



Curling this season

Hi everyone;

Here is information on what we expect the upcoming curling season to look like. This was also be in the CG & CC August newsletter, however, we want to make sure it gets to all curlers who played last year.

We have the majority of players contact info on file, but there are a few teams where we only have the skips email address. Please ensure all of your team has a chance to look at this. It will help people to decide on the upcoming year.

This will be a bit of a learning curve for all of us. If you have any questions or concerns, please email them to myself: grahamdw@shaw.ca

Dennis

canmore Golf & Curling Club guidelines for curling during Covid-19

The health and well-being of our members, guests and employees is our top priority and we are following all directions and guidelines from Alberta Health Services. In support of the COVID-19 precautions and the additional physical distancing measures, you will experience some changes to the way the game is

played, along with the services we offer. We appreciate the understanding and discipline of everyone following these guidelines so we can keep everyone healthy, safe and curling.

Before getting into all the details it is imperative that everyone remembers and agrees to the following recommendations:

FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

The Federal Government recommendations for gatherings (all applicable to a draw or time slot of curling)

- practice proper hygiene;
- physical distance between players wherever possible (ideally to 2 metres);
- encouraging ill people and people who are at risk for severe illness not to attend;
- supporting hand hygiene by washing hands frequently and using provided hand sanitizers dispensers in prominent locations.

Registration for all curling leagues will be done via online or by phone (403-678-5959 ext 221). Players will not need to visit the administration office. Registration will start after Labour Day.

Waivers will be required by all players in the registration process and will not be allowed to play without a signed waiver on file.

Canmore Town Council has passed a bylaw requiring **face coverings** while inside where the public has access. At this time everyone will need to put on a face covering to enter the building and wear the mask until they are seated for dinner or a drink or enter the curling rink area. Like everything in our 'new' world, this could change and we will adapt if it does. Please note that appropriate social distancing guidelines are still required even if wearing a mask.

Anyone entering the clubhouse is required to use the **hand sanitizer** that is located at the front entrance.

Players are encouraged to **arrive at the rink ready to play** rather than having to use the locker rooms. Men's and ladies locker rooms have a maximum capacity of 3. If using the locker room, check for the number of people prior to entering. If necessary, wait outside of the main entrance and not in the hallway. Change immediately and exit the locker room. The door to the locker room will be propped open. Lockers and benches will be sanitized daily. Shared lockers are discouraged.

Players are asked to **utilize our curling website** (canmore.mycurlingclub.com) **for schedules** and standings. The touch screen in the curling lounge will not be operating. Please be aware of you start time and sheet prior to arriving. Plans are to post a schedule at the front entrance to prevent groups gathering together near the bulletin boards.

All teams and players are to be registered on the curling website with their **contact information**. Teams (skips) should also **keep track of who is playing** on their team, including

spares, on a particular night to facilitate contact tracing if required.

Do not congregate or socialize in the hallways. Proceed immediately to the curling lounge or the dining room. When leaving proceed directly to the exit. No service at the bar is allowed. You must be seated in the dining room or curling lounge.

If you are coming early for **dinner prior** to playing please use the dining room rather than the curling lounge.

Tables and seats in the curling lounge will be very limited to accommodate adequate social distancing. These tables and chairs need to be sanitized after each use. It would be appreciated if chairs and tables are only used if you are having a beverage or meal. As with the dining lounge, F & B staff will mark whether the table has been sanitized. Do not sit at unsanitized tables.

All F & B **service is only allowed through servers** and not going to the bar. Our initial set up in the curling lounge will only have 4 chairs per table. Joining of tables or movement of chairs to different locations are not permitted. If there are more than 4 we ask that you go to the dining room remembering that there is a maximum of 6 people per table even if you are from the same group or household. Only staff are permitted to touch or operate any remote controls.

The **stairway** to the curling rink from the curling lounge is narrow. Players must check from the top of the stairs to ensure no one is coming up from the rink. The same procedure will happen when leaving the rink to the curling lounge. **Check first. Players should not be passing each other in this stairwell.**

The **door to the rink will be propped open 5 minutes prior** to the start time and will be closed 5 minutes after the scheduled start time. The boot cleaner can be used at the top of the stairs by placing your foot down rather than touching the handle.

To prevent bigger numbers of people congregating in the curling lounge as well as entering and exiting together **start times will be staggered.** If it is a full draw, sheets #2 & #4 will start at one time with sheets #1 & #3 starting 20 minutes later.

Sanitizing hands and equipment

Hand sanitizers will be located at home and away ends of each sheet.

Curling stones, measuring equipment and scoring numbers will be sanitized before each draw. Players select their two stones. **No interchanging of stones** is allowed during a game. Players should not touch any other stones with their hands. You may use your broom or foot. The bottom of stones are not allowed to be cleaned with a bare hand. The worry is that with the constant use of sanitizers that this could affect the ice. Players may use their own sanitizer to clean only their stone handles, however, no

spray sanitizers are allowed.

NO sharing of any equipment is allowed. Each player must have and only use their own brooms, grippers, sliders and delivery aides or sticks. Curling equipment in the cabinet is for rental groups or first time curlers only. This cabinet will be locked. If any equipment is required the ice tech or assistant will need to be contacted. All equipment in this cabinet will be sanitized. After any use, there will be a drop off area near the exterior exit door where it can be left and then must be sanitized prior to being put back in the cabinet.

Plans will be developed to allow players to **order curling equipment for purchase** in September and delivered to the club prior to the start of the season.

Practicing will not be allowed prior to the start of a game. The water fountain in the curling rink will still be available, but only for players that bring their own personal refillable water bottle. No benches or chairs will be in the rink.

