

# Provincial Women's Softball Association



## Mandatory Return to Play Protocol

March 31, 2022

# Table of Contents

Overview.....	4
Updates.....	5
<b>ENTRY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Team and Player Sign-In.....	5
Entry to concessions, washrooms, food areas .....	6
Hand Sanitization.....	6
Frequent hand sanitization will be stressed for players in all league/tournament play.....	6
Vendors .....	6
Hotels.....	6
Designated Smoking Areas .....	6
<b>ON-FIELD.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Hand Sanitization.....	6
Coin Toss/Rules and Exchange of Lineup Cards .....	6
Player’s Equipment.....	7
Protective Face Masks/Helmets .....	7
Masks (non-protective) .....	7
Batter .....	7
Capacity of Players on bench/dugout.....	7
Injured Player.....	7
Bat Testing/Checks .....	8
Post-Game Bench/Dugout Cleaning .....	8

UMPIRES ..... 8

    Hand Sanitization..... 8

    Lightning/Inclement Weather ..... 8

Reporting of COVID-19 suspected case/cases ..... 8

    Participants who become ill with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while playing/on-site ..... 9

    COVID-19 positive cases, can only return to play/practice/participation after ..... 9

Appendix 1 ..... 10

Return to Play Activity Leader Checklist..... 10

    Prior to departing for the field..... 10

    During the session ..... 10

    After the session ..... 10

Appendix 2 – Required Screening Questions ..... 11

    – Results of Screening Questions.....15

Appendix 3 – What to do if exposed to COVID-19 ..... 16

Appendix 4 ..... 17

**2021 – 2022 Season.....17**

Purpose of Vaccination Policy ..... 17

Definitions..... 17

1. Policy Statement ..... 18

2. Reason for Policy ..... 18

3. Affected Persons ..... 18

4. Vaccination Requirement & Records..... 19

5. Acceptable Vaccines..... 19

6. Acceptable Documentation.....	19
7. Accommodation.....	19
8. Report & Record Keeping.....	19
9. Unvaccinated Affected Persons.....	20
10. Players under 12 years.....	20
11. Spectators.....	20
12. Indoor Facilities.....	20
13. Hotels.....	20
Appendix 5.....	21

## Overview

### Return to Play Guidelines

*The purpose of this document is to outline plans, guidelines, and procedures in contemplation of a Return to Play, addressing **FIVE (5)** major areas of concern with respect to physical distancing and to provide a certain level of comfort to participants by outlining steps to be taken to help maximize their safety and well-being and allows for any enhanced P.W.S.A./Event protocols that we might develop or that the Province or Municipalities may require to rent the space.*

*This document has been developed in accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on the organization of sporting events with the input from the WBSC Medical Commission.*

**We extend our immense gratitude to all essential and Frontline workers.**

**Be safe.**

The items listed in this document are suggestions of recommended safeguards for restarting Softball Activity in Ontario. Provincial/Territorial Associations, Leagues, Tournament Hosts, Staff, Players, Coaches, Parents and Spectators must continue to follow Federal, Provincial and Local Governmental guidelines.

**Feel free to make your guidelines more stringent if you deem necessary.** Remember that information and recommendations during the pandemic are very fluid and are subject to change.

These protocols will be the responsibility of the Association, Home Team, Coach, Tournament Hosts, City/Municipality in which the event is held.

#### **Disclaimer**

While the advice given in these guidelines has been developed using the best information available, it is intended purely as guidance to be used at the user's own risk. No responsibility is accepted by P.W.S.A. or by any person, firm, corporation or organization who or which has been in any way concerned with the furnishing of information or data, the compilation, publication or any translation, supply or sale of this Guidance for the accuracy of any information or advice given herein or for any omission here from or from any consequences whatsoever resulting directly or indirectly from compliance with or adoption of guidance contained therein, even if caused by a failure to exercise reasonable care.

**March 31, 2022 – revision to the majority and the removal of most protocols, revision to the Vaccine Policy.**

January 31, 2022 – revision to incorporate updates to Ontario reopening Reg 364.20

January 1, 2022 – addition of Self Assessment tool – Appendix 3

October 18, 2021 – addition of Appendix 5 – Vaccine Policy

September 25, 2021 – update to indoor premises of a facility used for sports and recreational fitness activities – vaccine mandates.

