

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Return-to-Play

Note: This document is a collection of the most frequently asked questions during two virtual town hall meetings following the publication of Return-to-Play guidelines. The answers that follow are guidelines and general recommendations. Each curling club is responsible for the health and safety of its community and of its members while ensuring that public health guidelines specific to their region/municipality are carefully followed.

The questions and answers detailed below should serve as informational guidelines. Should you have queries or concerns that are not addressed in this document, we encourage you to contact us directly for a more personal follow-up.

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### Playing the Game

#### **How can we ensure physical distancing during sweeping?**

The primary recommendation is to designate one sweeper for each throw; this team member will be the only person allowed to sweep the active rock and any other stone affected by the play. Members of the opposing team are not permitted to sweep any rock crossing the hog line, whether it is their own or the adversary's.

#### **Should junior programs be suspended in light of the pandemic?**

As long as schools remain open, Curling Québec believes that junior programs can go ahead as planned. Curling clubs should, however, plan to dedicate more time to prepare for the season, and, in particular, to educate participants and their parents about physical distancing directives on the ice and in the building.

#### **Will physical distancing rules apply to official championships?**

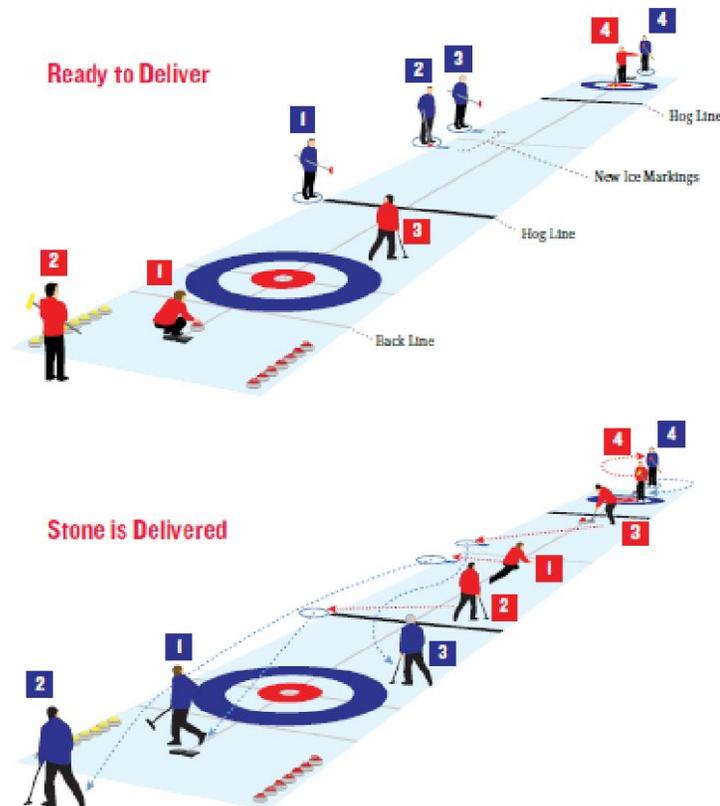
Yes. All Curling Québec events will strictly apply all directives mandated by the Public Health authorities, the Québec government and the Return-to-Play document published by Curling Canada.

**I play at a curling club with three ice sheets. Will it be necessary to close one sheet and use only two of them (sheets 1 and 3) simultaneously to abide by physical distancing requirements?**

No. Based on recent studies and as demonstrated in the diagram below (from Curling Canada’s Return-to-Play guide), it is possible to follow physical distancing requirements while using all available ice sheets.

Together with Curling Canada and its member federations, Curling Québec is currently working towards identifying a supplier who can provide ice markings for curling clubs. We will notify our members as soon as these tools become available.

## Appendix 5: Distancing Illustrations





**Our curling club was planning to launch group programs such as Curling 101 and Igloo in the fall of 2020. Should we hold off?**

Curling 101 and Igloo are group programs, which can require additional logistics considerations to ensure physical distancing compliance.

Nonetheless, Curling Québec believes the programs may go ahead with adaptations to the instruction approach. For example, you may use multiple hacks to separate participants into smaller groups while ensuring excellent instruction and adhering to physical distancing. To do so, you will likely have to plan for a higher number of instructors on the ice.

## Building Safety

**Will we be able to open our changing rooms?**

Yes, as long as physical distancing is applicable (2 metres/6 ft.) and, following the government's announcement on July 13<sup>th</sup>, as long as all persons in the building wear a mask at all times, including in dressing rooms.

