



K-W GRANITE CLUB RETURN TO PLAY PLAN

Curling at K-W Granite will look different for the 2020/2021 season. In an effort to support curling for members, new curlers, community groups and our staff, the Return to Play Committee and the Board of Directors have collectively chosen a two-phase start up. This document will lay out Phase 1 of the plan. Phase 2 will be released in November 2020.

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 is a pandemic illness currently affecting more than 119,000 Canadians, and more than 20,000,000 people worldwide. On July 17, 2020, the Ontario Government released a plan for phase 3 reopening of key areas of the economy. Some sport opportunities are included in this phase of reopening. The Return to Play Committee and Board of Directors consulted the Phase 3 Reopening Plan, entitled, *A Framework for Reopening our Province Stage 3*, issued by the Ontario Provincial Government. As well, in July, Curling Canada and Ontario Curling Association (CurlON) also released Return to Play documentation. In reviewing by-laws in the Region of Waterloo, the Return to Play documentation released by both Curling Canada and Ontario Curling Association (CurlON), the Return to Play Committee released two surveys to membership to support the committee in creating a plan that keeps the health and safety of staff, volunteers, membership, community groups and new patrons to our club at the forefront..

The results of the survey have been made available for members.

The task was challenging, and the feedback from the surveys supported the committee in making decisions that were led by the pulse of the membership.

Curling will look different this season.

IMPORTANT NOTES TO START

Curling is a very social sport with many practices to support inclusivity, camaraderie, and friendship. This season will look different.

To begin, according to CurlON Covid-19 Re-Opening Kit (August 10, 2020) curlers are able to curl in more than one league. KW Granite Club is placing a maximum of 2 leagues on members in Phase 1 of our club plan*.

Masks are required at all times, including during play. Please review the *Game Play* section of this document for further information.

Youth programs are not part of Phase 1 reopening at K-W Granite Club.

K-W Granite Club supplied brooms, sliders, gripers, stabilizers and sticks are not available for curlers at this time. These are designated for Learn To Curl groups and select one-time rental groups only.

On-ice water will not be available. Please bring a lidded reusable water bottle for use during game time.

To limit potential for virus transmission, please use sleeves, elbows and forearms, to open doors throughout the club, as often as possible.

If you are ill, please stay home.

Temperature checks will be completed before entering the Club. Anyone with a fever will not be allowed to remain in the Club. We also remind anyone who has recently travelled outside of Canada to follow current requirements (as of August 18, 2020) and self-isolate at home for 14

days prior to returning to the Club. You will be required to sign a Declaration of Compliance form and a Waiver before playing, as part of your registration package.

Wash or sanitize your hands before and after your game.

BUILDING ENTRY AND FLOW

We will adjust how we enter and exit the building; the locker rooms and the ice shed in order 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.

As previously noted, masks are required when entering the Club. At entry, each person will check in, have their temperature taken and answer required screening questions. Anyone with a temperature of 38°C or higher will not be permitted into the club. We are required to maintain attendance logs for 30 days, as per Ontario Government regulations.

Following check-in, curlers will be given a locker assignment, and should proceed directly to the appropriate locker room. Lockers will be assigned per game, and are not for permanent use of club members at this time. Lockers will be sanitized between each draw. Lockers will be assigned to ensure appropriate distancing is maintained. Chairs will be available for those members that may need to sit in order to remove boots or shoes. Please wash or sanitize your hands once you have changed into curling shoes.

We request that all 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 (start times will be staggered by sheet to avoid excessive delays in getting into the Club – see Game Times for further details).

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

Remember, curling is going to have to look different this year!.

With consideration to Curling Canada, CurlON and provincial Phase 3 reopening guidelines, the Region of Waterloo Face Covering by-law, our membership survey responses and various 'Return to Play' proposals from other Curling Clubs, the Return to Play Committee and Board of Directors have decided to **mandate masks while in the ice shed**.

Masks (covering nose and chin) are required while on ice. You may shift your mask to throw stones, if vision is impaired. You may shift your mask out of the way during sweeping. Once either task is complete, masks are to be 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.

CurlON has provided diagrams to indicate ice positioning and movement - these will be posted and reviewed prior to the first league games of the season. **Only one sweeper will be allowed at this time.** That sweeper is the only sweeper of the rock in motion, from the start of the throwing motion, until the rock either comes to rest, or is out of play through the back of the house. **Skips are not allowed to sweep at any time.** At this time, the interaction between Skips and Vice Skips will remain the same. This will be reviewed as an on-going basis.

Warm-up slides may be taken before the game, however, no throwing of stones pre-game will be allowed. This includes use of rocks for sliding purposes, until declaration of your own rocks is completed.

Please refrain from shaking hands before or after the game. Please also use alternate methods to determine hammer/rock colour (no coin flipping). Suggestions for this include but are not limited to: Rock, Paper, Scissors, Closest Birthday to the date of the game gets the hammer for their team, or who is wearing the most colours in their outfit that day!

