

UPDATE September 23 2021

Guidelines to Rowing Clubs in Saskatchewan re Covid infections

In all matters concerning COVID-19 infections, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is the final authority. What is paramount is the health and safety of the members of SRA, including its athletes and coaches.

Saskatchewan Rowing Association (SRA) does not prescribe actions for clubs and individuals but always defers to the SHA. SRA does want to be informed of actions that are taken so that it can inform SaskSport and be accountable to media if needed. SRA would also appreciate the opportunity to be consulted in the management of any infections and training/competitions that occur around that time.

The requirements of the Public Health Order of September 22, 2021 (hereafter called PHO Sept 22/21) must be followed by all clubs. See the Appendix for this Order. As well the recommendations below follow from the RCA Member Update #7 (also included here in the Appendix).

Following from that Order, the following practices need to be considered.

1. Vaccination Policy

Clubs must implement a vaccination policy in order to allow all their athletes to train indoors without face coverings. Such a policy must be enforced at all times for all athletes if it is in place, in order to allow for training without face coverings. See PHO Sept 22/21, Section 4, (c), (ix) & (x).

2. Face coverings are required in all enclosed settings as per Section 4 of PHO Sept 22, 2021.

3. Face coverings are not required for individuals 18 years of age and older while participating in athletic or sports activities, for the duration of the sport or activity only, so long as they are subject to a proof of vaccination policy. See PHO Sept 22, 2021, Section 4, (c), (ix).

4. Face covering are not required for individuals who are under the age of 18 years while participating in athletic or sports activities, for the duration of the sport or activity only. See PHO Sept 22, 2021, Section 4, (c), (x). However, SRA recommends that all members wear a mask in enclosed areas and that athletes aged 12-18 also be subject to a proof of vaccination policy.

5. It is recommended that coaches wear face coverings at all times while indoors with athletes participating in athletic or sport activities.

6. Self Isolation

All individuals that test positive for COVID-19 shall immediately self-isolate until the later of the following:

a) (i) Ten days from the onset of symptoms; or (ii) Ten days from the date the positive COVID-19 test was administered if the individual did not have or display symptoms when tested and has not shown symptoms since the test was administered.

(b) Subject to Section 2, subsections (d) and (e) of PHO Sept 22, 2021, all individuals that are in close contact with an individual with COVID. See Section 2 of PHO Sept 22, 2021.

7. If a coach or other person in authority (SRA rep, club rep, etc.) hears of an infection among their athletes, the coach or rep must consult with the affected athlete and determine if SHA (phone at 811) has been consulted. If SHA has not been consulted, they should be consulted immediately as to further action. See 2 Sept 22, 2021, Section 2 (c).
8. Following the advice of SHA, the coach or rep will ensure that other athletes and/or their parents who have been in contact with the athlete are informed of the infection and appropriate actions taken. The confidentiality of the infected athlete will always be respected. If parents or athletes have any questions about the course of action they are to follow, they will be referred to the 811 number for SHA.
9. The SHA will be consulted regarding the suspension of training/competition though past experience has indicated they are not always willing to give such advice.
10. Once the above actions have been taken and as soon as possible after these, the coach or rep will also consult with the local club executive and inform the SRA Director of Operations and President.
11. The decision of whether training/competition should continue and under what circumstances will be made by the local club. The advice of the SHA will always be followed. If such advice is sought and not given, then the club will make a decision about continuing training/competition consulting with the SRA Director of Operations and President.
12. The final decision regarding continued training/competition remains with the club. However, in all respects, the safety of the athletes, coaches and other SRA members is paramount.
13. The SRA Director of Operations and President will be kept informed at every stage of the process of advice being given.
14. Once a decision has been made about the training/competition protocol and whether it continues, the local club will be responsible for writing a brief report about the decision and submitting that report to the SRA Director of Operations before training/competition resumes. The report will include who was consulted (SHA, Business Response Team, Local club reps, SRA), what advice was received and what action is being taken. This record is important for both the club and SRA in case of future questions by SaskSport and health authorities.

APPENDIX A - Attached

Public Health Order September 22, 2021