



Hockey Saskatchewan Mandatory Vaccination Policy

Revised: November 15, 2021

Policy Pre-amble

Hockey Saskatchewan and its members associations have obligations to take every precaution reasonable in the current circumstances to protect the health and safety of its employees, volunteers, athletes, and stakeholders.

Purpose

To continue to protect the health and safety of Hockey Saskatchewan Participants by requiring that certain individuals be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide proof of a valid negative COVID-19 test as a condition of participating in Hockey Saskatchewan Sanctioned 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.

“Activity” means any team gathering not in a private residence. (Game, Practice, Workout, Team Building, etc.)

“Affected Persons” means any Vaccine-Eligible Players, Game Officials, Hockey Saskatchewan Officials and Team Officials within age divisions and categories defined in the Policy.

SHAPING CHARACTER FOR LIFE... MORE THAN A GAME.



“Associations” mean Minor Hockey Associations (also referred to as MHA) registered with Hockey Saskatchewan.

“COVID-19 Test” means any of the following paid tests administered at a testing site approved by the Minister of Health, as posted on the Government of Saskatchewan’s website and as updated from time to time:

1. a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for SARS-CoV-2;
2. a point-of-care antigen test for SARS-CoV-2;
3. any other test for SARS-CoV-2 approved by the Minister of Health;

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

“Game Officials” means any referee, linesperson, timekeeper, or other person engaged in officiating a hockey game as may be designated by Hockey Saskatchewan.

“Hockey Saskatchewan Official” means any member of the board of directors, officers, executive and staff.

“Team Official” means all or any of the following registered persons involved in the management of a team and includes coach, trainer, manager and any assistant coach, assistant trainer, or assistant managers.

“Participant” means any person registered with Hockey Saskatchewan through any Association or Team.

“Proof of Negative Covid-19 Test” means all Affected Persons including those claiming exemptions on medical, religious or other grounds, that are not fully vaccinated shall provide proof of a Negative COVID-19 Test result from an acceptable source and provided within 72 hours prior to the start of the activity, along with personal identification. Testing to be done at the participant’s expense.

“Vaccine-Eligible Player” means any player born in the age divisions and categories defined.



1. Policy Statement

Hockey Saskatchewan requires that only Affected Persons be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide proof of a valid negative COVID-19 test result from a test administered within 72 hours prior to the start of the activity as a condition of participating in any Sanctioned Activities within the age groups and categories defined as of January 10, 2022.

This policy applies to Associations, Teams and Participants who are members of, or who are registered with Hockey Saskatchewan within the age groups and categories defined within this policy. It is not intended to apply to teams and participants operating outside of Hockey Saskatchewan or the age groups and categories defined in the policy, even if they are participating in Hockey Saskatchewan sanctioned activities (i.e., tournaments/exhibition games). This policy is also not intended to limit any Hockey Saskatchewan Teams from participating in sanctioned hockey events and activities in any other hockey jurisdiction outside Hockey Saskatchewan that may be governed by a different vaccination policy.

2. Reasons for Policy

The health and safety of participants is the top priority of Hockey Saskatchewan. The purpose of this policy is to help protect the health and safety of participants in age groups and categories where commitment and travel is typically higher than others, by reducing the risk of exposure to and the transmission of COVID-19, and to promote the health and safety of all members through vaccinations and testing.

This policy is necessary to help prevent, respond to, and alleviate any outbreak of COVID-19 in Hockey Saskatchewan because of the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present while participating in an organized and sanctioned hockey setting.

The close contact nature of organized hockey makes compliance with social distancing requirements difficult in certain circumstances and can reduce the effectiveness of other infectious disease transmission protocols such as masking.

It is the responsibility of the Affected Person to be Fully Vaccinated by January 10, 2022 or provide proof of a valid negative COVID-19 test result from a test administered within 72 hours prior to the start of each activity. Hockey Saskatchewan and its Minor Hockey Associations will only collect, use, and disclose information regarding vaccination status and test results in accordance with all applicable laws.



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

3. Affected Persons

Senior Hockey

- Due to the Government of Saskatchewan Public Health order that requires anyone over 18 must wear a face mask while participating in sport activity unless there is a League wide Mandatory Vaccination Policy, Affected Persons includes the following:
 - for players registered in, or affiliated to;
 - or individuals officiating within;
 - or individuals acting in the capacity of a registered team official;
 - or an off-ice official.
- All participants must be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to participating in League play or in Hockey Saskatchewan Provincial Playoffs.

U18 AAA Male and Female

- Due to a Hockey Canada Mandatory Vaccination mandate for all National Championships such as the Telus Cup and Esso Cup, Affected Persons includes the following:
 - for players registered in, or affiliated to;
 - or individuals officiating within;
 - or individuals acting in the capacity of a registered team official.
- All participants must be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 by January 10, 2022.

