COVID-19 PROTOCOLS OFSAA CHAMPIONSHIPS AND FESTIVALS - WINTER 2022

(yellow highlights denote key changes from the fall protocols.)

OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this document is to provide OFSAA convenors and host committees with the necessary additional information and support to safely organize and host this winter's OFSAA championships and festivals. The information within this document is based on (and follows) the direction provided in the following:

- Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act 2020
- COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools (2021 2022)
- OPHEA: COVID-19 Considerations for: Interschool Athletic Activities

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TO UNDERSTAND:

- 1. COVID protocols may <u>not</u> be consistent across all OFSAA events. The protocols for each event will be determined by the local health unit's recommendations, the hosting school board's protocols, and by the protocols of the competition facilities.
- 2. If local protocols dictate that participants must be vaccinated, all OFSAA events must provide reasonable accommodation for individuals who are not vaccinated due to a medical or legitimate religious exemption.
- 3. "The government will monitor the COVID-19 situation, including ongoing risks related to variants of concern (VOCs) and alignment with broader provincial guidance and direction. The ministry will continue to work with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and local public health units (PHUs) to access key measures to inform and update provincial guidance and direction, including lifting measures when appropriate. Local public health units may require additional or enhanced health and safety measures based on local experience and data. Medical officers of health in local public health units also have the statutory powers under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, which they may use to address outbreaks or risks of COVID-19 transmission in schools." (COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools, p. 3)

- 4. OFSAA convenors must work closely with their local school boards and public health units on their winter event plans. OFSAA event host committees are expected to employ multiple strategies and a layering of controls to support healthy and safe environments for students, staff and visitors. It is recommended that convenors designate volunteers on the organizing committee who will be responsible for the implementation of COVID-19 protocols.
- 5. Convenors must work closely with the OFSAA staff liaison assigned to their event. Due to the ever changing landscape with COVID-19, and the potential need for contingency plans, the connection with the OFSAA staff liaison is expected to be greater than ever this year.
- 6. The information within this document will be re-evaluated regularly and, where required, updated based on public health advice throughout the 2021/2022 school year. Any changes will be communicated to event convenors in a timely manner.

CLASSIFICATION OF OFSAA WINTER SPORTS:

High-contact sports are defined as sports/activities where there is physical contact and/or close proximity required between individuals. The following OFSAA events are classified as high-contact: Basketball, Wrestling, Hockey.

Low-contact sports are those that involve intermittent close proximity or limited, incidental physical contact between participants and allow for physical distancing most of the time. The following OFSAA events are considered low-contact: Volleyball, Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding, Nordic Skiing, Curling, Swimming, Badminton.

High and low contact sports are permitted indoors and outdoors.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS COMMON TO ALL WINTER 2021/2022 OFSAA EVENTS:

1. MASKING:

Host committees need to ensure proper masking guidelines are followed at OFSAA events.

- Masking is not required when playing high or low contact activities outdoors.
- Masking is encouraged for indoor sports where they can be worn safely based on the activity.
- For indoor activities, windows should be opened when feasible to increase ventilation.

- See more information in the sport specific protocols re: coaches, officials, spectators, players on the bench/sidelines
- Any visitors (e.g. spectators, athletic trainers, etc.) are required to wear a medical mask. Host committees must provide a medical mask if necessary.

2. SCREENING:

Host committees need to ensure that all spectators and participants at OFSAA events self-screen (daily) and that records are being kept

- A process must be in place to confirm the self-screening of all spectators and participants prior to or upon their arrival.
- Depending on the location of the championship, the timing of the competition, and the type of individual (spectator vs. participant), etc. the screening process may be completed by the school or venue or a combination of both.

3. RECORD KEEPING:

Host committees need to ensure that proper record keeping with respect to COVID-19 is taking place at OFSAA events.

- The name and contact information (phone number) for all spectators and participants must be recorded.
- Coaches will provide this information upon registration to the host committee for all individuals connected to their team.
- In the event of a contact tracing request from the public health unit, convenors must be
 able to provide or facilitate access to records that contain the names and contact
 information (phone number) of everyone that attended the OFSAA event during the
 specific time frame.

4. REPORTING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19:

Host committees must have a procedure in place to handle any students, staff or spectators who develop symptoms of COVID-19 during an OFSAA event.

- Designate a main contact person.
- Identify an area/ room to serve as the designated space to isolate someone who is experiencing symptoms while they await pick-up.
- Ensure that proper reporting procedures are followed.
- Ensure that personal protective equipment is available for any staff that interact with the person.

5. HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE:

Host Committees need to ensure that proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are reinforced at OFSAA events.

- Hand hygiene should be conducted by anyone entering an OFSAA championship and incorporated into their daily schedule at regular intervals during the day.
- Appropriate signage should be placed around activity areas.
- People should have the supplies they need for appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and these supplies should be easily accessible.

6. DISTANCING AND CONGREGATING:

Host committees need to promote as much physical distancing as possible between individuals at OFSAA events.

