



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Basketball & Vaccinations

Updated December 14, 2021

### Memo Clarifications & General Questions

1. Can we start entering vaccine information now?
  - a. Yes, the site for submitting information is live:  
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e59d88d333cb430e965d55d1ff406b36>
2. What do we do if an athlete does not have their vaccine card anymore?
  - a. The Wisconsin Immunization Registry, also called WIR, is an internet database that tracks vaccine records for Wisconsin children and adults. To access immunization records you will need the person's first and last names, their date of birth, and either their Social Security number, Medicaid ID number, or their health care member ID number: [Public Immunization Record Access](#)
3. Are local program manager responsible for reaching out to their constituents (Athletes/coaches) to complete the online vaccination status form, or is SOWI reaching out to everyone?
  - a. SOWI would ask that local program manager (especially those active in basketball) forward to their Athletes/coaches. We will also be posting the memo and link on our website.
4. Not everyone will have access to upload their vaccination card. Would it be possible for coaches to scan them in, and send them to you?
  - a. If possible, have athletes take a picture and provide necessary information for you to upload/complete the process. Please let us know and we can work with you on these sort of issues.
5. Will SOWI be protecting the privacy of this information?
  - a. Only those on a need to know basis will have access to the vaccine information. We will be utilizing our medical records database to store information and run reports for local program managers as currently done for athlete medicals.
6. What is the plan for volunteers, families and spectators?
  - a. Because the basketball competitions will be offered for only athletes/coaches that are vaccinated, we will require spectators and volunteers to show a proof of vaccination at events. Spectators may be limited which would be announced with event information.
7. If our team (including coaches) are 80% vaccinated, we can continue on to competitions ....OR if we are in Yellow/Green, (under 15/100,000 people rate status) and then vaccinations are not a factor?
  - a. For Team Basketball and Basketball Skills in-person competitions, there will be a vaccine requirement. With COVID numbers fluctuating, it is the best chance of events happening for the duration of the season.
8. Can athletes who are not vaccinated practice Team Basketball?
  - a. If over 80% of participants (athletes, coaches, volunteers) are vaccinated, athletes or coaches who are not vaccinated can practice, assuming that their involvement doesn't cause the rate to drop below 80%.
9. Can athletes who are not vaccinated practice Basketball Skills?
  - a. Basketball Skills can be offered in the Low Risk (green), Moderate Risk (Yellow), and Significant Risk (Orange) levels but are restricted to a maximum of 50 people for indoor activities.

### **Special Olympics Wisconsin**

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*Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities*

10. Is there a competition opportunity for athletes who are not vaccinated?
  - a. There will be an at-practice Basketball Skills competition. Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Basketball Skills will be offered for this competition. Level 3 Basketball Skills was developed for those who would normally play Team Basketball and will only be offered for the in-practice competition. There are instructional videos for each level on the Basketball Skills page (<https://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/sports/basketball-skills/>)
11. Can athlete participate in both the in-person and in in-practice competitions?
  - a. Athletes will need to choose to participate in either the in-person competition or in-practice competition and cannot do both.
12. Are there any additional sports that will have a vaccination requirement?
  - a. We are required to follow SOI guidelines and will continue to evaluate upcoming sports seasons to be in compliance with them.
13. If these policies are required going forward, some local agencies may opt to not attend in-person competitions to avoid the potential undue hardship that comes along with this requirement.
  - a. We understand the difficulties of participation during the COVID-19 pandemic and that some local programs may opt out of participation. We will continue to work with those programs that wish to participate in practice only activities.

### **Exemptions**

1. Will there be an exemption for athletes 8-11?
  - a. Because the CDC only recently authorized vaccinations for individuals under 12, athletes 8-11 will be exempt and allowed to participate.
2. Will there be a method for claiming medical and religious exemptions?
  - a. Because in-person competitions are optional events, we will not be accepting medical and religious exemptions.

Thank you to all that submitted questions. We will continue to update this documents as needed.

Please contact us at [covid@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:covid@specialolympicswisconsin.org) with any questions.