



Return to Curling 2020-2021 Season

What to Expect at NCC This Season

Revision Date:
September 4, 2020

Nanaimo Curling Club
Return to Curling 2020-2021 Season

President's Message

Dear NCC Members,

We would like to keep you informed of the changes we are making and the work we are doing in light of the Return to Curling Guidelines recently released by Curling Canada and Curl BC, along with our members' Return to Curling survey responses. In this document you'll find a list of changes followed by an example of how curling will look this season and a list of references. Please read all of this document carefully as there is a lot of information that will be critical to your participation for the 2020-2021 season.



We realize that these measures are strict and will make curling very different from what we are accustomed to. While sweeping with a mask is not ideal, I think it is an important necessity to keep each other healthy. This season may not be the best year to hone our competitive skills. If you have to stop sweeping because the mask is bothering you, then stop. We might have to take a little more ice, or throw a bit harder to allow for less sweeping. And maybe we win less often, but we are still able to curl safely, and that is the focus for us at this time. Our members are our priority.

We have been fortunate on Vancouver Island to have low COVID-19 case numbers. We hope that this will continue into the fall, which will make curling in our community less risky than in much of the country. If the situation were to change significantly at any time we would need to reconsider and adjust our decisions.

We appreciate your support and look forward to an interesting season with all of you. If you have any questions or concerns or comments please email them to me at president@nanaimocurlingclub.ca.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Konyer
President, Nanaimo Curling Club

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The Nanaimo Curling Club Board of Directors and Manager have thoroughly reviewed the Curling Canada Return to Play Guidelines and the Curl BC Return to Curling Guidelines and have created a plan for a return to curling at NCC for the 2020-2021 season. Detailed Safety Plans have been created under WorkSafe BC requirements to protect our staff.

Since the coronavirus situation is so fluid, these guidelines are subject to change at any time. Changes will be communicated to our membership as they occur.

STAY HOME IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL

If you are not feeling well in any way, STAY HOME. This is not a request; it is a requirement. Do not risk getting other members of NCC sick because you wanted to curl or didn't want to let your team down. It is imperative that everyone make all efforts to prevent coronavirus from entering our building.

If someone on the ice is clearly not feeling well, we request that members of that person's team ask the sick person to go home.

If you have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19

If you have been in the Nanaimo Curling Centre and you suspect or know that you have COVID-19, ***please contact our manager Andrea immediately*** at manager@nanaimocurlingclub.ca or (250) 753-3474. **This section was moved within the document on September 4.**

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Registration

Please plan to register online and use an electronic form of payment, to avoid forcing our staff to come into contact with members when it is not necessary. If online registration is not an option for you, please call to register and we will confirm your registration with a credit card or when your cheque for payment is received.

New as of August 15: Registration will open on September 1, 2020 and will close on September 25, 2020. Please make every effort to register during this time period. Payment is expected at the time of registration. The number of registrations is an important data point that will be used in planning for the season.

Expect a 10% increase in fees this year. This is because of reduced capacity, reduced demand, reduced user groups, and extra cost due to coronavirus precautions.

Expect to electronically sign a waiver of liability or assumption of risk form, and a Declaration of Compliance upon registration.

If cancellations or closures are necessary due to a coronavirus outbreak either within NCC or in the greater Nanaimo / Vancouver Island / BC community, **refunds will not be provided**. The club is committing to you, our members, by committing the funds necessary to put the ice in and get the club up and running for the season. In return, we ask that you commit to NCC and understand that we are a non-profit organization and will be unable to provide refunds if closures or cancellations occur. **DO NOT register if you do not accept this risk.**

New as of August 15: Refunds are available until October 2, 2020. On this date we will begin the ice-in procedure, and the coronavirus refund policy described in the prior paragraph will go in to force.

New as of September 4: All leagues will move to half-season registration so that members will pay for only half a season at a time. This limits the fees that a member could forfeit due to the coronavirus refund policy.

Changes to leagues

New as of August 15: Leagues will begin on October 30. This is approximately one month later than our usual league start date. The season will run for its usual length of time and so will extend into the month of April.

