



# **BERWICK CURLING CLUB**

**COVID-19**

**RETURN TO PLAY PLAN**

**November 1, 2020**

## **SECTION 1- INTRODUCTION:**

The Nova Scotia Curling Association has produced a Return to Play plan that has been approved by the Province. The rules and guidelines in this plan must be followed or adhered to in order for Clubs to open this season. It is the responsibility of each individual club to put together its own plan that shows how it will operate within these rules and guidelines. The Club plan will be subject to inspection by Public Health.

Whether we are on the ice or in the club room, unless the Province allows the NSCA to advance to Phase 5 of its plan (return to normal conditions), the following basic principles will need to be applied:

- 1) Social distancing, whether on the ice or off.
- 2) Frequent washing and sanitizing of hands.
- 3) Use of masks.
- 4) Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch areas.
- 5) No sharing of equipment.
- 6) Practicing proper hygiene...cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- 7) If you have any symptoms, **STAY THE BLAZES HOME!**

The Board of Directors of the Berwick Curling Club has developed this Return to Play Plan in order to provide an environment at the Club that is as safe as possible for all members. It is the responsibility of each member to understand the rules and guidelines that are expressed in the Plan, and it is the responsibility of each member to do their best to act within these rules and guidelines at all times. To do otherwise puts the health of others, as well as our ability to stay open as a Curling Club, at risk.

## **SECTION 2- GENERAL NOTES AND CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **START OF THE SEASON:**

We will be starting the season a bit later this year. The first week of curling will be scheduled for the week of November 2. This will allow for a 7-week schedule to be played prior to the Christmas break. After Christmas, the Club will resume play the week of January 4, 2021. Two 7-week schedules will be played after Christmas. The last week of curling will be the week of April 5, 2021. Provided we are allowed to stay open, this will provide the same number of weeks of curling (21) that we had last season.

### **REGISTRATION:**

The Board has created this plan in an effort to provide an environment that is as safe as possible for members to enjoy curling this season. We must acknowledge, however, that there needs to be a certain level of interest in curling for the season to be financially viable. At this time, we are working to determine what that target needs to be, but our initial calculations would indicate that we need at least 75% to 85% of membership to return in order to make it viable. When the number is firmed up, it will be communicated to everyone.

With that in mind, this season, we will be holding registration prior to the start of ice-making. If we do not get a reasonable number of people registering and paying to curl by our decision time of mid-October, then the Club will not open. Ice making will not start until we have made that determination.

We are working on different ways to hold registration this season, as current limits on public gatherings make holding our normal registration nights extremely difficult. Registration can be expected to happen no later than the first two weeks of October. Expect to see further communication on how this will happen. We will find a way to do it without exposing people to unnecessary risks.

### **BONSPIELS:**

Due to the uncertainty about the start of the season, the Board has already cancelled the Housewarming Bonspiel. Future Bonspiels will be looked at on a case by case basis. We may decide to run smaller versions of them in order to ensure the event continues.

### **LENGTH OF GAMES:**

Due to the need to control the flow of people through the Club, the start of game times on the same draw will be staggered. For Night Leagues, in order to ensure that the last games of the night are getting off at a reasonable time, for this season all games held in Club League Play will be six ends in length. As has been the case in previous years, each game will have a time limit in which to play the six ends.

Teams are asked to play the full six ends as long as time permits. This will allow for better control of flow through the post-game area of the lounge.

Examples of the draw schedule(s) have been included at the end of this plan to provide better understanding of what will take place.

For Day Curling, Junior Curling, Stick Curling, or any other group that uses a drop-in method of organizing, the length of games can be at the discretion of the group, provided that enough time is left at the end to perform cleaning and sanitizing protocols in the lounge before the next group arrives at the Club.

### **GAME SCORING:**

The scoreboards will not be used this season, as the numbers would need to be sanitized after every use. Before the start of your game, nominate someone to keep score. Acceptable options for keeping score would be to have someone do it on their phone, or keep it in their head, or any other method that does not create contamination.

### **RENTALS:**

Due to the need for extra cleaning, as well as the need to instruct new groups on all of the protocols for use of the Club, the Board has decided that we will not be renting out the facility this season.