GAME TIMES

Game times will be staggered starts within each draw, depending on the sheet being played. Sheet 1, 2 and 3 will begin at different times than sheets 4, 5 and 6. This will help support our cleaning protocols, help with maintaining appropriate social distancing and allow for efficient entry to the club, the locker rooms and the post-game lounge area.

Daytime Draws Times:

Sheets 4, 5, 6 Games begin at 12:45pm; club arrival no earlier than 12:25pm

Sheets 1, 2, 3 Games begin at 1:00pm; club arrival no earlier than 12:40pm;

Evening Draw Times:

Sheets 4, 5, 6 Games begin at 5:15pm or 8:45pm; club arrival no earlier than 4:55pm or 8:25pm

Sheets 1, 2, 3 Games begin at 5:30pm or 9:00pm; club arrival no earlier than 5:10pm or 8:40pm

Leagues are as follows:

Daytime Men:	Tuesday and Thursday afternoon (a maximum of 12 teams per league)
Daytime Women:	Monday and Wednesday afternoon (a maximum of 12 teams per league)
Open**	Monday evenings 5:15pm/5:30pm & 8:45pm/9:00pm (A & B flight)
Mixed**	Tuesday evenings 5:15pm/5:30pm & 8:45pm/9:00pm (A & B flight)
Men**	Wednesday evenings 5:15pm/5:30pm & 8:45pm/9:00pm (A & B flight) Thursday 8:45pm/9:00pm (One flight)
Women	Thursday evenings 5:15pm/5:30pm (One flight)

** Flight schedule times will alternate between early and late draws each week.

TIME LIMITS

To support proper cleaning protocols between draws without delaying subsequent games unnecessarily, ALL games will have a 2-hour 'HARD STOP' time limit.

Games will start promptly at 12:45pm, 1:00pm, 5:15pm, 5:30pm, 8:45pm or 9:00pm. Officially, games will be 8-ends in length. If all 8-ends are completed within the 2-hour timeframe, no further adjustment will be required.

However, if the full 8 ends are not completed by 2:45pm, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm or 11:00pm respectively, the game is deemed to have ended, regardless of what end has been started. All rocks are to come to rest, and if the end is complete (no rocks left to throw), the points from that end will be tallied. If the end is not complete, then no rocks will count, and the score at the end of the previous end will stand. No extra ends will be played, No ties will be

broken. No rocks may be thrown after the 2-hour mark. No game will be allowed to continue after 2 hours, **including late draw games.**

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.

SCORING

Please designate one Vice to keep score for both teams at the beginning of each new game. Only this person should touch the score cards for the entire game.

Game results are to be entered online through our members area portal or emailed to Lorna.

LEAGUE ADJUSTMENTS

Our Phase 1 Return to Play plan is intended to cover the time period from October through until the end of 2020. Given the continuing uncertainty regarding a potential 'second wave' and the possibility of new lockdown requirements, the Return to Play Committee and Board of Directors felt that a plan which considered two distinct time periods was the most prudent course of action, with the least impact to the club and to members if new temporary shutdowns were imposed. Phase 2 of the plan will be finalized and communicated to the membership in November.

Phase 1 of the plan includes 10 weeks of curling. Curling will start on Tuesday October 13, 2020 and end on Monday December 21, 2020. There will be two draws per night, Monday

through Thursday, with space for 24 teams in total. The evening draws will be divided into 2 'flights' of 12 teams each . Teams will only play the other teams in the same flight.

The restrictions on league play imposed by the Province make this process exceptionally challenging and it will not be perfect, so your patience and understanding is appreciated. In order to try to provide enjoyable game experiences for all players – both competitive and those more socially-focused, we ask that teams be prepared to indicate preference for league flights based on the following:

Flight A is geared to those curlers who are anticipating a quick-paced game, and will be pushing to complete 8 ends. **Flight B** is geared for the more relaxed curler, new and newer curlers, looking for a more casual atmosphere while curling. Team sign ups are encouraged and individual sign up will also be accepted. Members will be assigned to teams, as opportunity exists. There is a maximum limit of 12 teams in each flight. All team and individual sign ups will be on a first come, first served basis. Again, owing to the unique challenges of the provincial regulations, spots cannot be guaranteed.

Current restrictions will significantly limit the use of spares (and the ability to be a spare) this season. Since only one sweeper is allowed at any time, teams are encouraged to play with only three players on those evenings when they are short a player.

At this time, spares from other leagues are not permitted, since sparing would count as the members' second league participation (but the member would not be guaranteed a full 10-weeks of curling).

SUNDAY LITTLE ROCK AND JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Guidelines from Curling Canada and CurlION in conjunction with the Ontario Government and Public Health Authorities, produced materials for our sport regarding our youth programs. At this time, our Phase 1 Return to Play proposal, does not include any youth or junior curling

programs being offered by the Club. We are working to determine if these can be reinstated for Phase 2 of our planned reopening (January).

RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Board of Directors and Return to Play Committee have created a rental only atmosphere for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

This will include rental leagues, rental groups, competitive events and other rental opportunities for the club. This is to ensure that our memberships health is top priority. This is also required to make reopening financial feasible. Rates for all rental groups is separate from membership fees indicated above.

Pricing for phase 1 curling is: \$25 + HST per participant, per game for all rental leagues. Members choosing to curl in a rental league will also be charged this same fee.

FEES FOR CURLING - PHASE 1

Based on a review of our expected costs (and risks) related to reopening the club for our 10 week 'Phase 1' Return to Play proposal, the fees are as follows:

Single league 10-week Phase 1 participant: The cost will be \$250 per curler + CurlION fees + Capital Fund Fee (\$30 per curler) + HST.

Please note: \$100 of this is non-refundable. The remaining balance of \$150 could be refundable to the participant (on a prorated basis) if a forced cancelation of any games is required due to government-mandated shutdown. CurlION fees and Capital Fund Fees would not be refundable.

Additional league - If you wish to curl in a second league and space is available, the cost for that league will be \$125 + HST. If curling is canceled, a prorated portion of the full amount of the additional league fee will be returned to each participant.

Social Member - For curlers that are not choosing to curl in a league and would like to remain a member of the club, the cost will be \$100 + Capital Fund + HST.

For Phase 1 participants that pay their CurlON & Capital Fund Fees as part of their Phase 1 fees, they will not be charged again in Phase 2.

Phase 2 fees will be finalized and communicated as part of the overall Phase 2 reopening plan in November 2020.

For safety reasons, curlers must be at least 16 years old to sign up for a Phase 1 league.

Younger curlers should contact Matt Wilkinson, Board President, directly at matt_wilkinson1@hotmail.com, for possible exception to this age restriction (with parent and Executive consent)

Parents please note – due to limits on indoor gathering, there will be no spectators in the club during any curling event in Phase 1 of our plan.

EQUIPMENT

For curlers participating in K-W Granite league play and designated rental leagues, **the club will not be providing curling equipment for use.** Club equipment will be designated for Learn To Curl participants only, or corporate rentals. After use all equipment will be thoroughly disinfected and cleaned.

Members and rental league players who have previously used club sticks and/or stabilizers are now required to provide and use their own equipment. If curlers choose to 'share' their personal equipment with others, they alone are responsible for ensuring appropriate cleaning protocols are followed, in order to limit risk of virus transmission.

ROCKS

Rock handles will be cleaned and sanitized prior to the start of each new game. Each player will choose 2 (or 3 - if only playing with 3 people) rocks for their use during the entire game. Rocks can not be switched or replaced during any game. Only touch your selected rocks with your hands.

Rocks should be removed from play after an end with broom heads and feet. Please do not touch rocks with your hands, unless you are the person throwing those rocks for that game.

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

MEASURING EQUIPMENT

If a measure is required, please follow these steps::

1. Sanitize hands before touching the measuring stick. Disinfecting stations will be located by the measuring sticks.
2. Only one person should handle the stick and the actual measurement of the rock(s).
3. Complete the measuring process, as usual.
4. Replace the measuring stick to the designated area. Before returning to play, sanitize hands.
5. Return to your game.

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 and remove their belongings from their locker (to facilitate between-draw cleaning). Next, 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 available will be the main front doors, or the back door of the banquet hall. Once you have exited, re-entry will not be permitted.

To limit touching of drink glasses, we are suspending 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 is arranged in tables of 2. Please do not move the chairs or adjust the seating arrangements. As per Phase 3 reopening guidelines, patrons must be seated while in the banquet room. Members may be asked to vacate the club an hour before the completion of the last draw of the evening, to sanitize the banquet room for the next group.

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 regards 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 2020/2021 season will look different. The Return to Play Committee and Board of Directors have compiled as much information as possible for review, sought feedback from membership, and worked closely with clubs in the area to stay up to date on the ever-evolving COVID-19 landscape.

This is Phase 1 reopening of our club.

We will continue to work and monitor the situation as we begin to review plans for Phase 2 opening.

We appreciate the feedback and time each member has taken to review the survey questions, and provide additional emails. This has been very valuable to the committee. We thank you all for your input, your patience and your understanding as we all strive to find the 'best' way to return to play our beloved game in a way that respects our traditions but seeks to address the risks, enabling 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://www.ontario.ca/page/framework-reopening-our-province-stage-3> Framework for Reopening Ontario; Government of Ontario; released July 13, 2020
3. https://www.curling.ca/files/2020/07/CC-Manual_Return-to-Play_CAN_EN.pdf Curling Canada Return to Play, released July 6, 2020
4. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ryAy1T0_5DziK1I7w8wApDZEURoPVKX2/view Ontario Curling Association Return to Play, released July 6, 2020
5. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread> COVID-19; Stop the Spread, Government of Ontario, updated July 13, 2020
6. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10ZOHkY4jR-z-DgY9gjVPe3yWn-HorC4f/view> Ontario Curling Association CurlOn Covid-19 Re-opening Kit.

Appendix 5: Distancing Illustrations

