



Welland Curling Club
We Rock the House!



WELLAND CURLING CLUB

RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINE

BOOKLET

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1. Executive Summary

The Welland Curling Club Board of Directors and Re-Opening Committee are pleased to announce our plan for the anticipated commencement of the 2020-2021 curling season. Our plan is founded on current public health guidance and generally accepted best practices for disease transmission control.

Our plan focuses on guiding our members in avoiding and reducing risk. Members who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are encouraged to consult their health care provider prior to joining to the Club. Members who are also members of other sports and/or other clubs may have increased risk of exposure. While members are not prohibited from joining other activities, it is prudent of all members to minimize the number of individuals with whom they have close contact and are therefore asked to choose their recreational pursuits carefully.

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 19, 2020 and for leagues to commence as early as Monday October 26, 2020. 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.

There are many requirements and challenges to navigate to come up with a return to play plan. The government of Ontario has limited indoor occupancy of a recreation facility to a maximum of 50 persons per room, while always subject to maintaining the physical distancing requirement of 2 metres and providing separation of groups with no crossover. This allows for a relatively normal pattern of activity. Each of the ice surface, the lower lounge and the upper lounge will be considered as individual rooms. However, the capacity of the lower lounge, with 6 foot spacing, will only be 32 persons.

The precise details regarding traffic flows that ensure the separation of draws, providing adequate time to sanitize between draws, both in the rink and in the clubhouse is further outlined in this document.

Game play will generally follow guidelines laid out in the Return-to-Play Recommendations developed by Curling Canada and CurlON. These guidelines include only a single sweeper on all delivered stones, and no sweeping by the skip/vice of either team on either the delivered stone or stones set in motion by the delivered stone.

Masks will be required in the Club at all times except generally when delivering or sweeping a rock and when eating or drinking while seated in the lounge. Please read Section 5 *Masks & Face Coverings* for further and complete details.

The only people allowed in the facility at any one time are the 48 curlers (maximum) on the ice, the people playing on adjacent draws in the upper lounge (maximum 48 persons), and staff or indispensable volunteers. Spectators or guests, including children, will not be allowed in the Club until further notice. Members' movement within the building will be restricted to moving between the rink and the appropriate bar/lounge space assigned to their draw.

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

The Board encourage all members to install and use the Government of Canada COVID Alert App found at the following link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-alert.html>

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. 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; OR
- If they have travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days or have been in contact with someone that has travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days.

4. Waiver & Self Screening

- a. Prior to the start of the season, all members must complete the membership registration process which acknowledges acceptance of the Club's *Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims & Indemnity Agreement*, available in the *Membership/Information* section of the website. In addition, the Club's waiver *DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE COVID-19* must be signed. This waiver must only be signed once prior to the start of curling.
- b. The waiver may not be signed by those under the age of majority. A parent will be required to sign for those under 18 years of age for those youth that are to be registered in the Club youth curling programs. See the *Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk* document.
- c. Prior to each arrival at the Club, members must complete a COVID-19 self-assessment. See the following link: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>. CurlION is providing a mobile app in the coming days and the Club will assess the use of that tool to determine whether we can utilize it and whether any additional procedures will be required.
- d. Any member of the Board of Directors, the Re-Opening Committee or the League Co-ordinators may deny entry to Club property to any member who is not in compliance.

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. 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 in the Club's upper and lower lounges but may be removed only when seated while eating or drinking.
- d. The Club encourages wearing masks in the rink when curling but they may be removed temporarily under the following conditions or situations:
 - i. While actively engaged in sweeping or delivering a rock and for a short period after sweeping while catching your breath. If you are removing your mask at these times, remove your mask when you are in the hack or when sweeping only when the person delivering the rock is in the hack.
 - ii. To wipe one's nose.
 - iii. When consuming a drink, such as from a personal water bottle or a drink in the lower lounge.
 - iv. Should a situation develop into a breathing emergency, that could lead to a need for medical attention.
 - v. While receiving emergency or medical attention.
- e. Steaming of glasses may be an issue. Players are encouraged to try anti-fogging spray and/or obtain a mask designed to eliminate the fogging. This includes the extended mask that reach under the glasses or have an exhaust vent. If you are still experiencing difficulty then contact your league co-ordinator.

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.

