



## 2021/22 Return to Curling Guidelines v1

These Guidelines are framed with reference to the Scottish Government’s advice to indoor sport and leisure operators as of 13th August 2021, sportscotland’s Operational Guidance for Indoor Ice Rinks, and Scottish Curling’s Return to Curling Guidelines for ‘Beyond Level 0’ of 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The last of those rightly recognises that each ice rink is unique with its own challenges to overcome to be ready and safe to reopen. The Boards of Murrayfield Curling Limited and Edinburgh Curling Club Limited believe they have met that challenge and trust that members and visitors alike feel able to return to curling this season.

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## 1. Background

Professor Jason Leitch said on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 “human behaviour is our only treatment against this disease”. It follows that while we can prepare ice rinks for use, and organise entry and exit systems, as well as socially-distanced changing and hospitality facilities, we are ultimately all individually and collectively responsible for our own and others wellbeing. We will achieve that most easily and effectively by maintaining social distancing.

## 2. Curler Responsibilities

Scottish Government general advice currently includes:

- regular hand washing
- appropriate cough and sneeze etiquette
- being acutely aware of the symptoms of the virus
- take regular lateral flow tests
- engaging with the Test and Protect system
- isolating if you have the virus.

Members or visitors **should not** come to the rink if:

- they are showing any symptoms of, or have been diagnosed with, the virus
- they have any family or household members diagnosed with or displaying symptoms of the virus
- they or their household have been asked to self-isolate as part of Test and Protect.

Members coming to the rink **should**:

- avoid coming to the ice rink more than 15 minutes before their scheduled game
- avoid car sharing and using public transport (if possible)
- arrive ready to play (other than changing footwear) with minimal personal items.

Members details are held by Edinburgh Curling Club, but their participation will be recorded on an amended scorecard which **must** be completed before play commences. All names to be printed: Non-members who play must provide contact details on the scorecard’s reverse.

### Face coverings

All those entering the ice rink must wear a face covering (unless exempt) but may remove it when playing on the ice or seated at a table. Coaches must wear a face covering.

## Distancing

To reduce crowds we will continue using staggered start times. A group of 3 sheets will start, followed 30 minutes later by the other 4 sheets. Further to this, each sheet will have stones positioned to start from alternating ends.

All games will have a bell after 1 hour 45 minutes.

Due to the staggered start times, there will be no late ice (sixth session) midweek.

## Monday – Friday

Session	Early stagger	Late stagger
FIRST	09:30	10:00
SECOND	11:45	12:15
THIRD	14:30	15:00
FOURTH	17:30	18:00
FIFTH	19:45	20:15

## Saturday / Sunday

Session	Early stagger	Late stagger
FIRST	10:00	10:30
SECOND	12:15	12:45
THIRD	14:30	15:00
FOURTH	16:45	17:15
FIFTH	19:00	19:30

## Cashless Facility

To minimise the risks in handling cash, both boards have taken the decision that cash will not be accepted anywhere in the facility. This includes both the clubrooms and the curling hall. The only mechanism to pay is with your membership card or your credit/debit card.

Purchases with your ECC membership card in the Bar/Café will be entitled to a 5% discount but there will no discount on purchases from the shop. No discount when paying for curling.

We will issue updated guidance about registering for and using our Wisepay cashless system in due course.

## Physical Distancing in the Ice Rink

To help members maintain distancing around the facility our one-way system will continue:

- Enter at the usual door (the inner door will be unlocked) and sanitise your hands
- Proceed directly to either the changing rooms (8 seats) to change into curling shoes, or use the new individual bench and shoe rack at the end of each sheet
- The toilets will be available with maximum occupancy of 4 at any one time
- After curling please change your shoes and collect any personal belongings. **It will not be possible to leave/store any belongings (including brushes) at the rink and any left may be destroyed to minimise risk of infection**
- If you wish to use the clubrooms go up the right-hand side of the stairs and at the top of the stairs turn RIGHT into the balcony area and beyond
- **Face coverings must be worn unless seated to use bar or catering facilities**
- Upstairs and around the clubrooms follow directions to an available table
- Place your order for drinks on the order sheet - your drinks will be brought to you
- To order food follow the directional arrows to the food display and pay with your membership card. Your food and cutlery will be delivered to your table
- Once you have finished your meal or drink please leave the table to allow it to be cleaned and sanitised for use by other members
- To exit, go through the door beside the bar, turn right and go down the right-hand side of the stairs
- Use hand sanitiser before leaving the ice rink
- **Everyone must exit our facility via the ice hall: Head for the lift behind sheet 7, go through the grey door, then follow the short corridor to the carpark.**

