



Frequently Asked Questions

Curl BC has received numerous questions with regards to the Return to Curling process. These answers are valid as of Oct. 31, 2020. As new information comes to light we will update the document.

Information that is new since our last update on Sept 22 is in **blue**.

Q: Where can I find examples of return to curling plans made by clubs in BC?

To view other clubs' return to curling plans visit our Documents & Forms for Covid-19 page.
<https://www.curlbc.ca/resources/documents-forms-covid-19/>

Q: How has Covid-19 impacted the opening and start dates for curling clubs in BC?

A: Here are the responses to Curl BC's Pre-Season Check-in with our clubs. Of the clubs that have responded:

- Clubs opening as normal: 21
- Clubs delaying their opening: 23 delays range from 1 week, 1 month, to 4 months (3 clubs with January start dates)
- Clubs not opening: 2

Q: How has Covid-19 impacted League Fees for the 2020-21 Season for Clubs in BC?

A: There are many different approaches being taken. However, more clubs are either raising their fees or keeping them the same than lowering them.

Q: Why did Curl BC take the approach of Game Modifications versus implementing the cohort model?

A: Curl BC modified the game to include physical distancing measures at all times and one sweeper to allow for more on-ice activities to occur. This gives members of multiple clubs the ability to support and participate in all of clubs, instead of being limited to a single cohort group. These game modification rules have allowed Curl BC to successfully advocate for curling to be moved into Group A from Group B in the viaSport guidelines (appendix H).

Q: Will Curl BC be providing signage and supplies for our club?

A: There are multiple poster resources available on the Curl BC website at <https://www.curlbc.ca/resources/documents-forms-covid-19/> and they are also in the links below.

The signage with a * is available from Curl BC. The other files are ready for you to download, print, and post within your club. If you would like a version to include the Curl BC logo and your Club logo please contact Rebecca: rconnopprice@curlbc.ca

STOPPING THE SPREAD/ILLNESS POSTERS:

- [IfYoureSickPoster-Curling](#) * **One per Curl BC member free**
- [COVID19_DoNotEnterPoster](#)
- [Covid-Help-Prevent-Spread](#)
- [COVID19 Procedures](#)

FLOOR/ICE MARKERS

- [SocialDistancingFloorDecal-Curling](#)* **\$10.50 each - member price**
- [InIceDistancingMarker-Curling](#)* **\$6.50 - member price – SOLD OUT**

WASH YOUR HANDS

- [WashYourHandsPoster-Curling](#)* **One per Curl BC member free**
- [COVID19 Handwashing Poster](#)

PHYSICAL DISTANCING REMINDER

- [COVID19 PhysicalDistancingPoster](#)

WEARING A MASK

- [How to Wear a Mask](#)

WORKSAFE BC OCCUPANCY LIMIT

- [Covid-19 Occupancy-limit-poster-worksafe](#)

GENERAL CLUB PROCEDURES

- [COVID19 Procedures](#)

Q: Do you recommend masks? (Updated)

A: Curl BC is recommending that clubs make masks mandatory in the lobby and common areas within a curling facility.

Curl BC also plans to move to recommend making masks mandatory on the ice in the next update, scheduled for mid November. Dr Bonnie Henry stated that there is now an “expectation” that masks must be worn in public indoor settings. For that reason, it is our expectation that curlers will be able to get used to this new normal.

In order to be safe on the ice, please consider the following factors:

- A well fitting mask is one that fits tightly over your nose and mouth.
- Wear contact lenses instead of glasses if you can in order to prevent fogging of your glasses.
- If you must wear glasses, we recommend having a mask that fits tightly over the bridge of your nose and cheeks. It may be worthwhile trying a number of different styles or using some sort of adhesive like medical tape to make sure it stays in place so the warm air doesn't rise up to your glasses.
- There are a number of anti-fog coatings for eyewear that can also be purchased. Cat Crap is one brand that we have seen for sale at Mark's/Canadian Tire.

