Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to minimize the transmission of infectious diseases, including the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), in our training and competition environments to help protect the health and safety of our athletes and employees as well as members of the community that may be reduced by vaccinations. This policy is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If you would like more information on COVID-19 vaccines, the CDC maintains a website on vaccines and immunizations and has product information for the COVID-19 vaccines available in the U.S. (please see www.cdc.gov).

COVID-19 continues to pose a significant threat to our athletes’ ability to participate in training and competition, thereby risking qualification for and performance at the 2022 Olympic Games. Unvaccinated U.S. Team members present a substantially greater transmission risk to themselves and to the U.S. Team and thereby will need to be separated from the group.

Scope
All named U.S. Team Athletes are encouraged to receive vaccinations for their own health and safety, as well as for those around them. Athletes who are not vaccinated will be required to apply to U.S. Ski & Snowboard for special permission to travel with a U.S. Ski & Snowboard Team. Unvaccinated athletes, if granted permission to join a traveling team, must comply with all protocols and rules, and agree to cover added expenses as stipulated by U.S. Ski & Snowboard in their granted special permission (see below for additional details). International travel with U.S. Ski & Snowboard Teams will likely NOT be approved for unvaccinated athletes.

Procedures
U.S. Ski & Snowboard will provide a list of locations to assist athletes in receiving vaccines on their own.

COVID-19 Protocols
Any athlete that is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and does not receive it will be subject to following all COVID-19 protocols and guidelines from U.S. Ski & Snowboard, FIS, and the local health authority or organizing committee including but not limited to mask wearing, testing, and social distancing. All athletes, including those that are vaccinated, will be encouraged to follow certain COVID-19 protocols prior to any travel associated with training and competition to mitigate the risk of transmission and positive test results requiring isolation.

Please note that athletes traveling for training and competition must meet any travel requirements and restrictions implemented by airlines as well as entry requirements for the destination country and re-entry for the U.S. Athletes who cannot travel due to non-vaccination or positive test results, must contact the High Performance and Sports Medicine Team to see if they qualify for an
exemption. If an unvaccinated athlete receives permission to travel, in addition to mask wearing and social distancing requirements, the athlete may be responsible for the following additional expenses:

1) COVID-19 testing to meet U.S. Ski & Snowboard protocols as well as any testing protocols mandated by local organizing committees, local health authorities, and FIS;
2) Additional travel expenses including but not limited to individual hotel and/or living arrangements, separate transfer or shuttles, separate meal arrangements, etc. that must be made to ensure the health and safety of other athletes;
3) Additional isolation expenses, if required by local health authorities, for entry into the country, after an exposure, or if infected for any travel accommodations that are needed either prior to a training/competition or past the departure date of the team; and
4) Any additional medical expenses abroad that may be needed to cover COVID-19 exclusions.

Please direct any questions regarding this policy to the High Performance and Sports Medicine Team.