



Halifax Curling Club COVID-19 Facility Guidelines

2020/2021 Season

INTRODUCTION

These guidelines have been developed for the safe reopening of the Halifax Curling Club for curling and the use of the liquor licensed lounges, as well as to help mitigate future COVID-19 risks.

Prior to opening, members, volunteers and staff will be trained by the Managers or a trained designate on the new procedures. The communication plan will include sharing the guidelines and any subsequent updates via email, website, social media, Business of Curling channels and posting at the club. A video demonstrating the new procedures will be provided to members and guests prior to the start of the season. Orientation sessions will take place on the ice during the first week of league play for each league.

The Halifax Curling Club has developed these guidelines to agree with the approved Nova Scotia Curling Return to Play plan and the current Nova Scotia Public Health orders. The plan was created by a 7-person committee consisting of board members, players and club managers. This is a living document and the guidelines will be updated, and members and staff informed of any changes, as required.

In the spirit of curling, we are striving for all members, guests, volunteers and staff to be treated with respect and kindness. We're all in this together!

REVISION - September 24, 2020

- **Face masks** - Effective immediately face masks are strongly recommended to be worn while curling. They are no longer mandatory while curling according to direction from NSCA, Sport NS and Communities, Culture and Heritage. Masks must be worn when walking into the ice shed, while sanitizing stones and warming up. Once the game starts, masks may be removed. Masks must be put on once the draw is complete.
- **Physical Distancing** – Effective October 1, 2020, the number of people who can participate in a sport without physical distancing will increase to 50. Players will no longer need to remain physically distant while curling. Two sweepers can now be used. Skips and thirds can remain together at the backboard. Also, rocks can now be swept after the tee line.

September 1, 2020
(Revision 1 - Sept 24)

I. CLUB ENVIRONMENT

1. Signage will be posted at the facility entry with COVID-19 symptoms listed and informing guests that they will be refused entry into the premises if they are displaying any symptoms.
2. Signage will be posted at the facility entry stating face masks are mandatory upon entering the building.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entry/exit point and at various locations throughout the facility.
4. Signage will be posted throughout the facility:
 - a. The maximum number of guests allowed
 - b. Proper hand-washing and hand-sanitizing procedures
 - c. Physical distancing guidelines
 - d. Symptom Checklist
5. Travel directions, entry points and exit points will be clearly marked in the club.
6. Floor markings will designate proper distancing where line ups may form (ie. at the office).
7. All guest tables will be separated to allow a minimum of 6 feet physical distancing between individuals when their chairs are pulled out. Extra chairs in the lounge will be spaced 6 feet apart or removed/blocked off.
8. The water cooler will be removed from the ice shed.
9. Complimentary toiletries that are shared such as hand lotion, hair spray, combs, etc.. will be removed from the washrooms.
10. Furniture that cannot be sanitized and impedes physical distancing will be removed.
11. A physical barrier will be installed at the office ledge. The office door will remain closed at all times and the office will only be available to staff.
12. A commercial disinfectant will be used to sanitize high-touch surfaces throughout the facility. The disinfectant will be applied to surfaces and an appropriate amount of "sit time" for that specific product will pass before wiping in order to kill any virus.

II. MEMBERS AND GUESTS

A. Entering the Facility

1. If you are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, you must stay home and it is recommended that you call 811 for assessment.
2. **When you enter the club, you must be wearing a face mask.**
3. You must sanitize or wash your hands immediately upon entering the club.

4. You will either check in with a staff upon arrival to have your contact information recorded (contact tracing) or you will initial the provided league list and enter a time in/time out. Spares must record their information on the sheet.
5. You must adhere to the provincial guidelines on physical distancing and must respect the travel direction and entry / exit point signage at the facility.
6. You are encouraged to come to the club dressed for play. Locker rooms will be open. A maximum number of people will be allowed in the locker room at one time, based on ability to physically distance. You are strongly recommended to use the storage station for your personal belongings (shoes, coats) that is designated in the downstairs lounge area for each team.