### **LOCKER ROOMS:**

Locker rooms will be off limits this season due to occupancy limits and the need for increased cleaning. Each member that currently has a locker will be able to keep that locker for this season at no charge.

### **OUTER FOOTWEAR:**

Since the locker rooms will be off limits, and in an effort to keep the Club as free from dirt as possible, outer footwear must be removed when you enter the Club. Outer footwear must be stored in the storage racks just inside the main entrance (these will be a new addition for this season) and must stay there until you are in the process of leaving the Club.

### **WASHROOMS:**

Washrooms will have occupancy limits, which will be posted on the washroom doors. Signage will be installed on the doors to indicate whether the washroom is “Occupied” or “Vacant”. The procedure for using the washroom will be as follows:

- a. Before entering the washroom, sanitize your hands.
- b. Change the sign on the door to “Occupied”.
- c. Enter the washroom, and do your business.
- d. After you do your business, thoroughly wash and dry your hands.
- e. Exit the washroom.
- f. Change the sign on the door to “Vacant”.
- g. Sanitize your hands.

Note: If someone is on the ice and needs to go to the washroom, they should exit the ice shed via the door halfway down Sheet A, and re-enter via the same door. Sanitize your hands prior to exiting the ice shed.

### **BAR OPERATION:**

Due to the need to restrict crossing of traffic as much as possible, the bar will not be open prior to the start of draws. The bar will be open at the completion of the first game of each draw. The bar will only be able to serve curlers after they have come off the ice, in order to avoid crossing of traffic in the lounge.

We anticipate having two options to pay for drinks without using cash. Use of a bar tab will be allowed, as always. We are also investigating the use of “Tap” that would allow for the use of debit cards. Whenever possible, we would like to encourage people to avoid using cash to pay for drinks. Every time the bartender handles cash, they will need to wash and sanitize their hands, which will slow things down. Cash will still be accepted at the bar, however.

With the reduction in the use of cash, we are also looking at adding a small stipend on each drink, to act as a tip for the bartender. This is still under discussion, and will be clearly communicated when a decision is made.

### **SHARED EQUIPMENT:**

Every time you touch something, you contaminate the surface, and the equipment must be sanitized before the next person uses it.

To eliminate this, the following equipment will not be available to be used this season:

- 1) Sliders stored in the cabinet in the lounge.
- 2) Brooms that are stored in the ice shed.
- 3) Scepter delivery devices that are in the ice shed.
- 4) Stick delivery devices that are in the ice shed.
- 5) Measuring devices.
- 6) Scoreboard numbers.

### **USE OF MASKS:**

As of July 31, 2020, per Public Health, it is a requirement when entering a public building to wear a mask. The KMCC is a public building, so a mask is required to be worn when entering the building.

The Board has considered mask usage within the Club, and has decided that masks will be required to be worn when inside the Curling Club, with the following exceptions where mask use will be optional:

- 1) When inside the ice shed.
- 2) When seated in the post-game area of the lounge.

At all other times while in the Curling Club, a mask is to be worn.

If the Province chooses to update its guidance and policy on mask usage, the Board will review what this means to the Club and may make adjustments during the season based on that guidance. Our goal is to be flexible and able to react to changes as they occur.

### **IF YOU AREN'T FEELING WELL:**

The Province has greatly expanded the list of potential COVID-19 symptoms. In order to protect the health of others, if you are not feeling well, **you must stay home.** Coming to the Club while sick or unwell puts everyone else at risk, and puts the Club at risk of needing to shut down if an outbreak is traced to the Club. Don't worry about the game...the games will continue. Take care of yourself, and in doing so, take care of others!

### **CONTACT TRACING AND TRACEABILITY:**

We will be required to keep a log of everyone that is in the Club during the season, so that Public Health can perform contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID test. Leagues that use a per-determined schedule will be able to use the draw schedule for this purpose. For groups that operate on a drop-in basis, it will be necessary to log everyone that is at the Club, each time the group is at the Club. A name and phone number will be required. One person will need to perform this task, to prevent cross-contamination from sharing a pen.