Some leagues will have their capacity, start time, or end time modified to allow for sanitation and required capacity restrictions. Some leagues may go to two draws. We are still working this out with league representatives and will provide an update as soon as possible.

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Changes to bonspiels

Our bonspiels will be open for NCC members only. We will not accept entries from non-members. Meals and entertainment will be limited or not provided, based on BC Ministry of Health restrictions. This year's bonspiel schedule is not yet set.

Moving around the building

Physical distancing must be maintained at all times. A traffic pattern will be established in the building with one door used to enter the building and the other used to exit. Visual markers will be provided for spots to change shoes. Clarification as of August 15: Seating will be provided at each shoe changing station. One door will be used to enter the ice arena and the other will be used to exit. One set of stairs will be used to go upstairs and one to go downstairs. You will have to exit the building and re-enter to go upstairs to the bar after your game.

New as of August 15: If a curler requires use of the wheelchair ramp, staff or volunteers will help to create a safe traffic flow for the curler to enter or exit the arena.

Closer to the start of the season, a walk-thru video will be shared with the NCC community so that you're prepared for the flow of movement around the building.

The locker room will be closed and unavailable for any use. Curlers will need to arrive at the rink dressed to play.

New as of August 15: The elevator will be available for use as needed. Please adhere to the traffic pattern when possible. If not possible, please ask a staff member or volunteer for assistance in creating a safe traffic flow.

Before the season starts, there will be an opportunity to retrieve items left in your locker at the end of last season. **New as of September 4: Specific dates and times in October for locker room access will be communicated on our website and Facebook page.**

Health checks

A staff member or volunteer will take your temperature as you enter the building. If you have an elevated temperature, you will not be allowed into the building. Hand sanitizer stations will be provided around the building. Please sanitize your hands upon arrival.

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Masks

Masks must be worn at all times in the Nanaimo Curling Centre unless you are sitting down at your table in the Canada 150 Room. This includes all times while out on the ice – ***even while sweeping***. While this is not required by BC Ministry of Health guidelines, and Curling Canada and Curl BC have not yet recommended mask wearing, the Board of Directors is doing everything we can to reduce the risk of having our members get sick and having to close the club. We ask you to do the same. We want all members of NCC to feel confident coming to the club, knowing that we are doing everything possible to protect their health. It's also imperative that we take steps to avoid closure and protect the financial health of our club.

Modified on August 15: Any disposable or cloth mask that provides protection against droplets is acceptable. If you forget your mask, some will be available for purchase from the staff. Bandanas, buffs, gaiters, and visors are not acceptable. Please see the References section for further information.

If you refuse to wear a mask, you will be denied entry to NCC. Don't sign up to curl if you refuse to wear a mask.

Building sanitation

A strict and thorough regime of building sanitation will occur after every draw. This will occur on the main floor, in the ice arena, and in the Canada 150 Room / Top of the House Lounge. As a result, you will be limited on where you can be in the building at certain times. Leagues will not be permitted to start early or finish late to allow time for sanitation. Please adhere to these restrictions. They are a necessary part of our Safety Plan and we cannot reopen without these plans being put into action.

Ice arena

The ice arena will be modified to have 6 sheets this year. This allows additional room between the sheets to maintain distancing.

Water stations will be removed. If you must have water, bring your own full water bottle, labelled with your name.

Carpooling

Carpooling is discouraged.

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When to arrive for your league and where to prepare to curl

Please arrive no earlier than 20 minutes before the start of your game. Please change clothes and stretch before you arrive at NCC. There will be no place to change clothes and no room to stretch. The only thing you can do after arriving at NCC is change into your curling shoes.

As soon as you have put on your curling shoes, go out to your sheet and wait there. This allows other club members to use a designated shoe-changing spot.

Bring your stuff with you out into the ice arena and leave it at the end of your sheet. Please minimize the amount of stuff you have with you.

On the ice

Please maintain physical distancing at all times on the ice. Do not touch anybody else's property, or their rocks.