If the facility guidelines or City Permit guidelines supersede these, then they must be followed.

August 12, 2021 – update to Appendix 3 Covid screening, new Appendix 4, Step 3 Reopening Ontario Key Updates beginning July 16, 2021.

## **ENTRY**

**Declaration waiver from all participants regarding COVID-19 exposure must be validated with roster/contract.**

Passive wellness testing each time the athlete, coach, parent, etc. attends a game, practice, tournament should be completed.

Any player, parent, coach, umpire, etc. showing symptoms should not show up at the park, but if they fail the screening, then they would not be permitted for the weekend and the team/coach would be responsible to ensure the person showing symptoms is isolated from all others and isolate those who were in contact before discovery.

**\* There is also the expectation that any individual experiencing symptoms should take the initiative and stay home. Note: Anyone shown to be experiencing symptoms from the active screening will be turned away before they enter the park.**

## **Team and Player Sign-in**

- \* Registration, announcer's, scorekeeping tables – equipment must be disinfected after each use and personnel change.
- \* P.W.S.A. or tournament personnel will deal with members (on certificate) of the team only. Parents, spectators, fans, etc. are not permitted in the officials' tent/area. It is the responsibility of the coach to communicate this to their team.
- \* P.W.S.A. or tournament personnel may wear a mask/bandanna/neck gaiter while in the venue (on or near the diamond and in the officials' tent at any time they are dealing with teams/coaches), and shall not share phones, tablets, etc.

## **Entry to concessions, washrooms, food area**

- \* Washrooms must have hand sanitizer in each.

## **Hand Sanitization**

- \* The establishment of hand sanitization stations may be applicable for some complexes/facilities but at a minimum, should be on the bench and equipment area of every team for all training, practices, games and tournament play.
- \* Hygiene: Hand sanitizer on each bench, park (diamond) entrance, washrooms, at all concessions, souvenir areas.
- \* Hand sanitizer may be distributed to teams/players upon entry. Teams must be advised of being required to bring their own supply of hand sanitizer to be able to participate.

Frequent hand sanitization will be stressed for players in all league/tournament play and will be enforced as mandatory.

## **Vendors**

- \* All vendors will be asked to follow outlined guidelines and regulations set out by the event organizer(s) and the Province of Ontario.

## **Hotels**

- \* Hotels will have their own procedures and guidelines in place to ensure the safety of their guests.

## **Designated Smoking Areas**

- \* Must be in an area away from the playing field and proper disposable cigarette cannisters/ashtrays are required. No smoking or throwing away butts on the ground must be enforced.

## **ON-FIELD**

### **Hand Sanitization**

- \* Should be done consistently throughout the game.

### **Coin Toss, Rules and Exchange of Lineup Cards**

- \* Only one representative per team.

## Player's Equipment

- \* Players should be reminded to not share equipment and keep each individual's equipment isolated.
- \* Catcher's equipment – each catcher must have their own and should be disinfected after each game.
- \* Sharing of water bottles is not allowed.
- \* Label all water bottles and personal equipment so there is no confusion.
- \* Make it a priority to provide your team with essentials to stay healthy – hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, etc. Also, make it mandatory for players to disinfect everything that was used during participation.

## Protective Face Masks/Helmets

- \* There should be no sharing of protective face masks or helmets at any time.

## Masks (non-protective)

- \* Face masks/bandannas/neck gaiters for the purpose of reducing potential virus transmission will not be a required stipulation for all persons entering the park/complex/facility. For all coaches and players, spectators and umpires, a face covering/bandanna/neck gaiter is optional during the warmups, practices and games.

## Batter

- \* Sanitizer on benches to allow for frequent handwashing....in between innings/after at-bats.

## Capacity of Players on bench/dugout

- \* AT ALL TIMES, disinfect and sanitize shared equipment after practices/games.
- \* Make it a priority to provide your team with essentials to stay healthy – hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, etc. Also, make it mandatory for players to disinfect everything that was used during participation.
- \* AT ALL TIMES, disinfect and sanitize your own personal equipment.
- \* Keep a hand sanitizing station in your personal team dugout.
- \* This will allow players and coaches to have the option to feel like they have the resources they need quickly and safely without having to leave the diamond.

