

Grand Forks Curling Club

Fall 2020 Return to Curling

Policies for Covid-19

GFCC Members,

Welcome back. Please know that the GFCC Board is working hard to make sure you can safely enjoy the 2020/21 season. The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted many parts of our lives over the past 6 months, including the decision last spring to shut down the club before the end of the season. This decision was not easy, but hopefully we can all agree that it was the right one at the time. Now, months later, we hope to re-open for the upcoming season in a manner that makes everyone feel welcome and safe. We know that everyone has different circumstances and comfort zones when it comes to this pandemic. In that regard, we will do our best to put policies and procedures in place that will allow the game to be played safely. Of course, our policies won't be stringent enough for some of you and may seem a bit too much for others. We understand if your circumstances/comfort level does not allow you to play in league this season, but we hope that you will continue to support the club through membership dues and following along virtually with teams, scores, etc.

We are optimistic that members will be able to play in leagues the entire season and we realize that it will take all members—100%—to respect and adhere to the following policies for that to work. We certainly hope that we do not experience an incident that causes us to close again, but understand that it could happen. Please be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

GFCC Board Members

Curling Policies for League Play

1. If you feel at all sick — STAY HOME — just as your employer has asked you to be vigilant about sickness, so does your curling club. Any symptoms should be a signal to stay put at home.
2. Locker rooms—will remain usable. We ask that you limit time in the locker rooms and that you try to keep as much space as possible between individuals—6 ft if possible. Arriving at the club ready to go will help with this. Simply grab your shoes and broom and get in and out quickly.
3. Masks are not required (as long as it is not mandated by the government), but are strongly recommended in the lobby (main floor), locker rooms and upstairs. Please respect those members who choose to wear a mask and those who don't.
4. Masks can be worn on the ice, but again this is optional.
5. No handshakes or elbow bumps at the start or finish of the game (maintaining distancing is the goal).
6. Only Vice Skips should interact with the scoreboard
7. Do not touch any stones other than the ones you are throwing and each person should throw the same two stones all game. If a stone switch is made, care should be taken to sanitize the stone before proceeding.
8. If a measurement is needed — please follow this procedure:
 - remove gloves
 - sanitize hands
 - do measurement
 - put measuring tool away and sanitize hands
9. Beverages and water bottles — recommended that you have a closed water bottle with a flip top and keep it closed when not drinking. Other beverages should be kept in the appropriate holder (red/yellow) at the home end of the ice. Keep in mind that open containers could present an unsafe experience for you.
10. Staggering starting times will be implemented to help with congestion entering the ice area and preparing for play
 - Ice A (1) and C (3) will start at the designated time (ie 6:30 on Tuesdays)
 - Ice B (2) and D (4) will start 5 minutes later
 - Please do not enter the ice area until your time
 - A & B enter and leave the ice from the West Door
 - C & D enter and leave the ice from the East Door
11. Only ice technicians should handle ice making equipment. They will have procedures designed to keep the equipment disinfected and will designate members to assist them when necessary.

GFCC Cleaning Procedures

The Grand Forks Curling Club will have the following procedures in place during the 2020-21 curling season in an effort to maintain a facility with the health and safety of its members and occupants in mind. Please follow all procedures and policies when attending events at the facility. It will take everyone's effort to keep the facility clean and safe for all.

1. We will continue to have the facility cleaned on a weekly basis as we have in past years.
2. League responsibilities:
 - Wipe down stones with sanitized wipe before play begins (each team does their own)
 - Any club equipment that is used should be cleaned by the person using it — it is recommended that everyone purchase and use their own equipment.
 - Follow guidelines set by the board for game play (see Policies Page)
 - End of game — one team will clean the ice as usual, the other team is responsible for wiping down the stones again.
 - Tables and chairs used during socialization
3. Club responsibilities: Prior to evening league play the following areas will be sanitized
 - Stair railings & light switches
 - Doors — front, locker room, bathroom stalls, entry to ice area, office
 - Bathrooms — both floors
 - Chairs on main floor
 - Bar area on 2nd floor and pop machine on main floor
 - Window ledge and drink holders in ice area
 - Measuring tools on ice
4. Other Procedures to follow
 - If you use the club for practicing or socializing, you need to sign in on the sheet provided on the bulletin board. It is your responsibility to sanitize any area that you use — stones, chairs, locker room, bathroom, etc—when you finish.
 - The club will provide cleaning supplies. This is an added expense, so please use the supplies as needed, but don't be wasteful.
 - It is encouraged that curlers bring their own personal hand sanitizer if possible — although hand sanitizer will be available throughout the club.

After game socializing

We all agree that one of the best parts of curling happens off the ice after the game. This year that time will look a little different. The GFCC board has determined that bringing in "lunch" and gathering around a central table would not be in our best interest. So, while we continue to encourage you to gather with teammates and competition for a friendly conversation or beverage (at a safe distance), we will not ask teams to supply food this season.

A final word on curling during Covid

Curling is going to look different this year. Every club you go to will have their own set of rules and procedures to follow. We have looked at policies set at many different clubs around the country and beyond. We are trying to keep everyone as safe as possible without too much disruption to the game. In many clubs, only one sweeper will be allowed and masks will be worn at all times. Or, socializing will only be allowed outdoors — let's try that in ND in the winter!! We've looked at all of these ideas and recommendations and come up with what we hope will work for the Grand Forks Curling Club. We may have to make modifications as the season progresses and we hope that everyone will be willing to change with us. At this point, if everyone does their part to follow the guidelines we've laid out, we hope to have a very good, full season. If you have any questions for your board, please do not hesitate to reach out. Please stay safe and GOOD CURLING!