



Welland Curling Club
We Rock the House!



WELLAND CURLING CLUB

RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINE

2021-2022

Table of Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------|
| 1. Executive Summary | 3 |
| 2. General | 4 |
| 3. WCC Policy and Declaration | 4 |
| 4. COVID-19 Symptoms & Exposure | 5 |
| 5. Masks & Face Coverings | 5 |
| 6. Exposure at the Club | 5 |
| 7. Enforcement | 6 |
| 8. Membership | 6 |
| 9. Membership Refund Policy | 6 |
| 10. Facility Details | 7 |
| 11. Ingress & Egress | 8 |
| 12. Ice Operations | 9 |
| 13. Game Play Details | 10 |
| Diagram: Spacing on the Ice | 11 |
| Attachment "A" <i>Vaccination and Accommodation Policy</i> | 12 |
| Attachment "B" <i>Declaration of Compliance – COVID-19</i> | 13-14 |

1. Executive Summary

The *Welland Curling Club* (WCC) Board of Directors and Re-Opening Committee are pleased to announce our plan for the commencement of the 2021-2022 curling season. Our plan is founded on current public health guidance and generally accepted best practices for disease transmission control.

Our plan follows all government regulations endeavouring to ensure the health and safety of all WCC employees and members. To that end, a *Vaccination and Accommodation Policy* has been adapted **mandating the vaccination of all members 12 years of age and older**, with an accommodation, if conditionally accepted by the Board, for those with documented medical exemptions.

We trust this document will provide the information a member would require to make an informed decision whether to register to curl this season. It will never please everyone but by reading this document you know our guidelines and any further revisions will always adhere to government regulations.

It is imperative that while at the Club, all members continue to follow the advice of our public health officials and the Club's guidelines. These responsible behaviours are fundamental to maintaining a safe environment for all members. **Most importantly, if you are feeling unwell or are sick, STAY HOME!**

The current plan is for Open House week to begin Monday October 18, 2021 and for leagues to commence as early as Monday October 25, 2021. Individual league co-ordinators will be in contact with skips in the coming weeks. There will be only a limited number of events hosted at the Club in the weeks after re-opening.

The government of Ontario has limited indoor occupancy to a maximum of 50% of the allowed capacity which is 75 for our upper lounge.

Game play will generally follow guidelines laid out in the Return-to-Play Recommendations developed by Curling Canada and CurlION.

Masks will be required in the Club at all times **except** generally when eating or drinking while seated in the lounge **and** while on the ice. Although masks are not government mandated on the ice, the Club encourages it, and until a full review of the effects of the variant is known in the sporting world, the Club has mandated several scenarios when masks are required. Two sweepers will be allowed if they are masked and skips may sweep in the house if they are masked. Please read Section 5 *Masks & Face Coverings* for complete details.

The only people allowed in the facility at any one time are the 64 curlers (maximum) on the ice, the people playing on adjacent draws in the upper lounge (maximum 75 persons), and staff or indispensable volunteers. Spectators or guests, including children, will not be allowed in the Club until further notice.

If any member or staff tests positive for COVID-19, the Club will follow the guidance of Niagara Region Public Health.

Re-Opening Committee:

| | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------------------------|--------------|
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2. General

The protocols and procedures in this document have been designed to reduce the risk of disease transmission and to help protect the health and safety of Club staff, members, and the community. It is imperative that members familiarize themselves and follow these protocols to the best of their ability.

Members who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are encouraged to consult their health care provider prior to joining the Club.

League co-ordinators have been directed by the Board to ensure leniency in game attendance rules, including eliminating penalties for default losses and relaxing minimum team member requirements for regulation games. Do not violate isolation protocols just to go curling!

3. WCC Policy and Declaration

The Club endeavoring to protect the health and safety of its employees and members, and in compliance with the *Ontario's Double Vaccination Policy* effective September 22, 2021, the Board of Directors has approved the following:

a. Vaccination and Accommodation Policy.

Please refer to **Attachment "A"** for the full policy details

b. Declaration of Compliance – COVID-19

Please refer to **Attachment "B"** for the full details.

All members are required to accept and follow the terms of both documents.

4. COVID-19 Symptoms & Exposure.

Members must not come to the Club if they meet any of the following conditions:

- If they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- If they have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results (UNLESS they did not have any symptoms when they were tested and do not have any symptoms now).
- If they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, even mild symptoms.
- If they are self-isolating according to public health guidance, or if they have been instructed to self-isolate by public health officials.
- If they have had close physical contact in the past 14 days with someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19, or who has experienced symptoms and who is self-isolating as a result of those symptoms.