## Injured Player

- \* If medical personnel are on hand, injured players should be dealt with primarily by these individuals, unless further assistance is requested.
- \* The number of individuals attending to an injured player should be limited to the number necessary based on the severity of the injury. Sufficient first-aid kits should be provided that include latex gloves and nonmedical masks to help increase the safety of their interaction with the injured player.
- \* Players injured during the game must be positioned in a safe area.

## Bat Testing/Checks

- \* Bat testing prior to the start of games/tournaments (when applicable) will be done using a visual check completed by the umpire crew to ensure all bats have the appropriate thumbprint and do not show any visible signs of damage.

## Post-Game Bench/Dugout Cleaning

- \* Emphasis will be placed on mandatory cleaning and sanitization of the bench area following the completion of the game. Access to extra garbage/recycling containers may be a request made to specific parks/municipalities. Responsibility of host or home team association, if practice or exhibit play.

## UMPIRES

### Hand Sanitization

- \* Umpires will be subject to any hand sanitization guidelines provided by the league/tournament organizer.
- \* Umpires will be asked to supply their own personal hand sanitizer.

### Lightning/Inclement Weather

- \* All persons must return to the vehicle in which they arrived at the park. No congregating under tents, shelters, etc.

## REPORTING OF COVID-19 SUSPECTED CASE/CASES

- \* Refer suspected cases for COVID-19 testing.
- \* Predetermine emergency contacts and exact protocols with local authorities.
- \* Establish isolation area – on-site medical treatment clinics/facilities where an individual can be initially assessed.
- \* The isolation area should be equipped with the necessary supplies determined by the local authorities.
- \* The medic/personnel attending symptomatic persons should wear masks, rubber/disposable gloves, and glasses or visors, which shall be disposed of immediately after use and the staff shall cleanse thoroughly afterwards.
- \* The symptomatic patient should be given a surgical type mask before carrying out a careful evaluation.
- \* In the case of a symptomatic patient (sore throat, runny nose, breathing difficulties and flu-like symptoms) based on clinical data, we recommend, when possible, to perform a COVID-19 test.
- \* Medic/staff must proceed, immediately after evaluation, with personal and area cleaning protocol as established by the local authorities; Safe Return to Baseball/Softball – COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines.
- \* If the subject does not fall within the definition of “case” or “suspected case”, they shall be sent home with the indication to contact their own physician.
- \* If a medic/personnel member falls within the definition of “case” or “suspected case”, they shall be directed to test and isolate if a positive case.

## Participants who become ill with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while playing/on-site

- \* Activate Emergency Action Plan (EAP) COVID-19 Medical and Public Health Response Procedure for the specific venue.
- \* Participants (personnel, players, coaches, managers, spectators, etc.) who become ill at the field will be isolated and removed from the activity/event.
- \* P.W.S.A. will designate area at each field for isolation purposes.
- \* The activity/event will be shut down while:
  - 1) Equipment (dugouts/bases) are cleaned and sanitized.
  - 2) Participants sanitize their hands.
- \* The Activity Leader (coach, captain, P.W.S.A. personnel, host) will advise the unwell participant to don a face covering or mask (if available) on their exit from the field.
- \* The Activity Leader (coach, captain, P.W.S.A. personnel, host) will advise the unwell participant to go home immediately (in a private vehicle, if possible) and self-isolate, and contact Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000), their health care provider or visit their **Local Health Department website** to determine if further care is needed and learn about **assessment centres**.
- \* If leaving the field cannot be done immediately (waiting for a private vehicle, or a parent/guardian), the participant will remain in the designated isolation area.
- \* The Coach/Manager/Team Medic will advise P.W.S.A. so that the PSO can follow up with the unwell participant, and aid public health authorities with potential contact tracing in the event the unwell participant tests positive for COVID-19.
- \* If a P.W.S.A. member at any P.W.S.A. activity/event tests positive for COVID-19, they will follow up with close contacts, who may include other P.W.S.A. members. Other Team members who came in close contact with the infected participant may be required to self-isolate.

