

FAQs – Special Olympics Australia Mandatory Vaccinations

December 2021

Policy

We unequivocally support the public health orders in place to protect vulnerable communities against COVID-19. People with intellectual disabilities are a high-risk group for COVID-19 illness, complications, and death and we urge everyone to get vaccinated.

From 1 February 2022, double COVID-19 vaccination will be a minimum condition of participation, attendance, entry, volunteering, and employment with Special Olympics Australia.

In addition, our activities and events will all continue be conducted with a strict adherence to relevant public health orders. We will continue to monitor information and advice and adjust our COVID Safety Plans as required, to keep the Special Olympics community safe.

Decision

Who was involved in making this policy?

This policy was agreed to by the national board at the board meeting on Thursday 9 December 2021. The policy was based upon consultation with athletes and volunteers, as well as input from Health Departments, national sporting organisations, national sporting organisations for people with disability, and peak bodies such as the Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability.

Why has this policy been made?

This decision has been made to safeguard the health and safety of the Special Olympics community, including athletes, families, carers, and supporters. COVID-19 vaccination has become widely accepted in Australia with more than 88% of people aged 16 and over double vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccinations are free for everyone in Australia.

Vaccination benefits now includes:

- protecting yourself against severe illness and death from COVID-19
- preventing complications such as 'long COVID'
- protecting people who can't be vaccinated due to medical conditions
- protecting children while research continues to test the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in people under the age of 12
- slowing the spread of the virus
- keeping hospitalisation rates at a level our health system can cope with
- reducing the need for lockdowns in the future when enough Australians are vaccinated
- being able to attend events and travel in the future.

Special Olympics Australia

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When will this policy be reviewed?

This policy will be reviewed every two months, or as required, to ensure it is informed by the latest public health orders.

How do I prove my vaccination status?

Proof of vaccination status should be sent to info@specialolympics.com.au

What if you can't have a COVID-19 vaccination for medical reasons?

If you can't get any of the approved COVID-19 vaccines for medical reasons, this will be recorded on your immunisation history statement and COVID-19 digital certificate. For any further enquiries, please contact Garth Hogan on garethh@specialolympics.com.au

Training and Club events

What does this mean for sport training?

From 1 February 2022, everyone attending for sports training must be at least double vaccinated against COVID-19. Unvaccinated or under-vaccinated participants will be prohibited from any form of participation.

How do I prove my vaccination status at training?

Proof of vaccination status should be carried with you and shown when required.

Eligibility and Selection for Competition

What does this mean for sports competition?

From 1 February 2022, everyone attending for sports competitions must be at least double vaccinated against COVID-19. Unvaccinated or under-vaccinated participants will be prohibited from any form of participation.

2022 National Games

What does this mean for the National Games?

Everyone attending any event for the 2022 National Games must be at least double vaccinated against COVID-19. Unvaccinated or under-vaccinated participants will be prohibited from any form of participation.