

Return-To-Play Protocol

Vankleek Hill Curling Club



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The following document is based on Curling Canada, CurlION and OVCA return-to-play guidelines along with recommendations and supplemental information from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU). This protocol is to be applied by all members of the Vankleek Hill Curling Club (VKHCC) during the 2020-21 season.

COVID19 has caused significant changes in all aspects of life and this will be no different at the curling club. We understand that some of these new practices will not be second nature. However, we request that members follow these policies at all times and enforce these safety measures for the benefit of all members. The goal remains to ensure the health and safety of all members, volunteers and staff as well as to ensure the viability of curling at our club in the present and for future years.

Safety Measures:

- 1) Authorities: The VKHCC will follow all relevant measures issued by provincial and municipal public health authorities.
- 2) Hygiene: All members will practice proper hygiene, including frequent handwashing, physical distancing (at least 2 meters) and wearing a mask.
- 3) Prevention: Individuals who are feeling unwell or have been exposed to an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID shall not enter the premise for 14 days unless they have been tested during the period in question and received a negative test result. We recommend those that are at an elevated risk and have concerns to only participate to the level that they are comfortable.
- 4) Compliance: All individuals entering the club must sign in and submit to the VKHCC a completed membership form including protocol acknowledgement prior to beginning their curling season. These forms will only be required to be completed and submitted once. Members will be required to submit their forms upon registration. Individuals who do not complete the forms will not be able to enter the club or enter leagues.
- 5) Signage: There will be signage throughout the club, both on the ice surface and in the lounge to assist in proper social distancing. It is expected that these signs and guidelines be respected at all times.
- 6) Building Safety and Cleanliness: The VKHCC will undertake a full building clean prior to the start-up of the season. High-touch areas, including toilets and sinks, door handles, railings, bar area and chairs, will be cleaned on a frequent basis based on the use of the curling club.

- 7) Handwashing: To facilitate handwashing, the VKHCC will provide ongoing access to soap and paper towels in washrooms. In addition, hand sanitizing dispensers will be available in prominent locations throughout the club, including entrances, ice area and lounge.

Getting Ready for the Game:

- 1) Ready to Play: All curlers will arrive at the club no more than 15 minutes prior to their game and will be prepared to curl (i.e. dressed and with a bag for a change of shoes) with their own curling equipment (i.e. shoes, sliders, helmets, masks, brooms, delivery sticks and stabilizers).
- 2) Sign in Procedure: All individuals entering the club will be required to sign upon arrival. This ensures that a record of everyone who was at the club on any given day can be maintained. This list may be used to inform people in the event of any increased risk at the club.
- 3) Wearing of Masks: Masks* will be worn by curlers on their arrival at the VKHCC and throughout the club, including washrooms, hallways and stairs, in the lounge (unless seated) and while on the ice area. The EOHU does not mandate that masks be worn on the ice while playing the game of curling, however during play, if proper physical distancing is maintained, the wearing of masks is optional. It is strongly recommended, however, that curlers wear their mask at all times during a game when not delivering or sweeping stones.
- 4) Navigating the Curling Club: All individuals are expected to follow the signs to guide movement through the curling club, recognizing that in some areas physical distancing is more challenging.
- 5) Lounge: The lounge will be set up with physical distancing measures and nothing should be altered by any individual without VKH CC Executive consent. It is recognized that not all members may have to physically distance from each other, for example spouses. Masks should be worn at all times unless an individual is seated. Individuals should ensure a distance of 2 metres is kept when waiting at the bar or to get onto the ice.

* EOHU states that a face shield or visor is not a substitute for wearing a face mask as it does not filter respiratory droplets. CurlOn does not recommend the wearing of face shields prior to or during curling.

- 6) Change Rooms: Change rooms will be available if needed, but it is encouraged that individuals come to the club ready to curl as much as possible. If change rooms are being used, social distancing measures are to be respected.

