



September 20, 2021 - Town Hall Session
Ontario Vaccine Regulations and Guidance FAQ

Review the [O. Reg. 364/20: RULES FOR AREAS AT STEP 3 AND AT THE ROADMAP EXIT STEP](#)

Review the [Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act](#)

1. What is the OVA vaccine policy?

The OVA does not have a mandatory vaccine policy. The OVA will be following the Ontario regulations, Public Health mandates and facility rules.

2. Can Clubs create their own mandatory vaccine policy?

Yes - as per the Government regulations and guidelines, *"This guidance document sets out baseline requirements that specified businesses and organizations must comply with in accordance with section 2.1 of Schedule 1 of O Reg. 364/20. It does not preclude businesses or organizations from establishing their own additional policies or requirements pertaining to their patrons"* [\(p1\)](#)

3. Will the OVA refund membership fees for non-vaccinated athletes that get dropped from clubs and cannot find a new Club or team to play for?

Yes, the OVA will provide membership refunds for non-vaccinated athletes that get released from Clubs that cannot find a new Club to play for. Please contact Carrie Campbell at ccampbell@ontariovolleyball.org if you are in this situation.

4. Who must collect proof of vaccination and identification?

As per Ontario regulations, the facility is required to check patrons' proof of vaccination, identification at the point of entry of the facility. However, please check with your facility if they wish for your club assist with the process.

5. Can proof of vaccines be kept by the club?

No. As per the Ontario regulations, businesses are not allowed to keep copies of the receipts on file. Once your Club views the vaccination receipt, please ensure you destroy the copy that was provided to you or delete the email. You should keep a tracking spreadsheet with First Name, Last Name, who at the club verified the receipt and the date that the 2nd vaccine was issued to ensure the athlete and/or club staff meet the requirements of 14 days post 2nd vaccination to enter a facility that requires proof of vaccination. By law, you are not allowed to keep a copy of the vaccine receipt on file.

6. If a Club has already started to collect vaccination receipts via email, do they now have to delete that correspondence?

Yes – Clubs must delete any email correspondence that contains a vaccine receipt. As per the Ontario government regulations, you are not allowed to keep a copy of the vaccine receipt on file. As it is an entry requirement for facilities, patrons need to show their vaccine receipt, identification or medical exemption letter upon point of entry.

7. Can the Club ask for a declaration or sign off of their members vaccinated status but not collect the document?

Yes, the Club can use this practice. However, facilities are required by law to verify proof of vaccination, identification and/or valid medical exemptions at the point of entry to the facility so individuals will have to present these documents to enter the facility regardless of whether they have signed the Club's declaration or not. Please discuss with your training facility whether or not they have a different protocol than what is posted on the Ontario government website in the regulations.

8. Is there a grace period for members to be vaccinated?

No. The Ontario Government regulations only allows a grace period for those attending weddings and funerals. There are no grace periods allowed for sport and other locations that require proof of vaccination.

9. My 11-year old child cannot be vaccinated until she turns 12 in 2022. Does that mean she will not be allowed entry into a facility for up to 8 weeks until she is 14 days past her 2nd COVID vaccination shot?

There is no guidance on this scenario in the Ontario regulations. The OVA staff have reached out to the Ministry for guidance on how this will be handled with the facilities. We will update the answer to this question when we have more information.

10. If a Club has a mandatory vaccination policy, and they have athletes that refuse to be vaccinated, can the Club release them and will the OVA waive the \$150 transfer fee?

Yes. The OVA will waive the \$150 transfer fee. If this is happening in your Club, please contact Carrie Campbell at ccampbell@ontariovolleyball.org to advise her of the athlete release.

11. If my Club operates its own facility, are we responsible for verifying vaccination status of patrons on entry?

Yes. Failing to comply with the requirements of O. Reg. 364/20 can result in charges under the ROA. If charged under Part I of the Provincial Offenses Act (POA), set fine amounts are \$750 for individuals and \$1,000 for corporations. Maximum penalties based on a prosecution under Part I or Part II of the POA include fines of up to \$100,000 and up to a year in jail for an individual; up to \$500,000 and up to a year in jail for an individual who is a director or officer of a corporation; and up to \$10 million for a corporation.

