



Cross Country NWT

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy & Safety Protocols

FINAL

Preamble

Cross Country NWT (also referred to as “the Organization”) is committed to providing and maintaining a safe competitive environment for all. This Policy sets out the Organization’s policy response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the protocols to be followed for the safe delivery of programming and competition sanctioned by the Organization. **This Policy requires that, in accordance with the protocol set out below, all persons 12 years and older subject to this Policy be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or obtain an approved exemption.**

“Fully Vaccinated” means having received the completed series of a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved for use by Health Canada and satisfies the vaccination timeline provided below; an individual is considered Fully Vaccinated 14 days after receiving their final dose.

To protect against the spread of COVID-19, this protocol introduces general measures for Cross Country NWT’s sanctioned activities and the cleaning of facilities as established by Public Health Canada. However, the Organization recognizes that Member Clubs, facilities, local municipalities, and/or territorial requirements may choose and have the authority to be more restrictive than the current Policy, in which case, individuals may not be permitted to enter some locations if they do not comply with permitted conditions of use.

1. General Comments

- i. The protocols set out in this Policy are mandatory for all Participants, which includes athletes, officials, staff, coaches, and volunteers who are involved in any activity sanctioned by Cross Country NWT (“Sanctioned Activity”).
- ii. Sanctioned Activity means any event, practice, training, or any other activity involving athletes, coaches, staff, officials and/or volunteers that is approved by the Organization.
- iii. All athletes, coaches, officials, staff, and other personnel taking part in a Sanctioned Activity must follow all guidelines indicated in this document. Failure to comply could lead to discipline, denial of entry, and/or removal from the Sanctioned Activity. The Organization reserves the right to pursue additional discipline if appropriate in the circumstances.

- iv. Individuals who make false attestations about, or provide false documents related to, being vaccinated will be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including permanent expulsion from the Organization.
- v. Local, Territorial, and National governmental COVID-19 health and safety protocols, as well as venue operator health and safety protocols, must be followed at all Sanctioned Activities. This could include, but is not limited to, proof of vaccination, required COVID-19 testing, limitation in the number of participants in the venue, daily health attestations, mask mandates, social distancing mandates, and other such measures required by public health authorities. Requirements may be revised from time to time in response to public health orders.
- vi. The Organization reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to apply health and safety protocols over and above those mandated by government and/or the sport venue.
- vii. Member Clubs' own COVID-19 Vaccination Policies, where available, apply and supersede this Policy in relation to events, programming, and facilities operated by Member Clubs, unless this Policy is applied to a Member Club's activities by resolution of the Cross Country NWT Board of Directors.

2. Protocols for Participants at Sanctioned Activities

- i. All participants wishing to enter the venue of a Sanctioned Activity, as defined by its organizers, must provide proof of full vaccination.
- ii. Participants under the age of twelve do not have to provide proof of full vaccination but must comply with all other public safety measures specified by the organizers.
- iii. If the Organization is uncertain whether a participant is under 12 years of age, the Organization may request that the participant provide acceptable proof of their age.
- iv. Those who cannot provide proof of vaccination will not be permitted into the venue under any circumstances unless they have received written approval from the Organization through the "Exemption" process below:
 - a. If a participant is unable to receive a vaccination due to a valid medical condition or other grounds protected by the NWT *Human Rights Act*, the participant may seek approval from the Organization to attend without proof of vaccination.

- b. Exemption requests must be submitted in writing to the organizing club or authority – or, if unsure, to Cross Country NWT – at least two weeks before the start of the Sanctioned Activity. This request must include documentation supporting the participant’s position that they are exempted from receiving a COVID-19 vaccination.
 - c. This process is a shared responsibility. All parties should co-operatively engage in the process, share information, including answering reasonable questions or provide information about relevant restrictions or limitations, and consider potential solutions.
 - d. The organizing club or authority, or Cross Country NWT, may grant or refuse the participant’s Exemption request to attend a Sanctioned Activity without proof of vaccination. An Exemption request may also be granted with conditions, such as masking and social distancing.
 - e. The decision of the organizing club or authority is final.
- v. Full vaccination of a participant must be completed in the timelines below to be eligible to participate at the Sanctioned Activity:
- a. Two-dose or more vaccines – series of doses must be completed no later than two weeks prior to the first day of the Sanctioned Activity.
 - b. Single-dose vaccines – must be administered no later than four weeks prior to the first day of the Sanctioned Activity.
- vi. Proof of vaccination or a valid exemption **MUST** be submitted to the Organization upon entry.
- a. Proof can be in the form of a valid provincial/territorial vaccine passport, a copy of proof of vaccination given at the time of receiving vaccination, or a letter from a medical practitioner confirming that the participant has been vaccinated.
 - b. The Organization will not retain indefinitely any information provided as proof of vaccination or exemption. The Organization and any related body will retain for the duration of an event or program only whether proof of vaccination has been provided. The Organization and any related body will not retain any further health information shown on proof of vaccination documents. Records related to proof of vaccination will be destroyed on completion of an event or program.

