



# 2020-2021 Return to Curl at the Ottawa Curling Club

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE – LAST UPDATE NOVEMBER 17, 2020.**

*If you have questions, please submit them to Dalal (Club Manager) [manager@ottawacurlingclub.com](mailto:manager@ottawacurlingclub.com)  
We have developed an FAQ document, please view it on our website homepage.*

## Introduction

This document outlines the Return to Curl policies and procedures that have been put into place at the Ottawa Curling Club (OCC) in the COVID-19 context. The OCC goal is to prioritize the health and wellbeing of members, staff and curling community while maintaining the financial viability of the Club.

### **The OCC must adhere to:**

- The laws of the Province of Ontario (Reg. 364/20) and the bylaws of the City of Ottawa, including Ottawa 2020-186 (Temporary Mandatory Face Mask).

### **The Board is following:**

- The recommendations of Ottawa Public Health and the Guidelines for Return to Play published by Curling Canada and CurlION.

As regulations and recommended practices regarding COVID-19 are constantly changing, the OCC Board of Directors and Club Manager may update the policies and procedures outlined below. As such, this document is evergreen and subject to change. Members and rental leagues will receive updates as needed.

## Financial Considerations

The Board feels confident that we can open this season and maintain the financial viability of the Club, although there will be a significant impact on our typical costs and revenue. If at any time the financial viability of the Club comes into question as a result of these or other costs associated with COVID-19, the Board may choose to discontinue the season.

### **Additional costs to the club associated with COVID-19:**

- Hiring of additional cleaning staff and cleaning supplies
- Purchasing of PPE for staff (masks, gloves)
- Purchasing hand sanitizer

### **Loss of revenue associated with COVID-19:**

- Lower registration numbers as a result of members choosing not to return due to COVID-19
- Limit of 50 people (not including staff) in our Facility

- Reduced revenue associated with the bar and kitchen due to restrictions, including capacity limits and time restrictions
- Reduced overall revenue associated with elimination and restrictions on events and rentals

If the Club needs to be closed as a result of a COVID-19 outbreak or change in legal requirements (i.e. Ontario laws or Ottawa by-laws), the Board will evaluate the situation to determine if and what refunds may be made while ensuring the continued financial viability of the Club.

## COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

### Risk Mitigation

#### **NEW: CONTACT TRACING QR CODE AND COVID QUESTIONNAIRE**

As a part of the 'Orange-Restrict' level of the Public Health regulations in Ontario, we are required to screen everyone entering the Club. The questionnaire is posted at the door. Please review each time you arrive at the Club. If you answer yes to any of the questions, you are NOT permitted to curl and must return home to self-isolate immediately and contact your health care provider or Telehealth Ontario to find out if you need a COVID-19 test. **By scanning your QR code on the CURLON tablet app you confirm that you have answered NO to all the screening questions each time you scan in.**

All members **are required to have a QR code** and scan in **each time** they enter the Club. If you do not have a code, please contact Dalal as soon as possible. Note that the code can be stored on your phone or printed off.

1. All players must **sign a liability waiver** that now includes risk to COVID-19 exposure before entering the club.
2. All players sign this to acknowledge their responsibility to comply with protocols established, that to their knowledge have not been exposed to COVID-19, and that they are accepting liability for the possibility of contracting COVID-19.
3. Members and rental leagues will be notified in plain language that the OCC may close without warning for a couple of days or for the season for reasons related to COVID-19.

#### **NEW: MASKS**

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.**

**NEW:** 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.

## Game Timing & Ties

The rules with respect to Game Timing are in place to comply with the Government restrictions that we cannot have more than 50 people in the Club at any given time - allowing separation and cleaning time between draws, as well as complying with last call for the bar at 9 pm.

While 1.5 hour draws will be maintained, *all leagues should have time to play six ends whenever possible*. Early and Late Draws are the same length to provide all members with an equal opportunity to play.

**NEW:** In order to maximize the opportunity for a full six ends, the following is to be observed:

### Weeknights

Draw 1 - 6:00 pm. At 7:05, finish the end you are in and play one more. This draw is invited to enjoy bar service in the lounge until no later than 8:15.