The person responsible for a business or an organization that runs a facility must ensure it is complying with guidance published by the Ministry of Health and on its Club website specify:

- a) what constitutes proof of identification and of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and
- b) the manner of confirming proof of vaccination

12. Can Clubs and the OVA just have proof of vaccine uploaded to the MRS so the OVA can verify proof prior to events taking place?

No. As per the Ontario regulations, businesses are not allowed to keep copies of the vaccine receipts on file anywhere. Also, as per the government regulations, the proof of vaccination has to be shown at point of entry to the facility. Thus, collecting proof of vaccination ahead of time will not eliminate the need for validating proof of vaccination at the actual events.

13. Does proof of vaccine have to be the original paper transcript, or can it be a photo or screen shot on my mobile phone?

A photo or screenshot of your vaccine receipt that an individual was emailed will suffice. The Ontario government has stated the online QR Code system will be made available for use as of October 22nd.

14. What if I have lost my proof of vaccine? What do I do?

Copies of a COVID-19 vaccination receipt can be downloaded or printed through the COVID-19 vaccination provincial portal or obtained by calling the [Provincial Vaccine Booking Line](#) at 1-833-943-3900. This version of the COVID-19 vaccination receipt contains security measures to deter forgery.

15. What can people use for proof of identification?

Proof of identity can be established using documentation issued by an institution or public body, provided it includes the name of the holder and date of birth. Examples of identification documents include:

- Birth certificate
- Citizenship card
- Driver's license
- Government (Ontario or other) issued identification card, including health card*
- Indian Status Card /Indigenous Membership Card
- Passport
- Permanent Resident card
- Health Card (only if voluntarily provided – do not ask for it)

Note: expired identification is acceptable, and a photo is not required.

16. How does someone obtain a valid medical exemption letter?

As per the Ontario regulations, patrons with a medical exemption are required to present identification and a written document stating the individual is exempt for a medical reason to the business or organization.

To review proof of a medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19, the business or organization must ensure:

- The name of the person in the written documentation matches the identification provided.
- The physician's or registered nurse in the extended class's information is complete by including:

- Name and contact information of the physician or registered nurse in the extended class;
- Logo or letterhead identifying the physician or registered nurse in the extended class;
- Statement that there is a medical reason for the individual's exemption from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and
- Any effective time-period for the medical reason which includes the date the patron is seeking access to the business or organization.

17. How does one go about applying for a religious exemption?

The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released a statement with respect to the right to be exempt from mandatory vaccination policies based on personal beliefs. While receiving a COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary, the OHRC's position is that a person who chooses not to be vaccinated based on personal preference or singular beliefs does not have the right to accommodation under the Ontario Human Rights Code. For the full statement click [here](#).

If the facility or the Club is mandating vaccination for individuals above and beyond what is stated in the Ontario Regulations, then they might offer accommodation based on religious beliefs. Please check with the facility as to what they might require in order to grant a religious exemption in this situation.

18. Does the Human Rights Code exempt a patron based on creed from COVID-19 requirements like providing proof of vaccination set by a service provider or facility?

Not all beliefs amount to a creed under the Code. As per the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC):

- The Code does not define creed. The OHRC's [Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed](#) sets out guiding factors, based on case law, to help organizations, and ultimately tribunals and courts, make these determinations. This includes considering whether the belief is:
 - Sincerely, freely and deeply held
 - Integrally linked to a person's identity, self-definition and fulfilment
 - Part of a particular and comprehensive, overarching system of belief that governs one's conduct and practices
 - Addressing ultimate questions of human existence, including ideas about life, purpose, death, and the existence or non-existence of a Creator and/or a higher or different order of existence
 - Connected in some way to an organization or community that professes a shared system of belief
- **The OHRC's position is that a singular belief or personal preference against vaccinations or masks does not appear to be protected on the ground of creed under the Code.**
- **The OHRC is not aware of any tribunal or court decision that found a singular belief against vaccinations or masks amounted to a creed within the meaning of the Code.**
- The requirement to wear a mask or prove vaccination may represent a reasonable and bona fide requirement for health and safety reasons, especially when serious risks to public health and safety are shown to exist like during a pandemic.

