



April 15, 2022.

Ringette Ontario Vaccination Update

Ringette Ontario strongly recommends that everyone eligible to be vaccinated is fully vaccinated prior to participation in any Ringette Ontario sanctioned activities. This is in line with the recommendations from the Ontario Ministry of Health that everyone who is eligible to be vaccinated, receives the approved number of doses to be considered fully vaccinated.

After careful consideration, and in consultation with various partner sport organizations and provincial regulations, effective April 18th at 12:01AM, the Board has elected to suspend the mandatory vaccination policy at this time and therefore, vaccinations are not mandatory in order to participate in spring tryouts and other sanctioned ringette activities in preparation for the 2022/23 season. Please note that any participant who is not fully vaccinated and chooses to register with Ringette Ontario must understand that, if mandatory vaccinations return by either Government or Ringette Ontario decision, they will be no longer eligible to participate. Associations who choose to form a team with participants who are not fully vaccinated, do so at their own risk.

Should circumstances regarding COVID-19 evolve and dictate a change in our policy, Ringette Ontario will revisit this policy accordingly.

FAQ's:

If my child did not register with RO for the 21/22 season but would like to attend tryouts, are they required to register with their local association?

- Yes. All participants must register and pay the RO player registration fee of \$52 to be eligible to participate in tryouts and other RO sanctioned events for the remainder of the 2021-22 season.
- Please be advised that RO fees will not be reimbursed if participants register, and they are no longer eligible to participate due to COVID-19 restrictions including change in policy. Association registration or team fees are subject to association refund policies.

If my child is unvaccinated, are they eligible to participate in sanctioned Spring Ringette leagues, and summer camps?

- Yes. Effective April 18th athletes will be eligible to participate in Spring Ringette leagues, camps and spring ice time hosted by associations if registered with Ringette Ontario for the 2021-22 season.

Our Association is recruiting for vacant Board of Director seats, are we permitted to accept nominations from volunteers 18+ who are not vaccinated?

- Yes, but any participant who is not fully vaccinated and chooses to register with Ringette Ontario must understand that, if mandatory vaccinations return, they may become no longer eligible to participate in in-person events.

Will try-outs still be required to occur in the fall?

- Ringette Ontario did not require fall try-outs; however, we have and continue to strongly encourage associations and regions to consider pathways to allow players to return to the sport closer to the competition season.
- As a reminder, final rosters are not required to Ringette Ontario until November 1st.
- Ringette Ontario does not support try-outs for any teams or players U12 and under in the spring season.

Is masking mandatory?

- Ringette Ontario strongly encourages the use of a mask by all athletes, officials, coaches, and spectators in an indoor public setting. Masks are not required for athletes and officials on the ice but are strongly recommended for coaches while on the bench.