



Blue Water Curling Club

Member's Handbook

Rules and Guiding Principles

2022 / 2023

Blue Water Curling Club
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Etiquette of Curling

Covid-19 Guidelines for all curlers and club users:

1. All members, renters, or those trying curling for the first time must sign a *Declaration of Compliance* plus a Waiver (signed by adults) or Assumption of Risk Form (signed by adults on behalf of minors). If you have any questions about these forms/waivers, please contact a board member or your league rep.
2. Follow all protocols to reduce risk of transmission, as directed. This includes:
 - a. changes to how the game is played and changes to physical distancing protocols before, during, and after the game
 - b. adhering to protocols involving measures to facilitate contact tracing (i.e., providing your name and contact information as required on signing-in)
 - c. follow gathering limits as recommended by healthcare authorities
3. Follow local Grey Bruce [Public Health Unit](#) guidelines to reduce risk of covid-19 transmission. Be watchful for emergency orders issued by healthcare authorities.

4. Watch for and abide by posted rules and protocols as you enter the club and in various locations throughout the building.
5. Check email and visit the club's website regularly for announcements regarding updates to policies, procedures, cancellations, etc.
6. Avoid the typical friendly handshake to start the game. Instead, give a friendly wave or tap brooms.
7. Avoid touching surfaces people touch often, such as:
 - a. Toilets and sinks
 - b. Door handles
 - c. Bar and bar tables
 - d. Stone handles (except your 2 stones in your game)
8. Do not use coins to decide the last stone advantage in the first end. The league convenors may assign them every game or, use an online tool on your phone:
<https://justflipacoin.com/>
9. Practise proper hygiene:
 - a. Cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow.
 - b. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently.
 - c. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
10. To protect yourself and others, if you are able, it is strongly recommended that you wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
11. Use your own curling equipment. Avoid sharing equipment with others.
12. To return to the club, it is strongly recommended that you have been fully vaccinated for covid-19 and at least 2 weeks have passed from the date of the last vaccine dose administered.
13. Maintain proper physical distance from others (ideally 2 metres) at all times. Do not congregate around the bar, kitchen, or other areas within the club.
14. Stay at home if you feel ill, have had a potential exposure, or are experiencing any [symptoms of covid-19](#) or other communicable illnesses.

Principles and Philosophy

The Blue Water Curling Club is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit facility dedicated to the sport of curling. Along with four sheets of ice, the club offers bar and banquet facilities and makes ice rental available to the community. We provide a welcoming, respectful, and supportive environment for all members.

Our club:

- Is committed to treating all members equally and with respect
- Is volunteer-based
- Offers a variety of day and evening curling opportunities
- Promotes all aspects of curling
- Continues to reinvest in the facility

- Recognizes and supports event sponsors
- Promotes a supportive and trusting environment

Code of Ethics and Fair Play

To ensure all curlers are aware of their responsibilities when playing the game, the Canadian Curling Association has adopted the following Code of Ethics as an official supplement to the Rules of Curling.

Curlers' Code of Ethics

- I will play the game with a spirit of good sportsmanship.
- I will conduct myself in an honourable manner both on and off the ice.
- I will never knowingly break a rule, but if I do, I will divulge the breach.
- I will take no action that could be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate or demean my opponents, teammates, or umpires.
- I will interpret the rules in an impartial manner, always keeping in mind the purpose of the rules is to ensure that the game is played in an orderly and fair manner.
- I will humbly accept any penalty that the governing body at any level of curling deems appropriate if I am found to be in violation of the Code of Ethics or rules of the game.

Fair Play Rule

- Fair play begins with the strict observance of the written rule. However, in most cases, Fair Play involves something more than even unflinching observance of the written rule. The observance of the spirit of the rules, whether written or unwritten, is important. • Fair Play results from measuring up to one's own moral standards while engaged in competition.
- Fair Play is consistent demonstration of respect for teammates and opponents, whether they are winning or losing.
- Fair Play is consistent demonstration of respect for umpires, an acceptance of their decisions and a steadfast spirit of collaboration with them.
- Sportsmanlike behaviour should be demonstrated both on and off the ice. This includes modesty in victory and composure in defeat.