- For more information, visit: http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news_centre/covid-19-and-ontario%E2%80%99s-human-rights-code-%E2%80%93-questions-and-answers

19. What is the online QR Code system?

Ontario will develop and implement an enhanced digital vaccine certificate with unique QR (Quick Response) code and accompanying verification application that will allow users to securely and safely verify their vaccination status when scanned.

The enhanced vaccine certificate, as well as a verification app to allow businesses or organizations to read the QR code, will be available beginning October 22nd 2021. Following this date, patrons will be able to provide a paper copy or a digital copy of their enhanced vaccine certificate with QR to provide proof of vaccination. Older versions of the receipt will still be acceptable as proof of vaccination.

20. The regulations state “Youth under 18 yrs. of age are exempt”. Does this mean that 18- and 19-year old's participating in Club and OVA events are required to provide proof of vaccination and identification?

Yes. As soon as an athlete turns 18 years of age, they will need to show proof of vaccination, identification or medical exemption to enter a facility.

21. Why are coaches and referees exempt and not 18- and 19-year-old athletes?

There is no rationale provided in the government regulations with respect to why coaches and referees are exempt from providing proof of vaccination.

22. Can facilities create their own rules and are Clubs and the OVA required to follow their rules?

Yes – but facilities are required to follow the government regulations at a minimum. Per the Ontario government regulations, *“This guidance document sets out baseline requirements that specified businesses and organizations must comply with in accordance with section 2.1 of Schedule 1 of O Reg. 364/20. It does not preclude businesses or organizations from establishing their own additional policies or requirements pertaining to their patrons”* ([p1](#))

23. Do the OVA rules and protocols trump the facility rules?

No. The OVA and its members must follow the rules and protocols of the facilities that we rent.

24. If someone has 1 vaccine by September 22nd, is there a grace period so they can still enter a facility until they have their second shot?

No. Based on the Ontario government regulations, there is no grace period for organized sport. If a facility is requiring proof of vaccination, identification or a medical exemption letter, and an athlete or club staff cannot produce these items, they will not be allowed to enter the facility.

25. If someone has their 2nd shot, but it hasn't been 2 weeks since their 2nd shot and it's September 22nd, can they enter the facility?

No. Based on the Ontario government regulations, there is no grace period for organized sport. If a facility is requiring proof of vaccination, identification or a medical exemption letter, and an athlete or club staff cannot produce these items, they will not be allowed to

enter the facility.

26. If Clubs are hosting OVA tournaments, are they responsible for checking proof of vaccination and identification at the door? Are Clubs going to be compensated more for this additional service?

The facilities are responsible for checking vaccination, identification, and/or valid medical exemption although we are not sure at this time how this will actually work with all of the facilities that we use for OVA events. Just in case, OVA has budgeted to pay hosts for providing a COVID officer onsite all regular season events to assist with delivering on mandatory COVID protocols such as daily health screening, contact tracing and assisting with proof of vaccinations, if a certain facility requires it.

27. How is the OVA going to handle checking proof of vaccinations for facilities that require them at OVA events regardless of age?

The facilities are responsible for checking vaccination, identification, and/or valid medical exemption although we are not sure at this time how this will actually work with all of the facilities that we use for OVA events. Just in case, OVA has budgeted to pay hosts for providing a COVID officer onsite all regular season events to assist with delivering on mandatory COVID protocols such as daily health screening, contact tracing and assisting with proof of vaccinations, if a certain facility requires it.

28. Will parents be allowed to watch tournaments? Will parents be required for lining and scoring?

This will depend on the capacity limits of the facility. In addition to the vaccination requirements of some facilities, Ontario is still in Step 3 of the Re-Opening Ontario Act, which limits indoor capacities to 50% of the approved fire code capacity limits for each venue. Each event will have different protocols throughout the season until Ontario is out of Step 3 and is back to 100% capacity rates.

