



Return to Play 2020 Questions & Answers

July 27, 2020

The Nova Scotia Curling Return to Play Plan was developed by a group of 14 volunteers from across the province. This was submitted to three different authorities for review and was approved to start curling as described in Phase 3 of the Plan. The authorities were Sport Nova Scotia, the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, and the Nova Scotia Public Health Office. All approvals are dependant on the epidemiology of the pandemic when curling commences at your club. It is your responsibility to ensure you are working with the most current Public Health Guidelines.

As the 33 member clubs in Nova Scotia differ in size and shape, each club must decide how best to proceed.

Q1 – Do we need to write our own plan?

We recommend you have your own Return to Play plan documented and available for inspection should you receive a visit from the authorities. You should expect to see an inspector during the season to ensure members are following Public Health Guidelines and that 6-foot distancing is being observed in both the club and the Ice Shed.

Q2 – Should our members be required to sign a waiver?

It is recommended at all members sign the waivers as identified by Curling Canada prior to entering the club for the first time this year. These waivers are available for printing <https://www.curling.ca/covid-19-resources/> and include:

- Declaration of Compliance
- Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement
- Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk (for those under the age of majority)

Q3 – Will Nova Scotia Curling help with the production of Signs for the curling clubs?

Nova Scotia Curling is preparing a package of sign options for the clubs. Further information to follow. As noted in the Nova Scotia Curling Plan it is recommended to have in ice logos to identify the 6 foot distances on both sides of the sheets so non-throwing curlers know where to stand. Ice Technicians are asked to consider placing an "X" at this locations at the time the ice is created. Canadian Tire has some orange tape at the moment that would show up nicely.

Q4 – What kind of record keeping do we need?

All members and guests are required to sign in at the club upon every time they enter the building. (Anyone who enters the building must be able to be logged by name and phone number.) This will allow for contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID identified. A Log book is required and it is recommended that you have a volunteer at the door to record each entry. The volunteer can save time by confirming curling members with the draw sheet.



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Q5 – Do we need directional signs, arrows, etc?

Best practice recommends suggesting walk ways (Directional signage) in the club house to ensure 6 foot distancing is maintained. Nova Scotia Curling is working to provide front door signs and indoor signs for bar, washrooms, COVID Guidelines, ice shed, etc.

Q6 – What are the rules about rental or loaning of equipment? (brooms, sliders, helmets, etc)

Rental or loaned equipment must be sanitized after every use or not used.

Suggestions:

- Rent equipment out for the year
- Have Staff or volunteer clean the equipment after it is returned.

Q7 – What can clubs do to improve the Social Distancing in the Ice Shed?

- Consider staggered start times – have the outside sheets start at one time, with the other sheets starting 30 minutes later. Until all curlers become familiar with the new ways of entering the club, the ice shed and playing the game, all clubs should be prepared that a two hour window may not be enough for one game.
- Consider a Final End time for each draw. This would mean slow games do not finish and no extra ends. The curlers for this draw may need to get out of the ice shed and out of the club before the curlers for the next draw arrive.
- While approval has been received for a 4-person team to proceed (with one sweeper), further social distancing can be achieved by considering introducing Doubles or Triples leagues which would reduce the number of players in the ice shed. Both Doubles and Triples take less time to play than the 4-person game, so clubs could consider and additional evening draw to make up for the reduced numbers per draw from these formats.

Q8 – What are the COVID Guidelines for Return to Play?

- Each Club President has received The Nova Scotia Curling Return to Play Plan and it is also available on www.nscurl.com.
- Each Club is also responsible for following the current Public Health Guidelines. <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

Q9. Where should hand sanitizers be placed in the club and the ice shed?

- Entrances and exits to the building and ice shed.
- At the Bar
- Home and Away ends on each sheet
- Washrooms



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Q10 – What options are available for keeping score?

- Designate one person to hang the score and sanitize used numbers at the end of the game. OR
- Designate one person to record on their phone or their own pen and paper

Q11 – Is it OK to use the measuring devices during COVID?

- Measuring devices should be removed from the clubs for safety reasons. Teams are encouraged to determine one player at the start of the game who will decide all measures for that game.

Q12 – How can teams safely meet after a game for a drink?

- Every club is different and set up to accommodate social distance guidelines. It will depend on your club situation. Be creative. For example, if you have 4 sheets in your club but you can only accommodate 2 sheets of players in your bar area, consider having designated weeks (2 sheets) that can stay after for drinks and rotate this every week. Another idea is to do by colour whose name is listed first on the draw (XXX vs YYY)

Q13 – How will last rock and rock colour be determined during COVID?

- Leagues are encouraged to pre-determine last rock and rock colour to avoid the coin toss. This will determine how teams will enter the ice shed. We recommend that teams with last rock enter the ice shed first, sanitize their stone handles and go to the far end for practice slides. Teams who throw first then enter the ice shed, sanitize their stone handles, complete their practice slides and start the game.

Q14 – It is tradition in curling to shake hands before and after the game. What do we do during COVID?

- No physical touching is allowed. Instead a friendly smile/wave and saying “Good game/good curling” to each of your opposition is recommended at the start and end of the game while maintaining social distancing.

Q15 – Remind me - What are the general rules during COVID?

- Hand sanitizing station to be placed strategically throughout the facility.
- If you have symptoms, stay home.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cough or sneeze into the band of your arm.
- No handshakes or touching.



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Q16 – Are their special rules for Wheelchair Curlers?

- Curling Canada is currently working on this and we will share when it is available.

Q17 – Are there special rules for Stick Curling?

Stick curlers will follow the same social distancing protocols as regular curling.

Q18 – Are spectators/family/coaches allowed in the club?

- Spectators are allowed in a club after the last draw has gone out on the ice if they can practice social distancing from others. This will depend on the size of your club.

Q19 – What are the rules for Junior Curling during COVID?

- Each club will need to decide how best to offer junior curling while maintaining the Public Health Guidelines.

Q20 – Can Clubs open their bar and food services?

- Bars and kitchens must follow the protocols of the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia <http://www.rans.ca/reopening-guidelines>

Q21 – Are face masks required?

As of July 31, face masks are required to be worn while inside public buildings. Six foot distancing is still required.