5. Masks & Face Coverings

- a. Members must wear a non-medical mask or face covering while in the Club, in compliance with the Niagara Region By-Law 2020-46.
- b. The Club will observe any and all exemptions to the Region's Mask By-Law. Members are required to let any member of Board of Directors, the Re-Opening Committee or the League Co-ordinators know if they are exempt from wearing a mask or face covering.
- c. Masks are required upon entering the Club, on the upper and lower floors, including the washroom and locker rooms, but may be removed only when seated while eating or drinking.
- d. Although masks are not government mandated on the ice, the Club encourages wearing masks while on the ice when curling and the Club **mandates the wearing of the mask** when:
 - i. upon entry to the ice area, until you are distanced 2-meters from other curlers. (You may remove the mask when you have stepped down onto the ice.)
 - ii. when you cannot maintain a 2-meter distance from another curler,
 - iii. should 2 curlers, not from the same household, sweep together,
 - iv. sweeping in the House, everyone in the House must be masked,
 - v. before leaving the rink to enter the lower lounge,
 - vi. while attending to any medical or emergency need.

6. Exposure at the Club

If any member or staff tests positive for COVID-19, The Welland Curling Club will follow the guidance of Niagara Region Public Health.

7. Enforcement

- a. Any member of Board of Directors, the Re-Opening Committee or the League Coordinators may direct or provide instruction to members on the proper application of these protocols.
- b. Members failing to comply with physical distancing requirements or other protocols may be asked by any member of Board of Directors, the Re-Opening Committee or the League Co-ordinators to comply immediately or to leave the Club property. Any member may bring non-compliance issues to the attention of the offending member and/or one of the individuals mentioned above. In the absence of any of the individuals mentioned above, the skips of the two teams shall attempt to rectify the situation and advise the appropriate individuals as deemed necessary.
- c. Repeated violation of these protocols, or any serious single violation, will be considered by the Board of Directors and may result in temporary or permanent suspension of membership.

8. Membership

- a. Members are welcome at the Club once they have completed their membership registration and during their first visit, have provided proof of vaccination.
- b. Members are asked to refrain from visiting the Club at times when they are not scheduled to play.
- c. No visitors or guests, including children, will be allowed in the Club until further notice.
- d. **Only registered members are allowed to curl in league games.** Anyone not in compliance will be removed from the property; the team will default the game and the team may be subject to temporary or permanent suspension of membership.
- e. Details on the Club's Junior Program are to follow.

9. Membership Fee Refund Policy

The Club recognizes the government or public health may mandate that the Club close for a prolonged period of time during the season. The Board has updated its *Membership Fee Refund Policy* to provide a refund fee mechanism. Please review the policy on the Club's website.

10. Facility Details

- a. Club staff will conduct regular cleaning and disinfecting of the Club, with particular emphasis on identified high touch areas and high traffic corridors. All Club staff will have been trained in properly enacting the Club's COVID-19 policies, including cleaning and sanitizing protocols. Cleaning schedules will be determined prior to the start of curling and will surpass Public Health guidelines.
- b. Superfluous furniture will be removed from the lounge. The spectator chairs at the glass in the upstairs lounge will be removed. Members must use only their designated seating areas.
- c. Hand sanitizing stations are installed throughout the Club, and hand-pump sanitizer will be available in the rink. Members are encouraged either to wash their hands or to sanitize their hands as frequently as possible, especially when moving between different areas of the Club.
- d. In the rink, the following surfaces and fixtures will be sanitized before every draw: All rock handles, all scoreboards and scoring items and all door handles facing into the ice playing area.
- e. **The bar and kitchen will operate at the times it has operated in the past.** The bar area will be available for drinks prior to evening draws (procedure to follow). Members shall use the designated table and chair that they will be returning to after their game.
- f. The bar and kitchen area have been separated by clear vinyl curtains to provide a "bubble" for our staff. **As a member, you are required to respect these boundaries and are NOT to enter that area.**
- g. Teams will be preassigned to tables in the upper lounge. The tables will be distanced by at least 6 feet. These tables will seat 8 curlers. **Members must not move tables or chairs from their placed locations. Members must not sit at or touch a table other than their designated table.**
- h. When there is a second draw, players in the early game may stay until the end of the 4th end of the late game. This will allow staff to sanitize surfaces prior to the next draw. All games early or late must play at least 6 ends to allow time for disinfecting the appropriate areas.
- i. To get drinks before the second draw, drinks will be available by ordering from the downstairs lounge. Instructions will be posted on signs downstairs.
- j. A time limit on post-game activities may be imposed at other times, to accommodate indoor gathering limits and depending on the day's schedule.
- k. **Locker rooms** and lockers in the lower lounge are available **but masks must be worn.**