Draw 2 - 8:45 pm. At 9:50, finish the end you are in and play one more. At this time, no bar service is available for this draw due to provincial health restrictions.

### Saturday

9:00 am. At 10:05, finish the end you are in and play one more. This draw is invited to enjoy bar service in the lounge until no later than 11:15.

### Tie Games

Any tie will be broken by skip's rocks with the same sweeping rules as the game.

## Building

1. The Building – see Appendix I: Ottawa Curling Club proposed floor plan.
  - a. Masks are required in the building unless eating or drinking or playing on the ice as per Ottawa Public Health recommendations.
  - b. Players are not permitted in the Club more than 15 minutes prior to the player's scheduled game, and more than 60 minutes after the player's scheduled game.
  - c. Contact Tracing - skips will be notified if a COVID-19 case was in the building on the day that their team played and are responsible to flow the information to who was playing that day.
  - d. Only scheduled players are permitted in the Club. No guests, including children and family members of players, will be allowed in the Club.
  - e. The building will be clearly marked with adequate signage to ensure appropriate flow through the facility. The goal is that the group of people leaving the ice will not be in contact with the group of people getting ready to curl.
  - f. Bulletin boards will not be used, all scores must be entered online (exact protocols to be determined). The schedule will be posted on the OCC website.
  - g. On-ice scoreboards will be done by vices only and they should sanitize before & after use.
  - h. Only intra club curling and seasonal rental will be scheduled (no outside ice rentals).

2. Washrooms and locker rooms
  - a. Locker rooms will be closed for the season, with the exception of access to the washrooms in the ladies locker room.
  - b. Players are to arrive at the club dressed and ready to curl (other than shoes).
  - c. Upper lounge access will be provided for coats and boots storage.
  - d. More frequent cleaning will be done in the washrooms.
  - e. Maximum of two people in the washroom at a time.

## Protocols

1. Equipment
  - a. No loaner equipment will be available including sticks, brooms, stabilizers, sliders, grippers.
  - b. Only the Ice Technicians will have access to their room.
  - c. Players should not touch or lean on ice maintenance equipment stored on the ice.
  - d. Rocks will be cleaned by players before the game and after. Only touch your own rocks.
  - e. Each sheet is asked to assign one player to post the score and that person is required to sanitize the end cards.
  - f. Sanitize your hands before and after measuring. Only thirds can measure rocks.
2. Game play
  - a. League schedules and structure have been adapted to adhere to restrictions imposed by the City of Ottawa and Province, which only allow for 50 people per league. Convenors will continue to provide skips with league-specific information.
  - b. Practice ice and make-up games shall be scheduled with the Manager.
  - c. Sheets two and four will start at the far end of the Ice Shed to minimize the number of people at the window end at the start of the game. Staff will usher teams into the Ice Shed at the appropriate time with an approach that also helps to maintain physical distancing.
  - d. No handshakes or fist bumps, tap brooms instead or a friendly wave.
  - e. Last rock will be indicated in the schedules. Coin tosses are not to be used.
  - f. Areas have been marked on the ice where all players should stand between shots. Players are required to ensure physical distancing at all times. See Appendix II: Distancing illustrations.
  - g. Only members may enter the Club this season. **NEW: As such, all spares must hold either a regular or spare membership.** Teams that anticipate regularly requiring a spare should attempt to play with the same spare when possible. Please note that spare rules may change if health restrictions are further tightened.

### 3. 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.
4. On Ice protocols
- a. Enter the ice at the door near sheet one; exit at the door near sheet five.
  - b. Hand sanitizer will be added on ice everywhere tissues were previously located.
  - c. Tissues will not be provided.
  - d. Water will not be available on ice. Bring your own full water bottle.

### Bar & Lounge **UPDATED**

The bar represents a significant source of revenue to the Club. Should you feel comfortable, your support of the bar is appreciated. To that end, we have replaced and upgraded the roof air conditioning/HVAC filtration system that supports the lounge. For the lounge we now have high quality physical filtration and added a UV-C light which is installed specifically to kill bacteria and viruses that pass through the new system.