The Board encourages all members to install and use the Government of Canada COVID Alert App found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-alert.html>

7. Enforcement

- a. Any member of Board of Directors, the Re-Opening Committee or the League Co-ordinators 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, signed the waiver **DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE COVID-19** and have completed the COVID-19 self-assessment on the day of their visit.
- 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. At all times **only registered members are allowed to curl**. 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 does not open this season, close for a prolonged period of time mid-season, or the curling season may be prematurely terminated. 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. League Operations

Public Health guidance and Phase 3 Reopening Guidelines issued by the Province of Ontario restrict participation in leagues to a group of 50 individuals. CurlION and Curling Canada interpretation and guidance have confirmed that, while members may participate in multiple leagues, any "Covid-19 league" would necessarily be a subset of a current league and would contain no more than 50 people.

This can take the form of series/flights that play together for a set number of weeks, or other forms of segregated early/late draws traditionally used by individual sign-up sections. At the conclusion of a series, the "Covid-19 league" would be deemed to have ended, and a new "Covid-19 league" formed for the next series.

- a. Sparring. As a result of the requirement to limit "Covid-19 league" participation to 50 individuals, spares may only be drawn from teams on a bye, alternate players on teams within the "Covid-19 league", or a specifically designated spares list for that "Covid-19 league".
- b. Youth Programs. The Youth program will be operating with a later start this season. The start of the program for the U18/15&12 groups (curlers with experience 9 years and older) and the Little Rocker program for 6-8-year olds will possibly start at the same time if we have the numbers. New curlers will start later. More information on dates and other details will be provided later in September.

11. 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. Tables in the upper lounge will be assigned to each draw and sheet. These tables will seat a team of 4 curlers. Tables will be assigned so that opponents will be at the next table. Furniture will be placed in a physically distanced arrangement. **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 will **NOT** be available for members until further notice. This situation will be assessed as the season progresses.

12. Ingress & Egress

- a. **Members must practice physical distancing at all times** while on Club property by remaining 2 meters or 6 feet apart from others.
- b. Signage to direct traffic and movement will be in place throughout the facility.
- c. Movement upon entering the club will change to start this season as the lockers will not be available until further notice. You are asked to come to the curling club in your curling attire with only your curling shoes, jackets and gloves to be put on at the club.
- d. 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 Draw.** Traffic flow will be to enter through the Main door, proceed upstairs to the assigned table to leave your coat and street shoes. You will don your curling shoes at the assigned table.
 - ii. **Early Draw.** Enter through the Main door, proceed upstairs to the assigned table to leave your coat and street shoes. You will don your curling shoes and leave your coat at the assigned table.

Washrooms will be available as in the past.

Proceed down the rear stairway and go directly to your sheet of ice. Please maintain 6-foot physical distancing in the lower lounge.

Upon completion of the game, proceed upstairs using the rear staircase to maintain traffic flows, to the assigned table to leave your curling gear. You can then enjoy some post-game socializing.

For those that are unable to remain, you may exit through the lower door by the furnace room – REMEMBER – there will be curlers for the second draw at the front door. You may use the rear stairway to go to the upper lounge to change your clothing first. Then proceed down the rear stairway and exit via the furnace room exit door. Please respect physical distancing with the curlers coming up the rear stairs.

- iii. **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, proceed into the Lower Lounge and select a chair to don your curling shoes. The lower lounge can only accommodate 32 players with proper physical distancing. If the draw has more than 32 people then staggered start times will be used to provide physical distancing.

Use only the Lower floor washrooms.

Upon completion of the game, proceed upstairs using the rear staircase to maintain traffic flows, to the assigned table. You can then enjoy some post-game socializing.