B. Curling

1. You will be required to sign a Declaration of Compliance and a Waiver/Assumption of Risk form prior to curling.
2. ~~You will be required to wear a facemask in the ice shed and while curling, according to current Nova Scotia Public Health orders.~~ **Face masks are strongly recommended to be worn while curling. They are not mandatory while curling according to direction from NSCA, Sport NS and Communities, Culture and Heritage.** You must wear a mask when walking into the ice shed and prior to your game, while sanitizing stones and warming up. Once the game starts, masks may be removed. Masks must be put on once the draw is complete.
3. You are strongly encouraged to bring your own equipment. Club-owned equipment will be available for use. You will be responsible for sanitizing the equipment before and after each use.
4. All 4 sheets will be used for draws.
5. You are encouraged not to arrive more than 15 minutes before your draw start to avoid congestion in the downstairs lounge. If you do arrive early, you can wait in the upstairs lounge.
6. Draw start times will be staggered to assist with physical distancing in the common areas. Two sheets will start the draw (1 and 8), followed by the remaining two sheets (2 and 4) 15 minutes after.
7. Hammer will be pre-determined in the draw schedule. No coin tosses. Hammer teams will throw red stones.
8. If you are scheduled to play on sheet 1 or 8, you will enter the ice shed on the sheet 1 side and exit on the sheet 1 side. If you are scheduled to play on sheet 2 or 4, you will enter the ice shed on the sheet 4 side and exit on the sheet 4 side.
9. At the start of the game, hammer teams will proceed to the ice, sanitize their stones then go to the far end for warmup slides. Non-hammer teams will then enter the ice shed and sanitize their stones and complete their warmup at the home end.

- a. To disinfect the stones, you will spray commercial disinfectant onto disposable paper towel away from the ice surface and wipe the stone handles. DO NOT SPRAY THE HANDLES DIRECTLY TO AVOID DAMAGING THE ICE! You will dispose of the paper towel in the garbage can provided immediately after use.
10. You will not shake hands before or after the game.
11. You will only touch your 2 stones during a game.
12. Scores will be written on the existing scoreboards with dry-erase markers. One skip per sheet will be responsible for marking scores and sanitizing the board and marker at the end of the game.
13. You will not use measuring devices. Members will be encouraged to identify one person on each team to carry a tape measure from home for disputed measures.
14. ~~Only one sweeper will sweep any stones at a time.~~ Two sweepers may sweep stones.
15. ~~You must maintain a 6 ft physical distance from others on the ice at all times throughout the game.~~ For more details on maintaining distance from the NS Curling Return to Play plan, as well as a Distancing Illustration from Curling Canada, see Appendix A. Effective October 1, 2020, the number of people who can participate in a sport without physical distancing will increase to 50. Players will no longer need to remain physically distant while curling.

C. Lounge/Socialization

Members and Guests will follow the Restaurant Association of NS guidelines. The maximum upstairs lounge capacity will be 75 people.

1. You will enter the upstairs lounge via the staircase beside the downstairs kitchen (sheet 1 side of downstairs lounge).
2. **You will wear a facemask in the lounges except while eating and drinking at a table.**
3. **You are required to remain seated for bar service. Orders will be taken at the table and delivered to the table where you are seated. You must consume food and beverage while seated at a table.**
4. You may sit in groups without physical distancing according to current Public Health guidelines. It is encouraged that you sit in groups of 4 people per table. Two tables will be combined for post-curling socialization.
5. You will not clink glasses in a “cheers” gesture.
6. You will leave dirty glassware at the tables to be cleared by staff. You will not bring empty glasses or garbage up to the bar.
7. You will maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between other groups.
8. Laminated menus will be provided at each table and disinfected between groups.

9. Cash will be accepted for transactions but you are strongly encouraged to use credit card or debit card. You are encouraged to use the Tap function whenever possible if paying by card.
10. Spectators are permitted as long as they can adhere to the current Nova Scotia Health Guidelines.

III. STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

A. Entering the Facility

1. You will be required to review a pre-screening checklist prior to each shift at the club. If you are exhibiting any symptoms, or have come in close contact with a known COVID-19 case, you are required to stay home and inform the Business Manager as soon as possible.
2. When you enter the club, you must be wearing a facemask. You will wear a facemask when not in the office. You are reminded not to touch your facemask when on.
3. You must sanitize or wash your hands immediately upon entering the club.

B. General Duties

1. You will record the name, phone number, date and time in/time out for each person who enters the building during your shift or ensure the provided league lists are being initialed for member league nights. These records will be kept in the office for contact tracing purposes. This is not an open guest book.
2. You will monitor groups and ensure they are adhering to these guidelines on and off the ice. You will ensure the number of guests at one time does not exceed the occupancy limits.
3. If you become aware of any member or guest exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, you will ask the person to leave immediately.
4. If you become aware of any member or guest who is not complying with the guidelines, you will inform them of the guidelines (there may be valid reasons members or guests cannot comply with the guidelines). If a member or guest still refuses to comply with these guidelines and does not have a valid reason, you will ask the person to leave immediately.
5. You will wash your hands frequently while at the club, especially:
 - a. At the start of a shift
 - b. Before and after eating or drinking
 - c. After using the washroom