Early draws are invited to enjoy the lounge until no later than 8:15 pm. The province has mandated that "last call" for the bar be at 9pm, and that facilities such as the lounge close at 10pm. Unfortunately, this means that the late evening draws will not have access to the bar or lounge after their games.

We are allowed four people at each table in the lounge. The lounge is set up with ten tables and four chairs per table. Should you feel comfortable doing so, please proceed to a table marked with your sheet number after your (non-late evening) game.

Full sanitization of the lounge occurs daily and before/after each usage.

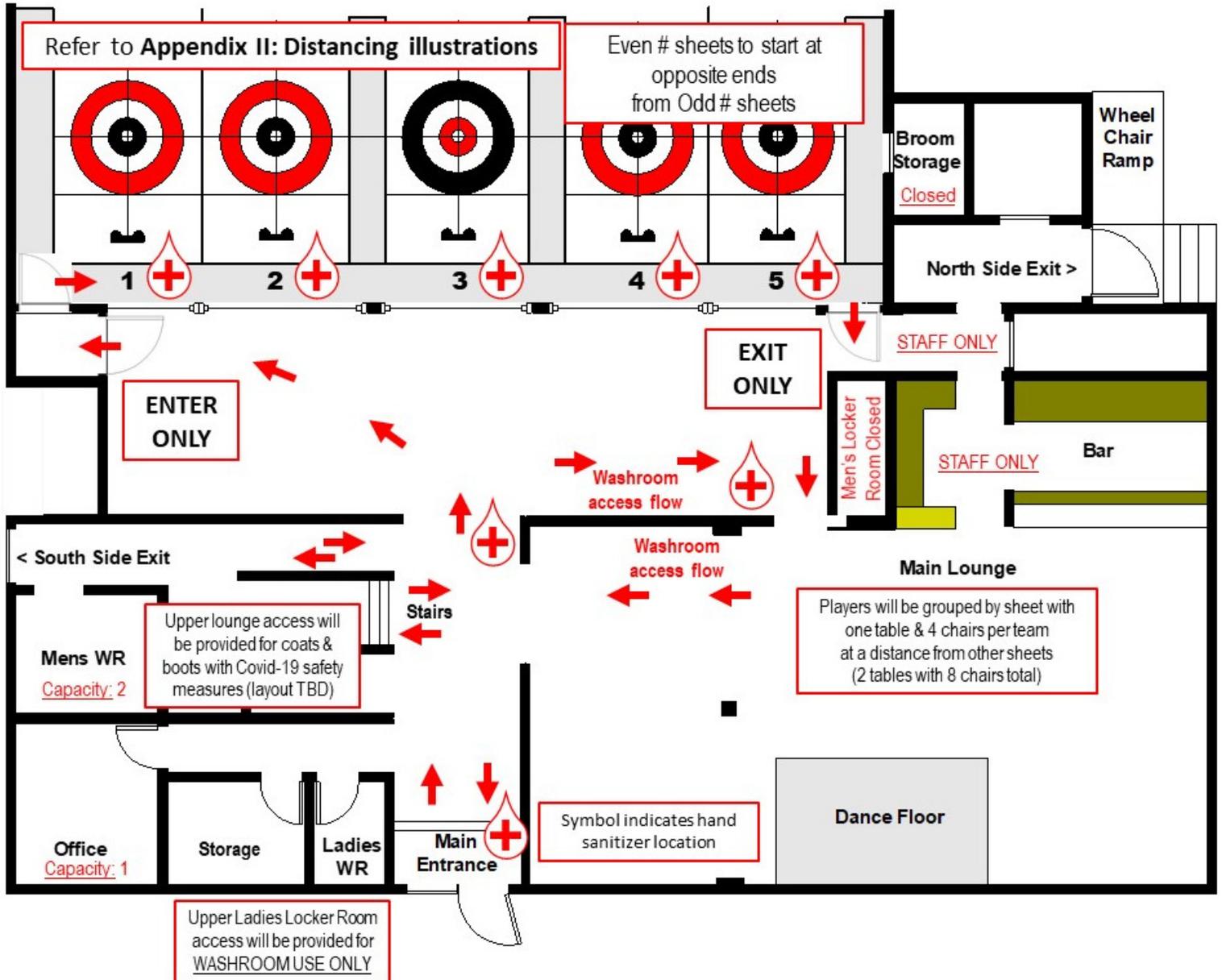
- a. Limitation on time spent socializing after the early draw to 8:15 pm to avoid going over building capacity and giving bar staff enough time to clean.
- b. Table service will be provided in the lounge. Please leave your mask on while ordering.
- c. Coffee will be served by bartenders.
- d. No prepared food will be served. Single serving snacks will be available for purchase.
- e. Bar tabs are strongly recommended. Please contact Dalal to establish a tab. Payment by credit card, debit card, or cash will be available (bartenders will be trained on safe handling of cash). Please have your mask on to pay.
- f. The bar and lounge area will be thoroughly cleaned between each draw.