**REMEMBER - STAY RIGHT TO KEEP RIGHT**

## Physical Distancing on the ice

Normal curling rules and etiquette apply at the present 'Beyond Level 0', but we would urge all clubs and members to respect anyone who wishes to maintain distancing on the ice. Two sweepers are now allowed but both should be comfortable with that degree of proximity. Should any person wish to sweep alone we would ask that this be respected.

While handshakes are permitted, we would encourage the continued use of broom taps or elbow bumps instead. Clubs may wish to discuss their own arrangements.

### 3. Ice Rink Responsibilities

As recommended by Scottish Government and sportscotland, Murrayfield Curling Ltd has adopted the 4 stage plan for return to curling. The four stages are:

1. Plan
2. Prepare
3. Protect
4. Review.

#### 3.1 Plan

We appointed Aaron Forsythe as our Covid Officer responsible for implementation of our Return to Curling, and for liaising with the Covid Officer each club must appoint. He has:

- Reviewed and updated existing health and safety policies
- Confirmed we have systems to record attendance at the rink
- Ensured the staff understand changes to systems and processes (including managing the flow of members into and out of the rink, physical distancing requirements, cleaning of equipment and stones)
- Undertook a full risk assessment of the ice rink and its plans
- Assessed our revised cleaning and disinfecting processes.

#### 3.2 Prepare

##### Ventilation

We acknowledge that in poorly ventilated indoor spaces airborne aerosols are a possible transmission route and we have taken steps to increase ventilation, increasing fresh air to meet requirements. However bringing in a lot of fresh air is very detrimental to ice quality and performance, especially when external humidity is high. We have consulted with Munters, a global leader in air treatment and climate solutions, and CiBSE and modified our equipment as recommended by them. Scott Henderson, our former Manager, was part of the Scottish Ice Rink Association team working closely with the Scottish Government on achieving safe air quality in ice rinks. We are confident that with 56 curlers maximum on ice we will can ensure an adequate supply of fresh air (exceeding minimum standards) and 25 sq meters of space per person so clearly exceeding the required 9 sq meters per person.

##### Cleaning

The entire rink underwent a thorough deep clean before the ice install commenced.

Once operational we will continue to:

- Clean all equipment and furniture regularly and at the end of the day
- Identify and regularly clean all high traffic touch points (eg handles)
- Regularly clean all equipment such as desks, phones, pay machines
- Wipe the upper surface and handles of stones after each session.

## Hygiene

We will provide:

- Hand sanitising stations on entry, at changing areas, and each sheet
- Handwashing facilities in the toilets (cleaned and restocked regularly)
- Clear marking of physical distance requirements in changing areas.

## Physical Distancing

All areas of the ice rink will be open for use (ie ice hall, changing rooms and clubrooms), but to avoid overcrowding there will be a limited capacity for the changing rooms and toilets.

- Distances will be marked in the changing rooms
- The lift may only be used by one person at a time - unless the user requires assistance.

## 3.3 Protect

We will:

- Maintain a record of users - both members and visitors to rink and bar
- Maintain a record of scheduled cleaning as implemented
- Issue appropriate PPE to all staff
- Monitor compliance with social distancing obligations.

## 3.4 Review

On at least a monthly basis during the curling season we will review:

- Our operating policies in line with Scottish Government guidance
- Our risk assessments in line with above and operational experience
- Our cleaning plan and respond to any issues which emerge
- The implementation of hygiene and physical distancing measures.

We will, in addition, consider and plan for the possible increase in restrictions at any stage.

