



## 2022 LONG TRACK OLYMPIC TRIALS PARTICIPANT RULES COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

### Executive Summary

1. All athletes are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or receive an approved COVID-19 exemption from the USOPC to be eligible to compete at the 2022 LT Olympic Trials.
2. It is strongly recommended that all coaches, officials, staff, and volunteers be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to arrival in Milwaukee, WI.
3. Individuals who are Fully Vaccinated prior to arrival in Milwaukee will not be subject to contact tracing protocols.
4. All athlete Participants must arrive in Milwaukee at least 48 hours prior to the First Day of Competition (December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022). Arriving on site in Milwaukee more than 48 hours before the First Day of Competition will assist any person who tests positive for COVID-19, or who has an inconclusive test result, with the process of obtaining follow-up testing to possibly receive a negative test result and be cleared to participate at the Trials.
5. All athlete and coach Participants must sign all required waivers, including, without limitation, the standard meet waiver, and a COVID-19 waiver, prior to receiving an accreditation/credential.
6. Testing Requirements
  - a. Tier 1 Participants are required to obtain a PCR test on their own 4-6 days prior to the First Day of Competition. Participants must submit a negative result from this test to [sdomer@usspeedskating.org](mailto:sdomer@usspeedskating.org). This email address will be overseen by the COVID-19 officer and the testing agency at the Olympic Trials.
  - b. Upon arrival in Milwaukee, and prior to obtaining an accreditation/credential, Athlete, Coach and Team Support Participants, along with other credentialed individuals who will have Close Sustained Contact with Participants (Tier 1), will be required to submit to a PCR test onsite at the venue within 72 hours of the First Day of Competition. Only Participants with a negative result from the on-site test will receive an accreditation/credential.
7. All testing will be conducted in the PNIC Oval Area. This includes all confirmatory testing should there be a positive COVID-19 test.
8. Positive Tests



- a. If a Participant tests positive for COVID-19, the Participant may request subsequent testing from Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories and must be asymptomatic and produce two negative COVID-19 PCR test results (and no positives) to be permitted to participate in the Trials. If, for any reason, two negative COVID-19 PCR Test results are not returned prior to the time of the athlete's competition, the athlete will not be permitted to participate at the Trials.
  - b. If a non-athlete's confirmation test is also positive for COVID-19, the non-athlete will have the option to undergo confirmatory testing. Upon confirmation of being COVID-19 positive, the individual will be immediately removed from the Venue and be required to follow CDC isolation guidelines.
  - c. If an athlete tests positive for COVID-19 upon an initial test and does not submit to a confirmation test, or if an athlete tests positive for COVID-19 upon an initial test and a confirmation test is also positive for COVID-19, that athlete will not be permitted to compete at Trials.
9. Participants will be subject to contact tracing protocols if the Participant has Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19. Contact Tracing protocols will follow the Utah Department of Health, procedures.
10. Any and all questions about Olympic Trials (and this COVID-19 mitigation plan) should be submitted to [sdomer@usspeedskating.org](mailto:sdomer@usspeedskating.org).

### Testing Schedule Example

First Day of Competition is January 5th, 2022

- December 30<sup>th</sup> - January 1<sup>st</sup> - PCR test at home 4-6 days prior to First Day of Competition
- January 1<sup>st</sup> – Travel to Milwaukee
- January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Arrive at Venue and submit to on-site PCR testing 48 hours prior to First Day of Competition (~8am)
- January 4<sup>th</sup> – Upon a negative result, receive accreditation/credential

### What Happens When Someone Tests Positive

If someone tests positive for COVID-19, the following steps will generally take place:

- The individual will be escorted to a separate location in the venue and be notified in private by the Medical Director and/or COVID-19 Officer.



- The individual will be presented with the available options regarding confirmatory testing.
- If the individual is confirmed to be positive, the individual must follow all relevant isolation guidelines.

