



RETURN TO CURLING INVERMERE DISTRICT CURLING CENTRE COVID-19 - OPERATING/SAFETY PLAN

Background – How we developed our COVID-19 Operating and Safety Plan

The Club's board of directors has met on several occasions to consider when and how the Club could safely and viably re-start its curling programs. The board appointed several task forces to research requirements and to handle various aspects of our planning for the return to curling in 2020 - 2021. Budget projections were prepared for several scenarios, including a complete shut down of curling for the 2020-2021 season, curler participation at levels of 50% , 75% and 100% of normal. A comprehensive Covid-19 risk assessment was undertaken, and appropriate responses to identified risks were devised. We have also had the benefit of much guidance from Curl BC and the luxury of reviewing return to curling plans developed by other curling clubs. We believe the plan developed for the Invermere District Curling Centre is a comprehensive and responsible plan tailored for our Centre's facilities, membership and circumstances.

The Operating and Safety Plan described below has been developed in compliance with Government orders and guidelines provided by CurlBC and Curling Canada.

Our goal is to provide a safe, recreational environment for our members. The guidelines we are providing are subject to change to comply with orders or directives issued by the Provincial Health Officer, Minister of Public Safety, Solicitor General, WorkSafe BC, Government-Via Sport British Columbia, The District of Invermere, CurlBC and Curling Canada.

Preliminaries:

Registration: Registration for all leagues will be on line using Curling Canada's I/O software. Payment will be through the I/O web site. Alternative registration arrangements may be made for those not having access to the internet or otherwise requiring special accommodation. Further details will be provided in a detailed instruction memorandum to be sent to curlers in approximately the middle of October 2020.

All curlers will be required to read, agree to, sign and return the following documents prior to the start of the season:

- Participant Agreement –
- Acknowledgment of Illness Policy
- COVID 19 Declaration of Compliance

Refund Policy: A refund will be given if the curling season is cancelled because of Covid. The refund will be a prorated refund of curling fees with no refund of the registration fee as that will have been paid to Curl BC and Curling Canada.

Stay Home if you are sick or have traveled outside Canada within the last 14 days:

Anyone with any symptoms (cold, fever, headache) must stay away from others. If a member of your team is apparently ill and still shows up to curl, it is expected that team members will politely ask their teammate to immediately leave the Curling Centre. The team member is expected to comply. The Curling Centre's illness policy has been posted on line and on the Club's premises, and all participants are required to read, understand and comply with it.

Any participant who has traveled outside Canada must stay away from the Invermere Curling Centre for at least 14 days regardless of symptoms or test results.

Youth Curling: In view of the risks to young people of mixing with those outside their school cohorts, as well as legal risks to the Club, the Club has decided that it will not run programs for those under the age of 18 this season. It also means that persons under the age of 18 will not be allowed to play in adult leagues or to be in the Club as spectators .

Changes to Club Operations:

Illness and Travel Policy: The Club has established a formal policy on illness which every curler, volunteer or employee is bound by and should become familiar with. The policy will be posted at appropriate places in the building and on the Club's web site. Anyone found not to be in compliance with the policy may be subject to suspension or other disciplinary actions.

Entrances and Exits: The existing main entrance will be designated for entry by curlers and permitted visitors; The exit at the north east corner of the building will be designated for departing curlers and permitted visitors. The interior entrance door will be propped open during scheduled draw arrival times.

Signage: Appropriate reminder signage regarding physical distancing, mask use and hand sanitizers will be installed at the entrance and at other locations within the building.

Hand Sanitizers: Hand sanitizing supplies and dispensers will be installed at strategic locations within the building.

Building Cleaning: Contract cleaners will conduct building cleaning routines, including sanitizing touch points (door handles, faucets, toilets, tables, chairs etc.) prior to the start of each day's curling program.

Washroom Use: Maximum occupancy is 2 per washroom. If you enter and see there are 2 occupants, please practice physical distancing and wait for the washroom to clear.

Curling Equipment: Sanitizing wipes will be provided in the curling arena. Curling rocks will be sanitized following each draw; measuring equipment, ice brooms and shovels will be sanitized after each use. The Club will not supply rental brushes, delivery aids or delivery sticks and each curler will be responsible for providing his or her own on-ice equipment needs. There will be no sharing of personal curling equipment. The Club is arranging to have a supply of delivery sticks and sliding aids available for purchase by curlers.

Water Bottles: Curlers are permitted to bring their own water containers, however bottled water will be available for purchase in the arena area as per our practice in past seasons.

