



## COVID-19 Vaccination Policy – National & Regional Events

Current as at: 14 December 2021.

### 1. Purpose:

- 1.1. This policy has been formulated in consultation with, and with the agreement of, all regional associations.
- 1.2. The purpose of this policy is to outline Swimming NZ's COVID-19 vaccination requirements as they apply to all participants at national and regional events, and to provide guidance in relation to events run by member clubs.
- 1.3. For the purpose of this policy, participants means swimmers, coaches, managers, technical officials, staff, volunteers, spectators and any other person requiring access into a national or regional event.
- 1.4. This policy is designed to keep our staff, members, and members of the public safe and is aligned to the Government's objective of minimising the impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic and protecting the communities of Aotearoa New Zealand.

### 2. Context:

- 2.1. The New Zealand Government has repeatedly emphasised the importance of vaccinations – to protect individuals and to give the country more possibilities in managing the virus.
- 2.2. Under current legislative settings, organisations can require participants in events that they run to be vaccinated as a condition of entry.
- 2.3. A large number of swimming events are held indoors where the risk of transmission is higher, particularly if the venue is inadequately ventilated.
- 2.4. With the new COVID-19 Protection Framework in force, vaccination status is a key feature in determining what is possible under different settings (green, orange, red). If vaccination certificates are not used, then the following restrictions apply to events:
  - a) Red: Events cannot operate.
  - b) Orange: Events cannot operate.
  - c) Green: Up to 100 people based on 1m distancing, seated, and separated.

### 3. Scope:

- 3.1. This policy applies to Swimming NZ and its regional associations. It also provides guidance to member clubs hosting swimming events.

### 4. Policy Statement:

- 4.1. From 10 December 2021, only those people who are fully vaccinated (i.e. have completed a recognised course of COVID-19 vaccination) or who have obtained an exemption from the Ministry of Health will be able to access, and participate in, a national or regional event.
- 4.2. Swimming NZ and its regional associations will require from all persons over the age of 12 years and 3 months proof of vaccination, or a valid exemption, prior to participation at, or entry into, a Swimming NZ or regional event. Proof of vaccination or a valid exemption will be via the Digital COVID-19 Vaccination Pass.
- 4.3. In the interests of health and safety, those unable or unwilling to provide proof of vaccination when requested, will be treated as though they have not been vaccinated.
- 4.4. In addition to this policy, Swimming NZ and regional associations will maintain a range of appropriate and complementary measures in its facilities to further minimise the risks associated

with COVID-19.

- 4.5. Member clubs who run swimming events are recommended to follow this policy whilst having due regard to the individual circumstances of their event (e.g. number of participants, whether indoor or outdoor), the requirements of any facility operator where the event is being held, and the requirements of the COVID-19 Protection Framework.
- 4.6. Swimming NZ acknowledges that best practice in the minimisation and mitigation of the impacts of COVID-19 is evolving rapidly (e.g. the potential introduction of rapid antigen testing).
- 4.7. This policy will be reviewed and updated appropriately as needed.

**Approved by the Board of Swimming NZ on 8 December 2021.**