We will adhere to Curling Canada guidelines and Curl BC Guidelines. Please review these at <https://www.curling.ca/blog/2020/07/06/return-to-play-guidelines/> and <https://www.curlbc.ca/curling-guidelines-released/>. Some highlights of these guidelines are mentioned below.

Do not shake hands or touch in any way! Wish your opponents "good curling" from an appropriate distance.

Coin tosses will not occur. League reps may pre-assign last rocks. Another possibility is to use your stopwatch. Start a timer and have the opponent call out "odd" or "even". Stop your timer without looking and then look to see if the last digit is an odd or even number.

Club equipment such as brooms and stabilizers will be removed from the ice arena and will NOT be available for borrowing. New and junior curlers will be able to sign out equipment to rent for the season. Please contact the ProShop to make these arrangements.

Half of each draw's games will begin at the far end of the sheet. At the end of your game, please leave the rocks at the same end as you started at.

Line up all rocks in single file. Do not touch other people's rocks!

Only **one** sweeper will be allowed at a time, and the other sweeper is not allowed to take over at any time during a rock's travel. No sweeping will be allowed behind the tee line by either skip. The active sweeper may sweep their own team's rock behind the tee line. Clarification as of August 15: The active sweeper may not sweep any opposition rock behind the tee line.

When a skip's team is not throwing, the skip must move behind the hacks to make room for the throwing team's skip.

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Try to avoid measuring, but if it's necessary, one player should sanitize their hands, retrieve the measuring device, use it, and return it, and then re-sanitize their hands. Don't touch the measuring device with gloved hands since gloves cannot be easily sanitized.

If possible, avoid hanging the score. If it is necessary to hang the score, only one player should hang the score for both teams.

Between ends, the team that has hammer in the next end should vacate the playing area by moving past the hog line, and the team that will throw first in the next end will put away the rocks, while maintaining distancing. Consider having two players push the stones from the playing area to the corners, and one player arranging the rocks in single file. Use your broom or your shoes to move the rocks.

What to do after you are done with your game

Do not shake hands! Congratulate your opponents on a "good game" from an appropriate distance.

After your game, please exit the ice arena using the designated door, change back into your street shoes in the designated shoe changing area, and leave the building. Please drop off your stuff in your car. Then, you may re-enter the building and proceed upstairs to the Canada 150 Room to socialize.

Catering, lounge, and Canada 150 Room

The LiveWire Catering Café will be open at scheduled times. Tables on the main floor will be removed. Please use the designated entrance stairway to bring any purchases from the café upstairs to the Canada 150 Room where you can eat.

The Canada 150 Room and Top of the House Lounge will be open (as allowed by BC Ministry of Health guidelines). Lining up to buy a drink is currently not allowed under BC Ministry of Health guidelines. Table service will be provided. Please consider ordering and paying for your drink before your game using the Top of the House Lounge pre-order system (<https://nanaimocurlingclub.ca/top-house-lounge-pre-order>).

Clarification as of August 15: 4 chairs will be placed at each table. You are encouraged to sit only with your own team. By BC Health decree, seating at each table will be limited to 6 people. Do not move around from table to table.

Electronic payment is strongly preferred over cash payment.

New as of August 15: League 50/50 draws will not be available this year because of the requirement to not move around from table to table. NCC will continue to hold virtual 50/50 draws to help support the club as a whole.

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ProShop

The ProShop will be open with strict capacity limits so physical distancing is ensured. Electronic payment is strongly preferred. **New as of September 4: Online booking will become available for appointments. Walk-ups during access hours will be welcome but appointment bookings will have priority. Watch our website and Facebook page in early October for hours of service and how to book an appointment. The Pro Shop will be closed during the 30 minutes prior to a league start time to allow for players to access the lobby and gear up.**

Washrooms

Washrooms will remain open, but occupancy will be limited. Please ALWAYS wash your hands thoroughly.

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Example of how we will curl this season

Jane curls in the Tuesday Business Women's league. The league start time is 5:00 pm and end time is 6:30 pm.

Jane changes into her curling clothes and does her warm-up at home before coming to the club. She also goes onto the NCC website to order her preferred drink from the Top of the House Lounge before she leaves home.

