



Soccer Nova Scotia COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

Effective date: Thursday, September 30th, 2021

Purpose of Policy: To adhere to the [Nova Scotia's Provincial Government Proof of Vaccine Policy](#) and to continue to protect the health and safety of all Soccer Nova Scotia (SNS) members.

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, Coaches, Programs, Referees, Team Official, SNS official, Instructor, Club, Districts, Leagues, volunteers.

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

"Clubs" Soccer club directors, officers, executive and staff

"Game Official" means any referee, assistant referee, 4th official and referee assessor/mentor/instructor.

"Instructor" means any person engaged by club or Team to provide specialized instruction (e.g goalkeeper training) to players, who are not registered to any club.

"SNS" means Soccer Nova Scotia.

"SNS Official" means any member of the board of directors, officers, and executive.

"Leagues" means any league affiliated with SNS (e.g, MSWSL, Valley District Soccer League etc).

"Participant" means any person registered with SNS through any Club, District or League.

"Programs" means any sanctioned program offered through SNS (e.g., REX, Whitecaps, Provincial team Program, Referee courses, Coaching courses).

"Sanctioned Activity" means any game, tournament, on-field, video session, off-field training, or any other activity involving soccer players and Team Officials that is approved by SNS or any Club / District or League, referee courses/training, coaching courses/ and training.

"Team" means any group of certified Team Officials and rostered soccer players, who are qualified in a division and category under the SNS policies, who have gathered for a Sanctioned Activity, including any Instructors, Volunteers ,or clubs..

"Team Official" means any person involved in the management of a Team and includes the coach, trainer, manager and any assistant coach or assistant trainer.

"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/District/League as a volunteer.

1. Policy Statement

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 Soccer 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, this policy does not apply to SNS members (i.e.: players) under 12 years of age or to soccer spectators.

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

2. Application

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

3. 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 is 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 an organized soccer setting as a player and non-player, both on and off the field. These risk factors include close contact in predominantly indoor closed-space environments (e.g., indoor fields, dressing rooms, etc.).

4. Affected Persons

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

- Players who are 12 and older
- Team Officials (coaches, trainers, and managers, etc.)
- Game Officials (referees, assistant referees, 4th officials, etc.)
- Clubs (Soccer club directors, officers, executive and staff)
- SNS Officials (member of the board of directors, officers, executive, staff)
- Volunteers (physio, etc.)
- League (MSMSL, District Soccer League etc.)
- Program (REX, White Caps, Provincial Team, Coaching courses, Referee courses etc.)
- Instructors (third parties engaged by clubs or Teams to provide specialized instruction (e.g., Goalkeeper training)

5. 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/District/League designate, as applicable, evidence satisfactory to SNS demonstrating that they have received the completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine.

Children and youth age 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.

6. Acceptable Vaccines

SNS recognizes all vaccines approved by Health Canada.

7. 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 through Valid Medical Contraindication for COVID-19 vaccinations must show proof to their club rep with the approved documentation from a Physician or Nurse Practitioner.

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.

8. Reporting, Record Keeping Protocol & Consent

All Affected Persons need to provide Public Health-approved proof of vaccination to their Club/District/League/Referee Association Representative, who will record that they have shown proof of their vaccination status. The Club/League/District/Referee Association will not request or keep any medical records or vaccination receipts on file. The Club/League/District/Referee Association designate will be required to confirm that vaccination record has been verified and with consent, can maintain a list of all Affected Persons who have provided such proof on file. All applications requesting exemption under this policy shall follow Section 7.

Consent – In order to maintain a list of all affected persons verified vaccination records, you must have consent from the individual. If the person is under the age of majority, the consent is required from the parent or guardian. We have provided a written consent form, which is recommended but you may receive verbal consent as well. To be clear, to store a check box showing that you have verified vaccination status, you require consent.

Note: Only doubled vaccinated players and team staff should be added to a roster. Please do not assign players and team staff to rosters unless they are double vaccinated.

Example of ways to verify vaccination statuses:

- Hold team or age group zoom calls. Keep parents of players in the waiting room and allow one in at a time to verify. Verify, check that player off, move to the next player and so on.
- At your clubs first in-person session, communicate that all participants will need bring a paper copy or online copy of their vaccination status as they arrive. Verify and check them off.

9. Acceptable Documentation

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

10. 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.

11. Travel

Game Officials, instructors, participants, teams, team officials coming from outside the province to participate in SNS sanctioned activity must adhere to this policy.