Use of Lounge: A plexiglass shield will be installed at the bar; use of credit or debit cards will be encouraged; only one person at a time will be allowed to approach the bar (physical distancing to be observed at all times); there will be no self service coffee or tea available this season however coffee may be available for service from behind the bar; tables will be separated by at least 2 metres; seating at tables will be limited to 4 persons; patrons will be responsible for depositing their own recyclable cans and bottles in bins provided; patrons will be responsible for depositing their wrappers and other trash in trash bins provided;

CHANGES DIRECTLY IMPACTING CURLERS AND THE CURLING GAME:

Physical Distancing and Masks: A two metre Physical distancing requirement is in effect throughout the building, including change rooms. Use of masks is recommended.

Draw Times: Starting times on each draw will be staggered so that two games start 15 minutes before the other two games start. Curlers are not to arrive more than 10 minutes prior to their scheduled start time, unless they plan to utilize the upstairs lounge.

Change Room Use: Curlers should arrive dressed for curling, with the exception of shoes and gloves. This requirement also applies to those who have lockers.

Starting the Game: Handshakes will not be used prior to the start of the game. An alternative to the coin flip should be used (using a stop watch and calling odd or even is a good alternative).

Physical distancing on the ice: The ice surface will be marked with standing locations for those members of the teams not actively engaged in the delivery or brushing of a rock.

Rocks: Each team shall designate one player to sanitize their rocks. Players must use the same two rocks throughout a game. Players should not use their bare hands to clean the running surface of the rocks as there is a possibility that the sanitizers in use may have an adverse effect on the running surface. Brushes or gloved hands only please.

At the end of each end of play, one Vice Skip should be responsible for moving all the rocks to the designated position at the side boards using only feet or brush. As each rock is numbered it is not necessary to spend time lining up the rocks in order. It is recommended that rocks be lined up in a single line on the appropriate side board (ie: not two by two as we have done in the past).

The anachronistic courtesy of a thrower positioning the opponent's next rock near the hack should not be used in the modern game, and most particularly not during this Covid-19 era.

Brushing: Only one brusher will be allowed to brush any rock. The non-brushing member of the team will remain stationary on one of the designated standing spots between the hog lines. Skips and Vice Skips will not brush rocks unless the designated brusher has dropped off the rock and physical distancing can thus be maintained. No brushing of any rock will be allowed by either team behind the Tee Line.

Positioning of players - non-delivering team: Players on the non-delivering team will position themselves on appropriate standing positions between the hog lines. The player on the non-delivering team who is next to throw for his or her team may leave his or her standing position and proceed to the hack once the other team's delivered rock has gone past his or her standing position.

Positioning of Skips (includes Vice Skips): The non-delivering Skip will position himself or herself well behind and away from an opposition Skip who is calling and directing a shot. While exchanging positions, Skips need to be conscious of maintaining 2 metre distancing. Skips and Vice Skips of the same team need to conduct their strategy discussions while observing 2 metre distancing.

Use of Measuring Devices: If a measure is required one Vice Skip shall fetch the required measuring device and shall conduct the measurement. The same Vice Skip shall return the device to its storage location and shall sanitize it with a sanitizing wipe.

Scoring: One Skip on each sheet will be designated to handle the scoreboard. He or she will put scores up for both teams. He or she will also be responsible for sanitizing the score cards and returning them to the holder at the end of a game. As an alternative to using the scoreboard, there are a couple of scoreboard apps available for smart phones which could be used in place of the physical scoreboard.

Ice Cleaning Duties: Any two players may be designated to sweep the ice at the end of a game. Physical distancing should be observed and all equipment used must be sanitized with wipes immediately following use.

End of Game: Curlers will not shake hands but are encouraged to use verbal or other forms of acknowledgment while maintaining physical distancing. Curlers should depart the arena in an orderly and patient fashion in order to maintain physical distancing.

Game Results: Skips or Vice Skips should carry a pen or pencil for use in marking up results on the draw sheet.

Ice Techs

Persons performing ice maintenance roles (ice installation, scraping, flooding, etc) must observe physical distancing practices at all times; if impractical to do so, masks will be worn. Equipment should be handled by only one person per session, and all handles and other touch points sanitized both before and after use.

PARTICIPATION OF ROVERS AND SPARES:

“Rovers “ are curlers who have registered as Rovers and have paid the necessary fees.

“Spare” -Any curler registered in a Club league for the 2020 - 2021 season may play as a Spare.

Persons who are not registered at the Club either for league play or as a Rover shall not be allowed to spare.

Rovers or Spares can be used in any Club league, unless the league is designated as men’s or women’s, in which case the Rover or Spare must be of the appropriate gender.

Rovers can spare in up to 4 games without paying further fees. For the 5th and subsequent games they must pay \$5.00 per game.

A person can spare in the league for which he or she is registered without paying a further fee. A person can spare in a league for which he or she is NOT registered upon payment of \$5.00 per game.

A curler who has paid the Unlimited Curling fee can play or spare in any league for which he or she is otherwise qualified without payment of any further fee.