- g. Couches and viewing chairs have been removed.
- h. For post-game social in the lounge, players will be grouped by team with one table and 4 chairs per team at a distance from other teams.
- i. Leave your mask on while you decide what to order.
- j. Until further notice and to make it easier for staff, we ask that you purchase your own drink, and not purchase for the opposition.

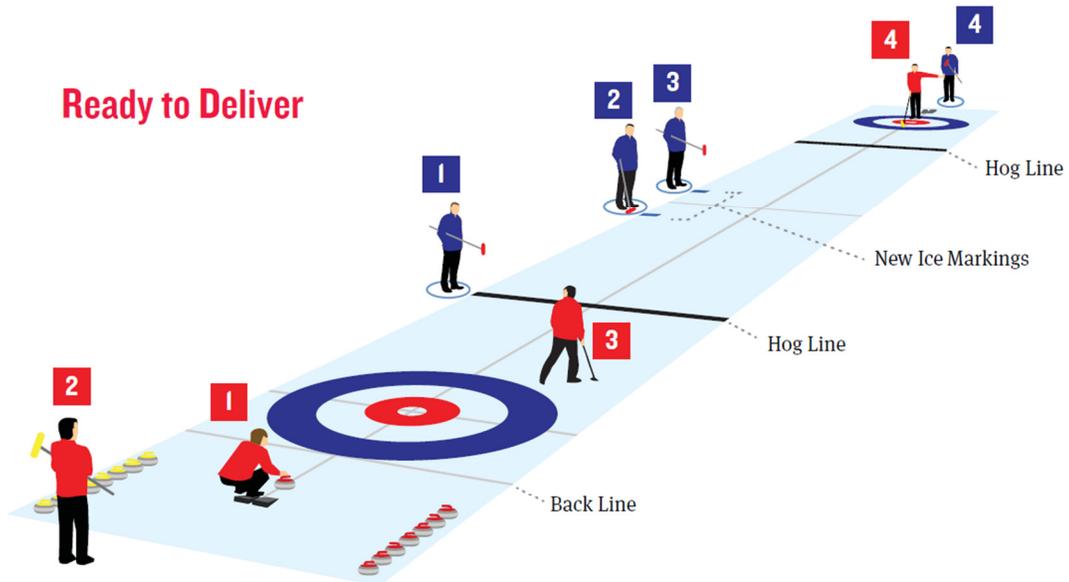
### Responsibilities of Members and Rental Leagues

1. Players are only permitted in the Club 15 minutes in advance of a scheduled game.
2. Come prepared to curl, only needing to put on your shoes, gloves, safety wear.
3. Masks are mandatory at all times in the Club, with the exception of in the Ice Shed during game play or drinking/eating while seated in the lounge.
4. Employ physical distancing as much as possible.
5. Stay home if not feeling well – find a spare from your league if possible.
6. Use the cleaning and sanitizing supplies that the Club will provide
7. Only touch your own equipment – brooms, stabilizers, delivery sticks, etc.
8. Bring your own water and tissues.
9. Be patient with all staff and other players as we get used to these new protocols.

**Appendix I: Ottawa Curling Club proposed floor plan**



## Appendix II: Distancing illustrations



*CurlON Manual Return to Play 2020-07-06*