U15 AA, U18 AA Male and Female

- Affected Persons includes the following:
 - for players registered in, or affiliated to;
 - or individuals officiating within;
 - or individuals acting in the capacity of a registered team official.
- All participants must be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 by January 10, 2022 or provide proof of a valid negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the start of the activity.

Teams Competing in all categories of U15 and U18 Provincial Playoffs

- Affected Persons includes the following:
 - for players registered in, or affiliated to;
 - or individuals officiating within;
 - or individuals acting in the capacity of a registered team official.



- All participants must be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 by January 10, 2022 or provide proof of a valid negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the start of the activity.

Sask First Female U16 and U18, Male U15 and U18

- Affected Persons includes the following:
 - for players registered;
 - or individuals officiating within;
 - or individuals acting in the capacity of a registered team official.
- All participants must be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide proof of a valid negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the start of the activity.

Hockey Saskatchewan Staff

Hockey Saskatchewan Skill Licensees

Hockey Saskatchewan Board of Directors

Hockey Saskatchewan strongly recommends that all eligible participants be fully vaccinated.

4. Vaccination Requirement & Records

All Affected Persons are required to be Fully Vaccinated by January 10, 2022, or provide proof of a valid negative COVID-19 test result from a test administered within 72 hours prior to the start of the activity. All Affected Persons must present to their Association/League/Team COVID designate, as applicable, evidence satisfactory to Hockey Saskatchewan demonstrating that they are Fully Vaccinated or provide proof of a valid negative COVID-19 test result from a test administered within 72 hours prior to the start of the activity.

5. Acceptable Vaccines

Hockey Saskatchewan recognizes all vaccines approved by Health Canada. All Affected Persons will be required to confirm they are vaccinated regardless of which Health Canada approved vaccine they received.



6. Acceptable Documentation

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

- Saskatchewan Health Authority wallet cards received at time of immunization
- A printed copy of your MySaskHealthRecord (MSHR) vaccine certificate
- A screenshot of your MSHR vaccine certificate saved to your device
- A COVID-19 vaccine printout from Saskatchewan Health Authority Public Health
- A QR code/MySaskHealthRecord vaccine certificate within the SK Vax Wallet application
- Negative Covid-19 Test documentation acquired from an acceptable source and provided within 72 hours of the start of each activity

Note: Hockey Saskatchewan will perform future random spot checks to confirm the accuracy of an individual's vaccination/test history and this may include an individual having to produce confirmation of their COVID-19 vaccination/testing records.

7. Exemption for Senior

Hockey Saskatchewan will comply with the Province of Saskatchewan's current legislation and there are no exemptions in lieu of vaccinations.

If an Affected Person cannot provide Hockey Saskatchewan or their Association /League/Team with satisfactory evidence of vaccination, the following may be taken into consideration by exemption only:

- The Affected Person's reason for not being vaccinated; and
- Any Affected Person requiring exemption must provide Hockey Saskatchewan with medical documentation to substantiate their reason for not being vaccinated.

Where exemption is not possible, the Affected Person will not be permitted to be involved in any Sanctioned Activity.

Hockey Saskatchewan reserves the right to have medical documentation reviewed by the Hockey Saskatchewan Chief Medical Officer and Hockey Saskatchewan Staff.



8. Reporting & Record Keeping

- All Affected Persons need to provide proof to their association COVID designate who will record the proof of vaccination/negative test. However, the association will not keep any medical records, vaccination receipts, or COVID-19 test results on file.
- The Association /League/Team COVID designate will simply be required to confirm that proof of vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours of the start of the activity has been received and maintain such on file as a list of all Affected Persons who have provided such proof of vaccination/test. The Association /League/Team COVID designate must advise on an individual's vaccination/negative test status when and if a request is made by Hockey Saskatchewan.

All documentary records regarding COVID-19 accommodations will only be collected, used, retained, or disclosed by the Association /League/Team COVID designate as may be necessary for operational purposes, as directed or requested by governmental authorities or as may be required by law.

Until no longer required, all records retained under this policy must be kept in a secure location to which access is provided to only a limited number of designated persons who participate in administering this policy. Once an Affected Person's accommodation status has been verified, and it is determined that there is no further need for the retention of such records, they shall be immediately destroyed in a secure manner.

9. Unvaccinated Affected Persons

On January 11, 2022, any Affected Person that is not Fully Vaccinated and not able to provide a negative test result from a test administered within 72 hours prior to the start of the activity will no longer be permitted to participate in any Sanctioned Activities in the age groups and categories defined until such time as they have presented satisfactory evidence that they have been Fully Vaccinated or provide a negative test result within 72 hours of the start of the activity.

10. Facilities

Facilities are governed by Provincial, Municipal, and Public Health Legislation. Facilities may have other regulations or policies outside of the scope of this policy, which must be always adhered to.