## Section 1. Overview

The Olympic Trials Organizing Committee (“OC”), comprised of US Speedskating and Pettit National Ice Center leadership and staff, is implementing a multi-faceted health and safety plan to best manage the risks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic at the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Long Track Speedskating, to be January 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee, WI. This plan has been crafted based on counsel from the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”) to best ensure a Trials environment that accomplishes the goals of keeping all participants safe and healthy while conducting the Trials and ultimately selecting the best U.S. Olympic Team for the Olympic Games.

The OC is also required to follow any other protocols mandated by the applicable local, county, state, and federal authorities as well as other public health requirements relating to COVID-19. This COVID-19 Mitigation Plan aims to provide clear guidance to all Participants to best protect against, safeguard, and reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This COVID-19 Mitigation Plan has been previously approved by the City of Milwaukee Department of Health.

All athletes are required to submit proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, or a USOPC approved COVID-19 vaccine exemption. It is strongly recommended that all coaches, officials, staff and volunteers be fully vaccinated prior to their arrival in Milwaukee, WI. Individuals who are fully vaccinated prior to their arrival in Milwaukee will not be subject to contact tracing protocols.

All Athletes and Tier 1 Participants must have proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test conducted 4-6 days prior to the first Day of Competition in Milwaukee, be asymptomatic, and not have been in Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 within 10 days (on or after December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021) prior to the start of Trials. The only exception to the testing requirements is for Participants who have had a COVID-19 infection in the 90 days prior to arrival in Milwaukee [see the Close Sustained Contact/Close Physical Contact and Contact Tracing section below]. An indeterminate test result will not be accepted as a negative test result. Participants will be subject to additional testing in Milwaukee. The only exceptions to the Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact tracing protocols are for Participants who are asymptomatic and have been Fully Vaccinated prior to their Close Sustained



Contact and/or Close Physical Contact or can demonstrate they have had a COVID-19 infection in the 90 days prior to arriving in Milwaukee. According to USOPC protocols, Tier 1 Participants who cannot provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test at least 4-6 days prior to the First Day of Competition in Milwaukee, are symptomatic, or have been in Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 on or after December 26<sup>th</sup> 2021, and is not subject to an exception, will be removed from the Venue and barred from competition, subject to any applicable review process. Failure by any Participant to abide by this COVID-19 Mitigation Plan may result in removal from the Trials Venue and from competition.

## SECTION 2. KEY TERMS USED IN THESE RULES

- a) **CDC Guidelines**— guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control regarding COVID-19, available [here](#) and the Centers for Disease Control’s Considerations for Events and Gatherings, available [here](#). Some references to the CDC Guidelines may change between the publication of this document and the Trials, and the term “as defined by the CDC” may be used in order to have a plan that is not outdated per CDC guidelines.
- b) **Close Sustained Contact**—contact within 6 feet sustained for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, whether or not masks are worn.
- c) **COVID-19 Officer**—an individual appointed by the NGB to oversee implementation of the NGB’s COVID-19 Mitigation Plan at the Trials Event, including contact tracing.
- d) **COVID-19 PCR Test**—a polymerase chain reaction test or equivalent nucleic acid amplification test such as loop mediated isothermal amplification to test for COVID-19. For purposes of clarity, antigen and antibody tests are not considered COVID-19 Tests permissible under these Rules.
- e) **Medical Director**—a physician who has admitting privileges at the nearby or official hospital facilities or is associated with a local medical team that has associated privileges.
- f) **Olympic Trials or Trials** – the competition that leads directly to the selection of athletes for the Olympic Games. Under a contractual agreement with the USOPC, US Speedskating manages the 2022 US Olympic Team Trials – Long Track Speedskating.
- g) **OC** – the Trials Organizing Committee.
- h) **Participant** – an individual with an official role in the conduct of the Trials.
- i) **Test #1** – a PCR test conducted 4-6 days prior to the First Day of Competition in Milwaukee.
- j) **Test #2** – a PCR test conducted on-site at the Pettit National Ice Center upon arriving in Milwaukee prior to receiving a credential and prior to the First Day of Competition.
- k) **Tier 1** - any athlete, coach, team support staff, medical staff (e.g., doctors, athletic trainers, massage therapists), anti-doping staff or volunteers, technical officials, and other



event staff whose purpose or duties cannot be performed without close sustained contact with athletes during the Trials.

