



Additional Information About Biathlon Alberta's 2021/22 Hosting Policy - Annex I COVID Policy

To Biathlon Alberta members,

We would like to thank everyone for their feedback on the recently published Hosting Policy, in particular with respect to Annex I COVID Policy. While the vast majority of comments were positive and supportive of the position of the Board, some questioned the reasoning behind our decision to include the youth age group (ages 12-17) as a cohort which is required to provide a negative PCR test or proof of two vaccinations in order to participate at an event.

Safety for Everyone

In the simplest terms, our primary goal and reason for coming to this decision is to provide a safe environment for all participants at Biathlon Alberta events. This includes volunteers, coaches, officials, athletes and spectators - representing a broad range of ages from 10 to over 70. We also took this decision to provide every opportunity to ensure we remain able to host competitions throughout the entire race season and in every region of the province.

While we are an outdoor sport, there are instances where participants are indoors at Biathlon Alberta events including: team rooms, warming huts, wax rooms and administration/timing buildings. To provide the greatest safety of all persons in these settings, we feel it is prudent to ensure participants have either provided either a negative PCR test result or proof of two vaccinations.

Youth Athletes

We are also aware that certain youth athletes in Alberta will be aspiring to be part of the Canadian team participating at the IBU World Youth Championships (WYCH) this season at Soldier Hollow in Utah. We acknowledge that the Biathlon Alberta COVID protocol is aligned with the IBU protocol which may be found here: <https://www.biathlonworld.com/about-ibu/inside-ibu/staysafe/>. In addition, any athlete, parent, coach, official or volunteer that plans to fly on a Canadian airline for either the trials selection event for WYCH, Canadian National Championships or the WYCH event itself is required to provide proof of two vaccinations. The Canadian travel directive from the Federal Government may be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/vaccines/life-after-vaccination/vaccine-proof.html>

Thoughtful & Deliberate Consideration

The Board of Biathlon Alberta represents a good cross-section of clubs and regions throughout the province,

and we deliberated on this policy collectively and at great length. We consulted with other sport organizations, public health professionals and our provincial sport governing representative, all who support or are aligned with our position. We feel good about our decision and believe it serves the greatest good for all participants and provides us all with the greatest chance of being able to host events throughout the season.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your engagement on this issue and for the largely positive response to the Hosting Policy - Annex I COVID Protocol. We truly believe that Biathlon is the greatest sport and that stems primarily from you - our membership! We look forward to hosting events again this season and seeing you all on snow soon.

Sincerely,

Clayton Paradis
President, Biathlon Alberta