



# K-W GRANITE RETURN TO PLAY

## PLAN 2.1

## BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a worldwide impact. However, the ongoing vaccination strategies in Canada (and in many other parts of the world) means that we are in a different place than we were 12 months ago when the Return to Play (RTP) Committee developed the initial K-W Granite RTP plan.

In developing our new RTP 2.1 Plan for the 2021/2022 curling season, the Committee and the Board of Directors have referenced the Phase 3 reopening plan issued by the Government of Ontario on July 16th, 2021, the Vaccine Certification requirements released by the Province on September 1<sup>st</sup> and effective September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Ontario Curling Association (CurlION) Return to Play 2.1 documentation released July 30th, 2021, as well as all of the ongoing related directives (and by-laws) of the local Region of Waterloo Public Health Unit.

The Committee also considered the results of the post-season membership survey that was completed in June 2021.

The Committee and the Board believe that the plans detailed in this updated document will again allow curling to safely resume at the K-W Granite Club for the 2021/2022 season.

## IMPORTANT NOTES TO START

Curling is a very social sport with many practices to support inclusivity, camaraderie, and friendship.

Curling at K-W Granite will continue to look different for the 2021/2022 season - although efforts have been made to reintroduce more 'normal' activities where possible and eliminate or reduce restrictions where we believe it can be done safely.

As of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, all Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities. This includes the K-W Granite Club and applies to both members and visitors. Individuals who cannot receive the vaccine due to medical exemptions will be permitted entry with a doctor's note or other appropriately authorized exemption documentation.

Appropriate proof of vaccination could include the printed or digital copy of your vaccine receipt (which can be downloaded or printed from the provincial booking portal, or by calling the Provincial Vaccine booking line for a hardcopy to be mailed).

It is expected that the newly released enhanced provincial digital vaccine receipts that feature a QR code will also be available to be screened at entry to validate your vaccination status more quickly and easily.

Additionally, the CurlOn contract tracing app (in use at the Club since last year) has been updated to allow users to have their CurlOn QR code also include and reflect vaccination status. You will still be required to show proof of vaccination status on your first visit to the Club, in order to have it validated and updated into the CurlOn system, but from that point on, you will only need to scan your CurlOn QR code, and both the contract tracing AND proof of vaccination status requirements will be fulfilled.

We will return to a single season of play - the 2021/2022 season will start in late October and run until April.

In accordance with current masking by-laws, masks will continue to be required at all times off the ice - except when seated in the upper banquet room.

Masks will also continue to be required during game play (with continued exceptions for throwing and sweeping - see the Game Play section for further clarification). We recognize that this may be a somewhat contentious choice, but given the expected ongoing repairs to our HVAC systems, which are likely to continue for much of the curling season, and general concerns over air quality during this work, masks will be required on the ice for the full season.

The Sunday Junior and Little Rock Curling League programs will be reinstated for the 2021/2022 season. All participants will be expected to follow all the same protocols as the adult membership, including masking and game play restrictions.

Club-supplied brooms, sliders, grippers, stabilizers and sticks will once again be available ice-side, for those members who wish to utilize them. Wipes will be available, and members are encouraged to sanitize the equipment prior to use.

A touchless on-ice water dispenser will be available. Please bring a lidded reusable water bottle for use during game time. No open water cups will be permitted in the ice shed.

To continue to limit potential for virus transmission, please use sleeves, elbows, and forearms, to open doors throughout the club, rather than your hands. Wash or sanitize your hands before and after your game.

If you are ill, please stay home. We also remind anyone who has recently travelled outside of Canada to follow current applicable quarantine requirements.

You will again be required to sign a Declaration of Compliance form and a Waiver before playing, as part of your registration package.

## BUILDING ENTRY AND FLOW

We will continue to adjust how we enter and exit the building; the locker rooms and the ice shed to reduce congestion and lessen opportunities for virus transmission.

Entrance to the club will be from the side door, in the west facing parking lot. Masks must be worn to enter the Club. At entry, each person will check in using the CurlOn contact tracing system, provide proper proof of vaccination status, and review the required screening questions. For contact tracing, we are required to maintain attendance logs for 30 days, as per Ontario Government regulations

Following check-in, curlers will proceed to the appropriate locker room. Members will once again be eligible to purchase a dedicated locker for their use throughout the season. The benches have been returned to the locker rooms for ease of removing boots and shoes, but please be mindful of physical distancing protocols. The locker rooms will be sanitized following completion of the final draw each day.

To limit locker room congestion, we still recommend that curlers arrive at the club dressed and ready to play their game. The club will be open 20 minutes before on-ice draw times to allow for entrance, checks and pre-game items.

After exiting the locker rooms, players will remain in the upper lounge area (maintaining appropriate distance from other players) until game time. Teams on sheets 4, 5, 6 will use the far door to the ice shed for entrance and exit. Teams on sheets 1, 2, 3 will use the bar-lounge side door to enter and exit the ice shed.

## GAME PLAY

As noted earlier, **masks (covering nose and chin) are required while on ice**. You may shift your mask to throw stones, if vision is impaired. Once the rock has been thrown, masks are to be promptly returned to the proper position.

To reduce fogging issues for those curlers who wear glasses, try masks with a metallic nose bridge, or using a piece of athletic tape to cover the top of the mask and tape it to the cheek area or anti-fog solutions have shown success.

CurlION has provided diagrams to indicate ice positioning and movement - these have been posted at the Club and should be reviewed prior to the first league games of the season.

Teams may choose to utilize one or two sweepers. This choice must be pre-determined prior to the thrower leaving the hack for their shot. This choice can be changed for each shot.