- l) **Tier 2** - other US Speedskating staff, event staff, and others who are approved to access the athlete zone, but who can perform their duties in a physically distanced manner (e.g., six feet) and without contact with athletes and their equipment.
- m) **Tier 3** - all other credentialed individuals who do not have direct or significant contact with athletes and/or coaches.
- n) **Tier 4** - means all non-credentialed individuals within the venue, including spectators.
- o) **USOPC Dispute Resolution Process** - means the specific procedures, outlined by the USOPC in a separate document, which describe the opportunity to provide (athletes specifically) with a dispute resolution process, including an opportunity for a hearing before the USOPC Trials Administrative Board (TAB). See 2022 Olympic Trials Dispute Resolution Process at the end of this document. The USOPC's TAB does not undertake hearings related to medical decisions rendered by the COVID-19 Officer and/or Medical Director.
- p) **Venue** - means the venue at which the Trials will take place. This includes the Pettit National Ice Center.

### **SECTION 3. Venue and Pre-Trials Considerations**

#### **OC Obligations**

The OC will follow all applicable local, county, state and federal rules and regulations including without limitation any requirements to report positive tests to authorities.

The OC will appoint a Medical Director for the Trials, as well as a COVID-19 Officer to oversee implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of the Plan for the Trials related to COVID-19. The COVID19 Officer also is responsible for ensuring that public health officials are notified of any positive COVID-19 test results that occur at the Trials and for assisting public health officials with contact tracing if any Participant tests positive for COVID-19 at the Trials.

The Medical Director will be Dr. Carole Vetter, Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine Physician at Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin. The COVID-19 Officer will be Cynthia Dusel, Nurse Practitioner, Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin.

The OC will ensure at least the following COVID-19 mitigation recommendations are posted throughout the Venue:



- Physical distancing
- Requirements of wearing a face mask
- Handwashing or use of hand sanitizer

The OC will have a plan for working with local public health officials to implement the Plan in compliance with all applicable public health guidelines.

### **Event Postponement or Cancellation Parameters**

Prior to the Trials, the OC will communicate to all Participants the parameters which would result the postponement or cancellation of either the entire competition and/or specific individual days/events. This may include a requirement of mandate from local public health officials resulting in the cancellation of the event due to local COVID-19 prevalence, number of positive tests/positivity rates and/or local hospital capacity.

### **On-Site Requirements**

In order to ensure that the OC can implement this Plan, a special location will be designated within the Pettit National Ice Center for all COVID-19 testing, medical evaluation and observation should any Participant at the Trials show signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Medical personnel will be available to identify, isolate, assess, and provide further medical evaluation or treatment to such individuals in the designated space.

Those personnel who may have Close Sustained Contact with individuals being evaluated for COVID-19 or who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 will be provided appropriate personal protective equipment. Tier 2, 3 and 4 attendees will be denied access to the Venue if they are showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival at the Venue.

### **Communications Plan**

Should a Participant subject to testing requirements test positive for COVID-19 at Trials, a prescribed communication plan will be followed maintaining privacy rules and regulations. The communication plan will clearly articulate when a Participant may be removed from the Trials venue and/or barred from participation, and of the potential impact on team selection.

### **Mask Requirement**

All Participants are required to wear masks at all time in the Venue. It is strongly recommended that all spectators wear masks in the Venue.. The OC will also have disposable masks available, if



needed. Any markings on the masks of athlete Participants must comply with the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Trials rules regarding commercial restrictions.

### **Recommendation to Limit Community Activity**

Athlete and coach Participants are strongly encouraged to limit themselves to essential activities (e.g., competition, training, dryland/strength training, etc.) in the 10-14 days immediately preceding arrival and stay in Milwaukee. All Participants are strongly encouraged to avoid community activities (e.g., eating at restaurants, going to bars or nightclubs, working out in health clubs, going to movies and other similar type public gatherings/activities) in the week prior to their First Day of Competition at the Trials and continuing until after completion of their Trials participation.