- Periods of movement (athletes, spectators) should be staggered, if possible, to limit congregation.
- Physical distancing measures are to be layered with other public health measures (e.g., screening, hand hygiene, cohorting, enhanced cleaning, masking)

7. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:

Host Committees need to develop arrival and departure procedures for OFSAA events that support physical distancing where possible.

- Maximizing use of all possible entrances and exits, creating designed routes for participants and spectators to get to the competition area, provide visual cues or physical guides, such as tape on the floor or sidewalks and signs / posters on walls
- Hand sanitizers should be available at all entrances and exits
- Staggering arrival and departure times is recommended to support cohorting and physical distancing measures.
- The individual pick-up/drop-off of students should happen outside the area or within a designated and isolated area.

8. CLEANING OF HIGH TOUCH AREAS:

Host committees must ensure / confirm that high touch areas at OFSAA events are cleaned in accordance with health and safety guidelines.

• Cleaning plus disinfecting twice daily is suggested as a minimum, however more frequent cleaning may be necessary depending on the frequency of use

9. SHARED MATERIALS:

Host committees are able to allow the use of shared materials at OFSAA events.

• The focus should be on regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk.

10. SHARED SPACES:

Host Committees must ensure proper procedures are in place to control the interaction between different cohorts (e.g. athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, medical personnel) in shared spaces at OFSAA events.

- Masking, signs and as much distancing as possible between cohorts (e.g. athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, medical personnel) should be maintained.
- Areas to be addressed: changerooms, meeting rooms, officials' meeting, hospitality area, registration, gate, concessions, merchandise and clothing sales, award ceremonies, benches, hand hygiene stations

11. TRANSPORTATION:

Host Committees must ensure that expectations regarding student transportation are being followed by all participants of OFSAA events.

• Each team will be expected to follow their board's policies and procedures regarding student transportation (e.g. capacity, assigned seating, masking, records, windows, etc.)

12. VENTILATION:

Host Committees must ensure / confirm that the new ventilation expectations for indoor areas within schools are being met for OFSAA events.

Schools boards are responsible for meeting these expectations.

For indoor activities, windows should be opened when feasible to increase ventilation.

13. HYDRATION:

Host committees must communicate that water bottles are not to be shared at OFSAA events.

 Each athlete is encouraged to bring their own drink bottle that is labeled, kept with them during the day and not shared.

14. SCHEDULING:

Host Committees need to develop a schedule that minimizes the mixing of cohorts at OFSAA events.

 Plan schedules so that the arrival and departure of teams do not overlap and that there is time between events/games to decrease/avoid congregations of teams.

15. FACILITY CAPACITY:

Host committees must ensure that COVID-19 capacity limits are being monitored and implemented for all facilities used for OFSAA events.

- Be aware of the maximum number of occupants in relation to school board, public health policies, and provincial capacity limits, for any facility being used.
- Actual limits can be found in <u>Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act</u> 2020, Schedule 2 (16) (1).

16. SPECTATORS:

Host committees will have the opportunity to make decisions regarding spectators in conjunction with OFSAA. Their decisions will be determined by the:

- local health unit's recommendation
- hosting school board's protocols
- the protocols of competition facilities

Note: The host committee can request to <u>not</u> have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators.

17. OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS:

Host committees must ensure that officials and volunteers adhere to all COVID-19 protocols during OFSAA events.

- Communicate with officials regarding COVID-19 protocols established by their association.
- Officials and community volunteers must wear a medical mask if they are required to wear a mask.
- See more information regarding masking and distancing in the sport specific protocols.

18. BANQUET:

Host committees will not be permitted to host a banquet at OFSAA events.

19. COMMUNICATION:

Host committee must implement a comprehensive communication plan for their OFSAA events.

- Produce a COVID protocols document for their event. (This will be done by individualizing the OFSAA protocols for their specific event.)
- Target audiences: students, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators and community.
- Provide information regarding: hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, masking, screening, reporting, capacity limits, expectations, water bottles etc.

20. COACHES MEETING:

Host committee must conduct the coaches' meeting online for OFSAA fall events.

 We strongly recommend that the coaches meeting takes place two nights before the start of the competition and before teams travel to the championship

OFSAA VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

	Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while participating in the warm up or game. Require masking on the bench. Require masking while in change rooms or meeting rooms. Require masking post game. 	
Coaches	Require masking at all times.	
Officials	 Follow the Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) protocols for officials. Minor officials (lines crew, scorers) require masking. 	
Volunteers	Require masking at all times.	
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA. 	
	Sport Specific	
Pre Game	Captains will not shake hands and physical distancing will occur between players and officials.	
Post Game	 Teams will not shake hands after the game. (consider a brief team cheer as acknowledgement instead) Teams will minimize time on the court following the game and leave the facility in a timely fashion. The score table must be cleaned and disinfected between each new group of scorers. The benches, referee stands and game equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each match. Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. A team designate must retrieve the team awards from the awards area. 	

OFSAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

	Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while participating in the warm up or game. Require masking on the bench. Require masking while in change rooms or meeting rooms. Require masking post game. 	
Coaches	Require masking at all times.	
Officials	 Follow the Ontario Association of Basketball Officials (OABO) protocols for officials. Minor officials (scorers and timers) require masking. 	
Volunteers	Require masking at all times.	
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA. 	
	Sport Specific	
Pre Game	Captains will not shake hands and physical distancing will occur between players and officials.	
Post Game	 Teams will not shake hands after the game. (consider a brief team cheer as acknowledgement instead) Teams will minimize time on the court following the game. The score table must be cleaned and disinfected between each new group of scorers. The benches and game equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each game. Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. A team designate must retrieve the team awards from the awards area. 	

OFSAA HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

	Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while participating in the warm up or game. Do not require masking while on the bench. Require masking while in change rooms or meeting rooms. 	
Coaches	Require masking at all times.	
Officials	Follow the Ontario Hockey Federation & Ontario Women's Hockey Association protocols for officials.	
Volunteers	Require masking at all times.	
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols competition facility's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA. 	
	Sport Specific	
Post Game	 Teams will not shake hands after the game. (consider a brief team cheer as acknowledgement instead) Teams will minimize time on the ice following the game and leave the facility in a timely fashion. Game equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each game. Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. A team designate must retrieve the team awards from the awards area. 	

OFSAA WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while wrestling or warming up. Require masking at all other times.
Coaches	Require masking at all times.
Officials	Follow the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association protocols for officials
Volunteers	Require masking at all times.
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols competition facility's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA.
	Sport Specific
Pre/Post Match	 Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Individual award winners will retrieve their award from the awards area. For team awards, a team designate must retrieve the team awards.

OFSAA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

	Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while racing or warming up Require masking at all other times 	
Coaches	Require masking at all times.	
Officials	Follow the National Swimming protocols for officials.	
Volunteers	Require masking at all times.	
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols competition facility's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA. 	
	Sport Specific	
Pre/Post Race	Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Individual award winners will retrieve their award from the awards area. For team awards, a team designate must retrieve the team awards.	

OFSAA CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

	Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while competing or warming up Require masking at all other times 	
Coaches	Require masking at all times.	
Officials	Follow the Curling Ontario protocols for officials.	
Volunteers	Require masking at all times.	
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols competition facility's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA. 	
	Sport Specific	
Pre/Post	 Teams will not shake hands after the game. (consider a brief team cheer as acknowledgement instead) Teams will minimize time on the ice following the game and leave the facility in a timely fashion. Game equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each game. Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. A team designate must retrieve the team awards from the awards area. 	

OFSAA ALPINE SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

	Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while racing or warming up Require masking at all other times. 	
Coaches	 Do not require masking while skiing or snowboarding. Require masking at all other times. 	
Officials	 Do not require masking while skiing or snowboarding. Require masking at all other times. 	
Volunteers	 Do not require masking while skiing or snowboarding. Require masking at all other times. 	
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols competition facility's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA. 	
Sport Specific		
Pre/Post Race	 Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Individual award winners will retrieve their award from the awards area. For team awards, a team designate must retrieve the team awards. 	

OFSAA SNOWBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while racing or warming up Require masking at all other times.
Coaches	 Do not require masking while skiing or snowboarding. Require masking at all other times.
Officials	 Do not require masking while skiing or snowboarding. Require masking at all other times.
Volunteers	 Do not require masking while skiing or snowboarding. Require masking at all other times.
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols competition facility's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA.
Sport Specific	
Pre/Post Race	 Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Individual award winners will retrieve their award from the awards area. For team awards, a team designate must retrieve the team awards.

OFSAA NORDIC SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while racing or warming up Require masking at all other times.
Coaches	 Do not require masking while skiing. Require masking at all other times.
Officials	 Do not require masking while skiing. Require masking at all other times.
Volunteers	 Do not require masking while skiing. Require masking at all other times.
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols competition facility's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA.
	Sport Specific
Pre/Post Race	 Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Individual award winners will retrieve their award from the awards area. For team awards, a team designate must retrieve the team awards.

OFSAA BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS - WINTER 2022

Masking & Distancing	
Athletes	 Do not require masking while playing or warming up. Require masking at all other times.
Coaches	Require masking at all times.
Officials	Follow the Badminton Ontario protocols for officials.
Volunteers	Require masking at all times.
Spectators	 The decision on whether or not spectators will be allowed, will be determined by the: local health unit's recommendations hosting school board's protocols competition facility's protocols host committee's input Host committee can request to not have spectators, if local protocols allow for spectators. However, they cannot request to have spectators, if local protocols do not allow for spectators. Final decision will be made in conjunction with OFSAA.
	Sport Specific
Pre/Post Match	 Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Individual award winners will retrieve their award from the awards area. For team awards, a team designate must retrieve the team awards.