



## Vaccination Policy

Approved by the Board of Directors October 25, 2021

### **Purpose:**

To continue to protect the health and safety of all the Ontario Speed Skating Association Participants by requiring that certain individuals be fully vaccinated as a condition of participating in the Ontario Speed Skating Association's activities in accordance with defined timelines.

### **Definitions:**

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

**“Affected Persons”** means those individuals listed in Section 3 below.

**“Board Member”** means a director on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Speed Skating Association or of an Ontario Speed Skating Member Club.

**“Exemption”** means a written document completed and supplied by a registered physician (designated as “MD”) or by a registered nurse in the extended class (designated as “Registered Nurse (Extended Class)”, “RN(EC)”, “Nurse Practitioner” or “(NP)”) stating that the individual named in the document is exempt for an acceptable medical reason from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

**“Facility”** means a municipally or privately run arena, multi-sport complex or other facility in which any Participant, the Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club, or program participates in Sanctioned Activities.

**“Fully Vaccinated”** means fourteen (14) days after an individual has received a completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine.

**“Official”** means any person designated for the purposes of this Policy by the Ontario Speed Skating Association or by an Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club as an ‘Official’ whether on-ice or off-ice, including without limitation any Ontario Speed Skating Association-approved instructors and supervisors.

**“Coach”** means any person designated for the purposes of this Policy by Ontario Speed Skating Association or by an Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club as a ‘Coach’ whether on-ice or off-ice, including without limitation any Ontario Speed Skating Association-approved instructors and supervisors.

**“Participant”** means a person registered with the Ontario Speed Skating Association or any Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club or program.

**“Sanctioned Activity”** means any on-ice practice, off-ice training, race, meet, or any other in-person activity involving Participants, Coaches, Officials or other individuals that is approved by Ontario Speed Skating

Association and is compliant with all requirements of the Ontario Speed Skating Association and the involved Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club(s).

“**Staff**” means a person engaged on a full, part time or contract basis by the Ontario Speed Skating Association or by an Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club.

“**Volunteer**” means any person registered with the Ontario Speed Skating Association and/or serving as a volunteer for the Ontario Speed Skating Association or any Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club(s).

## **1. Policy Statement**

This Policy applies to the Ontario Speed Skating Association and its Members. The Ontario Speed Skating Association requires that all Affected Persons be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 in accordance with this Policy as a condition of participating in any Sanctioned Activities until further notice from the Ontario Speed Skating Association. At the present, this Policy does not apply to Participants born after 2009 but may be subject to change at any time.

Public health guidance on measures for Fully Vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals continue to evolve and could affect this Policy in the future. The Ontario Speed Skating Association reserves the right to amend this Policy in response to any new guidance received from or regulations passed by federal, provincial and local public health and governmental authorities with respect to COVID-19.

This Policy is effective immediately.

## **2. Reasons for this Policy**

The health and safety of all Participants is the top priority of the Ontario Speed Skating Association. 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 and to promote the health and safety of all members of the Ontario Speed Skating Association community, through vaccinations against COVID-19.

This Policy is necessary to prevent, respond to, and alleviate any outbreak of COVID-19 in the Ontario Speed Skating Association because of the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present while participating in an organized setting as a Participant or otherwise, both on and off the ice. These risk factors include close contact in predominantly indoor closed-space environments (e.g.: arenas, dressing rooms, etc.).

The close contact nature of speed skating makes compliance with social distancing impossible in certain circumstances and reduces the effectiveness of other infectious disease transmission protocols such as masking.

## **3. Affected Persons**

This Policy applies to the following (“**Affected Persons**”) who are engaging in one or more Sanctioned Activities:

- Officials;
- The Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club Officials (Club directors, officers, executive, Staff and Volunteers);

- The Ontario Speed Skating Association Officials (directors, officers, Staff and Volunteers);
- Participants - at the present, this Policy does not apply to Participants born after 2009 but this may be subject to change at any time;
- Staff;
- Volunteers;
- Meet staff and volunteers;
- Coaches, instructors, supervisors, development providers and others involved either on or off-ice in any Sanctioned Activity.