While in Milwaukee, Participants are strongly encouraged to continue to minimize community activities and to make every effort to stay in their own hotel room or only stay with people with whom they regularly have Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact. Participants are also strongly advised to avoid Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with spectators or others that are not within the Participant grouping, in particular with those people who are visiting restaurants, bars, health clubs, etc. while in Milwaukee. This includes family and friends who are not within the Tier 1 grouping. All Participants who are Fully Vaccinated and who violate this recommendation to limit their community activity may invalidate their exemption from contact tracing.

### **COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms Monitoring**

All Participants who are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to the Venue and should immediately go to a healthcare facility for evaluation. The nearest health care facility is the Froedtert Hospital Emergency Department, 8810 William Coffey Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53226 <https://www.froedtert.com/locations/emergency-department/froedtert-hospital-emergency-department>.

The OC may require COVID-19 symptoms monitoring while in Milwaukee and all accredited Participants may be required to submit to symptoms monitoring questions upon entering the Venue each day.

### **Credential Pick Up**

Credentials may be obtained at the Venue beginning on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



Credentials will not be issued to any Tier 1 person until they provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test completed 4-6 days prior to the First Day of Competition (Test #1) and a negative on-site COVID-19 test conducted in Milwaukee (Test #2).

Please note, in addition to obtaining the required negative test results, all athletes, officials and coaches receiving a credential must be members of US Speedskating in good standing to receive a Trials credential.

**Credentials will not be issued to any individual whose US Speedskating membership requirements are missing or expired.**

### **Participant Waivers**

All athlete Participants must complete several waivers in order to compete at the Trials. These include:

1. Waiver of Liability Related to Coronavirus
2. US Speedskating Participant Waiver and Release
3. USOPC Participant Agreement
4. Signed copy of Mitigation Plan

### **Close Sustained Contact/Close Physical Contact and Contact Tracing**

No Participant who has had Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within 10 days prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Competition (December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021) Milwaukee should be permitted to enter the Venue or to compete. Any such Participant should quarantine for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines.

Athlete Participants will be provided the opportunity for further review of contact tracing determinations as described below.

Participants who have Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within 10 days of their First Day of Competition (December 26<sup>th</sup> 2021), but who can demonstrate they have had COVID-19 infection in the 90 days prior to arriving in Milwaukee, or were Fully Vaccinated at least 14 days prior to their Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact and are asymptomatic, will not be subject to contact tracing quarantine protocols.



## **Pre-Arrival PCR Test**

Participants are required to obtain a PCR test 4-6 days prior to their First Day of Competition (Test #1). Participants must submit a negative result from this test to [sdomer@usspeedskating.org](mailto:sdomer@usspeedskating.org). This email will be monitored by the COVID-19 Officer.

## **Proof of Vaccination**

All Athlete participants are required to submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, or a USOPC approved COVID-19 vaccine exemption to [sdomer@usspeedskating.org](mailto:sdomer@usspeedskating.org) by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

All non-athlete Fully Vaccinated Participants should bring a copy of their vaccination card to Milwaukee and have it readily available in the event they have Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, in which case the Participant's Fully Vaccinated status provides an exception to contact tracing quarantine protocols.

## **On-Site Testing**

All athlete Participants must arrive in Milwaukee at least 48 hours prior to the First Day of Competition. Upon arrival in Milwaukee, and prior to obtaining an accreditation/credential, athlete, coach, and team support Participants will be required to submit to a PCR test onsite at the Venue (Test #2).

**Prior COVID-19 Infection** - Participants who can provide clear documentation of COVID-19 infection within 90 days (on or after October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021) of the Trials Event (i.e., a doctor's note and evidence of a positive COVID-19 test result) and who are currently asymptomatic are not required to complete the Required COVID-19 PCR Tests #1 or #2. If you have signs of COVID-19, you will need to complete Required COVID-19 PCR Tests #1 and #2. If you've been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last month you are required to provide USS with a doctor's note indicating, you are no longer contagious and are released to participate in the Trials.