## COVID-19 positive cases can only return to play/practice/participation after:

- 1) A doctor's note is provided and received by P.W.S.A. leadership.
- 2) Or the local public health authority/unit has advised that the individual is considered recovered per Ontario/Local Public Health guidelines and cleared to return to play/work.

**Note:** The privacy of P.W.S.A. members will be maintained; participants who may have been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case will **only** be advised that someone at the training session/game/tournament has tested positive.

**We extend our immense gratitude to all essential and Frontline workers.**

**Be Safe**

# Appendix 1

## Return to Play Activity Leader Checklist

### Prior to departing for the Field

- \* Complete your passive wellness screening/checklist (Javelin App/Paper Form).
- \* Sanitize equipment that you will be using at the field.
- \* Ensure you have hand sanitizer in your bag for your athletes and to sanitize equipment at the field.
- \* Ensure you have your own water bottle, and it is appropriately labelled with your name. Check the attendance listing and that those who are attending have done their pre-departure passive wellness screening.

### During the Session

- \* Schedule breaks to hydrate and during that water break, sanitize equipment and wash/sanitize hands.
- \* If someone shows any symptoms (aside from things like coughing after swallowing a bug, sneezing due to allergies, etc.) during the session, remove them from the group, advise them to call Telehealth, their medical professions or to visit an assessment centre.

### After the Session

- \* Encourage all participants to sanitize their equipment and hands.
- \* Sanitize any bats and other equipment (example - helmets) before putting them back in your bag.
- \* Ensure all participants put any garbage/waste (water bottles) they may have into the garbage/waste bin at the venue, or to take it with them and dispose of it at their home.

## Appendix 2

**Self Assessment Tool** - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

### Required Screening Questions

- Are you currently experiencing one or more of the symptoms below that are new or worsening? Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.

**For individuals who are 18 years of age and older:**

<b>Do you have one or more of the following symptoms?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
---	---

<b>Fever and/or chills</b>	Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius / 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
<b>Cough or barking cough (croup)</b>	Not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, COPD, or other known causes or conditions you already have
<b>Shortness of breath</b>	Not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions you already have
<b>Sore throat</b>	Not related to seasonal allergies, acid reflux, or other known causes or conditions you already have
<b>Difficulty swallowing</b>	Painful swallowing (not related to other known causes or conditions you already have)
<b>Decrease or loss of smell or taste</b>	Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions you already have
<b>Pink eye</b>	Conjunctivitis (not related to reoccurring styes or other known causes or conditions you already have)
<b>Runny or stuffy/congested nose</b>	Not related to seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather, or other known causes or conditions you already have
<b>Headache</b>	Unusual, long-lasting (not related to tension-type headaches, chronic migraines, or other known causes or conditions you already have)  <i>If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing a mild headache that only began after vaccination, select 'No'.</i>

<b>Digestive issues like nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain</b>	Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions you already have
<b>Muscle aches/joint pain</b>	Unusual, long-lasting (not related to a sudden injury, fibromyalgia, or other know causes or conditions you already have) <i>If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild muscle aches/joint pain that only began after vaccination, select 'No'.</i>
<b>Fatigue</b>	Unusual tiredness, lack of energy (not related to depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, or other know causes or conditions you already have) <i>If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild fatigue that only began after vaccination, select 'No'.</i>
<b>Falling down often</b>	For older people

**For individuals who are under 18 years of age:**

<b>Do you have one or more of the following symptoms?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
---	---

<b>Fever and/or chills</b>	Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius / 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
<b>Cough or barking cough (croup)</b>	Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, or other know causes or conditions you already have)
<b>Shortness of breath</b>	Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions you already have)
<b>Decrease or loss of smell or taste</b>	Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions you already have
<b>Sore throat or difficulty swallowing</b>	Painful swallowing (not related to seasonal allergies, acid reflux, or other known causes or conditions you already have)

<b>Runny or stuffy/congested nose</b>	Not related to seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather, or other know causes or conditions you already have
<b>Headache</b>	Unusual, long-lasting (not related to tension-type headaches, chronic migraines, or other know causes or conditions you already have) <i>If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing a mild headache that only began after vaccination, select 'No'.</i>
<b>Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea</b>	Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions you already have
<b>Extreme tiredness or muscle aches</b>	Unusual, fatigue, lack of energy (not related to depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, sudden injury, or other know causes or conditions you already have) <i>If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild muscle aches that only began after vaccination, select 'No'.</i>  <i>If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild fatigue that only began after vaccination, select 'No'.</i>

2. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)?