- vii. No refund, if applicable, will be provided should the requisite documentation not be provided.

3. Spectators

- i. The Organization currently extends the requirements of this policy to spectators who pass the point of registration at Sanctioned Activities. Spectators who remain outside the venue bounds (i.e. do not pass the initial registration/documentation checkpoint) are not covered by this policy. Changes in the positions of authorities, including the territorial government and public health authorities, in numbers or severity of COVID-19 cases, and/or in health guidance, may result in future changes to the rules around spectator involvement.

4. Policy Review and Modification

- i. Public health guidance on measures for fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals continues to evolve and it is expected that amendments to this Policy may occur as a result. As such, the Organization reserves the right to amend this Policy from time to time as circumstances change.

5. Travel Safety Measures

- i. Participants who are travelling by air must comply with all applicable airline health and safety regulations.
- ii. Participants who are travelling by car are urged to travel to the Sanctioned Activity with only members of their household where possible. Should a participant need to travel with members outside of their immediate household, please consider wearing a mask and follow COVID-19 measures consistent with public health guidance, infection prevention, and control measures.
- iii. Participants who are travelling out of territory representing the Organization or to attend a Nordiq Canada Sanctioned Activity must be fully vaccinated, including athletes, coaches, officials, and chaperones.

6. General Measures at Sanctioned Activity Venues

- i. The use of a face mask is mandatory in all indoor settings, except for athletes when taking part in an athletic activity. Face masks are mandatory outdoors where physical distancing of 2 metres cannot be maintained.
- ii. The use of hand sanitizer is mandatory at the entrances and exits of indoor settings.

- iii. Each day, all Athletes must complete a daily health attestation (confirming they do not consider themselves to be exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19).
- iv. To access the Sanctioned Activity facilities, participants must manage their personal space or distance of 2 meters between each other.
- v. Access to indoor settings will be limited to:
 - a. Athletes;
 - b. Coaches;
 - c. Technical Officials;
 - d. Staff; and,
 - e. Sanctioned Activity Volunteers.
- vi. For **Junior** Sanctioned Activities, one parent/guardian per participating Junior Athlete can enter the venue if:
 - a. they meet and follow all requirements of this Policy;
 - b. they meet the applicable provincial vaccination requirements; and,
 - c. there is sufficient capacity in the venue.

7. During Sanctioned Activities:

- i. Use your own equipment.
- ii. Use your own water bottle, towel, and clothing.
- iii. Practice good hygiene and refrain from any unnecessary touching of other persons and/or their personal belongings.
- iv. Maintain two metres' distance whenever possible.
- v. Maintain two metres' distance when speaking with Technical Officials and Coaches.

8. After a Sanctioned Event:

- i. Gather all personal items.
- ii. Put your mask back on before entering an indoor setting.
- iii. Wherever possible, keep physical distance.

9. Coaching

- i. Coaches must wear masks in indoor settings and in outdoor settings where physical distance of two metres cannot be maintained

10. Award Ceremonies

- i. The Organization reserves the right not to hold award ceremonies at any of the Sanctioned Activities. This decision will be at the sole and absolute discretion of the Organization.
- ii. Should an award ceremony be held the following protocols will apply:
 - a. Everyone involved in the award ceremonies must wear a mask and disinfect their hands.
 - b. Only Athletes and those involved in the presentation are allowed in the medal presentation area. The exception to this is:
 - 1. Sanctioned Activity photographer