If a Participant tests positive for COVID-19, the Participant may request subsequent testing and must be asymptomatic and produce two negative COVID-19 PCR test results (and no positives) in order to be permitted to participate in the Trials. If, for any reason, two negative COVID-19 PCR Test results are not returned prior to the time of the athlete's competition, the athlete will not be permitted to participate at the Trials. Confirmation tests must be conducted by SMRTL at the



Venue and are the financial responsibility of the Participant. The OC is not responsible for delays with confirmation tests. Payment for additional testing related to false positives will be covered by the OC.

If a non-athlete Participant tests positive for COVID-19 and the non-athlete does not submit to a confirmation test or if a non-athlete tests positive for COVID-19 and a confirmation test is also positive for COVID-19, that non-athlete will be immediately removed from the Venue and must follow all relevant isolation guidelines.

If an athlete tests positive for COVID-19 and the athlete does not submit to a confirmation test or if an athlete tests positive for COVID-19 and a confirmation test is also positive for COVID-19, that athlete will not be permitted to compete at Trials.

An athlete who has been barred from competing at Trials due to a positive test(s) may submit a request to the COVID-19 Officer for subsequent testing in order to be permitted to compete at Trials. Such an athlete must be asymptomatic and produce two negative COVID-19 PCR test results, with no positive test results, in order to be permitted to participate in the Trials. The approval of this athlete to return to competition will be coordinated between the COVID-19 Officer and the Medical Director. If, for any reason, two negative COVID-19 PCR test results are not returned prior to the time of the athlete's competition, the athlete will not be permitted to participate in the Trials.

In the event an athlete is prohibited from participating in Trials due to a positive COVID-19 test result, the COVID-19 Officer will conduct a review to ensure that the testing protocols were followed and, where there were deviations, request further testing as time permits.

There will be no further review after a positive test result has been confirmed (or where time does not permit two negative confirmatory test results). In such cases, the athlete will be immediately removed from the Venue and barred from participating in the Trials and must follow all relevant isolation guidelines.

### **Displaying Signs and/or Symptoms of COVID-19**

Any Participant displaying signs and symptoms indicative of a COVID-19 infection, including without limitation a temperature higher than 100.4°F, may be removed immediately from the Venue as determined by the Medical Director.

Participants presenting signs or symptoms of a COVID-19 infection will be evaluated in the medical area by personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. A Participant presenting



signs or symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 infection or who returns a confirmation test with a positive result will be placed in an N95 mask, isolated from the general population, and escorted out of the venue and referred to a local medical facility for further evaluation and treatment. All relevant local health notification guidelines will be followed.

Time permitting, an athlete who displays signs or symptoms of a COVID-19 infection will be directed to a safe location for testing and further medical evaluation by a physician to determine whether the athlete can participate in the Trials.

The evaluating physician, in his/her sole professional, medical judgement, may instead immediately direct an athlete to an urgent-care health facility.

The evaluating physician may, in his/her sole professional, medical judgement, decide to monitor the athlete for a reasonable amount of time (up to an hour) to make a medical determination, recheck the athlete's temperature using different thermometers and perform other evaluations as deemed appropriate for evaluating COVID-19 symptoms. The athlete is not permitted out of the medical area during that time.

The athlete may present information and medical documentation to the evaluating physician regarding conditions that may impact the appearance of signs and symptoms similar to those related to COVID-19.

Time permitting, an athlete may request subsequent testing. If the athlete can produce two negative test results, and no positive test results, and receives the evaluating physician's approval based on the physician's evaluation of the symptoms, the athlete may be permitted to compete. This decision will be made jointly between the COVID-19 Officer and the Medical Director. The athlete must be denied access to the Venue pending the outcome of the confirmatory tests and physician approval to compete. All confirmatory testing will be executed by Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories at the Venue.

