

# CURL THE MAC

# Returning to Play

## 2021-22



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BACK TO NORMAL

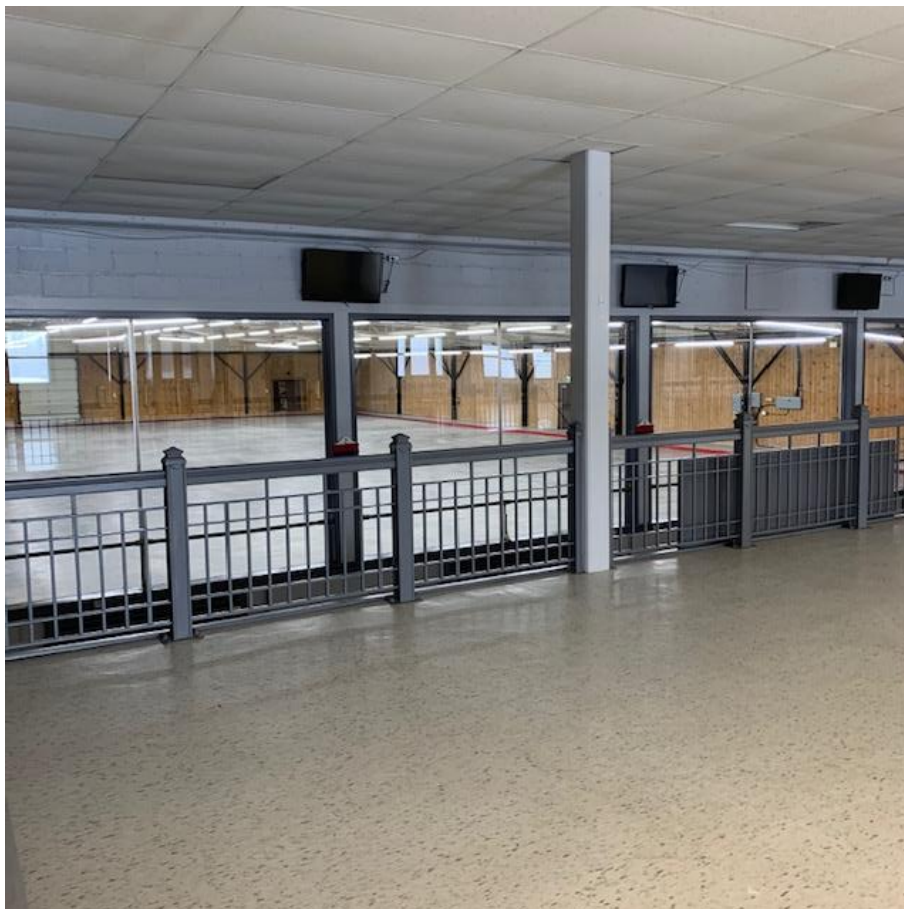
*#keepcurling*



The McIntyre Curling Club has prepared this Return-To-Play Plan to guide Club operations for the 2021-2022 curling season. This Plan is intended to fulfill the requirements of the Porcupine Health Unit as the local health authority and the City of Timmins as the lessor for the McIntyre Curling Club facility. The Plan has been prepared in consideration of all applicable guidance and requirements of federal, provincial and local health agencies and authorities and in consideration of guidance provided by Curling Canada through their published Return-To-Play Guidelines document available on their website.

### **Curling Club Facility**

The McIntyre Curling Club is a 3 level building consisting of an upper level lounge with attached office and separate bar/kitchen area, a mid-level 6 sheet ice pad with associated spectator viewing area and attached boardroom and a lower level with separate men's and ladies' washroom/locker room facilities. There is one main public entrance to the Club from McIntyre Road which provides access to both the upper level lounge area via stairs and to the mid-level viewing area and ice pad through the Boardroom. At this time, the Curling club is operating in accordance with Step 3 of Ontario's COVID-19 'Roadmap to Reopen'.



## **PRINCIPLES**

**The McIntyre Curling Club, Curling Canada & Provincial/Territorial Associations are committed:**

- To the health & well-being of our members and customers playing our sport at the community level in a safe environment to the satisfaction of local authorities.
- To the health & well-being of our fans attending our sanctioned events.
- To the health & well-being of our athletes in their training and competitive opportunities including field of play safety.
- To unequivocal cooperation with the federal, provincial & territorial, and municipal governments and any Health Authority.

## **HEALTH/HYGIENE/CLEANING**

- The McIntyre Curling Club will stay connected with any guidelines for cleanliness published by these authorities.
- The Club will provide hand sanitizer for personal use at various locations within the facility (e.g. entrance door area, bar/kitchen service counter, lounge area, on each table, in each washroom, on each curling sheet at both ends).
- Everyone entering the Club will be required/directed to sanitize their hands immediately upon entering and will be required to wear a mask unless otherwise seated at a table in the lounge or on the ice surface during play. The Club will keep a supply of masks available for emergency use.
- Hand hygiene should be performed before and after removing a mask to eat/drink.
- Appropriate signage will be posted to remind Club users of the importance of personal hygiene.
- All members, renters or those trying curling for the first time, must sign a Waiver or Assumption of Risk Form (signed by adults on behalf of minors) along with a Declaration of Compliance – COVID-19 Form.
- If players or staff have symptoms, please tell them to stay at home.
- Keep your hands clean. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm.
- Avoid touching surfaces people touch often, such as:
  - Toilets and sinks
  - Door handles
  - Bar and bar tables
  - Stone handles (except your 2 stones in your game)
- The club will undertake a full building clean prior to start up.
- All high traffic or high-touch surfaces will be sanitized regularly.

