



COVID-19 VACCINATION: **A POSSIBLE STRATEGY FOR SPORT**

Introduction

Several vaccines against COVID-19, have successfully passed clinical trial and are being distributed by national regulators. While at-risk community groups are the focus of prioritised vaccination, international sport federations are advised to encourage the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines by athletes.

Education

An effective vaccination programme is key to safe resumption of international competition and the sporting community needs to be aware of the science underpinning vaccination in the context of the current pandemic.

1. COVID-19 vaccine stimulates the immune system to produce specific antibodies that modify disease and prevent serious illness.
2. More than one injection of vaccine may be necessary to ensure adequate antibody production (sero-conversion).
3. Once stimulated, the immune system remembers the COVID-19 virus and remains primed for future exposure.
4. Vaccines are safe through strict control and testing before their release for public use.
5. As the number of vaccinated, or immune, people in a community increases, the risk of passing on the infection reduces and offers the community additional protection (through herd immunity).

Responsibility

Medical advisors to international sport federations have an obligation to stimulate early discussion regarding vaccination. Their role is to provide informed advice and answer questions from stakeholders. Critical to hosting safe sport events is the encouragement of vaccination and continued vigilance through public health measures. Clearly, financial and logistical decisions reside at Governmental, Health Authority and National Olympic Committee level. Social distancing and personal protection measures will need to continue for the foreseeable future.

With respect to successfully staging the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, it is essential for the wider community of sport to adopt a unified approach and consistent, vigorous messages endorsing COVID-19 vaccination programmes.

FINA Sports Medicine Committee
25/01/21

THE COVID-19 VACCINATION

IS SAFE THROUGH
STRICT CONTROL
& TESTING



STIMULATES THE
IMMUNE SYSTEM
TO PRODUCE
ANTIBODIES



KEEPS
THE IMMUNE SYSTEM
PRIMED FOR FUTURE
EXPOSURE



PREVENTS DISEASE
AND REDUCES THE
SPREAD OF INFECTION



THE FINA SPORT MEDICINE COMMITTEE
ENDORSES COVID-19 VACCINATION
PROGRAMMES