Q: We have seen that you can now have your skip/broom-holder or secondary sweeper relay at the hogline and it is permissible to sweep after the teeline. How should this work in practice and is it safe?

The rules are:

Only one sweeper at a time per stone delivered.

- a. The person that starts sweeping the shot will continue until the hogline or the end of the shot.
 - i. Relaying is permitted at the far hogline.
- b. The skip or vice-skip controlling the house can sweep their own team's rocks after the t-line but only if another active sweeper has stopped sweeping. There should be no sweeping of opposition rocks.
 - i. The opposing skip is NOT permitted to sweep and must remain in the hack area or on the backboards until all stones come to rest.

Further guidance:

- It is important to note that there should only be ONE relay. In total, there should only be two people who sweep the rock that is thrown (at separate times).
- In practice many clubs are seeing the secondary sweeper follow the rock at a safe distance of 2m to help judge weight. Then the secondary sweeper takes over but while physically distant.
- The relay rule works well for sweepers that are not able to follow the rock all the way down the ice. It may not work for teams that want to ensure the rock is being swept at all times – as there will be 2m where the rock is not swept. For those teams, we recommend not doing the relay at the hogline and sticking to one sweeper.
- Allowing your skip or secondary sweeper to get involved in the sweeping is a slight loosening of the modified play rules. It should be noted that your club does not have to loosen the rules. If your club's board opts to stick with the "only three people involved in a shot" rule because your region is experiencing an uptick in Covid-19 cases or because of your club's vulnerable population, that decision is in their hands.

Q: What about teams driving to the club together? Or teams from the same household?

A: Individuals may continue to carpool and drive to the club together. However, upon arrival at the club the teammates will be expected to follow all physical distancing protocols within the facility. They will be expected to maintain physical distancing on the ice at all times. Physical distancing between all players on the ice reduces the transmission of Covid-19 between teammates, your opposition, and other league members playing on the sheets next to you. The physical distancing measures provide a space for other individuals to continue to participate.

Q: Will we be allowed to have 64 curlers at one time? Eight sheets of ice is over the 50 person limit. We have 1600sq meters of space and with 5m sq per person that works out to 300 people. Grocery stores have more than 50 people in them at one time.

A: Under the [PHO Mass Gatherings and Events Order](#) each event is limited to 50 patrons. Members of a team participating in an event are not included in the definition of patron. This means that clubs with more than six sheets can operate at full capacity in their ice shed as long as everyone is there to curl.

If your club is holding a private event, such as a reception, the attendees will be considered patrons and your limit will be 50.

Your club's capacity in other common areas will be determined by mapping out physical distancing. Remember that although the WorkSafeBC calculation is one person per 5m sq of unencumbered space, people need to move around so while it might technically be possible to fit one person within a 5m sq spot, if that person can't move out of the room without getting close to people, you may need to consider reducing your capacity.

Q: What happens if our ice maker gets sick? We only have one person who can do the job and if they get sick, or someone in their house gets sick, we won't have cover.

A: This is something that should be addressed in your risk registry so that you can come up with a strategy to mitigate the risk. Ensure your ice maker is able to adhere to social distancing and is trained in the proper use of PPE. Another thing you could do is have someone else at your club to learn the ropes in order to cover for the ice maker in case of emergency. Speak to Kim Dennis kdennis@curlbc.ca about how someone could safely get trained.

Q: I read that viaSport received a \$5 million dollar grant from the BC Government for amateur sport in BC. Did Curl BC receive any of that money? If so, how is it being used? Can clubs apply for funding to offset losses this year due to reduced membership?

A: The provincial government gives viaSport funding every year to help fund amateur sport which includes the first installment of \$5 million received in April this year. This money funds viaSport and is also distributed among Provincial and Multi Sport Organizations. On July 29 the province announced that an additional \$1.5 million will be directed to local sports organizations and these funds are now being distributed. On Saturday, Sept. 19, viaSport opened applications for one-time grants of \$7,500 – [the deadline was Oct. 19.](#)

If your club requires additional emergency funds, we recommend applying for a Canadian Emergency Bank Account loan. This is a loan of up to \$60,000 that is interest-free (up from \$40,000). You will not have to pay it back until 2022 and up to \$30,000 of it is forgivable. If you have employees you can also apply for the Canada Emergency Wage Benefit.