Registration Refund Policy

Upon receipt and processing of an applicant's registration and placement on the membership registration list, there are no refunds of membership fees. However, certain circumstances may dictate that the Policy may be reconsidered, as outlined below.

Exceptional Circumstances

Junior curlers trying curling for the first time, who decide they do not enjoy it, may receive a full refund prior to the 3rd week. No administrative fee will be incurred.

Any member who sustains an injury or illness prior to January 1 of the current curling season and is incapacitated for the balance of the season may receive a refund of 50% of their membership. No refunds will be considered for any injury occurring on or after January 1 of the curling season. No administration fee will be incurred.

Any registered member who decides to withdraw their registration prior to the September registration date may receive a full refund. A \$50 administration fee will be incurred.

Club Rules and Guidelines

These rules/guidelines have been instituted to provide direction to our leagues, maintain consistency, and provide an atmosphere for everyone to enjoy the sport of curling.

Games

1. No member shall step onto the ice surface to start a game or practise until the ice technician has completed preparing the ice and removed all the scoring numbers from the scoreboard.
2. Teams shall be ready to play at the designated times – no team shall start play with fewer than three players. (Delay – O.C.A. Rule 14 (3) shall apply.)
3. All club games shall consist of up to 8 ends unless time limit does not allow. (See #4)
4. In league play, players will strive to complete games within 2 hours, with equal rocks thrown by both teams to finish the game. No new end shall begin 2 hours after scheduled starting time. (E.g., for a 7 p.m. game, no new end shall begin after 9:00 p.m.)
5. For all regular season games, if the game is tied at the end of regular play, no extra ends will be played, and the score will be recorded as a tie.
6. The 5 Rock Free Guard Zone rules shall be used for all club games.

Teams

1. At least two members of the team (only one if the team consists of three assigned players) must be present for the game to be scored – otherwise the game will be scored as a default game. Players may wish to play the game for fun.
2. All curlers are expected to find their own spares during regular season play – please notify your skip when using a spare or if you are unable to secure a spare. Spare lists can be found in the member sign in section of the club's website www.bluewatercurlingclub.com

Scoring / Tie Breaking

1. Vice Skips are responsible for keeping the score during the game and for recording the team score on the League Score sheet at the end of the game.
2. Scoring for Tie Breakers at the end of a draw:
 - Team with highest number of wins will be declared winner of that draw
 - If two teams are tied in wins, the winner of the head-to-head matchup during that draw will be declared the winner
 - If those two teams tied, the team with the highest total points score will be the winner.

Sparing

1. Current paid-up members have unlimited sparing opportunities in any house league.
2. Non-current members issued a Blue Water Curling Club debenture may spare for a cost of \$20 per game.

3. Non-debenture holders can spare for the above fee up to 2 times per year as a guest, to promote the introduction of potential new members.
4. Spare money will be placed in an envelope marked with spare's name and league and deposited in locker #1 located beneath the bar cash register.
5. Ordering of positioning for spares:
 - a. A spare is required to play lead or second position as a replacement on a team for house league play. Any variance from this procedure must be agreed upon by the opposing skip prior to the start of the game.
 - b. A spare for skip's choice league may play in any position as determined by that team's skip.
6. Sparring for Playoffs/Club Championships:
 - a. Spares can curl position for position. A spare should be found from the players pool of the same league and should have played the same position as the player requiring the spare. If a player is unavailable from the same draw, a player playing the same position in any other subsequent draw of the same league may be used.

Club Championships / Playoffs

1. Club Championships will be conducted for Men's, Women's, and Mixed Leagues.
2. Players Choice will conduct their own Club Championships
3. Format and Rules for Men's, Women's, And Mixed Playoffs
 - a. The three winners of each draw in their respective league will play a full round robin.

Note: Draw winner for the mixed is determined by a game between the two mixed league winners, currently Friday and Wednesday
 - b. All round robin games need to produce a winner, there are to be no tied games.
 - i. If games are tied at the end of eight ends, one complete additional end will be played towards the glass with the team that scored last throwing the first rock.
 - ii. If the game is still tied at the end of the extra end, a one rock draw to the button will break the tie. Any player may throw the shot, sweeping is allowed. The opposing team may not sweep the rock behind the T-Line. Closest rock to the 'button' will determine the winning team. Measurement should be taken.
 - c. After the round robin, if there is a team with two wins, that team will be declared the Club Champion for their respective league
 - d. If all teams are tied at one win and one loss, the two teams with the highest average points per end played will play a final game to determine the Club Champion for their respective league.

Brushes/Grippers/Equipment

- All curlers should exercise sound judgement that equipment being used is not detrimental to the ice surface or the play of the game.
- All curlers must clean their curling shoes on the sticky pads provided at the rink entrance, before they step onto the ice surface.
- All Club curlers should provide their own broom and proper curling shoes. There are brooms available at the club to borrow.
- Replace grippers regularly.

O.C.A. Competitions

- Players are responsible for entering their teams into O.C.A. events. Following O.C.A. rules and restrictions are the responsibility of the players/teams.
- The BWCC expects that all representatives competing in O.C.A. events will conduct themselves in accordance with our etiquette and code of conduct policies as described in this handbook

Member Conduct

- Refer to the club's Code of Conduct and Fair Play.
- The club reserves the right to suspend, restrict or revoke any individual whose conduct falls short of these standards, or is unlawful, scandalous, or otherwise considered to be unduly detrimental to the club.
- The following procedure will be followed by the Board
 - a. Verbal warning
 - b. Written warning
 - c. Dismissal

Suggestions, Questions, and Complaints

- Members having suggestions and/or criticisms about the conduct of the Club, or of its members, may be communicated to the Board in writing or by email.
- Members who have questions or suggestions are encouraged to approach their league representative for answers.

Etiquette of Curling

- Arrive on time. If for an unavoidable reason you will be late, let your skip know as soon as possible.
- If you cannot be there, it is your responsibility to arrange a spare and let your skip know.
- Greeting with your opponents before and after the game. Handshakes are not encouraged at this time. See COVID-19 guidelines for alternative suggestions for greeting.
- Help out new curlers. New curlers are vital to the future of our Curling Club, so experienced curlers are asked to do all they can to help them feel welcome in our Club.
- Using the traditional coin toss to determine last rock advantage is not encouraged. See COVID-19 guidelines for alternative suggestions.
- Don't get in the way of opposing sweepers. Give the opposing sweepers plenty of room to move. This avoids collisions and unnecessary falls.
- Keep your distance when the opposing team is in the hack. When your opponents are preparing for delivery, stand to the side of the sheet, single file, and between the hog lines. Move only after the rock has been released. If you are throwing next, you may stand on the backboard, but remain quiet and out of sight of the opposition thrower.

- Only skips and thirds may congregate behind the tee line. They do not move or hold their brooms on the surface while the opposition is preparing to deliver a rock.
- Always be ready to throw your stone. As soon as your opponent has delivered his/her stone, clean your stone and take your position in the hack. This speeds up the game and keeps players on their toes. Delays detract from the game.
- Remain outside the rings at the conclusion of an end until the opposing thirds have agreed on the score.
- Compliment good play when you see it. Be quick to compliment a good shot by either side. A curler should never make an adverse remark about a poor shot or smile at an opponent's misfortune.
- Wear clean, appropriate footwear that will not damage the ice.
- Wear appropriate curling apparel at all times.
- Be courteous and considerate to other curlers in the same manner that you expect of them.