### **DEFINITION OF BUBBLING AT THE CURLING CLUB:**

When on the ice, the only people allowed to bubble will be a parent and a child under the age of 19. Only one parent is allowed to bubble with a child under 19 at one time. This means that the parent is allowed to be closer than six feet to the child while in the ice shed. Otherwise, there are no bubbles on the ice. Everyone else will be considered as an individual for the purposes of social distancing, meaning you must maintain at least 6 feet of separation from all other players at all times.

Inside the curling club lounge, whether in the pre-game or post-game area, the following are the allowable bubbles:

- 1) A parent and their child, as long as the child is under the age of 19. More than 1 parent is allowed to bubble with their child in the curling club lounge.
- 2) Couples or significant others are allowed to bubble with each other in the lounge.

Other than those 2 instances, everyone else is asked to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others at all times.

### **SEATING IN THE LOUNGE:**

The lounge is required to operate under the guidelines established by the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia in their re-opening plan. The tables in the lounge have been set up to provide seating that is done in accordance with these practices. The area of the lounge behind sheets C and D will be designated as the "Post-Game" area, and will be restricted to those who wish to stay after their game and enjoy social time. There will be a maximum of 8 people allowed at a table, and the tables have been spaced to allow for distancing between tables that is in accordance with Restaurant Association guidelines.

In the event that Public Health mandates a tightening of guidelines, it may be necessary to re-configure the post-game area. Actions that may be taken could include reduction in seating capacity, further spacing of seating to ensure additional distancing, the introduction of dividers, either on the tables, or between them, or any other measures deemed necessary to ensure

compliance with Public Health measures. If this happens, guidance on these additional measures will be communicated to the membership, and appropriate signage will be posted.

**SPECTATORS:**

Due to the need to maximize the amount of space that we have in the lounge for those curling, as well as the need to sanitize any surfaces that are touched, we will not be allowing spectators in the curling club this season.

**SOCIAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

Due to the need to maximize the amount of space that we have in the lounge for those curling, as well as the need to sanitize any surfaces that are touched, we will not be allowing social memberships in the curling club this season.

**WAIVERS:**

Due to COVID-19, the Canadian Curling Association has created additional waivers which may be used this season. The Club is still evaluating these at this time.

### **SECTION 3- GAME PLAY:**

The following provides a detailed look at how games will be played this season, and covers everything from the time you arrive at the Club to the time you depart. There are two different procedures, depending on whether the curling group uses a pre-arranged schedule (sign-up and teams are formed well in advance of curling) or a drop-in method of organizing (examples would be Day Curling, Junior Curling, and Stick Curling).

#### **FOR GROUPS THAT USE A PRE-ARRANGED SCHEDULE**

**(Night leagues, Corporate Rec League, Doubles, etc.)**

#### **ARRIVAL AT THE CLUB- PRE-GAME:**

The Lounge has been set up, to provide both a “Pre-Game” and a “Post-Game” area. When you arrive at the Club for a game, please stay in the ‘pre-game’ area until it is time to go on the ice. In order to manage the number of people in the Club at one time, start times of games on the same draw will be staggered to keep the number of people in the lounge at or below the occupancy limits.

- 1) Please do not arrive at the Club any more than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of your game. Arrive dressed to play, as locker rooms will not be available due to occupancy limits. Change into your curling footwear upon entry to club. Store your outer footwear in the space provided just inside the entrance. Sanitize your hands. Clean your curling shoes in the boot brush. Proceed to the pre-game area, and prepare for the game.
- 2) Games will only go on the ice through the door by sheet A. Teams playing on Sheet D will be scheduled to start first. Last rock advantage and rock colours will be pre-determined, and listed on the schedule, as coin tosses will be eliminated.

#### **NOTE:**

Since Doubles plays with half as many players as regular curling, they will be able to start 2 games at the same time. Sheets D and C will go out together, and Sheets B and A

will go out together. The same process applies with respect to teams with hammer going out first.