11. Ingress & Egress

- a. Members are encouraged to practice physical distancing remaining 2 meters apart from others whenever possible and certainly when masks are required.
- b. Signage to direct traffic and movement will be in place throughout the facility.
- c. Generally, the path that members will take to access various areas of the Club is dependent on whether they are playing a single/early or late draw.
 - i. **Single/Early Draw.** Enter through the Main door and complete the contact tracing. Proceed to the lockers, change into your curling attire and then you may stay in the Lower lounge or proceed back through the front lobby, up the stairs to your assigned table. Those not using lockers may proceed straight up the stairs to their assigned table and change into curling shoes, jackets and gloves. Leaving the upper lounge, proceed down the rear stairwell directly to your sheet of ice. Washrooms are available on both levels. Upon completion of the game, proceed upstairs (after the lockers if used) using the rear staircase to your assigned table. You can then enjoy some post-game socializing. For those that are unable to remain you may exit through the front door but if it is an **early draw, please exit the lower door by the furnace room** as late draw curlers will be entering the front door.
 - ii. **Late Draw.** Access to the facility will be restricted to a specific time that will allow the curlers on the Early Draw to have proceeded upstairs and for the cleaning and sanitizing to be completed. Enter through the Main door and complete the contact tracing. Proceed into the locker rooms to change or to a chair in the lower lounge to change into your curling attire. Start times will be used to provide physical distancing. Use only the Lower floor washrooms. Upon completion of the game, change in the locker or lower lounge and proceed upstairs using the rear staircase to your assigned table. You can then enjoy some post-game socializing. For those that are unable to remain you may exit through the front door.

12. Ice Operations

- a. The ice area will have any required signage and posters from Niagara Region Public Health, the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, and/or Curling Canada.
- b. The following equipment will be removed from the ice playing area:
 - Stabilizers, grippers & sliders (curlers need to provide their own at all times)
 - Water dispensers (curlers may bring their own water bottles and must not share)
 - Any other convenience items not affecting play (e.g. delivery aids, coin flippers, broom cleaners, coaching equipment, etc.).
- c. All measuring devices will be provided with a hand sanitizing station or single use gloves.
- d. **Brooms and delivery sticks will be available for temporary member use** (members are required to be fully outfitted with their own equipment). Disinfected brooms and delivery sticks can be found on the racks on the ice surface. Used brooms and delivery sticks must be deposited in the appropriate 'USED BROOMS and STICKS' bins and not placed back onto the broom rack.
- e. **Hand pump sanitizers and garbage bins will be provided on each sheet** at each end to minimize distance and cross-sheet movement.
- f. **The Ice Technician and the Assistants are the only people allowed in the furnace room.** Special access may be granted by the Ice Technician on a per case basis. A logbook will be provided for any that have been granted permission to sign when they entered and exited the furnace room. This will provide a "bubble" for those employees.
- g. The Ice Technician and the Assistants are the only persons allowed to handle/touch any and all equipment associated with maintenance of the ice surface, garbage cans, etc. in the ice area. There may be a need for volunteers to assist in some of the sanitizing functions. These volunteers will sign into the logbook.
- h. The Ice Technician and the Assistants will abide by strict procedures to limit the potential for transmission of COVID-19 between each other and members. Ice Technicians will be required to wear masks and gloves at all times during ice maintenance.
- i. **Members are not permitted into the rink until ice maintenance is completed for their sheet. Members shall not congregate on the boards while their sheet is still being prepared. For single or early draws, practice shots may only be taken with the stones that are assigned to you. Do NOT touch the other stones! Unfortunately, no pre-game practice is permitted for the late draw.**
- k. Ice Technicians will remain out of the rink during regular draw play, except in the case of an emergency.

