



**Ontario Climbing Federation (OCF)
COVID-19 Protocol
October 2021**

1. SCOPE

This protocol applies to the 2021-2022 OCF Competitive Series, including sanctioned local and provincial events for Open and Youth athletes in Ontario.

2. HOST FACILITY / PROVINCIAL / REGIONAL GUIDELINES

The OCF COVID-19 Protocol serves to complement the guidelines and regulations in place at the hosting facility, and will be fully compliant with current provincial and regional public health guidelines and regulations at the time of each event.

3. OCF VACCINATION AND FACE COVERINGS POLICY

The OCF will adopt the same vaccination and face coverings policy as outlined in the [Climbing Escalade Canada \(CEC\) Vaccination and Face Coverings Statement](#).

4. OCF COVID-19 LIAISON

The OCF COVID-19 liaison will ensure that each OCF sanctioned event operates in compliance with the regulations and guidelines set forth by the host facility, OCF, and provincial / regional public health authorities.

The OCF COVID-19 Liaison for the 2021-2022 competitive season is Natalie Taylor. She can be reached at healthandsafety@climbontario.ca.

5. COACHES

Coaches that are certified with the OCF (see <https://www.climbontario.ca/coaches/> for certification details) will be allowed to enter the competition and isolation areas during the event to support their registered athletes.

If capacity limits are in place for indoor recreational facilities at the time of the event, and if necessary to limit capacity and contact, it is possible that only one coach per team will be allowed into the isolation area (coaches in the isolation area must adhere to isolation protocols). Additionally, if capacity limits are in place at the time of the event, it is possible that only one coach per team and per age category will be allowed into the competition area during the event (i.e., if two or more age categories are running simultaneously, teams with multiple coaches can send one coach per age category into the competition area).

6. SPECTATORS

Spectators may be allowed based upon the occupancy capacity of the host facility and provincial and regional guidelines at the time of the event. However, it is possible that spectators will be restricted during the 2021-2022 competitive season due to ongoing capacity limits applied to recreational facilities under provincial guidelines. If allowed, all spectators at OCF events must comply with provincial / regional proof of vaccination and face covering regulations. For more information on how to provide proof of vaccination in Ontario, please visit <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/app-home>.

7. COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT

All attendees of an OCF-sanctioned event are expected to complete a self-assessment on the morning of each day of competition, and may be asked to confirm self-assessment by either the host facility or OCF official at entry. Host facilities may also require attendees to take their temperature upon entry. Ontario's self-assessment tool can be found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

8. WHILE AT AN OCF-SANCTIONED EVENT

Attendees are asked to respect social distancing, wash hands frequently, and to properly wear an approved face covering at all times (i.e., covering the nose, mouth, and chin). It is possible that athletes will be allowed to climb without a mask, but this decision will be based solely on the host facility and provincial health guidelines at the time of the event and will be communicated to athletes accordingly.

9. EQUIPMENT AND PPE

Athletes, officials, and volunteers will not share any personal materials, and must bring their own personal face covering. The host facility and/or OCF will provide hand sanitizer / gels / wipes and ensure safe disposal of hygienic materials. The host facility will also provide contactless thermometers if they wish to use them at facility entry points.

10. ATHLETES' COMMON AREAS

In partnership with the host facility, the OCF will ensure that the number of registered athletes, coaches, volunteers, and officials does not exceed the capacity limits of the host facility throughout the event to ensure that social distancing can take place and contacts are minimized.

10.1 WARM-UP / CALL ZONE / ISOLATION AREAS

During scramble competition rounds without isolation areas, athletes will be expected to warm up prior to the beginning of a round. Designated warm-up areas may be provided by the host facility depending upon capacity limits at the time of the event and available space.

During onsite competition rounds with isolation areas, athletes will be allotted at least 45 minutes to warm-up before their climbing time and will be admitted into the isolation area at a prescheduled time. Following their climbing time, athletes may be asked to

wash their hands, check out of the facility, and leave the building to ensure capacity limits are maintained in the host facility (see Section 7, "Spectators").

10.2 CALL ZONE

When moving from isolation to the call zone, athletes will bring all of their belongings in a single (1) bag and are expected to wear a face covering properly at all times. Points that are touched frequently (i.e. doors, chairs, etc.) will be cleaned with alcohol at regular intervals by host facility staff / volunteers.

10.3 AFTER CLIMBING

After a scramble round, athletes will wash their hands, check out of the facility, and leave the building to ensure capacity limits are maintained in the host facility (see Section 6, "Spectators").

Onsight rounds may be required to run in a "revolving door" fashion to ensure capacity limits are maintained in the host facility throughout the event. If this is the case, athletes must obey isolation rules in accordance with the [OCF Competitive Series Rules](#).

11. COMPETITION AREAS

11.1 BOULDERING

The host facility and/or OCF will provide alcohol-based gel dispensers in the competition area, to be used before every boulder problem.

For scramble and onsight rounds, brushes will be available upon request. Athletes shall brush by themselves. The common brushes shall be wiped down after each round.

In onsight rounds only, brushers from the host facility staff or volunteers will clean the holds in between athletes, if needed.

Brushes will be provided by the host facility and will be sanitized between each round.

During observation before the final round, all athletes and officials must wear a mask.

11.2 LEAD

Competitors must sanitize before and after handling the rope in the call zone.

Belayers shall wear mask properly.

During observation time, all athletes and officials shall wear their mask properly.

Each athlete will be provided their own assigned rope(s). Ropes will be provided by the host facility.

Belayers will sanitize their hands after handling the rope of each athlete.

Athletes must NOT put the rope in their mouth.

11.3 SPEED

Volunteers connecting athletes to autobelay devices shall wear a mask properly.

12. AWARD CEREMONIES

Athletes must wear a mask during the entire award ceremony. Prize givers must also wear a mask. Medals, trophies and other tokens will be directly picked up from the tray by the athletes. No handshakes or other physical contact from athletes or prize givers will be allowed.

For any questions or comments on this Protocol, please contact Natalie Taylor, OCF COVID-19 Liason, at healthandsafety@climbontario.ca.

Policy History	
Policy Ref	OCF-Admin-07
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