



VACCINATION POLICY

September 10th, 2021

Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League



GOJHL VACCINATION POLICY

1. Policy Statement

GREATER ONTARIO JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE VACCINATION POLICY – 2021-22 Season

The Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League (“GOJHL”) requires that all GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” (players, coaches, trainers, team and league staff, officials, volunteers and billet families) be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (two doses plus 14 days) by **September 22nd 2021**, with a Health Canada approved vaccine, as directed by the Province of Ontario’s vaccine certificate mandate and regulations.

This policy applies to all GOJHL “Player Access Personnel”, which includes individuals who attend training camp, practices, games or play in the GOJHL, and specifically includes all players, coaches, trainers, and those who have direct contact with and access to GOJHL players, coaches and trainers such as team and league staff, officials, volunteers, and billet families. Billet family members under the permitted age for vaccination by applicable Public Health Agencies are excluded.

This policy is effective immediately, with due regard for the availability of COVID-19 vaccines and necessary interval between first and second doses.

2. Reason for Policy

The health and safety of all GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” is paramount to the GOJHL. The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of all GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” by reducing the risk of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19, an infectious communicable disease, among all persons involved in the GOJHL; and to promote the health and safety of all members of the GOJHL community, through vaccinations against COVID-19.

This policy is necessary to prevent, respond to, and alleviate the transmission of COVID-19 in the GOJHL because of the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present while participating in an organized hockey league as a player and non-player, both on and off the ice. These risk factors include close contact in predominantly indoor closed-space environments (i.e. arenas, dressing rooms, buses and hotels, etc.).

The close contact nature of organized hockey makes compliance with social distancing impossible and reduces the effectiveness of other infectious disease transmission protocols such as masking.

“Accommodation” describes the additional steps, temporary or otherwise, the GOJHL has taken to allow certain individuals with less-than-optimal vaccination status, the opportunity to safely participate in GOJHL activities.



3. Vaccination Requirement and Records

All GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (two doses plus 14 days) by **September 22nd 2021**, and must present evidence satisfactory to the GOJHL. Vaccination evidence shall be provided in advance of attending any GOJHL event.

4. Acceptable Vaccines

The GOJHL recognizes all vaccines approved by Health Canada (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Astra-Zeneca, Janssen (Johnson and Johnson)). All GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” will ultimately be required to confirm they are fully vaccinated regardless of which approved vaccine they receive.

5. Acceptable Documentation

Acceptable documents serving as evidence of COVID-19 immunization include:

- A digital or physical Dose Administration Receipt (Ex. If received in Ontario, then from the Ontario.ca site or the anticipated (after October 22, 2021) enhanced vaccination certificate with a unique QR code
- Medical records signed by a licensed health care provider indicating vaccine name(s) and date(s) of administration

6. Accommodation Process & Protocols

Any GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” requiring accommodation must provide documentation to substantiate their reason for not being vaccinated in compliance with health privacy standards.

If a GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” cannot provide satisfactory evidence of vaccination, the following will be taken into consideration:

- Proof of vaccination is not possible due to the lack of availability of the vaccine at the time of this Policy;
- The GOJHL “Player Access Personnel’s” reason for not being vaccinated (subject to health privacy laws); and,
- Documentation to substantiate a medical or protected ground reason under the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC) for not being vaccinated. In the case, of medical grounds, the only accepted document will be a physician-signed COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Exemption Request Form)

Through independent 3rd parties appointed by the Commissioner, the GOJHL will comply with the OHRC and provide accommodation up to the point of undue hardship to any GOJHL



“Player Access Personnel” who are unable to be vaccinated for substantiated medical reasons and/or on grounds protected under the OHRC.

All GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” with an approved exemption will be subject to abiding by the protocols below:

- In the case of a team or league employee, place the GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” on an unpaid leave of absence for the duration of the pandemic or until such time that COVID-19 no longer poses a significant public health risk;
- In the case of a player:
 - at their own expense, be required to produce a negative PCR COVID-19 test no less than 2 days prior to September 24th, 2021 or at any given point in the season. They will, at their own expense, have to undergo repeat PCR COVID-19 testing every 3 weeks throughout the season and prior to the return to the team after any time away from the team;
 - required to shower alone;
 - sit alone at team meals (at least 3 m apart from others) and is not allowed to travel in a car with other participants; and
 - bus travel will require seating accommodations such that the unvaccinated or partially vaccinated will sit no closer than 2 m away and always masked. When participants are eating or drinking in the bus, those who are not unvaccinated, will sit no closer than 3 m away.
- In the case of a volunteer or billet parent, require the billet or volunteer to cease involvement with the GOJHL for the duration of the pandemic or until such time that COVID-19 no longer poses a significant public health risk.

To begin the accommodation request process, email or call GOJHL Commissioner Brent Garbutt (bgarbutt@gojhl.ca) or (416) 799-2424.

7. Reporting and Record Keeping

All records about COVID-19 vaccinations and accommodations for GOJHL “Player Access Personnel” will only be collected, used, or disclosed as may be necessary for legitimate operational purposes or as directed or requested by governmental authorities.

All records will be kept in a secure manner consistent with the GOJHL’s privacy policies and practices.

8. Vaccination Requirements – Non “Player Access Personnel”

All individuals not included in the “Player Access Personnel” category must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (two doses plus 14 days) by September 22nd 2021 and provide proof of meeting the Province of Ontario’s vaccination certificate requirements, along with proof of identity (such as driver’s license or health card) in order to obtain access to any GOJHL event.