Playing the Game:

- 1) Entering and Exiting the Ice: To allow curlers to arrive at their starting position without crossing paths, teams will enter the ice in sheet order, starting with sheet B, followed by sheet A.
- 2) Rock Colour and Hammer Selection: Convenors will pre-determine the rock colour and hammer assignments on the schedule before each game.
- 3) Handshakes: Instead of the traditional pre and post-game handshakes, curlers will wish each other a good game or “good curling” from a safe physical distance before entering the ice preferably.
- 4) Stones: The stones will be sanitized by an assigned individual prior to the start of each draw. Each player will select and be responsible for their own stones. There will be no interchanging of stones during a game. Players must not touch any stones other than their own.

To move stones to the rock boxes at the back of the sheet after shots, the skip or third will use the end of their broom and/or feet. At the conclusion of an end, a designated player (we recommend seconds for game flow) will move the stones to the rock boxes using their brooms and/or feet.

- 5) Designated Player Positions: The Curling Canada and CurlOn recommended players’ positioning will be followed by the VKHCC (see Appendix A), the assigned markings will be added to the sheet. Players will stay on the same side of the sheet and teams will walk on opposite sides.

Sweepers: Sweepers will move up and down the ice on their designated side and when waiting for the opposing team to throw will occupy the premeasured locations on the ice (or a 2 metre distance elsewhere on their side).

Stone Throwers: As the delivering team begins to throw, the alternate team should then begin to approach the throwing positions from their waiting positions. Once the team has thrown, the players will then occupy the designated waiting positions in a physically-distanced flow.

In the House: The individual who has control of the house (ie skip of the throwing team) will have free range of movement in the house. The opposing skip will occupy their designated area on the back board. When a shot is complete the skip is to immediately make their way to this designated area. There will be designated areas for both the skip and third.

- 6) Communication on Ice: Skips and thirds can discuss shots but at a safe

physical distance.

- 7) Sweeping: Following CCA regulations teams will only operate with one active sweeper. The active sweeper cannot be changed during the shot (however the sweeper can change sides during the shot).

The non-sweeping player will position themselves on the side of the sheet on their team's travelling path.

Neither team's skip or third in the house is allowed to sweep at any time. The only individual that can sweep on a given shot is the designated active sweeper. You may only sweep your own stone.

- 8) Measuring: When measuring stones, the thirds will remove their gloves, sanitize their hands, conduct the measurements, return the measure device to its location, and sanitize their hands before returning to play.
- 9) Scoring: Scoring will be done using one third as the designated the score keeper.
- 10) Exiting the Ice: Curlers are to maintain social distancing.
- 11) Recording the Game Results: The thirds will record the game results on the bulletin score sheets and then wash their hands.

Bar Service

- 1) Bar Service: Members are to head directly to their designated tables and sit down following the game.
- 2) Order of Service: Individuals are only to approach the bar when proper physical distance can be observed.
- 3) Serving of Drinks: Bartender will pour drinks into disposable/plastic cups. It will then be the responsibility of the member to dispose of his/her cup.
- 4) Bartender Staffing / Responsibilities : There will only be 1 individual behind the bar. The bartender will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing the bar area being used as well as the bar key/ door key before returning them to their respective lock boxes.

Club Services Not Available in 2020-21:

- 1) Club equipment: To minimize risk, club equipment, such as brooms, sliders, grippers, delivery sticks, stabilizers and brushes to clean brooms, will not be

provided.

- 2) Change Rooms: The change rooms will be available, however please use proper physical distancing.
- 3) Kitchen Area: To minimize sanitization requirements and to reduce areas where physical distancing would be difficult, access to the kitchen area will not be provided for league play.
- 4) Ice Rentals: To reduce risk to VKHCC members we will not be renting out the curling club at this time and non-members will not be able to curl.
- 5) Bonspiels: At the current time to prioritize members the VKHCC will not be hosting outside bonspiels.

Other:

- 1) Entertainment: Due to prioritizing our membership we will not be having outside entertainment.

The above policies and procedures describe the practices that the VKHCC expects of its members in order to have a successful curling season. This protocol will be revised as new information and guidelines are obtained as it pertains to the curling season or club. Club members will be informed of any changes and/or amendments to the protocol.

These policies are only as effective as its members commitment to follow the procedures. We are a curling community, as a community we must all work together to make the curling club a healthy, happy enjoyable space.

-The VKHCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Distancing Illustrations

