.

Local Associations must consider these four risk management strategies:

1. Avoid the risk (e.g., do not engage in an activity / discontinue program)
2. Reduce the risk (e.g., manage the risk by modifying the program / changing behaviour)
3. Transfer the risk (e.g., insurance (transfer to insurer) / waivers (transfer to participant))
4. Retain the risk (e.g., absorb the loss)

Insurance - Transfer the Risk

Only Ringette Saskatchewan sanctioned ringette activities are covered by Ringette Saskatchewan insurance.

Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement. All participants are strongly encouraged to sign this document before participating in any ringette activity.

The link to this document can be found on our website here <http://www.ringettesask.com/covid-19-resource-hub/>.

Declaration of Compliance – Covid-19

It is strongly encouraged that all participants sign this document before participating in any ringette activity. The purpose of the Declaration of Compliance document is to ensure all participants understand the safeguards of Covid-19. The individuals who are not able to agree to the terms outlined in the document will not be able to participate in ringette activities.

The link to this document can be found on our website here <http://www.ringettesask.com/covid-19-resource-hub/>.

PROOF OF VACCINATION POLICY

Ringette Saskatchewan and its Associations have legal obligations to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect the health and safety of their participants, workers, volunteers, athletes, and stakeholders.

So, on September 22nd, 2021, the Ringette Saskatchewan Board of Directors have approved a Proof of Vaccination Policy that requires all Ringette participants to be fully vaccinated (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) by October 17th, 2021. Exceptions 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. Ringette participants who are under 12 years of age, are exempt from these requirements.

The Ringette Saskatchewan Board of Directors have implemented this policy in support of our continued efforts to provide a safe environment for our participants and we feel this policy will minimize the spread of COVID-19 which will help mitigate further restrictions and keep everyone on the ice this season.

Policy and Resources can be found here:

[Proof of Vaccination Policy](#)

[Proof of Vaccination Policy FAQ](#)

PERSONAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE

All ringette related activities must comply by these safety requirements:

- Anyone displaying ANY illness symptoms WILL NOT be allowed to participate.
- Anyone who has been in contact with anyone who is sick or not feeling well should also consider not participating.
- Any member or participant who travels internationally should adhere to quarantine requirements and Health Authority regulations related to travel.
- Adhering to all health agency & safety regulations
- All First Aid policies require reviewing and safeguards put in place for any required treatment including provision of PPE, social distancing, and personal safety for responders.
- Wash hands/hand sanitizer frequently
- Surfaces and spaces should be sanitized regularly
- No spitting
- No chewing tobacco, no sharing of vapes or other tobacco products
- Individual water bottles (no sharing)
- No sharing gear
- No sharing personal items like phones, wallets, etc.
- Follow group gathering guidelines
- No handshake - wave to opposition

- Salute referees and say thanks
- All teams must carry wipes, hand sanitizer and pump soap in their team equipment bags
- Participant equipment and uniforms should be cleaned after ringette activity – individual responsibility
- In the event the coach needs to attend to a participant they will need to follow any facility first aid requirements and the coach attending to the injury should wear a mask and gloves as they will be in close contact with the participant

FACE COVERINGS

Effective Friday, September 17, the Government of Saskatchewan has mandated an interim Public Health Order requiring the use of non-medical masks in all indoor public spaces in Saskatchewan.

Exempt from the masking order will be indoor youth athletics for those 17 years and under while they are actively engaged in athletic activity. Masking in venues hosting youth athletics will remain required for general entry and exit into the facility, for athletes and spectators.

The above exemption does not apply to Coaches or Officials regardless of age.

Exempt from the masking order will be individuals 18 years and older while participating in athletic or sports activities, for the duration of the sport or activity only, so long as they are subject to a proof of vaccination policy that is implemented league-wide for all players and officials.

Information on masks and their use and what qualifies as an outdoor public space will be available at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/masks>

Note: certain municipalities and/or facilities may choose to implement a 'Face Covering Policy' that exceeds the provincial health order. Please check with the rink or association prior to attending your hockey activity to determine the face covering policy and other mandates for that venue.

Players:

- Players must be properly wearing a face covering when entering the arenas and continue wearing their face covering until they reach the spot where they will finish getting their skates equipment on (chair, bleacher, dressing room).
- Players that are 17 years and under must keep their face covering on until they put their helmet on to head to the ice surface.
- Players that are 18 years and older must wear a face covering while on-ice as per the provincial health Order. However, RAS has implemented a mandatory Vaccine Policy so masking is no longer required
- Players are required to put their face covering back on once they get back to their spot and remove their helmet.
- Players should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas and while putting on their skates/equipment.

On-Ice Coaches:

- On-Ice Coaches must be properly wearing a face covering when entering the arenas and continue wearing their face covering until they reach the spot where they will put their skates on (chair, bleacher, dressing room).
- On-Ice Coaches that are fully vaccinated while participating on ice in practice can remove their mask.
- On-Ice Coaches should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas and while putting on their skates.

Bench Coaches/Staff:

- Bench Coaches/Staff must be properly wearing a face covering when entering/exiting the arenas and continue properly wearing their face covering - including while on the bench during games
- The Bench Coaches/Staff who can always maintain 2 metres social distancing wears a non medical mask.
- Bench Coaches/Staff should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas.

On-Ice Officials:

- On-Ice Officials must be properly wearing a face covering when entering the arenas and continue wearing their face covering until they enter the ice
- On-Ice Officials should promptly put their face covering back on once they get back to their spot and remove their helmet.
- On-Ice Officials should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas and while putting on their skates.

Off-Ice Officials (timekeepers/scorekeepers/shot clock operators):

- Off-Ice Officials must be properly wearing a face covering when entering/exiting the arenas and continue properly wearing their face covering at all times - including while working in the timekeeper's box/area.
- Off-Ice Officials physical distancing should be exercised in the timekeeper's box as much as possible.
- Off-Ice Officials should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas.

Parents/Spectators:

- Parents/Spectators must be properly wearing a face covering when entering/exiting the arenas and continue properly wearing their face covering at all times.
- Parents/Spectators should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting the arenas and while sitting or standing inside the arena.

RESOURCES

A series of resource documents and checklist have been provided to support this document and to serve as a guidance for all members. All additional tools created are found here [Ringette Saskatchewan Covid-19 Resource hub](#). Please visit this area frequently as it will host all return to ringette updates.