29. If our club has a combined practice and strength and conditioning session in which we are using the weight room, do athletes have to provide proof of vaccination?

Based on the regulations, yes as you are in a different area of the facility. However, confirm with your rented facility on how they are handling this for their location.

30. So, if we are just running a strength and conditioning session with our athletes in a gym, do they then have to provide proof of vaccination and identification?

Based on the Ontario government regulations, yes. Athletes 12 years of age and older would need to provide proof of vaccination, identification or a valid medical exemption letter if they are only attending a work-out in the gymnasium with workout equipment, weights, etc.

31. If our club runs a Parent and Player program, does the parent have to provide proof of identification and vaccine to participate?

Based on the government regulations, anyone over the age of 18 participating in organized sport are required to show proof of vaccination, identification or provide a valid medical exemption letter.

32. Are parents that are lining and scoring or triple ball tossers considered volunteers, thus not required to provide proof of vaccination and identification?

Yes, however, the facility still may require volunteers to provide proof of vaccination and identification.

33. Can we assume that all kids under the age of 18 will now have to show proof of the vaccination to attend OVA events?

No. At this point in time, not all facilities that the OVA has secured for OVA tournaments require proof of vaccination and identification for those 12 and older. All colleges and universities have this as a requirement, and the OVA has booked space at colleges and universities to deliver events at during the indoor competition season. It will be on a location-by-location basis, and all information will be posted on the tournament pages of the OVA website for each facility.

34. If I'm coaching at tournament and then watching a game between matches, will I be asked for proof of vaccination?

As the requirements are based on point of entry at a facility, it does not seem practical that facility staff would be walking around the facility to check proof of vaccines and identification. For OVA events, this will be confirmed with each facility and participants will be advised of the requirements for down time between matches.

35. If I have an unvaccinated 12+ year old athlete, does this mean they have to leave the facility between matches?

As the requirements are based on point of entry at a facility, it does not seem practical that facility staff would be walking around the facility to check proof of vaccines and identification. For OVA events, this will be confirmed with each facility and participants will be advised of the requirements for down time between matches.

36. Does this mean that unvaccinated athletes may be able to play at some tournaments but not others if the facility requires vaccination for everyone - regardless of the exemption for playing sports?

Yes. We must follow the facility rules and if they are requiring mandatory proof of vaccination and identification for anyone 12+, we must follow those rules. So unvaccinated members that do not have a valid medical exemption letter may not be able to participate in all OVA tournaments depending on the facility in use.

37. Is it possible to know which facilities are enforcing additional requirements?

Currently, we are confirming the facility specific requirements on a venue-by-venue basis for indoor youth competitions. All Clubs should be confirming their own venue requirements for their practice spaces. All venue specific vaccine related requirements will be included on the OVA tournament pages of the website.

38. Is there any mention in the regulations of how and where NEGATIVE COVID tests can be used?

No. The regulations do not provide any provision for using negative COVID tests as a way

around mandatory vaccination when it comes to sport. The only provision listed for the use of negative COVID tests is for weddings and funerals.

39. Will OVA tournaments be at facilities that require vaccinations?

Yes. Currently all OCAA and OUA schools require proof of vaccination and identification for anyone over 12. The OVA has already secured some OCAA and OUA facilities for running youth competitions.

40. If an unvaccinated parent from Ottawa drives to Waterloo for their child to attend an OVA event, are they expected to sit in their cars in the winter while their child competes?

As per the Ontario regulations, if a parent does not show proof of vaccination, identification or a valid medical exemption letter, that facility will deny them access.

41. Some other sporting organizations such as youth hockey, ringette, etc. have made proof of vaccination part of their requirements for this season. Have we seen that directive from many sports?

There are a few other sports that are mandating mandatory proof of vaccination to participate. These are mostly contact sports that are high risk.

42. Why are some Club athletes required to wear masks for training?

The OVA mask policy exempts indoor athletes from wearing masks while they are actively participating on court in volleyball activities. All other members, coaches, referees, spectators, and/or inactive players sitting on a bench must wear a face mask. However, Clubs may implement their own protocols above and beyond the OVA face mask policy.