She arrives at the club at 4:40 pm. She puts on her mask before leaving her car.

At the designated entrance door into the building, Jane encounters a volunteer who uses a forehead temperature sensor to take her temperature. She's in the acceptable range so she enters the club and uses a dispenser in the hallway to apply hand sanitizer.

Currently all shoe changing dots are taken, so Jane lines up in the waiting area until a dot becomes available. She moves to a dot, changes into her curling shoes, and follows the traffic directions to the ice arena. She proceeds to her sheet, puts down her jacket, shoes, and purse, and waits for her team and opponents.

After the game is over, the teams leave the ice arena through the designated exit door and find a dot to change their shoes on. There's plenty of room because the next league will not arrive until 20 minutes before their league start time, and extra time between leagues has been planned so that there is no contact between a league coming off the ice and one preparing to go on the ice – and so the ice crew has time to prepare the ice and clean high-touch areas in the ice arena between games.

After changing into her street shoes, Jane exits the club through the designated exit door and puts her broom and curling shoes into her car. She then reenters the club through the entry door and proceeds upstairs to the Canada 150 Room. She sits at a table with her team. Now she can remove her mask and enjoy the beverage the bartender brings to her – the one she pre-ordered before her game.

One of Jane's friends waves at her from another table but Jane knows that current health guidelines require her to stay at her table, so she waves back and texts her friend instead of moving tables.

Once Jane finishes her beverage and is ready to head home, she leaves her glass on the table for the bar staff to collect, puts her mask back on, and uses the designated stairs to descend and the appropriate door to exit the club.

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Selected References

The Board of Directors and the Manager have studied many sources of information over the past several months. The following are a selection of items we have reviewed that have informed our decisions for the coming season.

Curling Canada Return to Play guidelines <https://www.curling.ca/blog/2020/07/06/return-to-play-guidelines/>

Curl BC Return to Curling guidelines <https://www.curlbc.ca/curling-guidelines-released/>

News article about outbreak at doctors' bonspiel in Edmonton in March <https://globalnews.ca/news/6864118/covid-19-alberta-edmonton-curling-bonspiel-plasma-treatment/>

News article about outbreak at US Club Nationals in Washington, DC in March <https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/world/several-participants-test-positive-for-coronavirus-after-maryland-curling-event/ar-BB11ORhk>

Additional information regarding US Club Nationals from Gerry Geurts of CurlingZone.com on July 21, 2020: "The Club Nationals are the equivalent to the Travellers in Canada. I have been speaking to a number of athletes and they're clear that all protocols were followed at the time including cleaning surfaces, no handshakes, removing water jugs, and even cancelling the banquet. They followed all the rules and still nearly all the athletes caught the virus. One of the coaches in the field spent 11 days on a ventilator and has a long road to recovery yet."

US CDC report "Absence of Apparent Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from Two Stylists After Exposure at a Hair Salon with a Universal Face Covering Policy — Springfield, Missouri, May 2020" <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6928e2.htm>

New as of August 15: Article from Hartford Healthcare about Duke University study regarding mask efficacy <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/about-us/news-press/news-detail?articleid=27691&publicid=395>

New as of August 15: Article about visor efficacy <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/face-shields-vs-face-masks-which-is-better-1.5023909>

New as of August 15: Article about oxygen levels and masks <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2020/08/09/world/doctor-runs-with-mask-on-trnd/index.html>

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Revision history

Version name	Date	Comments
Original release	August 1, 2020	
Version 2.0	August 15, 2020	Added new information about delayed season start, registration period in September, and standard refund policy being in effect until ice-in procedure begins. Added information about chairs at shoe changing stations, and wheelchair ramp and elevator usage. Modified information about acceptable types of masks. Clarified sweeping guidance. Clarified that 4 chairs will be placed around tables in the Canada 150 Room. Added information about the lack of league 50/50 draws and the continuation of NCC virtual 50/50 draws. Added reference articles about masks.
Version 2.1	September 4, 2020	Moved information about what to do for a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. Added new information about all leagues moving to half-season registration. Added new information about locker room access. Added new information about ProShop operations.