## **VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Restricting Activities to Fully Vaccinated Individuals:** As vaccination rates increase across the country, there has been a growing discussion around allowing individuals who have been fully vaccinated to enjoy greater freedoms and access to businesses, activities and programming. The debate around these so-called ‘Vaccination Passports’ is multifaceted.

Vaccinations offer a tremendous public health and safety benefit, particularly for those with pre-existing health conditions.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the Province of Ontario announced the implementation of a vaccine passport system for Ontario residents with mandatory application to certain non-essential businesses and activities, including sporting facilities (e.g., curling rinks). As such, the Board of Directors advises that effective September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, the Club requires that **ALL staff, Club members, visitors, and other Club users (e.g., facility rental users) be fully vaccinated** in order to occupy/use the Club facility. Proof of vaccination will be in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario vaccine passport system. The only exceptions will be for youth under 12 and anyone who cannot be vaccinated for bona fide medical reasons.

In addition to proof of vaccination, all members, renters or those trying curling for the first time will be required to sign a Waiver or Assumption of Risk Form (signed by adults on behalf of minors) along with a Declaration of Compliance - COVID-19 form. These forms have been developed by Curling Canada for use by clubs across the country.



## **LEAGUE PLAY/RENTALS**

The Club is planning to open for regular play in the Fall of 2021. We will be following the guidelines and recommendations of the Porcupine Health Unit. Should anything change prior to the beginning of the season we will be communicating with the Porcupine Health Unit and the City of Timmins as well as our members.

Our league play will be as follows:

- 1) Regular League Play Monday to Thursday Nights – 1 draw 7 to 9 pm each night (on-ice time)
- 2) Friday Night Social League – 2 draws 6:30 and 8:00 pm (on-ice time)
- 3) Little Rock Curling and Instruction Sunday – 2 sessions 11 am and 1 pm (on-ice time)
- 4) Club Rentals: New Horizons Seniors Curling - Tuesday and Thursday League – 2 draws per day times to be determined. (on ice time); Wednesday League – 1 draw 10 am to 12:00 noon (on ice time)
- 5) Other Community Groups - Any group wishing to rent the Club for curling activities will be subject to all protocols in place for regular league/member play.

- 6) Opening and Registration - The Club is proposing to start its season no earlier than Monday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and end no later than March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The actual start date is subject to change depending upon the date that ice installation is completed. The Club will be holding registration October 4<sup>th</sup> through October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in person in the Club lounge from 5 to 8 pm. All required COVID-19 protocols for public indoor spaces (e.g., face masks, physical distancing) will be in place and adhered to at the Club during the registration period. Ice installation will commence on or around October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Club staff and volunteers will be involved in this process as well as general Club set-up. Again, all required protocols will be in place and observed by all persons while inside the Club facility.

## LOCKER ROOM

- Locker rooms will be open; however social distancing will be required. Members will be asked to wait until other members are done to proceed to your locker should it be congested. If members prefer not using the locker room, they can come to the rink ready to play.
- Water dispensers will be available however, players will be required to bring their own containers (no alcohol). Only the owner should handle their own container and have their name on it.