This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.

- Yes  No

3. In the last 10 days, have you tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit?

If you have since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select 'No'.

- Yes  No

4. In the last 14 days, have you been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19?

If public health has advised you that you do not need to self-isolate (e.g., you are fully vaccinated† or another reason), select “No”.

Yes  No

5. In the last 14 days, have you received a COVID Alert exposure notification on your cell phone?

If you are fully vaccinated† or have already gone for a test and got a negative result, select “No”.

Yes  No

6. In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside of Canada AND been advised to quarantine per the federal quarantine requirements?

Yes  No

7. **In the last 14 days, has someone in your household (someone you live with):**  
\* **travelled outside of Canada AND been advised to quarantine per the federal quarantine requirements; OR**  
\* **been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19 AND advised by a doctor, healthcare provider or public health unit to self-isolate?**

If you are fully vaccinated, select “No”.

Yes  No

8. Is anyone you live with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms?

If you are fully vaccinated, select “No”.

Yes  No

*If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No”.*

† Fully vaccinated is defined as an individual  $\geq 14$  days after receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or their first dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.

## Results of Screening Questions

- \* If the patron answered **NO to all questions from 1 through 8**, they can enter the business or organization. In the business or organization, the patron must continue to follow all public health measures, including masking, maintaining physical distance and hand hygiene, where applicable.
- \* If the patron answered **YES to any questions from 1 through 8**, they should not be permitted to enter the business or organization (including any outdoor or partially outdoor business or facility). They should be advised to go home to self-isolate immediately and contact their health care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) to get advice or an assessment, including if they need a COVID-19 test.
- \* If the patron answered **YES to question 8**, they must be advised to stay home, along with the rest of the household, until the sick individual gets a negative COVID-19 test result, is cleared by their local public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness.
- \* If any of the answers to these screening questions change during the day, this screening result is no longer valid and the patron may need to screen again, wherever necessary.
- \* Any record created as part of patron screening may only be disclosed as required by law.

## Appendix 3

What to do if you have been exposed to COVID-19

**Confirm  
Test  
Inform**

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed#exposed>

## Appendix 4

### Provincial Women's Softball Association Vaccination Policy 2022 Season (Revised March 20, 2022)

#### **Purpose of Policy:**

To continue to protect the health and safety of all P.W.S.A. Members by requiring that certain individuals be fully vaccinated as a condition of participating in P.W.S.A. Sanctioned Activities in accordance with defined timelines.

#### **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 Players, P.W.S.A. Officials, Instructors, Association Officials, Team Ontario Officials and Volunteers.

“Association” means any Club, Team, or League.

“Association Designate” means Association/Club President or Association Secretary.

“Association Officials” means any member of the board of directors, officers, executive and staff (including interns) of an Association.

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

“Instructor” means any person engaged by an Association or Team to provide specialized instruction to players, who is not registered to any Association.

“Members” or “members” means any person affiliated with the P.W.S.A. through any Association, Team Ontario or Individual, including the parents or legal guardians of any minor aged participant.

“P.W.S.A.” means Provincial Women's Softball Association.

“P.W.S.A. Official” means any member of the board of directors, officers, executive and staff (including interns) of the P.W.S.A.

“Sanctioned Activity” means any game (league and/or exhibition), tournament, inclusive of any skills camp or talent ID camp or any other activity involving players and/or Team Ontario Officials that is approved by the P.W.S.A., Softball Ontario (or any of its member organizations) or Softball Canada (or any of its member organizations).

“Spectators” means all those in attendance to watch the activity including family members, friends, extended family, and fans.

“Team” means any group of team officials and affiliated softball players, who are qualified in a division and category under the P.W.S.A. Rules & Constitution, who have gathered for a Sanctioned Activity, including any Instructors, Volunteers or Association Officials.

“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 Player” means any player 12 and over.

“Volunteer” means any person registered by the P.W.S.A. or Association as a volunteer.