An overview of some of the updated programs is available at <https://www.curlbc.ca/looking-for-support/>

Q: Our club has extra costs and decreased revenue. Is there anything additional we can do to keep our club viable?

As members of Curl BC you can start a Fund through the BC Amateur Sport Fund Project. Starting this Fund will allow you to raise money through donations from your members and your wider community

and issue tax receipts. Generally speaking, the Fund is able to support any project that is to the exclusive benefit of amateur sport. Club development/support projects are fairly straightforward for approval.

The application form is only two pages. You can download it here: <https://sportbc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/BCASF-Project-Application-Form.pdf>

Once you have completed it email it to sbraley@curlbc.ca for his signature. The project will then be sent to Sport BC for approval.

For more information on the BC Amateur Sport Fund visit Curl BC's dedicated webpage to it: <https://www.curlbc.ca/bc-amateur-sport-fund/>

Q: When will Curl BC move from one phase to the next? (Example: From phase 2 to 3)

A: Curl BC will follow the guidance of the province of BC and viaSport with moving from one phase to another.

- As of July 27th curling in BC was in Phase 2.
- As of September 10th curling in BC was moved into Phase 3.

Curl BC will continue to communicate any updates or phase movements to our members and stakeholders. There may be additional changes to what programming can be offered in the Phases as we continue to navigate offering curling through the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Q: On-ice spacing is adequate for social distancing. I do support markers on the ice to show where players should stand. The problem is with players in the lobby when draws are ending/starting. What plan is Curl BC sharing with clubs to limit the number of people in the lobby?

A: Each venue is unique with the number of entrances/exits available and square footage. Our guidance is each facility will have to determine the capacity available, the appropriate flow within the lobby to decrease any "pinch points" to maintain physical distancing while moving people on and off the ice. Our working groups have been discussing alternative strategies when there isn't enough space available before a single draw including:

Page 12 of Guideline:

- 1. Post a copy of your approved Return to Curling Plan in a high visibility area of your lobby or another common space. For curling facilities that are registered with WorkSafeBC, be sure your Return to Curling Plan includes or references all required elements of a Covid-19 Safety Plan required under WorkSafeBC's OHSR Section 3.3 and related guidelines.
- 2. Establish and post occupancy limits for the facility (patrons and staff) to accommodate physical distancing of two metres between individuals or family groups/units. The Covid-19 Safety Plan template contains guidance about calculating an occupancy limit.
- 3. Determine where people will enter and exit the facility.
 - a. Consider an outdoor waiting area for participants.
 - b. Consider designated entryways/exitways .
 - c. Consider how people will flow in and out of the facility.
 - i. Designate entry/exit times for participants/user groups.

- ii. Use physical distancing floor markers and/or wall signage to indicate the flow of movement throughout the space.
 - iii. Limit access to participants, coaches, staff during scheduled programming. iv. Consider what access spectators may/may not have. (See Phases Chart on page 7).
- 4. Install automatic door openers to reduce transmission points.

Q: Why do teams have to follow modified curling rules if we are including our teammates in our "bubbles" and we are socializing before/after a game?

A: The measures in place are to reduce the risk of transmitting Covid-19 while participating in curling. The game modifications and steps taken by Curl BC and individual clubs are to encourage the return of curling as the primary goal. The survey results indicated that 60% of curlers would only participate with the appropriate public health and safety measures in place. Many facilities depend on having more than 60% of curlers return to open their doors. We have created space for the participants who need or want to have small or closed bubbles. The other consideration is that even though some individuals may feel comfortable in close contact with their teammates, the physical distancing measures will ensure you are aware of where you are in relation to not only your team but also those in opposition and those on the sheets next to you who may not want to open their bubble. While the social activities outside of the field of play are an important part of curling's tradition, they are a secondary consideration at this time. It will be an individual's choice as to whether or not they socialize with their teammates outside of the lobby/common areas and field of play.

