



## **Sanctioned Competitions COVID-19 Policies & Protocols**

### **COMPLIANCE & AUTHORITY**

- The policies and protocols detailed in this document are effective immediately 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.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- All teams will be required to maintain two meters 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 Men's and Ladies Provincials (sanctioned events), teams will be not be permitted to utilize more than one sweeper at a time until the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of Covid-19 PCR testing is completed and all members of the team including the coach test negative.
- Once the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of testing is complete two sweepers will be allowed.
- 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

- There will be no substitutes allowed for Curling Alberta's sanctioned events.
- If an alternate player is utilized, teams should carefully weigh the potential increased risk in deciding whether to include that person in the team's cohort.
- Alternates in the men's and women's categories must reside within the boundaries of Curling Alberta in addition to meeting all other eligibility criteria.
- Other than the designated alternates, there will be no substitutes allowed for Curling Alberta's sanctioned events.
- The team is responsible for costs associated with the alternate, including testing.

## MASKS

- Curling Alberta recommends that curlers use masks during play but masks can and should be safely removed when needed (e.g., before and while sweeping, when drinking water, when regaining a comfortable rate of breathing, when replacing a wet mask, etc.).

- We understand that not everyone can safely wear a mask when curling. If and/or when you are not wearing a mask, please be especially aware to adhere to all on-ice physical distancing measures at your facility or in effect for a particular event/competition. Curling Alberta will also be making the same request to curlers who compete in Curling Alberta sanctioned events. All curlers are also encouraged to sanitize their hands regularly while playing.
- Tips on using a mask while curling can be found [here](#).

## **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, women's and mixed doubles 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 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.