

The Ottawa Curling Club – 2020-21 Season FAQ

SUBJECT TO CHANGE – LAST UPDATE NOVEMBER 17, 2020.

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_November_17_2020.pdf

COVID-19

What is our current mask policy?

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. The OCC has been following Ottawa Public Health's requirements and recommendations. OPH's Dr. Vera Etches is now recommending wearing a mask while exercising. After week one, a variety of approaches to mask wearing on ice have been observed due to the flexibility provided by the recommendation.

The OCC encourages all members to wear a mask at all times while playing. During the most active parts of playing (ie. when sweeping and delivering a stone), you may find it necessary to briefly lower or remove your mask.

At all other times, you should wear a mask.

Specifically, the Club **now requires that the player in control of the house wears a mask**, as they are most likely to be yelling, but not engaged in any other physical activity.

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Members who do not pay their fees by the September 30th deadline will be considered withdrawn from the 2020-21 curling season.

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

Five-person teams will be allowed in leagues that are not full. Ottawa continues to be 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. Any team looking to add a fifth player should reach out to Dalal to see if the league has sufficient space.

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

Given the unprecedented circumstances presented by the pandemic, we are committed to remain as flexible as possible. Please contact our Club Manager, Dalal, if you are unable to find a fourth player for your team.

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 allowed the Board to ensure we had 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 provided us with sufficient time to make final preparations for the season ahead.

Through our research, we found that most other curling clubs 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.

Up to this point in time, the Club has incurred significant costs related to installing and maintaining the ice and preparing the Club for the season ahead since our original targeted opening date of mid-October. While every effort has been made to keep costs down, we know that the Club will be in a significant loss position this year regardless of how the season unfolds. At this point in time, we are confident that we will have some curling season this year, and therefore refunds will no longer be considered. We thank our membership for their support and understanding with this difficult situation.

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?**

Under the current restrictions in place set by the Province, we are limited to 50 participants per league. Each draw is considered a league due to these restrictions. Full leagues will have 12 teams, resulting in 48 players per league, leaving room for two spares per full league. The goal is

to have two dedicated spares per full league to maintain the 50 participants per league. Teams can also call on other players from the same league (same draw) with a bye to spare.

Due to the pandemic, most of our leagues are not full. As such, there is some flexibility for spares in many leagues. In order to adhere to restrictions in place, we will need to track spares carefully to ensure our leagues do not exceed the 50 person maximum. The spare lists will be prepared on a first-come-first-serve basis, and spares must be approved before entering the Club. Members who registered under the spare membership category this year will automatically be included on the spare lists for leagues they are interested in playing. After this, other OCC members can sign up to spare in other leagues on a first-come-first-serve basis.

For this season, only OCC members are permitted in the Club. This means that spares must be an OCC member this season. Non-members who are interested in sparing this season may sign up under the spare membership category.

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 such, teams will be permitted to play with two players without penalty for this season only. They must follow this order for delivering stones; player A would throw lead and vice stones, player B would throw second and skip stones. Each player delivers two stones in consecutive order in each end while alternating with an opponent.

Which player(s) can sweep in the house?

As outlined in the Curling Canada and CurlION 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.

From our Return to Curl Guidelines – page 6

Sweeping UPDATED

- a. Only one sweeper is allowed on all delivered stones
- b. The sweeper can sweep their own stone until it stops moving.
- c. No relaying (second sweeper taking over halfway down the sheet).
- d. *The extra team member may trail behind or beside the active sweeper to offer weight judgment, ensuring to stay 2 metres apart.*
- e. The person in charge of the house (skip or vice) is not allowed to sweep under any circumstance.
- f. The skip or vice of non-delivering team must stand at the hack until the other team is finished playing and has relinquished control of the house.
- g. You may not sweep an opponent's rock at any time.

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

Ontario Ministry of Health COVID-19 Response Framework:

<https://files.ontario.ca/moh-covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open-en-2020-11-13.pdf>