

Swim Nova Scotia COVID-19 Vaccination Policy *(Operational)*

Effective Date: Thursday, September 30th, 2021

Purpose

To comply with Nova Scotia's Proof of Vaccine Policy, SNS requires that all **Affected Persons** be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19, per the remainder of this policy, as a condition of participating in Swim Nova Scotia Sanctioned Activities per defined timelines. **This policy is in strict accordance with the NS Proof of Vaccine Policy and will be amended as required in accordance with that policy.**

As of October 4, 2021, this policy will apply to all SNS members who are 12 and older. At present, these do not apply to SNS members (i.e. swimmers) under 12 years of age or to spectators.

Note: Spectators will be a part of individual facility policies and not SNS.

Definitions

"Accepted COVID-19 vaccine" means a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved for use by Health Canada.

"Affected Persons" means any Vaccine-Eligible Participants including Coaches, Swimmers, Officials, Staff, Volunteers, Board of Directors

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

"SNS" means Swim Nova Scotia

"Club" means any affiliated Swim Club

"Sanctioned Activity" means any team function, practice - in or out of the water, time trial, swim meet, camp that is approved by SNS or any Club

"Vaccine-Eligible" means people who are 12 and older as defined by NS Public Health.

"Volunteer" means any person registered by SNS or the Club as a volunteer.

Province of Nova Scotia Resources

- [Nova Scotia Health Protection Act Order](#) (will reflect phase 5 updates on October 4)
- [Proof of Full Vaccination Protocol](#)

1. Application

The application of this policy only applies to Affected Persons who are members of, or who are registered with, SNS.

2. Background

The health and safety of all participants is the top priority of SNS. 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 SNS, and to promote the health and safety of all members of the SNS community, through vaccinations against COVID-19.

This policy necessary to comply with Nova Scotia's Proof of Vaccine Policy to prevent, respond to, and alleviate any outbreak of COVID-19. Significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection are present while participating in SNS activities, both in and out of the water.

3. Affected Persons

This policy applies to the following Affected Persons, which includes the following persons:

- Swimmers who are 12 and older
- Coaches
- Officials
- SNS and Club Staff
- SNS and Club Board of Directors
- Volunteers

4. Vaccination Requirement & Records

All Affected Persons are required to be Fully Vaccinated (i.e., including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) by **October 4, 2021, or earlier**. All Affected Persons must present to their Club, as applicable, evidence satisfactory to SNS demonstrating that they have received the completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine.

Children and youth aged 13 to 18 who can provide proof that they received one dose of vaccine can start participating in sport, recreation, arts and culture programming on or after October 4. To continue participating, they must provide proof of full vaccination by November 9 (second dose plus 14 days for it to take effect). In other words, they must get a first dose no later than September 28 and a second dose no later than October 26.

If you don't meet the November 9 deadline, you will not be able to participate until you are able to provide proof of full vaccine (second dose plus 14 days for it to take effect). Children who turned 12 between Jan. 1 and Oct. 4 this year will have until Dec. 31 to attend events and activities while they get vaccinated. Children who turn 12 after Oct. 4 will have three months from their birthday. If they choose not to get vaccinated, they will no longer be able to participate in these events and activities once the grace period is up.

5. Acceptable Vaccines

SNS recognizes all vaccines approved by Health Canada.

6. Exemption

In alignment with Nova Scotia's Proof of Vaccine Policy, SNS will support exemptions with proof of valid medical contraindication for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Any Affected Person who is granted medical exemption for COVID-19 vaccinations must show proof to their club representative or SNS with the approved documentation as outlined by the Province.

SNS reserves the right to have exemption medical documentation reviewed by the SNS Executive Director to make appropriate inquiries to verify the authenticity of any claim for exemption.

Any Affected Person who is granted a medical exemption must follow safety protocols outlined by public health.

7. Reporting & Record Keeping Protocol

a. Vaccine-Eligible Swimmers

Must provide Public Health-approved proof of vaccination to their Club Representative, who will record in the Swimming Canada Database that they have shown proof of their vaccination status. The Club will not keep any medical records or vaccination receipts on file. The Club designate will be required to

confirm that vaccination record and consent have been verified. All applications requesting medical exemption under this policy shall follow Section 7.

Consent by the family is required to maintain a record that they have shown their proof of vaccination.

Examples of ways to verify consent and vaccination statuses:

- Accept electronic copies (i.e. email) and written consent (see sample consent email text in Appendix A) and destroy/delete after viewing
- Hold Club Zoom calls. Keep parents of swimmers in the waiting room and allow one in at a time to verify vaccination records and obtain consent. Verify both, check that swimmer off, move to the next swimmer and so on
- At your Clubs in-person session, communicate that all participants will need bring a paper copy or online copy of their vaccination status as they arrive. Verify records, obtain written consent (see sample consent form in Appendix B) and check them off

Club Registrars must use the Swimming Canada database to check-off verification of vaccination records.

b. Coaches

Must provide proof of full vaccination record and consent to Swim Nova Scotia:

swimming@sportnovascotia.ca

c. Officials

Officials must provide their proof of vaccination when they register with SNS, this must be done before they officiate at a sanctioned event.

- Senior Officials (Levels 4 & 5) – provide proof of full vaccination record and consent to Swim Nova Scotia: swimming@sportnovascotia.ca
- All other Officials (Levels 1, 2 & 3) – provide proof of full vaccination record and consent to Club Administrator as outlined in point a Swimmers. **Club Chairs of Officials** must use the Swimming Canada database to check-off verification of vaccination records.

Note: Spectators must provide proof of vaccination to the facility upon arrival to gain entry

8. Acceptable Documentation

COVID-19 vaccination documentation as provided and approved by the province that you were immunized.

9. Non-compliance

In compliance with the **dates outlined** by Public Health, any Affected Person not Fully Vaccinated (i.e., including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) or has not been granted an exemption in accordance with Section 7, **will no longer be eligible to participate in any SNS Sanctioned Activities** until they have presented satisfactory evidence that they have been Fully Vaccinated or been granted an exemption.

10. Travel

Clubs, including swimmers, coaches, etc. coming from outside the province to participate in SNS sanctioned activity must adhere to this policy.

APPENDIX A

Sample text to include for email consent:

I, _____ (insert swimmers name), hereby give Swim Nova Scotia and _____ (insert name of swim club) permission to collect and use my personal health information, specifically my COVID-19 vaccination status and record verification in the Swimming Canada Registration database. This information will be used solely for the purpose of determining and verifying my eligibility to access and/or participate in non-essential services and activities in accordance with the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities set out in the Nova Scotia Public Health Order, and will not be otherwise collected, used, or disclosed without my approval.

APPENDIX B

Swim Nova Scotia Consent form for recording vaccination status consent

CONSENT

I, _____ (swimmer name(s)), hereby give Swim Nova Scotia and _____ (insert Club name) to collect and use my personal health information, specifically my COVID-19 vaccination status and record verification in the Swimming Canada Registration database. This information will be used solely for the purpose of determining and verifying my eligibility to access and/or participate in non-essential services and activities in accordance with the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities set out in the Nova Scotia Public Health Order, and will not be otherwise collected, used or disclosed without my approval.

I understand that, if I wish to withdraw this authorization, I may do so at any time by writing to the business/organization.

I have read and understood this form, and I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had them answered to my satisfaction. By signing below, I consent to these terms.

Name: _____ (Please print) _____ (Signature)

Address: _____

Date: _____