

The Ottawa Curling Club – 2020-21 Season FAQ

It is extremely important that everyone familiarize themselves with the policies and procedures that will be in place for this season. We ask that ALL MEMBERS take a few minutes and carefully read our Return to Curl Guidelines:

https://ottawacurlingclub.ca/images/2020_AGM/occ_return_to_curl_guidelines_september_2020.pdf

COVID-19

Why are masks not mandatory on the ice?

We recognize that not all members will be comfortable with the mask policy. The member survey results from August indicated that members were divided on the mask issue. The Board decided to follow the public health guidance and direction on wearing a mask during exercise.

In line with the Temporary Mandatory Face Mask bylaw, as well as recommendations made by the World Health Organization, masks are not recommended when exercising, as masks may reduce the ability to breathe comfortably. Further, sweat can make the mask become wet more quickly which makes it difficult to breathe and promotes the growth of microorganisms. The important preventative measure during exercise is to maintain physical distance of at least two meters from others.

What happens if a member tests positive for COVID-19?

Should a member test positive for COVID-19, the Club will be following the advice of public health officials in navigating the situation. The safety of our membership, staff and community is of the utmost importance, and we will take all necessary steps to ensure we address the situation in a timely and effective manner.

Please see the following links for additional information:

<https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/masks.aspx>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters#exercising>

REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP

What happens if I don't pay my membership fee by September 30th?

Members who do not pay their fees by the September 30th deadline will be considered withdrawn from the 2020-21 curling season. If the player has signed up on a team, the team will need to fill that empty spot, or cover the cost of the fourth player. See question regarding three-person teams below.

Is it possible to have a five-person team this year?

At this point in time, we are not accepting five-person teams until we have final confirmation of the number of teams in each league (after September 30th). Under the Stage 3 Framework for Reopening Ontario, we are limited to 50 participants per league. This means we are limited to 12 teams per league, or 48 players per league, leaving two spaces for spares. With a full league, a

five-person team would use up one of the two spaces available for spares for the remainder of the league. The goal would be to have two spares available for the entire league for a full league. If the league has fewer than 12 teams, five-person teams will be accepted.

Is it possible to have a three-person team? What are the cost implications?

Three-person teams are always an option, so long that the fourth spot is paid for. Most leagues have waiting lists that could easily fill the spot with four paying members, which is why we require all teams to have four paid memberships. There are also individual players who are looking for teams, who would happily fill the individual spot. Given the unprecedented circumstances presented by the pandemic, we are committed to remain as flexible as possible. Please contact our Club Manager, Dalal, to discuss your situation and she will work with you in coming up with an appropriate solution.

What is the refund policy for the 2020-21 season?

A few decisions were made in regards to refunds for the coming year. First, a strict cut-off date of September 30, 2020 was set in order for members to obtain a full refund. This deadline will allow the Board to ensure we have adequate paid memberships to cover our operating costs for the coming year, especially given the fact that there are significant upfront costs incurred early in the season relating to the ice installation and other costs associated with opening the Club. The deadline also provides us with sufficient time to make final preparations for the season ahead.

Through our research, we have found that most other curling clubs have implemented strict no-refund policies after a set date. Unlike many other curling clubs, however, we decided to keep our refund policy as open and flexible as possible, while continuing to ensure the financial stability of the Club. Since there are so many scenarios that could unfold this year as a result of the pandemic, we did not feel comfortable publishing a firm refund policy (other than the September 30th deadline for a full refund). Rather, we left our refund policy open-ended so that in a situation where we are required to close the Club this year, we can evaluate our financial position at that point in time and determine an appropriate membership refund. Factors that would be considered include: costs incurred to date, remaining fixed costs for the season, and the timing of the closure.

Please note that we will not be offering individual refunds after September 30th should an individual member or team change their mind after that date. Refunds will only be considered in situations where the Club closes for part or all of the season, whereby all members will be offered the available refund if the Club's financial position allows.

Will my team lose its spot in the league if we decide not to play this season?

This curling season will be unlike any season in the history of the OCC. The Board understands that members have different health concerns and comfort levels during this pandemic. Our goal is not to penalize teams who have decided not to curl this season. As such, 2019-20 teams who decide not to curl in 2020-21 will retain their spot in the league for the 2021-22 season.

CURLING

Will spares be allowed to play this season?

At this point in time, we are still working out the details of the leagues. Under the Stage 3 Framework for Reopening Ontario, we are limited to 50 participant per league. As such, full leagues will have 12 teams, resulting in 48 players per league. This leaves room for two spares per full league. The goal would be to have two dedicated spares per league to maintain the 50 participants per league. Teams can also call on other players from the same league with a bye to spare. We will provide further information after September 30th once we have confirmation of the final membership and number of teams in each league.

Can teams play with two players this season?

Due to the exceptional circumstances created by the pandemic, we recognize that the frequency of members being required to miss a game may be higher than normal. Further, due to the fact that there are restrictions on spares this season, finding a replacement player may be challenging. As a result, the Board is currently investigating and will likely implement the option for 4 person teams to sometimes play with two players this season without defaulting on the game. Stay tuned!

Which player(s) can sweep in the house?

As outlined in the Curling Canada and CurlON Return-to-Play Guidelines, only one sweeper is allowed on all delivered stones. The sweeper can sweep the stone until it stops moving. No relaying (second sweeper taking over halfway down the sheet). The person in charge of the house (skip or vice) is not allowed to sweep under any circumstance. The skip of the non-delivering must remain in the hack area until all stones come to rest. They are not allowed to sweep the opposition stone behind the tee-line. The skip or vice (not both) of non-delivering team must stand at the hack until the other team is finished playing and has relinquished control of the house. The skip or vice (both teams) may not sweep any stones (both colours) set in motion by the delivering team.

What happens if a game ends early?

Given restrictions on the number of people in the viewing and lounge areas and the need to ensure that curlers coming off the ice do not mix with those already in those areas, **curlers are asked not to leave the ice prior to 15 minutes before the end of their scheduled game.** In games that otherwise would have ended early in the past on handshakes, teams are asked to continue playing. And frankly, we could all use the practice right?

Please see the following links for additional information:

CurlON Return-To-Play Guidelines:

<https://ontcurl.us10.listmanage.com/track/click?u=54eac7f03899505b484de4e57&id=f63ea987c8&e=9993feaa14>

Curling Canada Return-To-Play Guidelines: https://www.curling.ca/files/2020/07/CC-Manual_Return-to-Play_CAN_EN.pdf

OTHER

When can I access my locker to pick up my belongings?

Please contact our Club Manager, Dalal, at manager@ottawacurlingclub.com or 613-234-4119 to schedule a time to collect your belongings.