- d. After emptying garbage cans
 - e. After touching shared items (ie. debit machine, cash register)
 - f. After clearing tables
 - g. At the end of the shift
6. Every 2 hours or more frequently as needed, you will carry out regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces throughout your shift. Surfaces will be sprayed with provided commercial disinfectant, allowed to sit for appropriate kill time as marked on the label and then wiped with disposable paper towel. High-touch surfaces include:
 - a. Door handles
 - b. Light switches
 - c. Table surfaces
 - d. Chairs
 - e. Hand rails
 - f. Sanitizer and soap dispensers
 - g. Washroom light switches, toilets, tap handles
 - h. Till/cash register
 - i. POS devices
 - j. Menus at tables
7. You will always strive to maintain physical distance between guests and other staff when possible.
8. When more than one staff are present for a shift, you may be designated to specific duties to reduce touching of shared items and improve physical distancing. Ie. One staff remains behind the bar preparing orders while another staff takes orders and clears tables on the floor.
9. You will initial cleaning checklists posted throughout the club and indicate the time they were last cleaned.

D. Lounge/Socialization

1. You will only serve members and guests if they are seated at a table. You will take orders and deliver food and beverage to the table.
2. You will monitor groups and ensure they are only consuming food and beverage while seated.
3. You will remove dirty glassware and garbage from the tables and clear tables one at a time to reduce cross-contamination.
4. You will sanitize the laminated menus, tables and chairs between each group by spraying the provided commercial disinfectant and allowing it to sit for the appropriate amount of time before wiping.
5. You will regularly sanitize shared items, such as the debit machine and cash register.

APPENDIX A

Taken from the **Nova Scotia Curling Return to Play Plan – Approaches to Maintaining Physical Distance while Curling.**

1. Only the throwing team shall sweep any stones.
2. Non-throwing skip shall remain on end boards until shot is completed.
3. One sweeper per team. No tagging in or sharing of sweeping.
4. One Non-sweeper or thrower may follow the stone maintaining 6 feet distance. The other player to remain near center line at the throwing end hog line.
5. Sweeper can sweep stone to the tee line, with skip calling line from back line. Sweeper must not travel past the tee line. Sweeping must stop soon enough to ensure this.
6. Position of players not involved in the shot – non sweeper, opposition thrower, both sweepers for opposition – shall have predetermined standing locations. These will be identified with markers in the ice. (see attached Curling Canada diagram)
 - i. Non-throwing team – three locations – mid ice, right-hand side of the sheet when looking from the lounge and near the hog line.
 - ii. Throwing team – shooter in the hack, sweeper beyond the Tee line, non-sweeper outside the hog line – opposite side from sweeper.
 - iii. Non-Throwing Skip – behind the hack/on the back boards. Near centre line.
7. To transition (see attached Curling Canada diagram) – team that just threw will move to waiting positions on the centre line, next team will move to positions (hack, sweeper, non-sweeper) via sideline. Always maintain 6 feet of distance.
8. Similar transition for two skips – one on sideline, one on centre line. Key is to maintain 6 feet of distance between them and with any other players on neighboring sheets.
9. Skip and third must maintain 6 feet of distance. Only the person holding the broom for the next shot (third) can be in the house. Skip should be outside the rings, or beyond the hog line for peels or brooms placed in the Free Guard Zone.

10. Non-throwing skip and third – person who just threw will wait outside hog line on the designated side. Person who just held the broom will take up non-throwing skips position. After non hammer team's final skips stone, skip will wait in previous thrower's position as noted above.

11. Any in-game conferences must be held at six-foot distance. All four players will maintain a 6-foot distance from each other. E.g. If they are all in the house, they can position themselves in the 12 foot using positions on the clock - 12, 3, 6 and 9.

12. Same positions would permit timeouts with coach positioned at the back board. If the skip wants to move around to suggest shots or broom placement remaining players must return to throwing end to maintain the distance.

13. Between ends – the team throwing first shall clean up stones. Team without hammer take up their mid ice positions.

a. Sweeper cleans up stones in the rings, non-sweeper cleans up stones in Free Guard Zone. Push stones to appropriate corner and the thrower places stones in corners.

b. Members will be encouraged to Be Patient and Safe. There is no rush to get stones in place. To move the stones, they will use their broom and their feet. Players will not touch the handles of the stones.

14. Between end chats will be limited to two people at a time.

Appendix 5: Distancing Illustrations

