

## Frequently Asked Questions

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Back to Curling Town Hall conferences and training sessions. Below are some of the questions from the meetings. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to ask any member of the Return to Play committee or your league convenor.

**\*\*\*UPDATED NOVEMBER 20, 2020\*\*\***

**Q. Some people wear masks when curling while others do not. Would you clarify?**

A: Wearing a mask that covers our nose, mouth and chin (no vented masks permitted) is strongly recommended.

- We have become aware that certain activities increase the spread of germs and aerosols, which includes singing, shouting, sneezing and coughing. It is optimal to wear a mask during these activities.
- We request that you consider wearing a mask as much as possible while you curl, however we recognize that when you are sweeping and delivering your mask you may need to remove it so you can see.

Note: It is safest when everyone combines ALL COVID protocols. This includes:

- Performing hand hygiene
- Physical distancing
- Completing your online screening questions before you come to curl, and staying away if you feel unwell
- Wearing a mask that covers our nose, mouth and chin (no vented masks permitted).

**Q: Can we clean the underside of the rock?**

A: Yes, using your brush head or glove . . . not your bare hand.

**Q: What side must the sweeper start on?**

A: It really doesn't matter. We realize that some sweepers wear a slider and some can only sweep on one side. The important thing is to start six feet away from others, i.e., on the sidelines. Don't hesitate to politely ask others to move a bit along the sideline to maintain the six-foot distance.

**Q: Can the sweeper get the rock out for the thrower?**

A: Yes, using only a broom or foot to move the other person's rock.

**Q: Is only one person or one person from each team supposed to put the rocks back into place after each end?**

A: As long as people stay six feet away from each other and move the rocks safely, it shouldn't matter if there are more than one or two people putting rocks away after each end. Just put the rocks in a single line – no need to double them up in order during game.

**Q: Does it really matter if we go one or two minutes past the "leave-the-ice-time" if our game is close?**

A: Yes, it does. The rules apply to everyone and are for the safety and consideration of our ice technicians. You must leave the ice at the time specified and that end does not count. Please be gracious and responsible, whether you are winning or losing.

### **Pre Game**

**Q: Can we use both entrances to the club?**

A: Absolutely! We encourage both entrances to be used. Coats can be hung in the front hallway coat rack or in the rear hallway towards the back of the building. There will be no coat racks in the locker rooms.

**Q: If I come straight from work can I change at the club?**

A: This is highly discouraged due to the very tight times for getting onto the ice. If you can, find a washroom to change in at work. Remember it will take the same amount of time to change there as it will at the club and there you won't be holding up other members from getting onto the ice. If it is absolutely impossible to arrive dressed for play, then consider changing in the washroom at the club.

**Q: Can women use the shoe changing stations in the men's locker room when the men are not in the building or vice versa?**

A: No. There will be plenty of shoe changing stations throughout the club so that should not be necessary.

**Q: How do I know if the locker room is at capacity (17 women's, 20 men's)?**

A: There will be markings on the floor on which to stand. If there are markings free in the aisle near your locker, you may go to your locker. If your aisle is occupied, then wait at one of the marks at the front of the aisles until space is available. Remember we have 15 minutes to get everyone out onto the ice, so at your locker get your equipment, hang your coat and put away your shoes/boots and leave as quickly as possible.

**Q: How will the lockers be allocated?**

A: Lockers will be allocated as they have been in the past. There are some lockers along the wall towards the hall that are not available in order to help with distancing. People with those lockers will need to find another locker and reserve it with club manager Steve Hulton. There should be lots of lockers available.

**Q: Where are all the coats and boots going to go?**

A: There will be two areas where you can hang your coat and leave your boots if you don't have a locker. You can use the front hallway area behind the trophy case or you can use the back hallway where there will be coat racks that we have removed from the locker rooms. REMEMBER – bring your own hanger!! If you have a locker you can hang your coat and store your footwear there.

## **Game Play**

**Q: Who puts rocks back after an end?**

A: Each team will designate one member to return rocks to the backboards following an end. Rocks may be in single file not paired as last year. In the last end they should be returned to the starting end and paired – this makes it easier for the ice technicians to manipulate the scraper at the end of the sheet.

**Q: Who cleans the rock handles after the game?**

A: One person from the hammer/home team will clean the handles and top portion only of all 16 rocks.

Q: Can't one person from each team clean the rock handles to speed up the process?

A: No. For now, only one person will clean the rock handles. This only takes about three minutes.

Q: Where do we put grippers when throwing?

A: Grippers should be placed out of the way on the backboards so that they are not a tripping hazard.

Q: Can the vice and skip confer over a shot?

A: Yes, but they must remain 6 feet apart. So, if the skip is at the centre of the house the vice must remain outside the house.

Q: Will we be shown how to clean the rock handles?

A: Yes. There are training sessions that you should register for in October (3rd, 5th and 6th) and cleaning procedures will be demonstrated.

Q: Who does the measurement on rocks too close to call?

A: The vices of the two teams will decide which of the two of them will do the measurement and he/she alone will decide which rock is closest to the button.