- 3) Before proceeding to the ice, wish each other 'good curling' in a manner that respects social distancing. Handshakes are not allowed.
- 4) The team with hammer enters the ice shed first. The team will proceed to their sheet, sanitize their rock handles, and then proceed to the scoreboard end of the sheet for warm-up slides. Once warm-up slides are done, proceed to the designated waiting spots on the side of the sheet (these spots will be marked).
- 5) Once the team with hammer has sanitized their rocks and moved out of the hack area, the team without hammer proceeds to their sheet. They sanitize their rock handles and take their warm-up slides at the lounge end.
- 6) After all warm-up slides have finished, the game begins.
- 7) The same process repeats for the remaining games scheduled on the same draw. Sheet C will start next, followed by Sheet B, and finally, Sheet A. Games will be timed to start 15 minutes apart to maintain the flow of people through the pre-game area of lounge.
- 8) All games will be six ends in length. There will also be a time limit for each game. Teams are to either play the full six ends, or play until their time has expired.

**NOTE:**

Since Doubles is played at a quicker pace, the length of the Doubles games will be at the discretion of the Doubles group, provided enough time is left to perform cleaning and sanitizing protocols after the game, and prior to another group coming into the Club.

**PLAYING THE GAME:**

Games will be played in accordance with the rules put out in the NSCA Return to Play Plan. Refer to the NSCA Plan for details. The following link has been provided:

<https://nscurl.com/return-to-play-plan-questions-answers/>

As of October 1, 2020, the Province has cleared curling to operate at Stage 4 of the NSCA Return Plan.

## **AFTER THE GAME- POST-GAME:**

The lounge has been set up with a post-game area, with seating that respects the guidelines outlined in the Restaurant Associations re-opening plan. This will allow for the bar to be in service.

- 1) Once the game is completed, the winning team gathers their gear and leaves the ice first. The losing team maintains distance while the winning team gets off the ice.
- 2) The losing team will put away the rocks, sanitize all the rock handles, and clean the ice. Sanitize the broom handles after use.
- 3) Teams are to exit the ice through the door by sheet D ONLY.
- 4) Before you enter the lounge, sanitize your hands.
- 5) Once in the lounge, if you are staying for a drink, follow the path along the wall and proceed to the bar window to order. The bar screen will only be open at one end. This is the area where the order will be taken and filled. Once you have your order, proceed to your table. Take your gear with you to your table.
- 6) If you are coming off the ice and not staying for a drink, you can cross through the seating area and go directly to the area where outer footwear is stored. If you are coming off the ice and do not need to go to the bar, but wish to stay and socialize, you can also use this second entry point to the seating area of the lounge.
- 7) Seating in the post-game area will be done in accordance with the current guidelines of the Restaurant Association's re-opening plan, as well as the current guidelines on distancing provided by Public Health.
- 8) To ensure there is space for those coming off the ice from the second draw, there will be a limit on the amount of time that players from the first draw can stay in the lounge. Players from the first draw should pack up and start the process of leaving the club no later than the end of the fourth end of the corresponding game that is happening on the second draw.

**Example:**

Sheet D game from first draw comes off the ice, sits for a drink. Sheet D game from second draw goes on the ice at their scheduled game start time. Teams from first draw on Sheet D have until the end of the fourth end of the second game to sit and socialize.

- 9) Unfortunately, due to spacing requirements, there may not be enough space in the lounge area for all teams after each game. For the last game coming off the ice, utilize any seats that have become available. If you have already finished your drink, you may want to offer your seat to someone just coming off the ice. For those on the late draw, the pre-game area can also be used for post-game social activity if needed.
- 10) Tables, chairs and plexi-glass are considered high-touch areas, and will need to be wiped down between draws. Where the losing team was responsible for sanitizing the rock handles and cleaning the ice after the game, the winning team will be responsible for wiping down the table, chairs and plexi-glass, for both teams, prior to leaving. If the members of the winning team are the first to leave for the night, they can ask someone from the other team to look after wiping things down.
- 11) Take all used glasses, cans and bottles back to the bar.
- 12) As you are leaving, retrieve your gear, and proceed to the area where your outer footwear is stored, by the front entrance. Change into your outdoor footwear. Sanitize your hands and exit the Club via the main doors, and the KMCC by the sliding doors.