## **Review of Decision to Remove an Athlete from Participation**

### **Secondary Medical Review**

If an evaluating physician determines it is appropriate to bar an athlete from participating in the Trials, either from positive test result(s) or displaying symptoms, then a second physician will conduct a secondary medical review. If the second physician also determines it is appropriate to bar an athlete from participating in the Trials, the decision to bar the athlete from participating in the Trials stands.



### **Tiebreaker**

If the physicians do not agree about whether to bar an athlete from participating in the Trials, a third physician (appointed and approved by US Speedskating or the USOPC) will conduct a medical review. This may be in-person, or virtually, providing the physician an opportunity to review the athlete's testing records and make a medical determination.

### **COVID-19 Officer**

The COVID-19 Officer will review the protocols followed to ensure that the physicians followed the proper protocols and processes. The COVID-19 Officer may request further medical evaluation if the proper protocols and processes were not followed.

### **Decision is Final and Binding**

A decision by the physicians to bar an athlete from participating in the Trials based on signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and confirmed by the COVID-19 Officer, is final and binding.

## **SECTION 4. Contact Tracing**

### **Pre-Trials**

No Participant who has had Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within 10 days prior to arrival in Milwaukee should be permitted to enter the Trials Venue or to compete. Any such Participant should quarantine for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines.

Athlete Participants who have had Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within 10 days prior to arrival in Milwaukee will be provided the opportunity for further review of contact tracing determinations by the Medical Director and COVID-19 Officer.

Participants who have Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within 10 days prior to arrival in Milwaukee but who can demonstrate that they have had a COVID-19 infection in the 90 days prior to arriving in Milwaukee or were Fully Vaccinated at least 14 days prior to their Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact and are asymptomatic will be permitted to participate/compete.

### **At Trials**

The COVID-19 Officer may determine to remove from the Venue any Participant who has been identified through contact tracing to have been in Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19.



Participants who have Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 but who can demonstrate they have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days ( or were fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to their Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact and are asymptomatic will not be subject to this requirement.

### **Contact Tracing Review**

Upon a Participant testing positive for COVID-19, the COVID-19 Officer will work with the City of Milwaukee Department of Health to gather information from the individual and will identify all other individuals who have been in Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with the Participant. Those individuals will be notified and removed from the Trials Venue and be required to follow CDC quarantine guidelines unless they meet one of the previously described exclusionary criteria (e.g., a COVID-19 infection within the 90 days prior to the Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact or proof of full vaccination at least 14 days prior to the Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact). The identity of the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 will not be disclosed unless the individual expressly consents to release of this information. The OC and US Speedskating may require the release of this information as a condition of participation in order to provide other athletes with sufficient information to have the opportunity to contest being contact traced out of the Trials.

### **Secondary Review**

To dispute a finding that an athlete was in Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, the athlete removed from participation due to contact tracing will have the opportunity to present evidence to the COVID-19 Officer about their whereabouts and any other relevant information, including corroborating evidence, evidence of prior COVID-19 infection, or evidence of completion of a full COVID-19 vaccination series. Based on a review of all the evidence available, the COVID-19 Officer will decide whether the evidence supports a determination that the removed athlete was in Close Sustained Contact and/or Close Physical Contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.

The Medical Director will confirm whether the COVID-19 Officer followed the appropriate contact tracing protocols.

### **Final Determination**

A decision by the COVID-19 Officer and Medical Director to bar an athlete from participating in the Trials due to Contact Tracing is final and binding.

All Participants must agree to and be bound by this COVID-19 Mitigation Plan as a condition of participation in the Trials. When a Participant fails to abide by a requirement of this COVID-19



Mitigation Plan, the attached Dispute Resolution Process document will provide Participants with an opportunity for a hearing before the USOPC Trials Administrative Board (TAB).” Note, all medical decisions made in accordance with this COVID-19 Mitigation Plan (e.g., testing, contact tracing and symptoms) are final and binding and not subject to review by the TAB.