Q: Can family members share equipment (i.e., stabilizers)?

A: Yes. Please mark equipment clearly.

Q: Can two members of the same household sweep at the same time?

A: No. To maintain fairness, only one sweeper is allowed at all times.

Q: When my team member is sweeping my rocks vigorously and breathing rapidly there is greater chance that my rock may be contaminated. How can I protect myself and my fellow curlers?

A: There is a chance for the rock to be contaminated as described and this is one of the risks we cannot entirely eliminate. You can reduce the risk by either asking your sweeper to wear a mask or the best strategy would be to sanitize your hands after throwing.

**Q: Can I bring a small bag or purse into the ice shed?**

A: Yes, but just a small bag or a purse. No steamer trunks please.

**Q: You say that masks are not required when curling. Can I wear a mask if I prefer to do that?**

A: Certainly! In fact, we encourage people to wear masks as much as possible.

**Q: Can the rocks be lined up in a single row to facilitate retrieval during game play?**

A: Yes. However, at the beginning and end of each games, rocks will be in pairs, as this provides more room and thus more safety for the ice technicians when preparing the ice between games.

**Q: Can anyone enter the scores after games?**

A: Yes. Scores can be entered by anyone on the tablet in the hall (be sure to sanitize your hands afterwards). Scores can be entered by vices and skips on their phones or computers at home. Scores can also be entered by convenors.

**Q: Can the ladies put their boots in the locker room?**

A: No, it is preferred that boots be stored in the hallway, but this will be revisited as necessary. One tip is to bring a pair of slippers to put on after removing boots and before putting on curling shoes.

## **Stick Curling**

**Q: Can stick players as “skips” sweep the rock?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Can stick players as “skips” sweep the opponents’ rock?**

A: No.

**Q: Stick players share rocks. How will that work?**

A: It is recommended that the person delivering the rock sanitize his or her hands after delivering the rock, if it has been necessary to touch the rock to move it into position.

## Lounge

**Q: How will service in the lounge work?**

A: All members will be seated at a table and there will be table service. A form will be available that you can fill out pre-game and put outside the lounge or after your game you can fill the form out and give it to the server, then go to your table after picking up your coat and changing your shoes.

**Q: How long will it take to get served?**

A: Our lounge staff have estimated that even with a full draw in the lounge it will take no more than 15 minutes for everyone to be served.

**Q: Can tables be assigned in the lounge, i.e., Ice 1 Blue, Ice 1 Red?**

A: Not at this point, but this will be reviewed as the season gets underway.

**Q: When will I have to exit the bar?**

A: You will need to leave no later than 25 minutes before the end of the draw that is on the ice. The bartending staff need time to sanitize the chairs and tables before the next draw comes in.

**Q: Can I take my coat and equipment into the lounge?**

A: Yes, but please place any equipment neatly along the wall so as to maintain safety.

**Q: Can we pay an amount in advance at the bar and draw from this (reverse bar tab)?**

A: Not currently, but we will look into the feasibility of this.

## Cleaning Practices/Contract Tracing

**Q: How often will the shoe changing stations be sanitized?**

A: They will be sanitized at least twice a day.

**Q: How often will bathrooms be sanitized?**

A: They will be cleaned twice each day. Once by the cleaning service and once by the staff. This was recommended to us by KFL&A Public Health. The staff will also be sanitizing high-touch points in the bathrooms between draws.

**Q: How do I sign up for practice ice?**

A: Sign up will remain the same as in other years, which means you sign up online. You will, however, need to sign in when you arrive at the club, or scan your QR code using the CurlION Contact Tracing App, as this will be an unscheduled appearance at the club.

**Q: What are the protocols should a member test positive after having been at the club in the past 14 days?**

A: The member is first required to inform the club of the positive test. The club will then inform KFL&A Public Health authorities, who will then instruct us about the steps that need to be taken. The club will provide KFL&A Public Health with the contact tracing data they require and they will contact the people directly involved. RKCC will inform the membership by email of the positive case and of the steps being taken.

**Q: If I happen to miss a game and there is a positive test that day, how is the club to know I wasn't there?**

A: We are taking the safest approach and will provide KFL&A Public Health with the names of everyone that was scheduled to be there whether you were there or not.

**Q: I am not feeling well and need to get a spare. How does that work?**

A: If you are not feeling well, or can't make the game for some other reason you can get a spare. We ask that you inform your convenor or have your skip inform them so that the club is aware. The spare needs to sign in regardless, or scan his or her code using the CurlION app to ensure the club knows who was in the building to facilitate contact tracing if necessary. Sparing rules will be relaxed this year to encourage you to stay home if you have any symptoms.

**Q: If the club needs to close due to COVID-19 is there a refund policy?**

A: Yes, as stated in the Return to Play plan, there is a rebate policy that has been approved by the Board. The rebate will be based on up to 70% of your membership fee, calculated on a prorated formula and will be returned to you at

the end of the season. Details will soon be in the RKCC Policy and Resource manual under the Refund Policy section.