



## Summerland Curling Club (SCC) What Curling Will Look Like with COVID-19

When we re-open curling in the fall, it will look very different to protect everyone from the COVID-19 threat. Curl BC has given us a specific set of guidelines (available on [curlbc.ca](http://curlbc.ca)) and we will be adapting them to our situation. These are based on BC Provincial Health Authority guidelines, as well as guidelines from Curling Canada, WorkSafe BC, and Viasport.

There are a few fundamental ways to limit the spread of COVID-19 and we will be using all of them:

- Don't come to the club if you're sick
- Physical distancing 2 metres (6 feet 7 inches) apart
- Sanitizing touched surfaces
- Limiting people you are in contact with while in our club
- Recording who you are in contact with for contact tracing if someone gets COVID-19

Bonnie Henry says "fewer faces, bigger spaces".

We will also have a plan approved by the municipality including what we will do if someone in our club gets COVID-19. We will even need a backup for our ice maker so he can isolate if he gets symptoms.

We will all have to be serious about this, and protect one another.

### **Curl BC's COVID-19 Phases**

The Provincial Health Authority will determine what COVID-19 "phase" we are in, and we will get the information through Curl BC. There are 4 possible phases for sports in BC:

1. Lockdown
2. Transition
3. Progressively Loosen
4. Next Normal

Phase 2 includes the following limitations:

- 3 person teams
- 2-meter physical distancing both on and off the ice
- Local participation only
- Gatherings restricted to 50 people maximum

Phase 3 is somewhat less restrictive than Phase 2:

- 4 person teams, but only 1 sweeper
- Still 2-meter physical distancing on and off the ice

- Regional participation allowed and provincial competitions

As far as our club is concerned, Phase 3 is nearly as restrictive as Phase 2 because of physical distancing limits numbers in our lobby and lounge.

On August 24 the province and subsequently Curl BC moved curling from Phase 2 to Phase 3.

### **How We Will Curl**

1. Lockers will not be used. Curlers will come dressed and carrying their own equipment. There will be chairs in the lobby at 2-meter spacing, and sanitizing materials. Curlers will sanitize their own chair and change their shoes in the lobby. We will all have to constantly sanitize high-touch areas such as door handles.

2. There will be no equipment rentals, and step-on sliders will not be provided on the ice. Curlers must have their own brooms, sticks, crutches, grippers, sliders or shoes, and must bring them each time. There will be no equipment storage at the rink. Local curling sellers are Paul Monaghan in Trout Creek, Canadian Tire, Penticton Curling Club, and Kelowna Curling Club.

3. For physical distancing on the ice, there will be no handshakes or gathering on the boards before the game. Only one sweeper will be allowed in both Phase 2 and Phase 3, and the opposing skip may not sweep behind the tee-line. Skips and thirds will have to distance when discussing shots.

- With 4 curlers in Phase 3, the fourth curler will stand behind the thrower, then follow him down the ice, and finally stand in a circle on the side. Curlers will always stand on the same side (say the arena side) to distance from those on other sheets.

4. Curlers will always use the same rocks and those will not be touched by anyone else. All rocks will be sanitized after the game. Score boards will be used and scoreboard numbers will be sanitized after each game. There will be no chairs or benches in the ice area.

5. Curl BC's guidelines for capacity of our lobby and lounge start with a calculation of 5 square meters of unencumbered floor space per person.

- For our lobby floor area that would allow a maximum of 25 people. However, to make social distancing easy, we will schedule game start and stop times so that numbers in the lounge will usually not exceed 16.
- For our lounge, floor area would allow a maximum of 27 people. However, Curl BC's further requirement to allow 2m physical distancing of patrons at tables, and also between chair backs limits us to 6 tables of 4 patrons each for a maximum of 24.

6. Draw start times will be staggered by one hour on half the sheets. For example, if morning draws start sheets 1 and 3 at 9:00 AM, sheets 2 and 4 would start at 10:00 AM. Similarly, if evening draws start on sheets 1 and 3 at 6:30 PM, then sheets 2 and 4 would start at 7:30 PM.

- Staggering start times will limit the number of curlers in the lobby before and after the games to 12 in Phase 2, and 16 in Phase 3. Staggering will also limit numbers of curlers in the upstairs lounge for either coffee in the morning, or drinks in the evening.

7. Spectators will not be allowed in Phase 2, and probably not in Phase 3 either.
8. The one hour stagger makes it very difficult to add later draws without more curlers in the lobby at the same time. The best option would be to limit leagues to 8 teams. We will sort that out once we see how many register for each league.
9. To accommodate extra teams above the 8-team limit, we are adding a Friday afternoon Open League and a Saturday night Social League.
10. There will be no large bonspiels. Friday and Saturday Social Leagues will get their full number of games. Small one day home-club bonspiels might be possible following the same distancing rules as league play, including staggered start times.
11. For physical distancing in the upstairs lounge we will have only 6 large round tables with 4 chairs each, and 2m spacing between tables (bigger spaces). Curlers will sit with their teams only (fewer faces). Two tables of early evening teams must leave after 1 hour to free tables for the later draw. Curlers may be asked to sanitize their own chair and table area before sitting down.
  - Lounge patrons will be required to remain seated.
  - For morning leagues, the upstairs lounge with its large tables will also be available for coffee.

### **Club Financial Considerations**

Our club has unavoidable fixed costs for rental, ice making, insurance etc. Our only revenues are from membership fees, bar profits, and advertising. Since there will be no bonspiels, we expect bar revenues to be down. With local businesses struggling, advertising revenues may also be down. Because of COVID-19 concerns our membership may also be down.

Our club is in good shape financially, with a fairly large cash reserve which we will draw down if necessary and hope to replenish in future years.

With curling now in Phase 3, teams will register or be formed as normal with 4 curlers.

Should Curl BC move us back to Phase 2 at some point, we will keep teams and win-loss records the same, but have one curler sit out each game on a rotating basis. There would be an option for the fourth player to join the team for coffee or a drink in the upstairs lounge after the game.

If Curl BC orders curling clubs to move back to Phase 1 lockdown for an extended period of time, our club will refund lost portions of membership fees.

Sincerely,  
Your SCC Executive