## **Section 5. Additional Mitigation Components**

All Tier I Participants should not socialize with anyone outside Tier I personnel while in Milwaukee, with the exception of Tier I Participant athletes rooming with a non-Tier 1 parent.

It is important for all Tier 1 Participants, not subject to a contact tracing exception, minimize their chances of being subject to contact tracing protocols by not sitting next to teammates when traveling, staying six feet from teammates, and not sharing vehicles with teammates prior to or after travel to Milwaukee.

Tier I athlete Participants who do not compete on a given day will be permitted to enter the Venue as a spectator.

Masks will be required by all Participants within the Venue. The only exceptions will be those athletes who are competing immediately before or after they have their event and training.

### **Spectators**

- Spectators will be deemed Tier 4 personnel and it is strongly recommended that they not socialize with Tier I personnel.
- All spectators are strongly encouraged to be Fully Vaccinated prior to attending the Trials and/or receive a negative COVID-19 PCR test within three days of attending the Trials.
- Spectators seeking a COVID-19 test in Milwaukee should visit the following website for helpful information. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm>
- All spectators are strongly encouraged to always wear masks/face coverings while in the Venue.
- Spectators must maintain physical distancing from Tier 1 Participants (except when spectators are serving as chaperones for a minor athletes or reside in the family zone).

## **Recommendations for Non-Athlete and Non-Coach Trials Participants**

There will be other categories of people who are actively involved with the Trials. These include:



- Heat Box Stuart (Tier 1)
- Referees (Tier 2)
- Starter (Tier 2)
- Coaches (Tier 2)
- United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) (Tier 1)
- OC staff, US Speedskating staff, Venue staff, USOPC staff (Tier 1 & Tier 2)
- Competition staff (timing, video, etc.) (Tier 3)
- Volunteers (Tier 2 or Tier 3)
- Media & Broadcast Media (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3)
- Vendors (Tier 2 or Tier 3)
- Red Hat & Announcers (Tier 3)
- Zamboni Drivers (Tier 3)
- Block Chasers (Tier 2)

These groups of people must follow COVID-19 mitigation before and during the Trials and at the venue.

- All Tier 1 Participants, including those who reside in Milwaukee, must provide a negative COVID19 PCR result from a test conducted within 4-6 days of their First Day of Competition in Milwaukee. This test is the financial responsibility of the Participant.
- Any individual from the categories listed above must stay away from the Venue if they are experiencing any of the symptoms indicative of a COVID-19 infection (e.g., fever over 100.4°F, loss of taste, loss of smell, diarrhea, cough, etc.).
- For Tier 1 participants that are tested onsite, accreditation/credentials will not be distributed until the onsite Test #2 negative test results are received.
- All Participants are strongly encouraged to avoid contact with athlete, coach, and team support participants. (Ex.: when it is necessary for a Technical Official to speak with a coach, the Technical Official should use proper precautions and limit the time of the interaction)
- All Participants listed above are strongly encouraged to avoid public and social gatherings while in Milwaukee.
- Spectators are strongly encouraged to be Fully Vaccinated and are also strongly encouraged to have a negative COVID-19 PCR result from a test conducted within 72 hours of attending a session of the Trials.



## **SECTION 6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS FOR VIOLATIONS OF NGB COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN**

All Participants must agree to and be bound by the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan as a condition of participation in the Trials Event. When a Participant fails to abide by a requirement of the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, the following dispute resolution process will provide Participants with an opportunity for a hearing before the USOPC Trials Administrative Board (TAB).

### **A. Mitigation Plan Enforcement**

The COVID-19 Officer, or their designees, will enforce the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan at the Trials Event venue. The NGB may learn of an alleged violation of the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan by any means, including allowing Participants to report suspected violations to the NGB.

### **B. Sanctions**

The COVID-19 Officer, or their designees, may impose sanctions on Participants for violations of the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, ranging from a warning to being barred from participating in the Trials Event. The Participant will be permitted to share explanatory or other relevant information related to the violation. The COVID-19 Officer will notify the Participant if they are being barred from participating in the Trials Event.

