

CombatAUS Covid-19 Vaccination Policy

Why has this policy been made?

CombatAUS supports the public health orders to protect all communities against COVID-19. The decision to apply a Covid-19 Vaccination Policy is influenced as CombatAUS operates in a complex ever evolving multi-jurisdictional space with many different and changing Covid-19 management policies overlaid on our activities:

- across each state and territory of Australia
- in other countries
- across our member sports
- in competitions run by state, national and international federations
- state and national training centres, such as the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) and Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS), the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the French National Institute of Sport, Expertise, and Performance (INSEP)

Therefore, there is a recognition that if staff and athletes are “up-to-date” with Covid19 vaccination, CombatAUS is to better plan and deliver an effective high performance program for multiple athletes targeting medals at world leading competitions within its budgetary and logistical constraints and risk management profiles.

Policy

From 30 July 2022, being ‘Up-to-date’ (defined below by ATAGI) for COVID-19 vaccination will be strongly recommended by CombatAUS, noting CombatAUS programs and activities are bound by the vaccination policies of our Member Sports and Program Partners (National Institute Network, AOC, PA, CGA etc).

“This ‘up-to-date’ guidance serves as the basis for policies for the public health management of the COVID-19 pandemic in an Australian domestic context. It forms the basis of the due and overdue rules for the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Advice may change as the pandemic evolves, from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) in their clinical guidance for the use of COVID-19 vaccines” [published on 10 February 2022](#).

“You will no longer be considered ‘up to date’ and will instead be considered ‘overdue’ if you have not had a booster dose in the recommended timeframe for your age or health status.... Being ‘overdue’ means you will not be able to generate a current COVID-19 vaccine digital certificate.” [ATAGI clarification provided](#) on 17 May 2022

Table 1: COVID-19 vaccination schedules to be considered up-to-date

Age Group	Primary dose 1 and 2 ^[1] , second dose recommended interval is vaccine brand dependent	Primary dose 3 ^[2] , usually given from 2 months after second dose	Booster dose ^[3] recommended from 3 months after last primary dose
General Population	5–11 years	✓	not recommended
	12–15 years	✓	X
	16 years and over	✓	✓ ^[4]
Severely Immuno-compromised	5–11 years	✓	✓
	12–15 years	✓	✓
	16 years and over	✓	✓ ^[2]
People with evidence of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection ^[5]	5 years and over	Completion of vaccination according to above. The next dose can be deferred for up to 4 months from the date of diagnosis of the latest infection. For some people, prioritising vaccination sooner than 4 months after infection may be warranted.	

✓: required X: not required

To be considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, an individual must have received all the required doses at the correct dose interval according to the recommendations above.

The above Table excerpt is taken from ATAGI published [information](#) on 10 February 2022.

How do I prove my vaccination status?

Proof of vaccination status - the [Australian International Covid-19 Vaccination Certificate](#) is preferred and can be sent to the CombatAUS Performance Program Manager Nick Sanders at - nick.sanders@combataus.com.au

If you are unable to have any of the ATAGI approved COVID-19 vaccines for medical reasons, this will be detailed on your immunisation history statement and COVID-19 digital certificate. The detailed medical information about this should be made available to the VIS and QAS medical staff (or other relevant program partners) to enable safe and appropriate medical care to be provided to you as part of CombatAUS programs. This may still preclude you from engaging in CombatAUS activities given vaccination is still a requirement for some jurisdictions/venues/competitions CombatAUS engages in or where accommodating those who are ‘overdue’ in their vaccination status places an undue burden on CombatAUS.

What if I choose not to get vaccinated against COVID- 19 and don’t have a valid exemption?

We respect choices made by individuals with regards to their personal health matters. However, CombatAUS is required to make program investment and management decisions for High Performance Olympic combat-sport programs. In doing so, CombatAUS is not bound to invest in, nor manage needs beyond these decisions to accommodate circumstances where the choice of non-vaccination impacts those plans. This may mean that those individuals whose vaccination status is ‘overdue’ may not be accommodated in some CombatAUS programs, activities or partner organisations (VIS, QAS, AIS etc).

Examples of Vaccination Policies impacting CombatAUS Programs and Activities

Below are direct examples of recent experiences that had/have the potential to be impacted if your vaccination status is 'overdue'.

- February 2022 – NPC Taekwondo Tour of Europe INSEP (French Institute of Sport) implemented a vaccination mandate over and above the international border entry requirements for Europe
- June 2022 – South Korea had a vaccination mandate or hotel quarantine, which extended to the World Taekwondo (WT) Grand Prix Challenge
- Tahiti, the venue for the WT Oceania Taekwondo Championships, up until the 12th of June Tahiti had a vaccination mandate, now as Australia is classed as “Orange Zone” those not up to date on vaccination must present a compelling reason justifying the need for them to come to mainland France
- The International Judo Federation [Covid Policy](#) operates different competition testing mandates for those who are up-to-date and those who are overdue and implements competition bubble/semi-bubbles.
- Participation for Boxing and Judo in the 2022 Australian Commonwealth Games Team is dependent on athletes, staff and officials remaining up-to-date
- [AIS](#) and VIS, who are CombatAUS program partners, have vaccination mandates to use high performance venues and staff
- The Victorian Government recently revoked its [mandatory vaccination policy](#) for HP Sport and “In line with other jurisdictions around Australia, vaccination policies will be the responsibility of individual workplaces.”

How often will this policy be reviewed?

This policy will be reviewed every three months, or as required.

This policy was last updated on the 13th of July 2022.