## **1. Policy Statement**

The P.W.S.A. requires that all Affected Persons be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19, in accordance with the remainder of this policy, as a condition of participating in any Sanctioned Activities during the 2022 season. At present, this policy does not apply to players under 12 years of age, or spectators in outdoor settings.

Public health guidance on measures for fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals continue to evolve and may affect this policy in the future. The P.W.S.A. reserves the right to amend this policy in response to any new guidance received from or regulations passed by federal, provincial, and local public health and governmental authorities in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, this policy only applies to Associations, Teams and Players who are members of, or who are Affiliated/Associated with, the P.W.S.A. It is not intended to apply to teams and participants of any associations operating outside of the P.W.S.A.

Local public health units, municipalities or facilities may have COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines that are stricter than P.W.S.A. policy, in which case, they will take precedence.

This policy is effective March 20, 2022, with due regard for the availability of Accepted COVID-19 vaccines.

## **2. Reason for Policy**

The health and safety of all Participants is the top priority of the P.W.S.A. The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of all members by reducing the risk of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19, an infectious communicable disease, among all persons involved in the P.W.S.A., and to promote the health and safety of all members of the P.W.S.A. community, through vaccinations against COVID-19.

This policy is necessary to prevent, respond to, and alleviate any outbreak of COVID-19 in the P.W.S.A. because of the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present while participating in an organized setting as a player and non-player, both on and off the diamond. These risk factors include close contact in predominantly indoor closed-space environments (e.g.: gyms, training facilities, etc.).

## **3. Affected Persons**

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

- Players 12 years or older
- All players and staff on teams participating in the Ontario Summer Games (U17); the Canada Summer Games (Team Ontario); Softball Canada Canadian Championships hosted in Ontario (subject to Softball Canada establishing an alternative vaccination policy)
- All players and staff on P.W.S.A. affiliated teams participating in P.W.S.A. events (clinics, camps, events, Qualifiers, Eliminations, Provincials)
- Team Ontario Officials (Coaches, Trainers, and Managers, etc.)
- P.W.S.A. Officials (directors, officers, executive and staff, including Team Ontario personnel)
- P.W.S.A. Volunteers
- Instructors (third parties engaged by the P.W.S.A. to provide specialized instruction)

At present, this policy does not apply to players under 12 years of age, or spectators in outdoor settings.

#### **4. Vaccination Requirement & Records**

As of December 1, 2021, P.W.S.A. is requiring that all Affected Persons be Fully Vaccinated (i.e., including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose). All Affected Persons must present to their Association designate, as applicable, evidence satisfactory to the P.W.S.A. demonstrating that they have received the completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine.

#### **5. Acceptable Vaccines**

The P.W.S.A. recognizes all vaccines approved by Health Canada. All Affected Persons will be required to confirm they are vaccinated regardless of which approved vaccine they receive.

#### **6. Acceptable Documentation**

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

- A digital or physical Dose Administration Receipt.
- Medical records signed by a licensed health care provider indicating vaccine name and date(s) of administration.
- Government verification/language (e.g., Government issued vaccine passport or card).

#### **7. Accommodation**

The P.W.S.A. will comply with the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC) <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rightscode> and provide an accommodation to any Affected Person who is unable to be vaccinated for substantiated medical reasons and/or on such other grounds protected under the OHRC, unless such an accommodation cannot be made without inflicting undue hardship on other Affected Persons.

If an Affected Person cannot provide the P.W.S.A. or their Association with satisfactory evidence of vaccination, the following will be taken into consideration by the P.W.S.A.:

- The Affected Person's reason for not being vaccinated; and
- Documentation to substantiate a medical or protected ground reason for not being vaccinated.

Any Affected Person requiring accommodation must provide the P.W.S.A. with documentation to substantiate their reason for not being vaccinated. Where accommodation is not possible without undue hardship to other Affected Persons, the Affected Person will not be permitted to be involved in any Sanctioned Activity for the duration of the pandemic or until such time that COVID-19 no longer poses a significant public health risk or until such time that the P.W.S.A. determines.

The P.W.S.A. reserves the right to have accommodation medical documentation reviewed by a P.W.S.A. designated medical specialist and to make appropriate inquiries to verify the authenticity of any creed/religion-based claim for accommodation.