**How many people can gather inside a curling club at the same time?**

The Public Health Ministry recently announced that as of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, indoor gatherings of up to 250 people will be allowed. For curling clubs, this means that the directive may apply to the shed and the lounge/bar area, separately (as long as building capacity limits are respected). You will, therefore, be able to host a maximum of 250 persons in the club AND 250 persons on the ice at the same time IF you can ensure all directives and mandates about physical distancing and public health and safety.

**How will bars and bartenders need to adapt? Are there specific directives for them?**

Regulation for the service industry is paramount to confront the pandemic and to ensure curling clubs offer a safe environment for everyone. To support our members, Curling Québec contacted the Association de Restauration du Québec (ARQ) and the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) to provide you with tools and guides specific to the service sector. You can access these resources at the link to our website, here:

<https://curling-quebec.qc.ca/covid-19-subsidies-and-financial-aid-programs/?lang=en>

### **What sort of hygiene protocols will clubs be required to set up?**

The Curling Canada Return-to-Play guidelines are an exhaustive source of information on this topic.

Curling Québec encourages you to require hand disinfection upon arrival to the curling club and ask your members to bring their complete set of equipment each time they visit the club. We also strongly encourage you to remove club brooms from public access areas.

No matter how your curling club decides to implement disinfection and hygiene protocols, these must be communicated to all members and all volunteers and employees who use equipment at the club.

### **What are the public health requirements concerning masks in curling clubs? What about during games?**

As you know, the Provincial Government and the Direction de la santé publique announced earlier this month that masks will become mandatory in all public, indoor spaces as of July 18, 2020, including sports centres such as curling clubs.

Please see below details we received that apply directly to our environment:

- Masks must be worn at all times (upon arrival at the club, during transfers, in the changing rooms, etc.), with the following exceptions:
  - During physical activity or exercise;
  - While seated as a spectator (such as on the stands) and while ensuring that the minimum 1.5 meters of physical distancing are observed;
  - While the person is seated in a lounge area (bar) and the minimum 1.5 meters of physical distancing is adhered to.
- It is recommended for coaches, equipment managers and medical personnel to wear a mask should physical distancing not be possible at all times.
- Wearing a mask is strongly recommended, but not mandatory for children between 2 and 12 years of age.

## Membership and Community

### **Are the Return-to-Play guidelines binding for curling clubs?**

No, they are not. The reference document, developed by Curling Canada and its member provincial federations, does not require any obligation from curling clubs. The guidelines serve as a compilation of recommendations and best-practices for the return to curling. It is each curling club's responsibility to lean on the scenarios that best address its needs. More importantly, each club must ensure the public health and safety directives of its region and municipality are adhered to thoroughly.

### **Is it necessary for clubs to get a waiver signed by all their members and any other person who enters the premises?**

Curling Québec has uploaded various waiver, declaration and consent forms developed by Curling Canada and the Réseau des Loisirs et du Sport du Québec (RLSQ). These forms are compliant to Québec regulation and have been validated by legal teams. Curling clubs are under no obligation to use these documents, should they choose not to.

However, Curling Québec strongly recommends the use of these waiver and declaration forms to keep duly signed assumption of risk forms, as well as a daily registry of all persons that enter your club's premises (members, rental groups, guest teams, etc.). In the eventuality of a COVID-19 flare-up in your community, these documents will provide a trace for health authorities to follow up.

We also strongly encourage you to submit these forms for review to your liability insurance provider to ensure that you are protected and compliant with the insurer's requirements.

The forms are available on our COVID-19 page, under the section "Return-to-Play Information": <https://curling-quebec.qc.ca/covid-19-subsidies-and-financial-aid-programs/?lang=en>

### **Regarding rentals, can we have only the group's contact person sign the waiver and consent forms?**

We recommend that all participants of a rental sign the same documents. This will allow you to present a track record to health authorities, should the need arise.



**Has Curling Québec elaborated a member affiliation reimbursement policy in light of a possibly shorter season during the pandemic?**

Curling Québec's Board will discuss the matter the next time it convenes; we expect to have an answer for you mid-August.

**Where can we access Curling Québec's virtual town halls addressing return-to-play? Does Curling Québec plan on having more of these meetings?**

The virtual town halls are available on our Facebook page, as well as on our YouTube channel. We would be more than happy to organize additional virtual sessions, private or otherwise, to answer your questions and concerns, should the need arise. Please do not hesitate to contact us and let us know your needs.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CurlingQuebec/videos/>

YouTube: <http://bit.ly/YouTubeCQ>

**Who should I contact at Curling Québec to ask my questions concerning the pandemic?**

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