Q: Will clubs allow competitive teams access their facility for practice?

A: Certain clubs are allowing competitive teams access to their ice at this time. Teams should contact their local clubs directly for information regarding procedures and protocols for accessing practice ice. If you are in the vicinity of Victoria, Golden Ears, Royal City, or Vernon, these are good options as they partner with Curl BC to provide teams with prepped ice. High Performance Program teams can contact Melissa Soligo at mksoligo@curlbc.ca if they require additional information about practice ice.

Q: What is Curl BC planning in terms of promoting High Performance competition under viaSport's Phase 3 guidelines?

A: Curl BC's Return to Curling Guidelines allow for four-person curling with modified play. These measures are in place at curling centres across BC. The modified rules have allowed Curl BC to successfully advocate for curling to be moved from Group B into Group A in the viaSport guidelines – the guidelines every provincial sport organization needs to adhere to in order to return to play. Being in Group A will give Curl BC the option to stage regional events starting in December and provincial events starting in January. We know that there are also some clubs planning to run cashspiels in the fall as part of the BC Curling Tour. However, there are still Covid-19 related factors that could lead to the cancellation of any or all of the cashspiels and our playdowns and provincial events. Curl BC will endeavour to keep athletes and fans updated as plans evolve.

Q: What is Curl BC's plan for regional and provincial events now that Curling Canada has made their cancellation announcements?

While there are still procedures and processes to iron out, and despite the cancellations at the national level, Curl BC continues to plan to host 2021 provincial events in the U18, U21 and wheelchair categories. The combined BC Men's and Women's Championship in Kamloops and our Mixed Doubles, Mixed, Stick, Senior, Club Challenge and Masters championships are also being planned. However, there are still Covid-19 related factors that could lead to the cancellation of any or all of our provincial events. Curl BC will endeavour to keep athletes and fans updated as plans evolve.

Q: What is happening with CTRS points?

Canada's three Western provincial curling associations have collaborated on the development of a Provincial Team Ranking System (PTRS) to address the need of competitive curlers across Canada.

The move is in response to the announcement on July 23rd that the system that ranks Canada's top men's and women's four-player teams (CTRS) has been suspended until Oct. 31. On Sept. 21 CTRS points were further suspended until Nov. 30. The suspensions are due to travel restrictions and uncertainty as a result of Covid-19.

The PTRS is a simple point based ranking system to rank Canadian men and women's curling teams. The rankings are determined through the money earned in various curling events held in any province that has endorsed the PTRS in the 2020 season.

More details on the Provincial Team Ranking system can be found [here](#).

Q: Phase 2 recommends local participation only. What about our curlers who might play at multiple clubs?

A. We are defining "local" for curling as anyone who would normally be curling at your club during regular leagues. The physical distancing game modifications help to minimize the risk of a curler spreading the virus from one club to another.

Q: Why are four-person teams now allowed in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of curling?

A: Alongside volunteers from curling centres across BC, Curl BC developed an ice layout that could reduce the pinch points, and interactions between participants in the field of play. If your club has installed in-ice physical distancing markers you should be able to have modified 4-person curling in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of curling. This is subject to change with guidance from viaSport in the event sport moves from Phase 3 back to Phase 2.

The movement of players will still depend on your club's Return to Curling Plan and the capacity in the lobby and common area spaces.

Q: My understanding of the health declaration/health assessment recommendation is that people should be asked to declare that they don't have symptoms every time they walk into the club. And that we should be keeping track of these declarations. It seems like it will be a big strain on us in terms of administration.

- A. We have created a group health declaration form on our [Documents & Forms for Covid-19 Page](#). This document can be used for people to sign in when they curl. It serves three important functions:
- a. It reminds people that they need to assess themselves and that they should not be there if they are symptomatic.
 - b. It gives you an accurate picture of who was in the club at any given time.
 - c. It serves as your contact tracing sheet for your respective regional health authority if a need to conduct contact tracing arises in your club and/or community.