When entering and exiting both the Curling Club and the KMCC, please maintain appropriate space between other groups or people. The main hallway is wide enough to allow for the passage of foot traffic while respecting social distancing guidelines.

Should Public Health guidelines change, it may be necessary to change the exit route for the Curling Club. One option that would be looked at may be using the door at the end of the long ramp which exits into the corridor by the hockey dressing rooms. Should a change be necessary, the membership will be notified and appropriate signage will be posted.

## **FOR GROUPS THAT USE A DROP-IN METHOD OF ORGANIZING**

**(day curling, junior curling, stick curling, etc.)**

### **ARRIVAL AT THE CLUB- PRE-GAME:**

The full Lounge has been set up, behind sheets A through D, and in front of the kitchen, in a manner that provides space for people to prepare for the game while respecting social distancing. Space has been provided for 32 people. Start times of games on the same draw will still need to be staggered to manage the flow of people going onto the ice.

- 1) When you arrive at the Club, arrive dressed to play, as locker rooms will not be available due to occupancy limits. Change into your curling footwear upon entry to club. Store your outer footwear in the space provided just inside the entrance. Sanitize your hands. Clean your curling shoes in the boot brush. Proceed to one of the designated waiting spots in the lounge. Prepare for the game, maintain social distancing.
- 2) Games will only go on the ice through the door by sheet A. Teams must be chosen in a way that does not cause contamination. For example, if teams are chosen by people picking cards off a table, one person can be assigned to be the person that turns the card over. The person picking the card simply points at the card that they want picked. Teams playing on Sheet D will go on the ice first. Last rock advantage and rock colours must be determined by using a method that does not involve a coin toss. Using a coin toss app on your phone is acceptable.
- 3) Before proceeding to the ice, wish each other 'good curling' in a manner that respects social distancing. Handshakes are not allowed.
- 4) The team with hammer enters the ice shed first. The team will proceed to their sheet, sanitize their rock handles, and then proceed to the scoreboard end of the sheet for warm-up slides. Once warm-up slides are done, proceed to the designated waiting spots on the side of the sheet (these spots will be marked).
- 5) Once the team with hammer has sanitized their rocks and moved out of the hack area, the team without hammer proceeds to their sheet. They sanitize their rock handles and take their warm-up slides at the lounge end.
- 6) After all warm-up slides have finished, the game begins.

- 7) The same process repeats for the remaining games scheduled on the same draw. Sheet C will start next, followed by Sheet B, and finally, Sheet A. Games will be timed to start 10 minutes apart to maintain the flow of people onto the ice.
- 8) Game lengths can be at the discretion of the group, provided the length of games allows for the proper cleaning of the lounge area prior to the next group coming in.
- 9) Once the last game has gone onto the ice, all tables, chairs, Lexan shields, and high-touch areas must be sanitized prior to the group coming off the ice.

### **PLAYING THE GAME:**

Games will be played in accordance with the rules put out in the NSCA Return to Play Plan. Refer to the NSCA Plan for details. The following link has been provided:

<https://nscurl.com/return-to-play-plan-questions-answers/>

### **AFTER THE GAME- POST-GAME:**

The lounge has been set up, behind sheets B through D, for seating that respects social distancing requirements. This will allow for the bar to be in service if needed. If there is no second draw, the space behind sheet A can also be used for seating, provided social distancing is respected.

- 1) Once the game is completed, the winning team gathers their gear and leaves the ice first. The losing team maintains distance while the winning team gets off the ice.
- 2) The losing team will put away the rocks, sanitize all the rock handles, and clean the ice. Sanitize the broom handles after use.
- 3) Teams are to exit the ice through the door by sheet D ONLY.
- 4) Before you enter the lounge, sanitize your hands.
- 5) Once in the lounge, if you are staying for social time, you can either follow the path along the wall, or the path that goes through the area where the tables are to find a seat. Take your gear with you to your table. If you are getting food, or tea/coffee from the kitchen area, please take note of the following:

