



## Club Vaccination Policy

### Purpose

This Policy aims to provide our volunteers and athletes with consistency of protection against COVID-19 when involved in Special Olympics activities, whether that is on the sports field, or at committee meetings. Vaccination is a reasonable additional control for our volunteers and athletes against exposure to COVID-19 and limiting transmission between parties participating in Special Olympics activities. It is also our best possible protection against the adverse impacts of COVID-19, including the potentially serious health impacts; disruptions to the service our clubs provide to the community; and its spread in circumstances where our volunteers and athletes have contact and interact with each other and/or large volumes of people, some of them vulnerable, on a regular basis through non-Special Olympics activities like in the work environment.

We recognise that the science and knowledge around the Covid vaccine is still emerging, and these guidelines may need to be updated as developments occur.

### Scope of the policy

This policy covers all volunteers, coaches and athletes.

### Club events

All participants, volunteers, coaches and officials will be required to be vaccinated to attend any Special Olympics New Zealand or Special Olympics Club event under the Covid Protection Framework. For clarity, if you intend to participate or attend an event prior to 1 April, you will be required to be vaccinated to do so.

Evidence of vaccination status will be required upon registration for an event.

### Volunteers (including coaches)

**Risk Assessment** – all volunteers and coaches who have interaction with athletes, either regularly or from time to time, are required to be vaccinated by 1 April 2022, or earlier if attending a club or SONZ event prior to this date. This decision was based on the outcome of the risk assessment that was completed in November 2021 through a consultation process with volunteers and clubs.

Being vaccinated will help to protect athletes (many of whom have compromised health) and our volunteers (many of whom are in an older age group and are more susceptible to suffer higher health outcomes if they contract Covid).

### Athletes

**Risk Assessment** – all athletes are required to be vaccinated by 1 April 2022, or earlier if attending a club or SONZ event. This decision was based on the outcome of the risk assessment that was completed in November 2021 through a consultation process with athlete leaders and clubs.

*November 2021*

*This policy is accurate at time of writing and is subject to change from time to time to reflect the changes in the Covid environment.*

Being vaccinated will help protect athletes from contracting Covid and/or passing it on to others, thereby keeping everyone safe.

### **SONZ Events and Programs**

All events and programs that are managed by SONZ will require all participants, volunteers and staff to be fully vaccinated. Examples include, but are not limited to, National Games, Trans-Tasman Games, School events, Athlete Leadership Program, Athlete Input Council, Health Leaders and other programs that are managed by SONZ from time to time.

### **Record keeping**

A record of volunteers' and athletes' vaccination status will be recorded on the Special Olympics Games Management System.

### **Timeline**

Volunteers, coaches and athletes are required to be fully vaccinated by 1 April 2022 (or earlier, should they wish to attend an event prior to this date).

### **Vaccination Details**

When we refer to vaccination, for purposes of clarification this is the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination or any other vaccination subsequently approved by the Minister of Health.

### **Other measures**

The Covid Vaccination is one mechanism to protect you from catching and/or spreading Covid-19. Other recommended measures to be utilised include:

- Wear a mask where possible
- Practice social distancing where possible
- Stay home if you feel unwell
- Contact tracing and record keeping
- Hand sanitation
- Wipe down equipment and surfaces in between use where possible
- Take athlete temperature where appropriate equipment is available and/or athlete presents unwell

### **Covid Protection Framework**

This vaccination policy should be read alongside the SONZ response to the Covid Protection Framework.

This policy will be reviewed no later than 1 April 2022 to ensure that it is effectively managing risks for athletes, volunteers, coaches and employees.

A separate policy for employees has been approved by the board, whereby all employees are required to be vaccinated.

Board Trustees are also required to be fully vaccinated.

Further information on vaccinations and COVID-19 can be found at the Government Covid-19 website via the following link: [Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

*November 2021*

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