Q: What happens if someone gets sick at a Curl BC event?

- A. [See Curl BC's Illness Policy](#).

Q: What happens if a club member is displaying symptoms when they arrive at the club?

A: The club should have an illness policy in place to deal with this scenario. It should clearly list the Covid-19 symptoms and that members are expected to stay home if they are symptomatic. This policy should be something that members must read and sign as part of their league registration and every time they access the club on the health declaration. Should they come to the facility with symptoms anyway, they should be asked to leave.

- Some clubs have modelled their illness policy from viaSport's Phase 2 document:
 - The original document was more restrictive.
 - It asks all Team members to self-isolate and refrain from participating for two weeks when any team member displays symptoms. This is the most restrictive approach.
- Some clubs have modelled their illness policy from viaSport's Phase 3 document:
 - This document is more general and will allow team members of someone who is displaying symptoms to keep playing as long as they are not themselves showing symptoms.
 - It does not require teammates to self-isolate or refrain from participating in the league, unless they have been contacted by the health authorities and given guidance.

Q: Who is responsible for contact tracing if a curler has tested positive for Covid-19?

A: The regional health authority is responsible for all contact tracing in the event a curler has tested positive for Covid-19. The Club will work with the regional health authority by providing all contact tracing information, and following the guidance and direction of the regional health authority.

Here is a link to see how contact tracing works: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/contact-tracing>

Q: Will Curl BC plan to run regional and provincial competitions?

A: The modified rules have allowed Curl BC to successfully advocate for curling to be moved from Group B into Group A in the viaSport guidelines. While it is too early in the season to stage regional and provincial events, being in Group A will give Curl BC the ability to stage these events later in the season. (As long as restrictions do not tighten). Competitions will look different this year, and as new information is available we will respond with actions that support the health and safety of our host clubs, volunteers, staff, and competitors. We are finalizing details on a Return to Competition Appendix for our Return to Curling Guidelines.

Q: Would our Board of Directors be covered for liability for any COVID related claims under our current insurance coverage? We'd like to be sure our Board is covered for decisions made on club reopening, as long as we are non-negligent and following all applicable guidelines, of course.

A: We have confirmed there is no contagion exclusion for D&O coverage provided through the National Curling Club Insurance Program by (Wawanesa). We recommend that clubs develop their return to play guidelines based on applicable existing provincial health orders and notices, the Curl BC Guidelines and the viaSport Guidelines, with additional support from the Curling Canada Guidelines. Insurers will assess a claim on a case by case basis. If a claim is filed against your club and or board of directors, please contact Curl BC for further assistance.

Q: I heard there was a new PHO order for bars and restaurants. What impact does it have on curling centres?

A: The updated PHO order, released on [Oct. 9](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-nightclubs-food-drink.pdf), has the following additional restrictions for licensed premises like lounges. The full order can be read at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-nightclubs-food-drink.pdf>

- Background music or sounds (including sports on TV) must be no louder than normal conversations.
- 10 p.m. cut-off for liquor sales. This cut-off also applies to private events.
- Liquor can no longer be consumed onsite by owners, operators or staff past 11 p.m.
- An establishment must close by 11 p.m. unless full meal service is being provided. Premises offering full meal service are allowed to stay open past 11 p.m., but liquor is not allowed to be served until 9 a.m. the next day.
- If food- or liquor-serving premises hold private events, such as wedding receptions, they must follow the same rules as hotels and other venues.
- If these orders are not followed, operators and organizers will be fined \$2,000, while patrons could be fined \$200.

Q: What are your recommendations re: stabilizer use?

A: Individuals will still be able to use stabilizers and other delivery aids.

- If teammates share a stabilizer, they will have to decide how comfortable they will be to continue this.
- Teammates are reminded to sanitize their hands after using any shared equipment, and you may want to sanitize the stabilizer/delivery aid after each person.
- Or, if you're not already doing so, using a glove while you use the delivery aid/stabilizer.
- Alternatively, consider purchasing your own stabilizer/delivery aid for your use.