#### **4. Vaccination Requirement**

Each Affected Person is required to be Fully Vaccinated (including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) by **November 30, 2021** or earlier.

Each Affected Person must present to the Ontario Speed Skating Association or to their Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club, as applicable, evidence demonstrating that they have received the completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine by **November 17, 2021** or earlier.

#### **5. Acceptable Documentation**

Acceptable documents serving as evidence that an individual is Fully Vaccinated:

- A digital or physical dose administration receipt.
- Medical records signed by a licensed health care provider on that provider's letterhead indicating vaccine name and date(s) of administration.
- Government verification/language (e.g., Government issued vaccine passport, certificate, card, or electronic record).

NOTE: The Ontario Speed Skating Association reserves the right to perform spot checks to confirm the accuracy of an individual's vaccination history and this may include an individual having to produce confirmation of being Fully Vaccinated.

#### **6. Medical Exemptions**

In accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Health's 'Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act', the Ontario Speed Skating Association will provide accommodation to any Affected Person who is unable to be vaccinated for substantiated medical reasons.

The Ontario Speed Skating Association reserves the right to review accommodation medical documentation.

Any Affected Person who is granted accommodation must undergo regular COVID-19 testing (at their own cost and expense) and must provide evidence to the President or designate of the Ontario Speed Skating Association or the President or designate of any Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club, as applicable, or someone designated by that President, of a negative test taken not more than 48 hours prior to participating in any Sanctioned Activity.

Any Affected Person who wants to begin the accommodation request process should send their application to the Ontario Speed Skating Association at [executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca](mailto:executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca)

## **7. Record Keeping**

All documentary records about COVID-19 vaccinations and accommodations for Affected Persons will only be collected, used, retained, or disclosed by the Ontario Speed Skating Association or any of its Member Clubs as may be necessary for legitimate operational purposes or as directed or requested by governmental authorities or as may be required for legal purposes.

Until no longer required, all records retained in relation to this Policy must be kept in a secure location to which access is provided to only a limited number of designated persons who are involved in administering this Policy, and no others. Once an Affected Person's vaccination status has been verified and it is determined that there is no further need for retention of such records, they must be immediately destroyed in a secure manner (e.g., shredding).

## **8. Unvaccinated Affected Persons**

After **November 17, 2021**, any Affected Person who is not Fully Vaccinated (excluding the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) or who has not been granted an accommodation in accordance with Section 6 of this Policy, will no longer be eligible to participate in any Sanctioned Activities until such time as they have presented satisfactory evidence that they have been Fully Vaccinated (including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) or have been granted an accommodation.

## **9. Participants born in 2010 or later**

At the present time, no vaccines have been approved by Health Canada for children born in 2010 or later. However, once such a COVID-19 vaccine has been approved, the Ontario Speed Skating Association will re-evaluate this Policy and consider whether or not to extend the application of the vaccination requirement to include Participants born in those years.

## **10. Spectators**

Ontario's *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* and its Regulations require that businesses or organizations regarding indoor areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities, including, for greater certainty, the indoor areas of facilities where spectators watch events must require patrons who are 12 years of age or older and who do not qualify for an exemption to provide proof of identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entering such a facility.

## **11. Facility**

Each Facility is governed by federal, provincial, municipal and public health legislation, regulations, by-laws, instructions, recommendations, guidance and other requirements. Each Facility may have its own rules or policies outside of the scope of this Policy which rules and policies must be adhered to at all times.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **The Ontario Speed Skating Association Member Club**

- 1) Circulate this Policy.
- 2) Designate an individual or individuals (the “**Designated Individual(s)**”) to manage, in a confidential manner, the verification of vaccinations for Affected Persons in accordance with this Policy.
  - a. For individuals who are Fully Vaccinated: The Designated Individual(s) should review the documents to ensure compliance with this Policy and keep an appropriate list. The Ontario Speed Skating Association or its member clubs should not keep proof of vaccination documents. See also Section 7 ‘Record Keeping’ above.
  - b. For individuals requesting an Exemption: Any Affected Person who wants to begin the accommodation request process should send their application to the Ontario Speed Skating Association at [executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca](mailto:executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca)