



## Sanctioned Competitions COVID-19 Policies & Protocols

### COMPLIANCE & AUTHORITY

- The policies and protocols detailed in this document are effective immediately (as of Oct 2, 2020) at all Curling Alberta sanctioned competitions.
- It is expected that everyone at a Curling Alberta sanctioned event conducts themselves in a manner that promotes safety as our top priority. Intentional failure to comply with all applicable policies and guidance to the best of one's ability, including concealment of illness, may result in disciplinary action.
- All participants are also responsible to follow the authority, policies, and protocols of relevant agencies in the community, municipality, and facility.
- A reminder that Curling Alberta has the authority to make decisions related to its competitions and Excel Points, as it considers necessary, to handle any situation not covered by its rules and policies. Due to the changing environment and any updates to Alberta's relaunch guidance for sport, Curling Alberta will notify its players and other stakeholders of any updates to its policies/protocols as they are necessary and available.

### COHORTS

- A COVID-19 cohort is a small group of people (always the same people) who do not always keep their 2m distance from other members of the cohort.
- It is recommended that teams registering in Curling Alberta sanctioned events form a cohort, including the team's coach, as they are likely to be in close contact with each other. Teams who elect not to form a cohort will simply employ physical distancing within their team as per their own risk tolerance.
- Regardless of whether your team chooses to include your coach in the team cohort (i.e. you do not always maintain a physical distance) he or she will be required to wear a mask during competition.
- Families are encouraged to limit number of cohorts that their members are part of, including sports cohorts.
- Each family and team must determine what level of risk is right for them and what level of risk they deem acceptable. The more activities a person participates in where distancing cannot be maintained, the greater their risk of exposure.

- If there are concerns or when in doubt, Albertans are encouraged to keep sports cohorts as small as possible.
- In line with Alberta's Relaunch Guidance for sport, if you are on a team that has formed for the purpose of only playing in one event, you should not form a cohort. Rather, each member would remain physically distanced and utilize only one sweeper at a time.

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

- All teams will be required to maintain two metres physical distance from anyone not included in their cohort (e.g. other teams, officials, organizers, etc.) during competition. Curling Alberta's sanctioned events will not employ the mini-league concept as described by Alberta's Relaunch Guidance, which would allow all competitors to be in contact with each other. In addition to lowering risk, by maintaining physical distance between teams, there is no limit to the number of teams that can be included in a competition.

## **SWEEPING & CONTROL OF THE SHEET**

- At Curling Alberta sanctioned events, teams will be permitted to utilize more than one sweeper at a time.
- The non-delivering team must relinquish the sheet completely; only the delivering team may sweep. In addition, the delivering team can only sweep *their own stones* that have been set into motion, regardless of where they may be. The opponent's stones may never be swept. Any violation will result in applying Sweeping Rule 11(9) that states the non-offending team can:
  - a) allow the play to stand
  - b) remove the unfairly swept stone and replace all affected stones or
  - c) place the unfairly swept stone where it would have come to rest had the sweeping violation not occurred.

## **SUBSTITUTES & ALTERNATES**

- It is highly recommended that eligible teams (U18 and older) do not employ the use of an alternate this season. Not only does this keep team cohorts smaller, but also acknowledges that alternates would typically compete with other teams as well (which increases risk). Teams will still maintain the opportunity to name a substitute for any reason in accordance with Curling Alberta's Competitor's Guide.
- If a substitute player is utilized, teams should carefully weigh the potential increased risk in deciding whether to include that person in the team's cohort. For this season, a substitute will not be permitted to compete for more than one team during an event regardless of whether they are included in a team's cohort.
- Substitutes in the men's and women's categories must reside within the boundaries of Curling Alberta in addition to meeting all other eligibility criteria.

## SPARE POOLS

- Keeping in line with last season, only the mixed category which will have access to a spare pool. Because spares may be required by different teams over the course of an event, spares must maintain physical distance from all other people while competing (i.e. including the team they are temporarily joining, meaning that they may not sweep with another curler).

## MASKS

- Only coaches will be required to wear a mask (even if they are included in your team cohort) while on the cold side of the glass, including during gameplay.
- Players should feel free to wear a mask when they are not engaging in intense physical activity. However, masks should not be worn during intense physical activity, as masks and face shields cannot be assured to stay in place. There is also some evidence to suggest that wearing a mask during high intensity activity could have negative health effects.