Club stabilizers and brooms:

- Club equipment will have to be disinfected/sanitized after each use, and participants using club equipment will be reminded to wash hands before and after using club equipment.
- Some clubs may decide not to have club equipment available for general use, others may be able to have a system where the equipment is cleaned and sanitized by staff, and others will give the responsibility to the user(s).

Stabilizers on the ice:

- Stabilizers may be stored within the “physical distancing walkway” on the left hand on the ice (if your club has installed the BC COVID-19 Layout).
- Stabilizers may still be stored on the backboards, depending on available space and the protocols of your club.
- It will be a bit of trial and error with finding the right places for participants to put their stabilizers after using. Some considerations that have come up in discussions include:
 - Participants needing to put on a gripper first for safety purposes after they’ve delivered a rock, this leads to: Where the gripper can be located, does the individual need to have the backboards available to do so or can they do this on the ice.
 - Participants not able to slide to the other end to place stabilizer, again thinking of individuals safety some may be able to, others may not.
 - Depending on how many people are on the ice, stabilizers may be placed on the side lines until the participant using the stabilizer has moved to the other end. Participants on the sheet must be made aware of where the stabilizer is to avoid any accidental tripping hazards.
 - Some of these questions will be answered more easily once people have a feel for the flow of the game, and how to work around the physical distancing.

Q: Do you have any advice on running Learn to Curl lessons?

We recommend continuing to run learn to curl sessions with fewer people, appropriate physical distancing (incl. coach) and perhaps wearing masks when instructions are being given, or techniques are being demonstrated.

- Group size on ice would be a maximum of 6 people per sheet of ice.
 - May want to consider having 1 coach per sheet, to manage how people are moving on the ice.
- Focus for learn to curls would be on skill development and incorporating more drills to give people a solid foundation.
 - Consider using half sheets so that you can have 3 people practicing at one end, and 3 at the opposite end to ensure physical distancing.
- Recommend offering different lengths of Learn to Curl. May be easier to get coaches and new participants to commit to shorter sessions.
 - 4 week, 6 week, or 8 week sessions
- Offer different types of learn to curl
 - Offer learn to curl doubles
 - Learn to Curl triples

Q: Do you have any advice on running Youth sessions (Little Rocks or Bantams)? 2. Our junior program is run by volunteers within the higher risk age groups or by those who are caretakers for higher risk people, they are concerned about unnecessary exposure through interactions with the junior program. Any ideas for messaging around this should we have to cancel our junior program offering this season?

A: Clubs are able to run junior/youth/high school curling sessions. However, whether a club chooses to do so may depend on timing, volunteer pool, and other considerations regarding additional cleaning, etc.

Considerations:

- Comfort level of your coaches and their availability. Due to physical distancing measures, you may want to have a smaller coach to participant ratio so that you can adequately instruct/coach/supervise participants.
- Coaches may want to wear masks/face shields for additional protection on the ice.
- Plan to start with the youth group that has been to your program before and have some basic skills. Coaches can then use drills to continue to develop and have an easier time of keeping their distance. You can always add in new groups once your club feels comfortable taking on more.
- Consider if there is room at your facility for a parent to wait and observe their child(ren), and how you will handle drop-off and pick-up.
- If your volunteers are unable to take the risk of possible accidental exposure, you should not feel obligated to run the program. However, it might be an opportunity to leverage some of the knowledge of the older youth, who, with proper guidance, could potentially help and mentor some of the younger curlers. If nothing else, it is a good opportunity to ask some younger people to train for succession. Talk to Kim Dennis kdennis@curlbc.ca if you have curlers who are interested in coach training or Safe Sport training.

Q: Will Curl BC be reducing fees?

A: After carefully considering all factors and stakeholders it is the Curl BC Board's current decision to keep fees status quo for this season. This means we will not be charging for U13 again this season. If anyone has any questions or concerns about affiliation fees please contact Scott Braley at sbraley@curlbc.ca.