13. Game Play Details

- a. Specific details for the draws will be dependent on the registration levels for each league and section. When possible, efforts will be made to further physical distancing by using only every other sheet, but at times 8 sheets (64 curlers) will be required.
- b. Covid restrictions may require start times to be staggered. In that case, sheets 1, 3, 5 & 7 (or 2, 4, 6 & 8) will start play at the posted time. The other sheets can start to arrive at the posted time (as the lower lounge clears) and start play 15 minutes later.
- c. Curlers will enter the ice surface through the door closest to the sheet they are to play on.
- d. **Masks must be worn as per Section 5.**
- e. Players should endeavour to physical distance in the rink or don a mask.
- f. Distancing markers will be installed in the ice on the divider lines and on the boards at both ends of the sheet. While not involved in the play, players should position themselves on a marker until it is safe to proceed to the throwing end of the sheet. Please see the diagram on page 11.
- g. Instead of a handshake, give a friendly wave or broom tap to start the game.
- h. The team's rock colour will be predetermined by the League before game time. To determine hammer in the first end, use Rock-Paper-Scissors or Evens-Odds on a stopwatch. The coin-spinners have been removed from the ice. **Hammer should be determined prior to going onto the ice**, in order to minimize time spent on the backboards before the start of the game.
- i. **Players must throw their two rocks for the entire game** (i.e., teams may not change rock order mid-game).
- j. After delivering their rock, the curler may follow its path, staying 2 meters from the sweeper(s) and then proceed to a distancing marker to stand.
- k. Once the sweeper(s) are finished, they must return to a physical distancing marker.
- l. As the sweeper(s) approach the top of the house, they will stop sweeping and allow their skip to complete any sweeping in the house.
- m. While skips are in the house, they will be masked in order to allow the opposing skip an opportunity to sweep any stone that has crossed the tee-line. Any person that is not masked will back away from the area of play to maintain a 6-foot distance. The opposing skip will be masked before they can enter the house to sweep a rock that has crossed the tee-line. If there is more than one person in the house, all must be masked.
- n. One player on the sheet shall be designated the game's Scorekeeper and will be responsible for keeping score.
- o. Players must not touch other players' equipment or other players rocks.
- p. The dial measures and biter measure will be available as in the past. The procedure for measuring a stone is as follows:
 - i. Remove gloves and sanitize hands before touching the measuring device(s);
 - ii. Conduct the measurement. Both team representatives must be masked.
 - iii. Return measure to the measuring station;
 - iv. Sanitize hands and return to the game.
- q. Time limits will be imposed on any night that there is an early and a late draw. The time limit shall apply to both draws on that night. It is both skips responsibility to ensure these time limits are followed. No end shall start after the 1:55 start time. At this point, **teams are allowed to finish the end they are in but shall not start another end.** This is to ensure timely completion of games and allow ice staff the appropriate amount of time for all draw change activities. Teams that do not comply with the time constraints may be assessed a default loss.
- r. Curlers will exit the ice surface through the same door that they entered and proceed, using the previously described traffic flows.



NON-DELIVERING TEAM (BLUE TEAM)

The two sweepers of the non-delivering team should be positioned on markings near the centre of the sheet while the other team is throwing. The player of the non-delivering team whose turn it is next to deliver should be positioned at the hogline on the same side as the two sweepers. The Skip (or Vice-Skip) will stand on the backboards but no closer than the hack.

DELIVERING TEAM (RED TEAM)

The Skip has control of the house. The player whose turn it is to deliver is in the hack. The non-sweeping player is on the backboards. If the delivering team chooses to have 2 sweepers **both** will wear masks! Once the stone has been released, the player who delivered the stone proceeds down the centreline of the ice until the halfway point to the marking or to the hog line if it is their turn next. After the stone comes to rest, the sweepers proceed to the halfway markings.

If there is only 1 sweeper, the sweeper may choose not to wear a mask. The sweeping player is at the T-Line. The other non sweeping player may follow the stone but must maintain physical distancing or may remain on 1 of the markings at the side of the sheet.

Attachment “A”

Vaccination and Accommodation Policy

In the current environment with uncertainty with the threats of infection associated with COVID-19, the Club must endeavor to protect the health and safety of its employees and members. In an effort to do so and in accordance with *Ontario’s Double Vaccination Policy* effective September 22, 2021:

1. The Club mandates that all members aged 12 and over, **must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 with a Health Canada approved vaccine 14 days prior to entry to the Club.**
2. **Government mandated contact tracing will be managed with the *CurlON Contact Tracing Application*.** Members will be supplied with a QR code for easy and quick electronic tracing and entry to the building. On their first visit to the Club, the member will scan their QR code and provide proof of vaccination to the designate of the Club, who will then validate the vaccination status in the system. The member will then be tagged as vaccine compliant and future QR scans will be so noted and allow entry. If proof of vaccination is not validated on the system, a non-compliant prompt will appear and proof vaccination status must be presented and validated or entry will be denied.