Once inside the curling rink, **wearing a face covering will be optional while playing.** Provincial Health rules for curling do not require masks to be worn. The Town of Canmore Town exempts the requirement for face coverings during athletic or fitness activities. Placing masks on the shelf or floor or hanging masks on the coat hooks will not be permitted. Masks will need to be stored in an individual's pocket or you can bring a separate personalized bag that the face covering can be put into and then hung on the coat rack. Face coverings are required to be put back on when leaving the curling rink area until you are outside or seated for a drink or meal.

The Canmore Golf & Curling Club is **utilizing Curling Canada and Curling Alberta 'Return-to-Play Guidelines'** in preparing for the upcoming year understanding that things may change and we will always be willing to adapt as necessary. We will be a single sweeper club regardless of whether people are from the same household. There are positions on the ice where players are to proceed to if they are not involved with throwing the stone. As with anything new it will be a bit of a learning curve, however, it will allow us to curl safely keeping distancing guidelines in mind.

PLAYING THE GAME

- Instead of a hand shake, give a friendly wave or tap brooms to start the game.
- Coins will not be provided for determining what team has hammer. A player can use their own coin or other device keeping in mind social distancing.
- Players stay on the same side of the sheet. For example, if you are playing on sheet 2, always walk or position yourself on the sideline to sheet 1. This will keep players 10 feet apart.
- Markings on the ice will be located four feet from each side of centre ice (roughly 69 feet from the end boards). *See Distancing Illustrations.*

Non-Delivering Team: The two sweepers of the non-delivering team should be positioned on these marking while the other team is throwing. The player of the non-delivering team whose turn it is next to deliver should be positioned at 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: 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. No sweeping prior to 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.
- One sweeper only on all delivered stones. No relaying (second sweeper taking over half way down the sheet). The person in charge of the house is not allowed to sweep under any circumstance. The skip of the non-delivering must remain in the hack area until all stones come to rest. They are not allowed to sweep the opposition stone behind the tee-line. Lessening of physical distancing restrictions would/could allow this guideline to be removed.
- The skip or vice skip (not both) of non-delivering team must stand at the hack until the other team is finished playing and has relinquished control of the house.
- The skip or vice skip (both teams) may not sweep any stones (both colours) set in motion by the delivering team.
- Scoring for both teams will be done by only one person. Recommend that the third from the team with the 1st end hammer keeps score unless agreed by both team for someone else to do it.
- Measuring equipment will be sanitized before each draw. Hand sanitizer will be kept at this equipment and players are expected use it prior taking the device.
- When measuring; remove any gloves, sanitize your hands, same person getting the measuring device conducts the measure, return device, sanitize hands.

Practice time during the week will be a set scheduled time. A reservation will be required. Rocks will be sanitized prior to any practicing. There may be a fee this year to practice. Drop-in curling without a reservation will not be allowed.

Covid Ambassador

Anyone who was around the golf world when things first started up will remember the person at the entrance to the parking lot. Our plans are to have someone in the club for at least the first few weeks of play to assist with everyone to understand and follow the guidelines.

Refunds

The Canmore Golf & Curling Club has developed a refund policy if health authorities order the closing of curling rinks. This refund policy will take into account how many weeks of curling has already been played as compared to the full season, however also taken into consideration is the large cost to the club to install and take out the ice.

From the newsletter:

What will curling during Covid look like???

I know it is hard to think about in August, but the curling season is not far off. The start of ice making is just over a month away. We were excited to see in the recent survey that there is a strong desire by almost all members who replied that they plan to continue curling this year. Not surprisingly, some are wondering not just what the rules will be for curling, but how we will handle people in the curling lounge, stairwell to the rink, locker rooms, etc. The great news is, like in golf, work has been done to ensure curling can be done safely. Curling Canada and Curling Alberta have created 'Return-to-Play Guidelines'. The Canmore Golf & Curling Club are using these guidelines along with following provincial health rules and the Town of Canmore face covering bylaw to create procedures that are specific for our club to allow curling to resume this Fall.

A few notable things:

- You may have heard, but only one sweeper will be allowed. Sweeping of opposition stones will not be allowed.
- There will be spots marked on the ice where you are to stand when not involved with the throwing stone.
- A big one for some is that everyone is expected to have their own equipment. Curling equipment in the cabinet will be locked and only available for first time curlers or rentals.
- Athletic activities are exempt from the Town of Canmore face covering bylaw. At this time, you will need to wear a face covering when entering the building until you get to the ice surface and then when you leave the rink to go through the curling lounge. Once inside the curling rink masks will be optional for playing.

At our last meeting, the curling committee decided that the first week of this season will be the last week of last season. As we know the curling season abruptly ended last year March with one week to go which also had all the finals happening. League organizers will do their best to schedule those teams that were supposed to play each other in the first week which will determine winners for last year.

The not so great news, but expected is Curling Canada recently announced cancellation of all their events prior to Christmas. This included the Canadian Mixed Curling Championships that we were scheduled to host in November. Unfortunate, but a decision that Darren Cooke and myself fully agreed with. The Qualico Mixed Doubles Classic is still scheduled to happen Dec. 31 to Jan. 3

We will wait until Sept to make decisions on our local bonspiels; specifically our Mixed that is scheduled for November and the Men's spiel in early January. At this time I hope we can run something, however, it would likely be on a much smaller scale limiting the number of teams.

As there will not be a windup in the curling rink this year ice may go in a little earlier than usual. We will let you know.

The CG & CC will do everything possible to ensure a safe environment for curling this year. As many organized sports may not be happening we could be in for a busy year. If you put away your curling shoes years ago it's time to bring them back out and try it again. If you have never curled before, now is the perfect time to try. And equally important, if you curled last year we hope to see you again.





Canmore Golf & Curling Club

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