



VACCINATION POLICY

Version 1 – Issued: September 25, 2021

Purpose of Policy: To continue to protect the health and safety of all OAWA Participants by requiring that certain individuals be fully vaccinated as a condition of participating in OAWA 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.

“Affected Persons” means any Vaccine-Eligible Athletes, Coaches Officials, Administrators and Volunteers.

“Club” means any member group of OAWA, as those terms are defined in the OAWA B y - L a w s.

“Association Officials” means any member of the Board of Directors, Officers, Executive and Staff of the Association.

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

“Officials” means any referee, Drawmaster, or other person engaged in officiating a Wrestling match as may be designated by the OAWA.

“Coach” means any person engaged by a Club to provide specialized instruction to athletes and is registered with OAWA

“OAWA” means Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association.

“OAWA Official” means any member of the board of directors, officers, executive and staff (including interns) of the OAWA.

“Participant” or **“participant”** means any person registered with the OAWA through any Club.

“Sanctioned Activity” means any game, tournament, practice, off-mat training, or any other activity involving Wrestlers and Team Coaches that is approved by the OAWA or any Association, the Ontario Wrestling Association (or any of its member organizations) or Wrestling Canada (or any of its member organizations).

“Vaccine-Eligible Participant” means anyone born in 2009 or earlier.

“Volunteer” means any person registered with the OAWA supporter.

1. Policy Statement

The OAWA requires that all **Affected Persons** be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19, in accordance with the remainder of this policy, as a condition of participating in any Sanctioned Activities during the 2021-22 Wrestling season. At present, this policy does not apply to participants born after 2009 or Wrestling spectators.

Public Health guidance on measures for fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals continue to evolve and may affect this policy in the future. The OAWA 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 in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, this policy only applies to Clubs and participants who are registered with the OAWA. It is not intended to apply to teams and participants of any groups such as schools operating outside of the OAWA, even if they are participating in an OAWA co-Sanctioned Activity (i.e. school tournaments with OAWA registered participants participating). This policy is also not intended to limit any person from participating in sanctioned Wrestling events and activities in any other Wrestling jurisdiction outside the OAWA (OFSAA or OUA regulated schools) that may be governed by a different vaccination policy.

This policy is effective immediately, with due regard for the availability of Accepted COVID-19 vaccines.

2. Reason for Policy

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

This policy is necessary to prevent, respond to, and alleviate any outbreak of COVID-19 in the OAWA because of the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present while participating in an organized Wrestling setting as athlete and non-athlete, both in competition and training. These risk factors include close contact in predominantly indoor closed-space environments (e.g.: gyms, training areas, dressing rooms, etc.).

The close contact nature of organized Wrestling 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, which includes the following persons:

- Players born in 2009 or earlier
- Team Officials (Coaches, Trainers and Managers, etc.)
- Officials (referees, Drawmasters, etc.)
- Association Officials (Directors, Officers, Executive and Staff)
- Volunteers

At present, this policy does not apply to those born in 2010 or later, or to spectators. Note: Spectators may be subject to facility requirements

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 1, 2021**. All Affected Persons must present to their Club registrar, as applicable, evidence satisfactory to the OAWA demonstrating that they have received the completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine.

Note: Per Government of Ontario Guidelines:

- Persons born 2009 or earlier are not required to be vaccinated
- Persons who are actively participating in Wrestling and under 18 are not required to show proof of vaccination.
- Persons who are 18 and under and are not actively participating but entering events (eg. As a Spectator) must show proof of vaccination.
- Volunteers are not required to show proof of vaccination.

5. **Acceptable Vaccines**

The OAWA recognizes all vaccines approved by Health Canada. All Affected Persons will be required to confirm they are vaccinated regardless of which approved vaccine they receive.

6. **Acceptable Documentation**

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

- A digital or physical Dose Administration Receipt.
- Medical records signed by a licensed health care provider indicating vaccine name and date(s) of administration.
- Government verification/language (e.g. Government issued vaccine passport or card)

7. Accommodation

The OAWA will comply with the [Ontario Human Rights Code \(OHRC\)](#) and provide an accommodation to any Affected Person who is unable to be vaccinated for substantiated medical reasons and/or on such other grounds protected under the OHRC, unless such an accommodation cannot be made without inflicting undue hardship on other Affected Persons.

Any Affected Person requiring accommodation must provide the OAWA with documentation to substantiate their reason for not being vaccinated. This documentation must meet Government of Ontario requirements. Where accommodation is not possible without undue hardship to other Affected Persons, the Affected Person will not be permitted to be involved in any Sanctioned Activity for the duration of the pandemic or until such time that COVID-19 no longer poses a significant public health risk.

The OAWA reserves the right to have accommodation medical documentation reviewed by an OAWA designated medical specialist and to make appropriate inquiries to verify the authenticity of any creed/religion-based claim for accommodation.

Any Affected Person who is granted accommodation must undergo regular COVID-19 testing and must provide evidence to their Association, as applicable, of a negative test taken not more than 24 hours prior to each Sanctioned Activity.

To request accommodation contact OAWA

8. Reporting & Record Keeping

All Affected Persons need to provide proof to the OAWA. The OAWA will record proof of vaccination. However, the OAWA will not keep any medical records or vaccination receipts on file. The OAWA will simply be required to confirm that proof has been provided and record and maintain on file a list of all Affected Persons who have provided such proof. All applications requesting an accommodation under this policy shall be filed directly with the OAWA, as provided above.

All documentary records about COVID-19 accommodations for will only be collected, used, retained, or disclosed by the OAWA as may be necessary for legitimate operational purposes or 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 are involved in administering this policy, and no others. 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 **October 1, 2021**, any Affected Person not Fully Vaccinated (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) or has not been granted an accommodation in accordance with Section 7, 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 or been granted an accommodation.

10. **Players born in 2010 or later**

At the present time, no COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved for use by Health Canada for children born in 2010 or later. However, once a COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for such persons, the OAWA will re-evaluate this policy and consider extending the definition of Vaccine-Eligible Players to include players born in those years.

11. **Spectators**

This policy does not presently apply to Wrestling spectators, including the parents or guardians of wrestlers. However, taking into consideration the severity of COVID-19 cases within the OAWA's jurisdiction and any new guidance received or regulations passed by federal, provincial and local public health and governmental authorities, Wrestling Canada and the OAWA, the OAWA reserves the right to extend this policy to encompass spectators attending Sanctioned Activities.

It should also be noted that individual owners/operators of competition or training facilities used by the OAWA or any Club may impose their own vaccination requirements for Wrestling spectators.

12. **Changes**

The OAWA recognizes that Government and Public Health changes in direction/requirements may mean this document may be updated as needed from time to time.

13. **Endorsement**

This policy passed by the OAWA Board of Directors September 29, 2021