- a. All food must be served by the same person. Food will be on display inside the serving window of the kitchen. Advise the server as to what you would like on your plate, and they will put it on your plate.
  - b. Only those acting as servers are allowed in the kitchen.
  - c. If you want tea or coffee (provided they are being offered), the same process applies. Advise the server what you would like. They will prepare it for you and hand it to you through the serving window.
- 6) If you are coming off the ice and not staying for social time, you can cross through the seating area and go directly to the area where outer footwear is stored. If you are coming off the ice and do not need to go to the bar or kitchen, but wish to stay and socialize, you can also use this second entry point to the seating area of the lounge.
  - 7) Seating in the post-game area will be done in accordance with the current guidelines of the Restaurant Association's re-opening plan, as well as the current guidelines on distancing provided by Public Health.
  - 8) If there is a second draw, to ensure there is space for those coming off the ice from the second draw, there will be a limit on the amount of time that players from the first draw can stay in the lounge. Players from the first draw should pack up and start the process of leaving the club no later than the end of the fourth end of the corresponding game that is happening on the second draw.

**Example:**

Sheet D game from first draw comes off the ice, sits for social time. Sheet D game from second draw goes on the ice at their scheduled game start time. Teams from first draw on Sheet D have until the end of the fourth end of the second game to sit and socialize.

- 9) Unfortunately, due to spacing requirements, there may not be enough space in the lounge area for all players after each game. For the last game coming off the ice, utilize any seats that have become available. If you have already finished your social time, you may want to offer your seat to someone just coming off the ice. For those on a second e draw, the pre-game area can also be used for post-game social activity if needed.
- 10) Tables, chairs and plexi-glass are considered high-touch areas, and will need to be wiped down after each use. Where the losing team was responsible for sanitizing the rock handles and cleaning the ice after the game, the winning team will be

responsible for wiping down the table, chairs and plexi-glass, for both teams, prior to leaving. If the members of the winning team are the first to leave for the night, they can ask someone from the other team to look after wiping things down.

- 11) Take all used glasses, cans and bottles back to the bar. Take all used dishes, cups and cutlery back to the kitchen, passing them in through the serving window.
- 12) As you are leaving, retrieve your gear, and proceed to the area where your outer footwear is stored, by the front entrance. Change into your outdoor footwear. Sanitize your hands and exit the Club via the main doors, and the KMCC by the sliding doors.

When entering and exiting both the Curling Club and the KMCC, please maintain appropriate space between other groups or people. The main hallway is wide enough to allow for the passage of foot traffic while respecting social distancing guidelines.

Should Public Health guidelines change, it may be necessary to change the exit route for the Curling Club. One option that would be looked at may be using the door at the end of the long ramp which exits into the corridor by the hockey dressing rooms. Should a change be necessary, the membership will be notified and appropriate signage will be posted.

**SAMPLE DRAWS:**

To show the effect of staggered start times, sample draws have been created for both the NSCA Phase 2, 3 and 4 play.

**NSCA Plan Phase 2-** No more than 3 sheets in play to allow for one sheet to be used as a courtesy lane, 6 end games.

<u>Draw 1</u>	<u>Sheet A</u>	<u>Sheet B</u>	<u>Sheet C</u>	<u>Sheet D</u>
Start	650		640	630
End	820		810	800

Ice Maintenance- 820 to 830

<u>Draw 2</u>	<u>Sheet A</u>	<u>Sheet B</u>	<u>Sheet C</u>	<u>Sheet D</u>
Start	850	840		830
End	1020	1010		1000

**NSCA Plan Phase 3 and 4-** All 4 sheets in play, 6 end games.

<u>Draw 1</u>	<u>Sheet A</u>	<u>Sheet B</u>	<u>Sheet C</u>	<u>Sheet D</u>
Start	700	650	640	630
End	830	820	810	800

Ice Maintenance- 830 to 840

<u>Draw 2</u>	<u>Sheet</u> <u>A</u>	<u>Sheet</u> <u>B</u>	<u>Sheet</u> <u>C</u>	<u>Sheet</u> <u>D</u>
Start	910	900	850	840
End	1040	1030	1020	1010