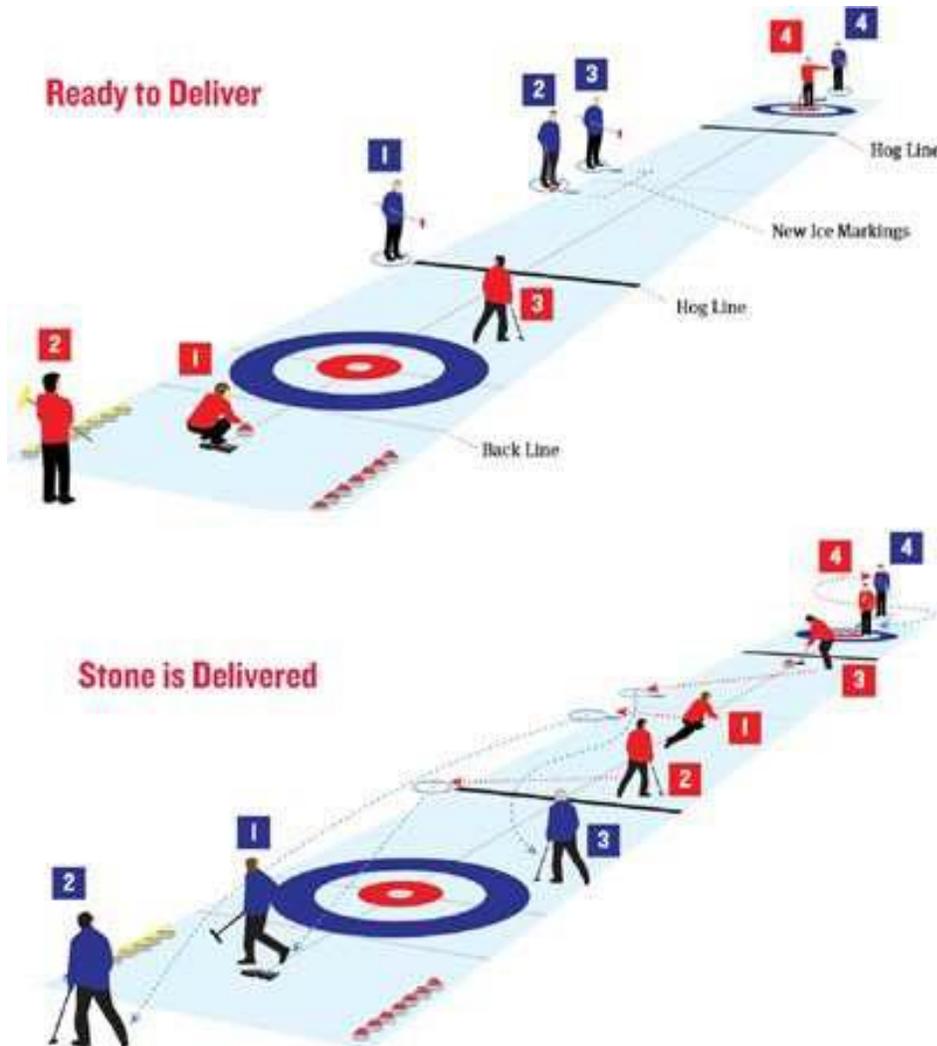
13. Ice Operations

- 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.
- d. **Brooms and delivery sticks will be available for member use.** 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.

14. Game Play Details

- a. Specific details for the draws will be dependent on the registration levels for each league and section. Every effort will be made to further social distancing by using only every other sheet, but at times 6 sheets (48 curlers) may be required.
- b. Should 6 sheets be scheduled, sheets 1, 3, 5 & 7 (or 2, 4, 6 & 8) will start play at the posted time. The other 2 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 must adhere to physical distancing at all times in the rink.**
- 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 12.**
- g. Instead of a handshake, give a friendly wave or broom tap to start the game.
- h. 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. Some sections may pre-determine hammer/rock choice within the "Covid-19 league" schedule.
- i. **Players must throw their two rocks for the entire game** (i.e. teams may not change rock order mid-game).
- j. Once a player finishes throwing their rock, they will go to a distancing marker to stand.
- k. **Only one sweeper may take the rock down the ice.** Once the sweeper is finished, they must return to a social distancing marker. For those players who slide beyond the near hog line, it is their responsibility to control their slide after releasing the rock to ensure that they maintain physical distance from the sweeper.
- l. As the sweeper approaches the house, the person in control of the house must back away from the area of play to maintain a 6-foot distance from the sweeper.
- m. **Only one person may be in the house at a time.** Sweeping past the tee line will NOT be allowed in order to avoid potential infraction of the 6-foot physical distancing. (CurlION recommendation)
- n. One player on the sheet shall be designated the game's Scorekeeper and will be responsible for keeping score on the provided white boards with the provided dry erase markers.
- 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 (only one player in the house at all times);
 - 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 the 2 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. The sweeping player is at the T-Line. Once the stone has been released, the player who delivered the stone proceeds down the centre-line 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 sweeper proceeds to the halfway markings. The non-sweeper travels to the halfway mark or the hog line depending on their turn to deliver or not.