## Video

Last season's videos are still available on our website's Covid-19 page to help explain protocols.

#### 4. On Ice:

- Scottish Government guidance indicates that face coverings may be removed while on the ice. Individuals are welcome to wear a face covering while curling should they choose to do so
- Before each game starts, all participant names must be written clearly on the amended scorecard. Individual clubs as well as MCL & ECC will have member details on record if required for Test & Protect. Any non-members must provide their contact details on the reverse of the scorecard. Staff will photograph the completed cards during your session, and keep a digital record for the required 21 days
- While handshakes are permitted, we would encourage the continued use of broom taps or elbow bumps instead, and individual precautions should be respected
- Two sweepers are now allowed but both should be comfortable with that degree of proximity. Should any person wish to sweep alone we would ask that this be respected
- If curlers do not have their own brush, cue, or delivery aid, one will be made available (as last season) to each curler per session and sanitised between uses
- If a measure is required the player measuring must wipe down the measure with wipes available both **before** and **after** use
- If a player requires to clean the bottom of a stone, they should only do so using their brush head, avoiding use of their hand or glove
- Curlers can participate in more than one session per day

## 5. Anticipated Key Dates for the Season

### 2021

Members-only free practice weekend	Sat/Sun	25/26	September
Opening Bonspiel	Saturday	25	September
Season starts	Monday	27	September
Scottish Curling's Asham U21 Slam	Fri-Sun	8-10	October
ECC's Jackson Trophy	Sat/Sun	16/17	October
European Junior Curling Tour	Fri-Sun	5-7	November
Edinburgh International Seniors	Fri-Sun	12-14	November
Open Pairs (entries welcome)	Sunday	21	November
Festive availability (incl. Twixmas Bonspiel)	Mon-Thurs	27-30	December

### 2022

British Players Championship	Fri-Sun	21-23	January
Ladies Open, Sellar Trophy	Tues/Wed	25/26	January
British Heart Foundation Bonspiel	Friday	11	February
Ladies Pairs	Friday	18	February
Under 21 Mixed Doubles	Saturday	19	February
Scottish Curling's Maxwell Trophy Finals	Tuesday	8	March
Scottish Curling's Mixed Championships	Fri-Sun	31-3	March/April

In addition to the above, we may be closed or have restricted access during the following dates that clash with Scottish Rugby's home fixtures: Saturday 30 October, Sunday 7 November, Saturday 13 November, Saturday 20 November, Saturday 5 February, Saturday 26 February.



## 6. Frequently Asked Questions

### **Brushes:**

- If I want use of a brush from the rink, do I have to book one in advance of playing?

No, simply collect a brush like previous seasons. After your game, return the brush to our 'used brush bin' so that staff can disinfect it before next use.

### **Stones:**

- How are stones to be moved back into position after each end?

During play, the Skips should use their brush or foot to move any 'dead' stones into the designated stone zone. After all stones have been played and the score decided, Thirds should clear any remaining stones, allowing the Leads to prepare for the next end. Seconds should wait at the standing spots.

### **Scorecards:**

- As the new scorecards are used for Test And Protect, will we need to complete two copies for each game (one for our club to keep, the other for the rink?)

No, you only need one scorecard, and your club keeps it, as usual. The card should be fully completed by a single player, usually the second who should ensure that the name of all players is clearly printed before starting play, or as soon as possible after starting. During your game, our staff will photograph the scorecard. We will keep a digital record of these for 21 days, in line with Test And Protect requirements.

If you have non-members playing, their names should be marked and their contact details must be written clearly on the back of the scorecard.

### **Pens:**

- Will the scorers need to use their own pens/pencils?

We will provide pens/pencils, which will be cleaned or destroyed as appropriate.

### **Social visits:**

- Can people turn up purely to use the bar/catering, or to join post-game activities?

Yes, provided they follow the instructions on page 4.

## 7. Version Control

<i>STATUS</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>AUTHOR</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<i>Public Version 1</i>	<i>27/08/21</i>	<i>MCL/ECC Boards</i>	<i>Published on website and linked on social media. Will be emailed to members as part of next scheduled newsletter.</i>