At no time will CurlON receive any documents (medical or otherwise). This is simply an exercise to certify the proof of vaccination and eliminates the need to do so on each subsequent entry to the building.

3. Accommodation will be considered for anyone with a medical exemption. Those that seek accommodation will be assessed based on their **written request to the Club President** (president@wellandcurlingclub.com) which will include documentation from a medical doctor.

All accommodation requests will be reviewed in accordance with government regulations and guidelines and will be assessed with regard to the health and safety of all Club employees and members. Those granted an accommodation, must abide by any and all conditions imposed with the acceptance, or risk being removed from or denied entry in the Club’s building.

4. Any personal information gathered by the Club will only be available to the Board President, Membership Chair and Treasurer and will not be disclosed unless as required by law or with consent. The name and the conditions imposed with the medical accommodation, will be known to the full Board and the league conveners to ensure compliance with the conditions.

Approved by the WCC Board of Directors on the 19th day of September 2021 and replaces the previous policy dated August 22, 2021.

Attachment “B”

DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE – COVID-19

WARNING! ALL INDIVIDUALS ENTERING THE FACILITY AND/OR PARTICIPATING IN SANCTIONED ACTIVITIES MUST COMPLY WITH THIS DECLARATION

The Welland Curling Club, CurlION and Curling Canada (collectively the “Organization”) require the disclosure of exposure or illness in order to safeguard the health and safety of all participants and limit the further outbreak of COVID-19. This Declaration of Compliance will be kept safely, and personal information will not be disclosed unless as required by law or with your consent.

An individual (or the individual’s parent/guardian, if the individual is younger than the age of majority) who is unable to agree to the terms outlined in this document is not permitted to enter the Organization’s facilities or participate in the Organization’s activities, programs, or services.

I, the undersigned being the individual named above and the individual’s parent/guardian (if the individual is younger than the age of majority), hereby acknowledge and agree to the terms outlined in this document:

1. The coronavirus disease, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and COVID-19 is extremely contagious. The Organization has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and requires all individuals (or their parent/guardian, when applicable) to adhere to the compliance standards described in this document.
2. The individual is fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and will provide their proof of vaccination along with ID to access the facility.
3. The individual has not been diagnosed with COVID-19; **OR** if the individual was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual was cleared as noncontagious by provincial or local public health authorities.
4. If the individual is a front-line worker (such as hospital staff, long term care staff, or other individual who interacts with individuals who have confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19), the individual has worn proper and approved Personal Protective Equipment at all times whenever they interacted with an individual who has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
5. If the individual is not a front-line worker, or other individual who interacts with individuals who have confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19, they have not been exposed to a person with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
6. The individual is attending or participating voluntarily and understands the risks associated with COVID-19. The individual (or the individual’s parent/guardian), on behalf of the individual (when applicable)) agrees to assume those risks, including but not limited to exposure and being infected.
7. The individual has not, nor has anyone in the individual’s household, experienced any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days (including fever, new or worsening cough, fatigue, chills and body aches, respiratory illness, difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, pink eye, or loss of taste or smell).
8. If the individual experiences, or if anyone in the individual’s household experiences, any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 after submitting this Declaration of Compliance, the individual will immediately isolate, notify the Organization, and not attend any of the Organization’s facilities, activities, programs or services until at least 14 days have passed since those symptoms were last experienced.

- 9. The individual will follow the safety, physical distancing, and hygiene protocols of the organization.
- 10. The individual is following recommended guidelines, including but not limited to, practicing physical distancing, trying to maintain separation of six feet from others, adhering to recognized hygiene best practices, and otherwise limiting exposure to COVID-19.
- 11. The individual will follow the safety, physical distancing, and hygiene protocols of the Organization.
- 12. The individual will bring their own personal items and personal equipment (such as water bottles, bags, towels, etc.) at their discretion and will not share their personal items or equipment with other individuals.
- 13. This document will remain in effect until the Organization, per the direction of the provincial government and provincial health officials, determines that the acknowledgements in this Declaration of Compliance are no longer required.
- 14. The Organization may remove the individual from the facility or from participation in the activities, programs or services of the Organization at any time and for any reason if the Organization believes, in its sole discretion, that the individual is no longer in compliance with any of the standards described in this document.

Print Name of Member or Parent/Guardian _____ **Email** _____ **Telephone** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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| <p>If the Participant is under the age of 18: Print Name _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Birth _____ Date of _____</p> |
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