## TRAVEL & FREE AGENTS

- Where physical distancing between individuals/teams is maintained, travel for curling is allowed. This includes travel across provincial/territorial borders, noting that all other public health guidance should be observed. Alberta's updated relaunch guidance no longer refers to regional or zone restrictions.
- It is important to understand that some other provinces/territories are still not allowing/recommending participants to enter their boundaries for sport (Alberta *is* allowing individuals or teams to enter the province if they are complying with our own provincial guidance, specifically if they can physically distance or if form a sport cohort).
- Curling Alberta will continue to honour free agents from out-of-province, however, substitutes utilized in the men's and women's category must reside within Curling Alberta's boundaries.
- Free Agents, players, teams, coaches from outside of Alberta need to ensure that they are allowed to travel outside of their province/territory as per their Provincial/Territorial Health Guidelines and have the approval of their respective Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization.

## ILLNESS

- All participants are responsible to review the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist) (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist>) prior to entry at the curling club and will not enter the facility if the checklist requires the individual to not attend or participate. Individuals who are symptomatic, or who may have

been exposed to someone who is ill or has confirmed COVID-19 according to the Alberta Health Daily Checklist may resume competition as early as the next day if they can answer NO to all questions in the checklist.

- A reminder that teams will be responsible to inform the Chief or Deputy Chief of any changes to the line-up for any reason, including illness.
- If two people within a team cohort become ill or display symptoms associated with COVID 19, the team will be removed from the competition. The Chief Umpire and/or Deputy Chief Umpire shall retain the right to remove a participant (i.e. player or coach) from competition, who in their sole discretion, appears to be obviously ill or who they feel is attempting to conceal symptoms of illness.
- If a coach becomes ill or displays symptoms in a category where a coach is required, a substitute can be named who must maintain physical distance and wear a mask. It is strongly encouraged that the team makes every effort to recruit a substitute coach who meets the regular coaching eligibility requirements. However, if that is not possible, he or she must have successfully completed the Respect in Sport program to sub for the team's regular coach.

## **TIMING**

- To reduce potential gathering opportunities, the number of people in a curling club and equipment touch points, Curling Alberta will not be timing sanctioned events, with the exception of the men's and women's provincial championships.
- It is the responsibility of each team to monitor their own pace of play which it will be expected to maintain. Should a game exceed one hour in an eight-end game, and 1.25 hours in a 10-end game at the mid-game break, the umpire will intervene and speak to both teams. If slow play continues, the offending team will be advised that they have 45 seconds to deliver the stone or it will be removed from play.

## **BERTH ACCEPTANCE**

- Standard qualifying berths – Teams will receive a winners' package at the conclusion of the provincial qualifier which will include specific instructions to officially accept a berth to the provincial championships. Please note that the team will be expected to email [info@curlingalberta.ca](mailto:info@curlingalberta.ca) the next business day to accept the berth and to confirm the team's roster moving forward.
- Defending champion & prequalifying berths – Curling Alberta will initiate communication with the teams via email.
- National championship berths (men's, women's, and mixed doubles) – A Curling Alberta representative will be at the provincial championships to assist the winning teams with the digital forms.

## TEAM OBLIGATIONS

- To limit gatherings at sanctioned events, the pre-competition team meeting, formal banquets, and opening and closing ceremonies are not currently planned to happen this season. However, please be advised that your team may be requested to participate in alternate initiatives intended to recognize the contributions of event organizers, sponsors, and other partners. If this does occur, Curling Alberta will minimize any potential burden placed on the teams and will provide as much notice as possible (e.g. your team may be asked to write a simple thank you note to an event's host and title sponsor).
- Pre-competition team meeting - Any information that would typically be delivered by the Chief Umpire will be emailed to the skip and/or coach of each team prior to the event. This information will also be posted at the event. If you have any questions prior to an event please email [info@curlingalberta.ca](mailto:info@curlingalberta.ca). Alternatively, the Chief and/or Deputy Umpire will be available 45 minutes prior to your first draw to answer any questions or concerns.

## NAMEBOARDS, SCOREBOARDS & SCORECARDS

- To reduce common touch points, the team with hammer in the first end will update the scoreboard for the full game. All numbers will be sterilized after each game. Do not post the zeros for the non-scoring team to reduce the numbers which are handled.
- Scorecards will still be used as they are a formal confirmation of the score. Scorecards will be provided ahead of each draw and will be completed by one team member following each draw. The cards will be collected in a box and only touched again if required. The winning team is responsible for reporting the final score to the umpire and/or volunteer responsible to post the scores online and on the draw board.
- Each team will be responsible to handle their own nameboard for the duration of the event. The host or Chief Umpire will instruct teams where nameboards will be posted. Please designate someone from your team to look after your nameboard for each draw. It is important that nameboards are clearly visible so that the volunteer looking after the online scoring can ensure the score is for the correct team.