

Event Vaccination Policy

Background

Volleyball Alberta has legal obligations to take reasonable precautions to protect the health and safety of our members, staff, participants, and stakeholders. The objective underlying this Policy is to provide a healthy and safe environment for employees, contractors, coaches, athletes, referees, support staff and customers, and safeguard the broader communities in which they live.

Volleyball involves proximity between participants (teammates, coaches, and referees). While some individual sports may be able to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19 by implementing physical distancing measures, we do not have that option during indoor volleyball game play. Even though there are some methods to improve ventilation and air filtration indoors, the odds of airborne transmission of COVID-19 are higher indoors compared to outdoors. It is difficult to utilize PPE, distancing, or modify the facilities to acceptably mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

Events and tournaments bring together people who may otherwise not interact; there is higher risk involved when large numbers of people gather indoors.

The long-term viability of our amateur clubs and our organization also need to be taken into consideration. We want to provide a competition season with minimal outbreaks and disruptions.

Volleyball Alberta is bound by the terms of our rental contracts with our facilities, in addition to public health orders and municipal bylaws. Most of the facilities we utilize are participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program for all individuals 12+. To create as much consistency as possible across all events, we have established a minimum standard that will be met at all facilities and events. However, **some venues may have more stringent policies in place that would supersede our minimum requirements.**

Purpose

Volleyball Alberta is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our members. Consistent with this commitment, Volleyball Alberta has established this Event Vaccination Policy (the "Policy").

The Policy requires that, in accordance with the terms set forth below, all persons subject to this Policy (as defined in Scope) at Volleyball Alberta events will provide one of the following at the point of entry:

- Proof of vaccination via QR Code, or
- Proof of a privately paid negative rapid test result taken within 72-hours of service (original paperwork)ⁱ *, or
- Valid identification that matches the vaccine record is also required for adults 18 and over. We recommend athletes carry identification regardless of age.

*** Note: Some facilities only accept negative tests for medically exempt individualsⁱⁱ.** Due to an operator's ability to implement more restrictive requirements, Volleyball Alberta advises that all eligible individuals be fully vaccinated or have proof of a medical exemption (with regular testing), in advance of registering for any program.

It is Volleyball Alberta's intent to follow the Government of Alberta's requirements for its Restrictions Exemption Program, except if this Policy exceeds those requirements. Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, restrictions may be added, modified, or adjusted in the future. Volleyball Alberta will regularly review and modify our health and safety protocols as deemed necessary.

Scope

This Policy applies to all Volleyball Alberta contractors, directors, coaches, athletes, support staff, volunteers, and customers **12 years of age and older** (Collectively "Volleyball Alberta Stakeholders")ⁱⁱⁱ.

This Policy applies at all Volleyball Alberta indoor events including, but not limited to: Premier Tournaments, Provincials, in person Coaching or Referee Clinics, Go Sports programs, and day-camps. Applying a standardized provincial policy creates consistency for all participants and improves protocols for the training of support staff and contractors.

Religious Exemptions

Inquiries for a religious exemption should be directed to the Government of Alberta's Biz Connect Team, <https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/opinio6//s?s=50675>.

Clubs

Club organized training, practices, and activities are not directly organized and operated by Volleyball Alberta, so the respective club and or the host venue's policies will apply.

Registered clubs set fees and select athletes based on a complex interaction of skills, positional requirements, personal attributes, and number of athletes. Registered clubs will set the level of risk they are willing to accept in developing their own Vaccine Policy.

There are additional risks for clubs that choose to select and train athletes that may not meet facility entry requirements. The club must balance the needs of the individual with the team. Clubs should be verifying athlete eligibility (age), and may consider verifying vaccination status, prior to the tryout and selection process to limit logistical challenges and risk. Volleyball Alberta supports clubs who chose to implement additional measures to safeguard their athletes including mandating vaccinations (or medical exemptions).

Approval

This policy was approved by Volleyball Alberta's Board of Directors on November 25, 2021.

ⁱ The test result should be a written or printed copy that indicates the individual has tested negative for COVID-19 on a Health Canada approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR, or lab-based PCR test approved by Health Canada or the lab accreditation body of jurisdiction.

- Valid test results should be a written or printed copy that clearly outlines the type of test, time of sample collection, clear indication of a negative result, and laboratory that completed the test, if applicable.
- Photos of a rapid test or result taken offsite is not sufficient.
- A self-test completed offsite or self-produced documentation of a negative test result is not valid.
- Do not bring completed self-tests or rapid tests to businesses due to communicable disease risk.
- Tests must not be from the Alberta Health Services public COVID-19 testing system.

ii A valid medical exemption is the original signed letter from a physician or nurse practitioner that includes:

- Person's name that matches their identification.
- Physician's or nurse practitioner's complete information, including:
 - name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number and signature
 - statement that there is a medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19
 - duration that the exemption is valid

iii While the [Restrictions Exemption program](#) states that youth 12-17*** do not need to provide proof of vaccination if they are in the facility solely to participate in recreation or sport activities, there are other sections of the guidelines that apply.

- If youth wish to access other amenities beyond their specific youth activity in a facility participating in REP they will be required to be screened per the REP, if they are vaccine-eligible.
- A youth is permitted to watch other youth activities in the facility, however, they must be subject to REP requirements to do so.
 - A youth who is not participating or part of the youth activity being watched is a spectator and is subject to REP requirements.
 - This includes watching family members or friends, but does not include youth who are on the bench watching their team.
- For more clarity, if they are not actively participating in the youth activity, they must follow REP requirements.
 - Youth who have been screened into REP are not required to physically distance.

Volleyball Alberta tournaments will have youth alternate between spectating, playing, learning, scoring, team meetings, etc. and will therefore be subject to entry requirements. The Government of Alberta also recognizes that organizations may choose to implement more stringent requirements than they have set out. (page 7 "Participation & Application" & page 8 "General", [COVID-19 Guidance for Restrictions Exemption Program \(alberta.ca\)](#))

***If one or more of the participants (other than a coach, trainer, instructor, referee, or other official) is 18 years or older, the activity is no longer a youth activity, and all participants MUST meet the requirements of REP to continue. All athletes in Volleyball Alberta's 17U & 18U Age Classes are considered participants of an Adult Sport and subject to the REP Program