If a team elects to use only 1 sweeper, that person is able to shift their mask out of the way during sweeping. Once this task is completed, the mask must be promptly returned to the proper position. If only 1 unmasked sweeper is being used, the other team member (who would normally be sweeping alongside the first sweeper), is allowed to travel behind the sweeper to assist with communication between the house and the sweeper. This person must be masked and maintain appropriate distance from the unmasked sweeper.

If a team elects to use 2 sweepers, both must remain masked throughout the duration of the sweeping activity. If two sweepers are being utilized, either sweeper is allowed to sweep any rock(s) in motion in accordance with the General Rules of Curling (i.e. only 1 sweeper behind the tee-line).

The skip of the throwing team is allowed to sweep behind the tee-line and can come out of the house to sweep, providing that this still only results in 2 masked sweepers in total. The opposing team is not allowed to sweep any rocks – in order to ensure minimal congestion in the

house area. The interaction between Skips and Vice Skips will remain the same. This will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

## GAME TIMES

With the easing of capacity restrictions, it is no longer necessary to stagger game start times.

Leagues are as follows:

Daytime Men: Tuesday AM (9:00am) and Thursday PM (1:00pm)

Daytime Women: Tuesday PM (1:00pm) and Thursday AM (9:00am)

Daytime Mixed: Wednesday PM (1:00pm)

CYO Monday: Monday 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9pm

Tuesday Mixed: Tuesday 7:00pm, 9:00pm

Evening Men: Wednesday 6:30pm, 8:30pm

Ladies: Thursday 7:00pm

Thursday Men: Thursday 9:00pm

Friday Mixed: Friday 7:00pm, 9:00pm

Junior League: Sunday 10:00am

Little Rocks: Sunday 12:30 pm

## TIME LIMITS

To support cleaning protocols between draws without delaying subsequent games unnecessarily, no new end may start as of 1 hour and 45 minutes from the scheduled game time. For clarity, games will start promptly at 9:00am, 1:00pm, 6:30pm, 7:00pm, 8:30pm or 9:00pm, and no new ends will start at or after 10:45am, 2:45pm, 7:15pm, 8:15pm, 10:15pm or 10:45pm respectively.

No extra ends will be played, No ties will be broken.

The ice crew/scheduled volunteers are solely responsible for sweeping and/or prepping the ice surface for play. If you are not a scheduled volunteer or the ice technician, please refrain from touching any ice equipment whatsoever, to ensure the ice team is protected and knows the equipment is still disinfected and ready for their use.

## SPARES

The use of spares will be reinstated for the 2021/2022 season in accordance with our regular Club Spare Policy.

## Manulife League

This rental group will be offered their original timeslots. All the same restrictions and safety protocols will apply to participants in these leagues as are in place for our general membership.

## FEES FOR CURLING FOR THE 2021/2022 SEASON

Pricing will be the same as the 2019/2020 season. A 'full' membership will not be restricted in the # of leagues that they may request to join. Actual participation is dependent on whether there is sufficient space and teams can be created to maintain league requirements.

## ROCKS

Rocks can be switched among your team during a game - if all team members are in agreement. Wipes will be available at the end of each sheet for use, as needed.

Please refrain from excessive sorting or specific placement of the rocks behind the hacks after an end or pulling your opponent's rock out as a courtesy – this will help speed up the game and also limit opportunities for virus transmission.

Please continue to refrain from touching your opponent's rocks.

If a measure is required, please make sure to sanitize your hands before and after using the measuring device.

## THE NINTH END

Once a game is completed, curlers will exit the ice using the same door they used to enter the ice. They should immediately head to the locker room to change their footwear. Subsequently, curlers can choose to leave the club (via the appropriately marked exit), or they can remain for a period of post-game, socially distant socializing. Exits are available at the main front doors or the backdoor of the banquet hall.

To limit touching of drink glasses, we will continue to suspend the practice of the winners buying the losers the first drink after a game. All players will purchase their own drink at the bar and then move directly to the upper banquet room to sit and consume their beverages.

Banquet room tables and chairs have been set to ensure proper distancing between people. The room will be set with both tables of 4 and 8, to allow teams to socialize within their comfort level. You must be seated while in the banquet room. Masks are required to be worn unless seated while eating or drinking.

## A COVID POSITIVE TEST

If there is a club member, volunteer, rental group participant or staff member that tests positive for COVID-19, the Club will follow all proper protocols in regard to alerting any person(s) that have been in direct and/or prolonged contact with the affected party. Any person advising of a positive COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter the Club for at least 14 days and we ask that they consider providing confirmation of a subsequent negative test before returning to play.

The club may need to close for a time period in order to complete a thorough sanitization of all surfaces. Notification will be provided if this is required.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Curling in the 2021/2022 season will continue to look a little different, but we are hopeful that the changes we are able to introduce this year help to return our game to a more 'normal' state.

The Return to Play Committee and Board of Directors have worked diligently to review the available information, sought feedback from the membership and our user groups, and worked closely with other clubs in the area to stay up to date on the ever-evolving COVID-19 landscape. We will continue to monitor the situation as the pandemic continues to evolve.

Once again, we appreciate the feedback and time our membership has taken to review the survey questions and provide additional comments. This has been very valuable to the committee. We thank you all for your input, your patience and your understanding as we all continue to strive to find the 'best' way to return to curling in a way that respects our traditions but also continues to address the ongoing risks and enables us all to stay safe during this ongoing pandemic.

### *Source Documents*

1. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario> Reopening Ontario; Government of Ontario
2. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vztLGPfdRz mhTOfd1CdF7Bjwig2IURNM/view> Ontario Curling Association Return to Play 2.1, released July 31, 2021
3. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000779/ontario-to-require-proof-of-vaccination-in-select-settings>

# Appendix 5: Distancing Illustrations

