

South River Curling Club

**Return to Play Guidelines
2020/2021 Season**

Message from the Board

The Board has now developed its Return to Play Guidelines which follow provincial legislative requirements and the advice and guidance of the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Curling Canada, the Ontario Curling Association and the Northern Ontario Curling Association.

These measures have been taken to protect the health and safety of the Club's members and mitigate their risk of illness while curling. Although the Club is committed to protecting the health and safety of its members, it cannot guarantee a virus-free environment.

Message from the Board

We know that your decision to curl this season will be a personal one, and it will be largely based on your specific situation. We also understand that some members may choose not to curl this year due to the elevated risk of illness that is inherent with the virus, and we certainly respect those decisions.

For those who will be returning this year – welcome back! And for those who have chosen to sit this season out, or part of this season – we look forward to seeing you at the Club when the time is right for you.

Precautionary Measures

The Club has taken many precautions to protect your health and safety this season. These measures will reduce your likelihood of contracting or spreading the virus while curling provided they are followed. They include:

Face Coverings must be worn inside the curling facility except when sweeping, and eating and drinking in the lounge, **provided physical distancing requirements can be maintained.** Otherwise, face coverings are to be worn. It is the responsibility of each member to provide their own face covering. The Club will have **disposable face coverings available for purchase** on a cost-recovery basis should a member forget theirs.

Precautionary Measures

Club facilities will be **cleaned thoroughly** after every league game prior to the next scheduled game. This includes cleaning between games on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Hand sanitizing stations will be installed at the front door; in the lounge area, kitchen and bar; and at the door leading to the ice surface. Hand sanitizer will also be available on the ice surfaces.

Touchless paper towel dispensers will be installed in the washrooms and kitchen.

Precautionary Measures

Signage will be posted in the Club to promote enhanced hand hygiene, face covering use and physical distancing requirements.

The kitchen will serve as a **second change area** this season. Each team will be assigned a separate change area and washroom to use when playing. **Signage** will be used to identify **seating positions** in the change areas.

Additional benches will be placed along the ice surfaces to ensure physical distancing when curlers are resting.

Precautionary Measures

Club brooms, sliders and grippers will be **removed from the playing area**. Anyone who requires the use of this equipment for the season, for a modest rental fee, can request it - although quantities are limited. It will be their responsibility to care for the equipment during the season.

There will be a **limited number of sticks and stabilizers** available for **emergency use**, otherwise they won't be available to members this season.

The Club can assist members with their **equipment needs** by placing an order through its account with Goldline.

Precautionary Measures

Positional markings will be placed on the ice surface so members know where to stand **when they are not throwing or sweeping**. These markings are designed to ensure physical distancing requirements are maintained between curlers when resting.

The Club will monitor local infection rates, follow advice and guidance from Public Health officials **and take additional precautionary safety measures** as required.

Members will not be permitted to enter the Club's facility this season **other than to play in or prepare for** Club sanctioned games and events. The **only exceptions** to this is for members who are cleaning the facility, preparing the ice surface and replenishing supplies.

League Operation

The season is expected to **begin the week of November 2nd** and it will **conclude the end of February**. This is as a result of the South River arena beginning its ice removal process. The Club is **exploring options to not reduce** the total number of games played in the second half of the season.

Should the Club need to **end the curling season early**, **refunds will be provided** for the remaining scheduled games on a pro-rated basis. Refunds will **not be provided** if the Club is required to **temporarily suspend curling operations for short periods of time**. For example, if a member tests positive and the Club facility is required to be shut down for cleaning.

League Operation

Each member will be required to **complete and sign** a COVID-19 Declaration of Compliance form and a Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement **before playing their first game.**

Members who are 18 years of age and under will be required to have **their parent or guardian sign** the Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement **before playing their first game.**

If there are **more than 50 players** who register for any one league (Mixed, Ladies, Competitive or Thursdays), the league will need to be **split into two leagues** to comply with provincial legislative requirements.