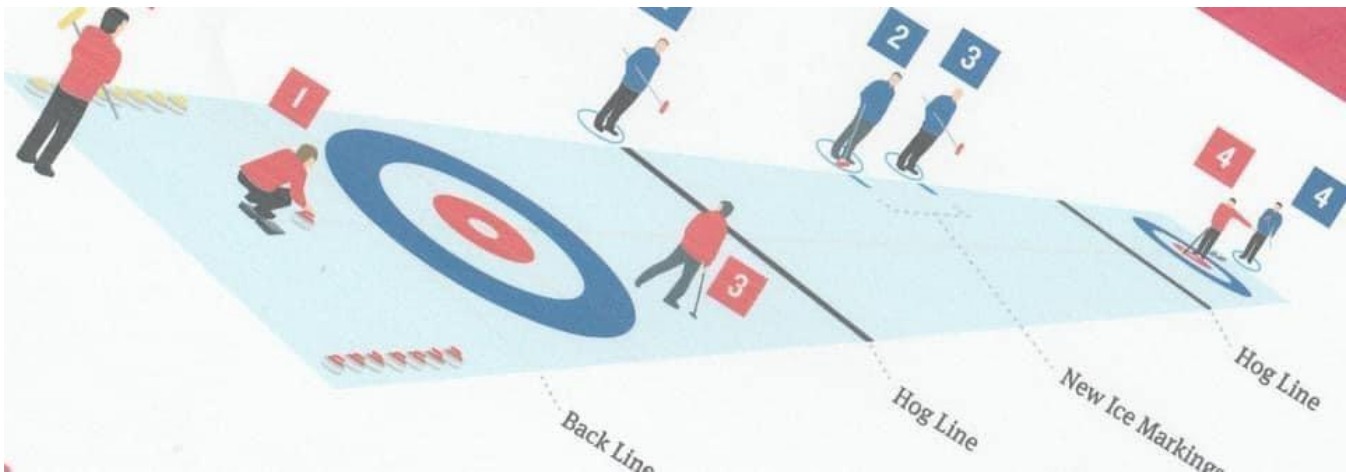
## CURLING EQUIPMENT

- Rental equipment (sliders, brooms) will be disinfected after each use.
- Stones:
  - Stones should be sanitized at the start and end of each draw.
  - Players select their two stones. No interchanging of stones during a game.
  - Players should not touch any stones other than their own. Let the player delivering the next stone retrieve their own stone.
- Measuring: remove gloves, sanitize your hands, conduct measure, return measure device to its normal location, sanitize your hands.

## PLAYING THE GAME

- Club doors will open half hour prior to draw time.
- Instead of a handshake, give a friendly wave or tap brooms to start the game.
- Do not use 'community' coins to decide the last stone advantage in the first end. Choose a way where no exchange of coin is done. Or, the league convener may assign the last stone for every game.
- Players stay on the same side of the sheet. For example, if you are playing on sheet 2, always walk or position yourself on the sideline to sheet 1. This will keep players 10 feet apart.
- Markings will be located on the ice to help show members where to stand.
- **Non-Delivering Team:** The two sweepers of the non-delivering team should be positioned on these markings while the other team is throwing. The player of the non-delivering team whose turn it is next to deliver should be positioned at hog line on the same side as the two sweepers. The Skip (or Vice-Skip) will stand on the backboards but no closer than the hack.
- **Delivering Team:** The Skip has control of the house. The player whose turn it is to deliver is in the hack. The non-sweeping player is on the backboards. The sweeping player is at the T-Line.

- Once the stone has been released, the player who delivered the stone proceeds down the center line of the ice until the halfway point where the marking or to the hog line if it their turn. The sweeper proceeds to the halfway markings. The non-sweeper travels to the halfway mark or the hog line depending on their turn to deliver or not.
- As it is a labour intensive activity to sanitize the numbers after each game, consider other methods of keeping scores (example: record on one person's phone; paper & pen).
- One sweeper only on all delivered stones. Consider no relaying for safety (second sweeper taking over halfway down the sheet). The person in charge of the house is not allowed to sweep under any circumstance. The skip of the non-delivering team 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. **Lessening of physical distancing restrictions would/could allow this guideline to be removed.**
- The Skip or Vice-Skip (not both) of the non-delivering team must stand at the hack until the other team is finished playing and has relinquished control of the house.
- Neither Skip nor Vice-Skip (both teams) may sweep any stones (both colors) set in motion by the delivering team.
- If local regulations do not allow the opening of the bar or warm areas, players should leave the rink right after their game.



## LEAGUE CONSIDERATIONS

Remind players to pay close attention to league schedules as game times and sheet assignments may be altered to ensure adherence to physical distancing. If you see an empty sheet of ice, do not hesitate to change to help with social distancing.


## MASKS

- Our club will continue to require the wearing of masks indoors at all times. The use of medical masks is highly recommended.
- **Face coverings will not stop you from getting COVID-19 but may help protect others.**
- Masks will not be required when sitting at the table eating or drinking in the club's lounge or once on the ice.


- Non-medical masks or face coverings should:
  - fit securely to the head with ties or ear loops;
  - maintain their shape after washing and drying;
  - be made of at least two layers of tightly woven material (such as cotton or linen)
  - be large enough to cover the nose and mouth without gaping.
- How to properly use face coverings. When wearing a face covering, you should:
  - wash your hands immediately before putting it on and immediately after taking it off (practice good hand hygiene while you are wearing the face covering);
  - make sure the face covering fits well around your nose and mouth;
  - avoid moving the mask around or adjusting it often;
  - avoid touching the covering while using it;
  - not share it with others.
- Face coverings should be changed when they get slightly wet or dirty. Remove or dispose of face coverings. When removing a face covering, you should throw it out into a lined garbage bin and wash your hands.

## Mask or Face Covering MANDATORY

Cloth face  
mask




Disposable  
non-medical  
mask



All persons entering or remaining in these premises must wear a mask or face covering that securely covers the nose, mouth, and chin as per the Ontario Regulation 364/20 (Rules for Areas in Stage 3 under the Reopening Ontario [A Flexible Response to COVID-19] Act, 2020).

Exemptions include people who cannot wear a mask or face covering for medical reasons, or children under two years old, or those who require accommodation in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Proof of exemption is not required.

Masks are still required to be worn by individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.



### MISCELLANEOUS CONSIDERATIONS

- The McIntyre Curling will require that everyone who enters the club register and sign in at the entrance. This will be for contact tracing in the event there is a COVID-19 exposure or outbreak at the curling rink.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A  
GREAT SEASON....  
HURRY HARD!!

