

COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

Date created: November 26, 2021

Review date: March 31, 2022

Date approved: April 4, 2022

1. Preamble

In order to align with the Public Health Office's priorities and in the spirit of the latest Public Health Order, on November 1, 2021, the BCAS Board of Directors unanimously passed a motion that:

All BC Artistic Swimming members 12 years of age and older must be fully vaccinated by December 13, 2021 to attend any in-person artistic swimming activities.

The intent of this decision is to ensure that:

- ✿ we collectively respect our fundamental and ethical duty of care to ensure the safety and well-being of all members
- ✿ we align with provincial health priorities and their intention to foster safe sport environments
- ✿ we can continue to deliver uninterrupted and unrestricted programming
- ✿ all members are held to the same standards regardless of geographic location
- ✿ we can safely come together for events and competitions that are delivered with few adaptations

2. Definitions

- a. **"BCAS Member"** means any individual registered with BC Artistic Swimming including but not limited to athletes, coaches, officials, club executives, board members, staff, and volunteers.
- b. **"BC Vaccine Card Verifier App"** refers to the [app](#) created by the BC Government to verify the validity of vaccine cards.
- c. **"Consent"** means the written permission of an individual to retain a record of their proof of vaccination status.
- d. **"COVID-19 Vaccine or Vaccination"** refers to any Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- e. **"Fully Vaccinated"** means receiving a minimum of two (2) doses of one or more Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccines of which the second dose was received no less than 2 weeks prior to the relevant artistic swimming activity.
- f. **"Participant"** refers to anyone participating in a BCAS sanctioned activity, including spectators.
- g. **"Proof of Vaccination"** means showing an individual's vaccine card and using the BC Vaccine Card Verifier App to validate the vaccine record.
- h. **"Sanctioned Activity"** are activities approved or authorized by BCAS and therefore those for which members are insured. Sanctioned activities include, but are not limited to club training, watershows, provincial training meets and competitions, dryland training, etc.
- i. **"Spectator"** refers to anyone, registered or unregistered, who attends a BCAS sanctioned activity as a witness or observer of the event.

- j. **“Vaccine Card”** means the BC Government issued digital proof of vaccination document that is compatible with the BC Vaccine Card Verifier App.
- k. **“Verify”, “Verified”, or “Verification”** means to scan the QR code on a Vaccine Card using the BC Vaccine Card Verifier App.

3. Application and Jurisdiction

- 3.1. This policy is intended to increase safety in the training and competition environment for all artistic swimming participants, our entire artistic swimming community, and the public and it applies to all athletes, coaches, staff, volunteers, parents, and spectators attending any in-person artistic swimming activity.
- 3.2. All participants are required to comply at all times with facility, municipal and provincial COVID-19 restrictions, procedures, and protocols.
- 3.3. Municipal and public facilities and affiliated sport organizations may implement stricter requirements at their discretion.

4. COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

- 4.1. All BCAS members 12 years and older who are participating in a BCAS sanctioned activity are required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by December 13, 2021 and/or no later than 2 weeks prior to the relevant sanctioned activity.
- 4.2. A BCAS member who is under the age of 12 is not required to be vaccinated but must comply with all other applicable public health requirements and protocols as well as all other BCAS Artistic Swimming Restart and Return to Artistic Swimming policies.
- 4.3. All BCAS members turning 12 over the course of the season are required to be fully vaccinated within 8 weeks of the date they turned 12-years-old.
- 4.4. Notwithstanding 4.3, 12-year-old athletes will be allowed to participate in a BCAS sanctioned activity with one dose provided the events or activities occur within 8 weeks of the date they turn 12 years.
- 4.5. BCAS members 12 years and older and not fully vaccinated and do not have a vaccination exemption will not be permitted to participate in sanctioned artistic swimming activities.
- 4.6. Any out-of-province participants will be required to align with the BCAS COVID-19 Vaccination Policy when attending BCAS sanctioned events or activities.
- 4.7. In accordance with the current Public Health Order, all spectators aged 12 and over are required to be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination to attend all sport events and programs in BC.
- 4.8. BCAS members are responsible to provide the proof of vaccination for validation as outlined herein.

5. Proof of Vaccination

- 5.1. Proof of vaccination must be in the form of a provincially or federally issued Vaccine Card.
- 5.2. Member Clubs are responsible for the verification of proof of vaccination for their participants – athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators – for in-person club artistic swimming activities.
- 5.3. At its discretion, BC Artistic Swimming is responsible for the verification of proof of vaccination for all participants and spectators for in-person provincial artistic swimming sanctioned activities, including all provincial events and competitions.
- 5.4. The [BC Vaccine Card Verifier App](#) must be used by any party responsible for the proof of vaccination verification.

5.5. Recording Proof of Vaccination Status

- 5.5.1. The Vaccine Card QR Code is a personal document. Organizations are **NOT permitted to:**
 - 5.5.1.1. **retain any personal information** obtained during the proof of vaccination verification process
 - 5.5.1.2. **retain a copy or photo** of the proof of vaccination card or QR code, even if the individual consents
- 5.5.2. To streamline access to the training or competition environment, an organization can record and retain a participant or spectator's proof of vaccination status provided:
 - 5.5.2.1. the participant provides written consent
 - 5.5.2.2. the participant is permitted to withdraw consent at any time and at their discretion
 - 5.5.2.3. all records are deleted once the proof of vaccination is lifted, or when the participant withdraws consent
- 5.5.3. In such cases as participants consent to the recording of their proof of verification status, the only information that can be recorded by the organization includes:
 - 5.5.3.1. the name of the participant
 - 5.5.3.2. the fact that the participant provided proof of being fully vaccinated
 - 5.5.3.3. the date of verification
- 5.5.4. Participants under the age of 18 will require consent for their proof of vaccination status to be recorded and retained from their parent or legal guardian.
- 5.5.5. Participants who do not consent to the recording and retention of their proof of vaccination status will be required to provide proof of vaccination each time they participate in a sanctioned activity at the discretion of BC Artistic Swimming.

6. Special Accommodations

6.1. BC Artistic Swimming, its Board and staff do not have the medical or legal expertise or authority to consider special accommodations or exemptions to this policy rather it defers to the recommendations and protocols established the Province of BC and expert organizations.

6.2. Medical Deferral

6.2.1. Medical deferrals will be considered in alignment with recommendations and guidelines of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (CPSBC), BC Centre for Disease Control and the Provincial Ministry of Health (MOH).

6.2.2. Members requesting special accommodations must provide exemption or deferral of the COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Ministry of Health. To apply for an exemption or deferral of the COVID-19 vaccine through the MOH, please submit the completed [COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Deferral](#) form to the Provincial Health Officer.

6.2.3. BC Artistic Swimming will not consider any other requests or application for medical exemptions or accommodations when or if there is a provincial mandate for proof of vaccination enacted by the Ministry of Health and/or Province of BC.

6.3. Other Accommodations

6.3.1. BC Artistic Swimming will consider other requests for accommodations provided they:

6.3.1.1. align with the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner [A human rights approach to proof of vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), and/or

6.3.1.2. approved by the BC Provincial Ministry of Health or another appropriate provincial government agency.