Any Affected Person who is granted accommodation must undergo regular COVID-19 testing and must provide evidence to their Association Designate and P.W.S.A., of a negative test taken not more than 4 hours prior to each Sanctioned Activity. The Affected Person is financially responsible for related testing expenses.

To begin the accommodation request process, please complete the P.W.S.A. Application for Vaccination Accommodation Form.

#### **8. Reporting & Record Keeping**

All P.W.S.A. affiliated athletes and staff will be required to acknowledge a COVID-19 Declaration and Assumption of Risk Waiver as part of the PWSA registration process.

All other teams and leagues that obtain insurance through PWSA and do not compete in PWSA sanctioned events or member tournaments will be free to set their own policies regarding COVID-19.

All Affected Persons may need to provide proof to their Association designate according to their policies, who will record proof of vaccination. However, the Association will not be required to keep any medical records or vaccination receipts on file. The Association designate will simply be required to confirm that proof has been provided and record and maintain on file a list of all Affected Persons who have provided such proof. All applications requesting an accommodation under this policy shall be filed directly with the P.W.S.A., as provided above.

All documentary records about COVID-19 accommodations will only be collected, used, retained, or disclosed by the P.W.S.A. as may be necessary for legitimate operational purposes or as directed or requested by governmental authorities or as may be required by law.

Until no longer required, all records retained under this policy must be kept in a secure location to which access is provided to only a limited number of designated persons who engage in administering this policy, and no others.

Once an Affected Person's accommodation status has been verified and it is determined that there is no further need for the retention of such records, they shall be immediately destroyed in a secure manner.

## **9. Unvaccinated Affected Persons**

On December 1, 2022, any Affected Person not Fully Vaccinated (i.e. including the 14-day period after receiving the completed dose) or has not been granted an accommodation in accordance with Section 7, will no longer be eligible to participate in any Sanctioned Activities until such time as they have presented satisfactory evidence that they have been Fully Vaccinated or been granted an accommodation.

## **10. Players under 12 years**

At the present time, while a COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for use by Health Canada for children under 12 years, this policy will only be applicable to players 12 years old and older.

However, the P.W.S.A. reserves the right to re-evaluate this policy and consider extending the definition of Vaccine-Eligible Players to include players under 12 years of age.

## **11. Spectators**

This policy does not presently apply to spectators in outdoor settings, including the parents or guardians of players. Taking into consideration the severity of COVID-19 cases within the P.W.S.A.'s authority, the P.W.S.A. reserves the right to extend this policy to encompass spectators attending Sanctioned Activities, based on any new guidance received, or regulations passed by federal, provincial, and local public health and governmental authorities, Softball Ontario and Softball Canada.

## **12. Indoor Facilities**

Indoor premises of a facility used for sports and recreational fitness activities will be free to set their own COVID-19 policies and procedures so long as they adhere to any guidelines as set out for their region.

It should also be noted that individual owners/operators of arenas/domes, fieldhouses and facilities used by the P.W.S.A. or any Association or Team, may impose their own vaccination requirements for spectators.

Some health regions have imposed stricter requirements and all P.W.S.A. members will be required to follow the guidelines of the region in which they are participating.

## **13. Hotels**

This policy also applies to P.W.S.A. Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and Team Ontario personnel who share a hotel room with a non-family member.

# HOW TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

[who.int/epi-win](http://who.int/epi-win)

## Do's →



Wash your hands before touching the mask



Inspect the mask for tears or holes



Find the top side, where the metal piece or stiff edge is



Ensure the colored-side faces outwards



Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose



Cover your mouth, nose, and chin



Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides



Avoid touching the mask



Remove the mask from behind the ears or head



Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it



Discard the mask immediately after use preferably into a closed bin



Wash your hands after discarding the mask

## Don'ts →



Do not Use a ripped or damp mask



Do not wear the mask only over mouth or nose



Do not wear a loose mask



Do not touch the front of the mask



Do not remove the mask to talk to someone or do other things that would require touching the mask



Do not leave your used mask within the reach of others



Do not re-use the mask

Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from COVID-19. Maintain at least 1 metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, even while wearing a mask.