



# K-W GRANITE RETURN TO PLAY PLAN 2.0

## 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 2.0 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 Ontario Curling Association (Curl ON) Return to Play 2.0 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 you review the updated 2021/2022 RTP plan you will note that it also contains several opportunities for the relaxation/elimination of certain restrictions if a member or guest is prepared to provide voluntary disclosure of their COVID-19 vaccination status. This disclosure will be provided to, and validated by, appropriately trained personnel who will only make note of a person's 'exempt' status. No copies of any medical information will be retained by the Club and access to the file will be restricted and tightly controlled.

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.

At this time, 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 and general concerns over air quality during this work, masks will be required on the ice at least until this work is completed in late 2021.

At that time, the Board will reassess our on-ice mask mandate, taking into consideration current Provincial and Regional guidelines and directives regarding masking. Specifically, the Board will also consider current guidance regarding effective 'herd immunity' vaccination levels. This objective measure will be compared to the % of our membership that have voluntarily disclosed

their full vaccination status to ultimately determine if we are able to relax the on-ice mask protocol for those members who have provided voluntary full vaccination status disclosure to the Club. Members who have not voluntarily disclosed their status will be required to continue to follow the established masking rules. For reference, the current herd immunity thresholds - given the now circulating COVID-19 Delta variant - is estimated to be in the range of 80-89%.

The Sunday Junior Curling League program 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. 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 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 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. Masks must be worn to enter the Club. At entry, each person will check in, have their temperature taken and review the required screening questions. Anyone with a temperature of 38°C or higher will not be permitted into the club. 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. If a member has provided voluntary disclosure of their full vaccination status to the club, they will once again be eligible to purchase a dedicated locker for their use throughout the season. Locker selection will be restricted to certain portions of the locker room(s) so that single-use lockers can still be made available to those who do not provide voluntary disclosure. The single-use locker assignments will be provided at the time of check-in. 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 (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

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. You may also 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 have been posted at the Club and should be reviewed prior to the first league games of the season.

In accordance with CurlOn's Return to Play 2.0 plan, still only one sweeper will be allowed at this time. **That sweeper is the only person who can sweep while any rocks are in motion, including behind the tee-line. This one person is allowed to sweep any opponent stone, set in motion, behind the tee-line, as per regular curling rules. This does not mean a sweeper may join any others in this behind the tee-line action. Skips are still not allowed to sweep at any time.** The interaction between Skips and Vice Skips will remain the same. This will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

## 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 Game Times:

Sheets 1, 2, 3      begin the game at 9:30am; arrive at the club no earlier than 9:10am  
                         begin the game at 1:30pm; arrive at the club no earlier than 1:10pm

Sheets 4, 5, 6      begin the game at 9:00am; arrive at the club no earlier than 8:40am;  
begin the game at 1:00pm; arrive at the club no earlier than 12:40pm

#### Evening Game Times:

Sheets 1, 2, 3      games begin at 5:30pm, 7:30pm or 9:30 pm;  
arrive at club no earlier than 5:10pm, 7:10 pm or 9:10pm

Sheets 4, 5, 6      games begin at 5:00pm, 7:00pm or 9:00 pm;  
arrive at club no earlier than 4:40pm, 6:40 pm or 8:40pm

#### Leagues are as follows:

Daytime Men:      Tuesday AM (9:00am; 9:30am) and Thursday PM (1:00pm; 1:30pm)  
(a maximum of 50 people per day)

Daytime Women:      Tuesday PM (1:00pm; 1:30pm) and Thursday AM (9:00am; 9:30am)  
(a maximum of 50 people per day)

Daytime Mixed:      Wednesday PM (1:00pm; 1:30pm)

CYO Monday:      Monday 5:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 7:30pm, 9pm, 9:30pm

Tuesday Mixed:      Tuesday 7:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:00pm, 9:30pm

Evening Men:      Wednesday 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:00pm, 9:30pm

Business Women:      Thursday 7:00pm, 7:30pm

Thursday Men:      Thursday 9:00pm or 9:30pm

Friday Mixed:      Friday 7:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:00pm, 9:30pm

Junior League: Sunday 10:00am

## 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, 9:30am, 1:00pm, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:00pm or 9:30pm, and no new ends will start at or after 10:45am, 11:15am, 2:45pm, 3:15pm, 6:45pm, 7:15pm, 8:45pm, 9:15pm, 10:45pm or 11:15pm, 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. Members who voluntarily disclose their full vaccination status will be eligible to spare. They will be able to indicate their availability on a listing maintained on the website (a hard copy will also be kept in the office). Only members noted on this listing may spare, and sparing will be subject to the same membership rules as in prior years. No out-of-club spares will be allowed this season.

## Manulife and Insurance Leagues

These rental groups will be offered their original timeslots. Tuesday 5:00pm and Wednesday 5:00pm. All the same restrictions and safety protocols will apply to participants in these leagues as are in place for our general membership - including the opportunity for relaxed restrictions for participants that voluntarily disclose their full vaccination status, as appropriate.



## 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 opponents 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 opponents 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 and remove their belongings from their locker, if required. 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 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 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/1vztLGPfdRzmhTOfd1CdF7Bjwig2IURNM/view> Ontario Curling Association Return to Play 2.0, released July 31, 2021

# Appendix 5: Distancing Illustrations