Members may play in **more than one league.**

League Operation

The Club will take **immediate action** once it's made aware a **member has tested positive for COVID-19**, while ensuring to protect the confidentiality of the member involved. This will include notifying Public Health to seek direction on next steps, assisting Public Health with contact tracing, advising members of the incident and completing a thorough cleaning of the facilities before curling resumes.

Every member will be required to sign in when they enter the Club. This information is required to be kept by law for **contact tracing purposes** and will be purged after 30 days.

League Operation

No visitors will be allowed into the Club this season. As it currently stands, the Club will also **not be permitting rentals or hosting bonspiels** for non-members.

Out of respect **for all curling members**, the Club asks anyone who is **not feeling well or is experiencing a fever or shortness of breath** – to remain home until they are symptom free or cleared to return to play by a physician. **If in doubt, please stay at home.**

Rock handles will be cleaned prior to each game which is to be completed by each team. This task will be completed or assigned by each team's Skip.

League Operation

Each curler will be **assigned two rocks** for the duration of the game. It will be every curler's responsibility to **position their rock in the hack** before it's thrown.

Handshakes will be eliminated and replaced by broom taps at the beginning of each game.

Vices will be asked to **bring a coin to each game** and will decide among themselves who will toss the coin prior to the start of the game.

League Operation

Measuring devices will not be used this season. It will be the responsibility of the Vices to determine which rock is closest. If agreement can't be reached, it will be scored a blank end.

The **scoreboard** will be used this season. One of the **Vices** will be responsible for keeping score for both teams and cleaning the scoreboard number tiles at the end of each game.

Game Details

Mixed and Competitive League games will start at 6:45 pm and 7:15 pm. Each game will have a **maximum length of two hours** to minimize congregation in the lounge area following the game.

Ladies League games will start at 9:30 am and 9:45 am. The **second draw** will begin at 11:45 am and 12:00 pm. Each game will have a **maximum length of 90 minutes** to minimize congregation in the lounge area and allow for cleaning between draws.

Game Details

Thursday League games will begin at 9:00 am and 9:15 am, the **second draw** at 11:15 am and 11:30 am and the **third draw** at 1:30 pm and 1:45 pm. Each game will have a **maximum length of 90 minutes** to minimize congregation in the lounge area and allow for cleaning between draws.

The Club is **exploring other scheduling options** that may include some Thursday league games being played on another day of the week (Wednesday or Friday for example). This would eliminate the need to have a late third draw on Thursdays and possibly allow for a second draw on that day should registration numbers warrant.

Game Details

All members are asked to arrive **no earlier than 15 minutes** before their game is scheduled to begin.

All members are asked to leave the lounge **no later than 30 minutes** after their game ends.

The teams playing the **first game of each draw** will play on **ice surface 2** to minimize contact between players when teams take the ice for the second game.

Game Details

Only one sweeper on all delivered rocks, which can only be swept between the tee-lines. The sweepers can't switch as the rock travels down the ice.

The person **in charge of the house** (Skip or Vice) **is not allowed to sweep** under any circumstance.

The Skip or Vice-Skip of the non-delivering team **must remain in the hack area until all rocks come to rest** and the opposition team has relinquished control of the house. They are **not permitted** to sweep the opposition's stones **behind the tee-line**.

The Skip or Vice-Skip of **either team** can't sweep any rock set in motion by the delivering team.

Bar, Lounge and Kitchen Areas

Tables and chairs will be set up in the lounge area to **accommodate a maximum of 16 curlers** and will be placed to **maintain physical distancing requirements.**

The Club is **planning to open the bar** this season. It is currently working on **developing measures to protect the health and safety** of curlers and bartenders.

The kitchen will **not be opened this year** unless the restrictions currently in place are eased or lifted by the provincial government or local public health unit.

Coffee, tea and snacks **will not be provided** at Thursday League games.