### **C. Request for Hearing**

If a Participant (athlete or non-athlete) is barred from participating in the Trials Event, the Participant may request a hearing in front of the Trials Administrative Board (TAB). This request must be made within 90 minutes of the removal.

### **D. USOPC Dispute Resolution Unit**

If a Participant requests a hearing, the NGB will immediately contact the USOPC Dispute Resolution Unit (DRU) to initiate the proceeding at [dru@usopc.org](mailto:dru@usopc.org).

DRU is responsible for ensuring that all disputes are heard in an expedited, fair, and impartial manner. DRU may modify these procedures at any time for the effective administration of complaints taking into consideration any time constraints, while also ensuring fairness to all parties.



An attorney from DRU will serve as an impartial counsel to the TAB solely to answer questions and provide legal assistance when requested, and will not in any way take part in rendering the decision or influencing the TAB.

### **E. Trials Administrative Board**

DRU will convene the TAB to hear and render a decision on the dispute.

The TAB is comprised of the following individuals:

1. USOPC Board Chair
2. USOPC CEO
3. National Governing Body Council (NGBC) Chair
4. Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) Chair
5. 10 Year+ Athlete<sup>1</sup> (designated position from the Chef de Mission)

Any member of the TAB may designate to an alternate. No member on the TAB will have a direct interest, either personally or by virtue of organizational affiliation, in the outcome of the proceeding. As long as a quorum<sup>2</sup> of the panel members is present, the hearing may proceed.

The USOPC Board Chair, or their designee, will be chair of the panel.

### **F. Initiation of the Proceeding**

DRU will immediately provide confirmation of the request for hearing to the NGB and the Participant. DRU will provide details about the proceeding to the NGB and the Participant, including information about the date, time, and call-in details for the hearing.

### **G. Conduct of the Proceeding**

The TAB will run the proceeding, with assistance from DRU. The proceeding will be held telephonically or through videoconference on an expedited basis.

The TAB has the authority to rule on all matters raised in the proceeding, and will set such other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing as it deems necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> A 10 Year+ Athlete is defined in the USOPC Bylaws.

<sup>2</sup> A majority of the panel members (i.e., 3 of the 5 panel members) will be necessary to establish a quorum.



The NGB and the Participant will be permitted to present evidence relating to the violation of the NGB COVID-19 Mitigation Plan. The TAB may ask questions at any time.

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## H. Decision

The TAB will render a written decision promptly after the hearing, and a verbal or operative decision may be rendered on an expedited basis. The decision will be determined by a majority of the TAB.

The TAB has the authority to impose any consequence, including the decision to uphold the bar on participation in the Trials Event. The consequence will be in effect immediately after a decision is made, unless stated otherwise.

## I. Medical Expert

Upon the request of the TAB, a medical expert may serve as an advisor to the TAB.

## J. Representative

The NGB and Participant have the right to have counsel or a representative present at any point during these proceedings at their own expense.

## SECTION 8. RESOURCES

### ***Additional Guidelines***

NGBs can access guidance from the CDC relative to [quarantine](#) and [isolation](#) to assist with mitigation efforts. These guidelines should be followed when an individual has Close Sustained Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 (quarantine) or when an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19 (isolation). Some additional resources that may assist with event planning during the pandemic include:

- [CDC Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#)
- [WHO Considerations for Sports Federations/Sports Event Organizers when Planning Mass Gatherings in the Context of COVID-19](#)
- [WHO Mass Gathering COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool – Sports Events, Version 2](#)
- [WHO Mass Gatherings Decision Tree](#)
- [USOPC Guidance: Sports Event Planning](#)



- [USOPC Guidance: Sports Event Planning](#)

### ***Office of the Athlete Ombuds***

The Office of the Athlete Ombuds is available to provide independent and confidential advice to athletes regarding their rights under these Rules and each NGB's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan and to assist in the resolution of athlete concerns and disputes. Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds at: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org) or 719-866-5000 or visit their website at [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org) for more information and resources.