

Comox Valley Curling Centre

HANDBOOK



COMOX VALLEY
CURLING CENTRE
est. 1958

Membership and Leagues

Membership

A member is one who has paid, in full, the Membership Fee. Membership in the Comox Valley Curling Centre (CVCC) entails the following privileges: use of the curling ice, lounge, bar, locker room and voting participation in Club meetings and activities.

To represent the CVCC at competitions, curlers must be members in good standing and play in a sanctioned league.

NON-MEMBERS must sign the GUEST BOOK at the bar in compliance with our liquor license when visiting the upstairs Extra End Lounge.

Dues

Annual dues are set by the Board of Directors and CVCC Management. In addition, Curl BC, Curling Canada affiliation fees plus GST are applicable. The date by which the dues are payable is at the time of registration. Curling privileges may be suspended for non-payment. Cash, cheques, e-transfer, debit and credit are accepted. Members seeking a payment plan can arrange with CVCC Management.

Lockers

A limited number of lockers are available for rent for the season at an established fee. Members are encouraged to share lockers where possible. Lockers are to be cleared out at the end of the season for yearly cleaning/maintenance, unless otherwise directed by CVCC office staff.

Types of Membership

FULL/ACTIVE:

- Eligible for membership on executive
- Voting member
- Eligible to play in provincial competition
- Eligible to practice when ice is available
- Eligible to participate in all eligible leagues (some leagues are age specific)
- Eligible to play in all appropriate bonspiels (some are gender and/or age specific)

STUDENT/JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE:

- Have all the same privileges and responsibilities as a full/active member, except no voting privileges

LIFE MEMBER:

- Have all the same privileges and responsibilities as a full/active member
- League fees are waived for Life Members

REGISTERED SPARE:

- Pays membership fee, equivalent of one league and affiliation/Curl BC/Curl Canada fees and has unlimited sparing privileges in all leagues except for the Monday/Wednesday 50+ Social Leagues (that league collects its own spare fees per game for fundraising purposes)

CASUAL SPARE:

- Pays membership fee and a drop-in fee every time they spare. Pays Curl BC/Curling Canada affiliation fees if on the ice four times or more.

Operating Season

The CVCC's operating season features the following key points:

- A "Hit the Ice: Learn to Curl" clinic is held in late September.
- Regular curling begins in late September.
- There is a two-week break with no curling ice available during the Christmas period.
- The season concludes towards the end of March with a wind-up event.
- The season typically consists of 22 weeks and differing number of games that are league dependent.
- The Annual General Meeting is held in the fall, usually October or November (unless otherwise posted).
- Office, Pro Shop, Concession, and practice ice hours are posted on the CVCC website and onsite.
- Members can reserve practice ice during scheduled times, after checking the online schedule and/or with the General Manager.
- A Spring Meeting in March includes the election of officers.

Club Leagues

- Leagues consist of up to 13 teams when there is a single draw time. Some leagues are capped at 12, other leagues that allow 13 teams will have a bye implemented into the schedule. The choice of 12 or 13 teams will be at the discretion of league coordinators.
- Leagues with two draws are capped at 24 teams; leagues with three draws are capped at 36 teams.
- To qualify as a CVCC sanctioned competitive league, a minimum of 8 teams must be registered.

- League times are determined annually by management before registration and are posted on the CVCC website, and schedules may change dependent on participation.
- Punctuality is essential. Games are to start on time unless there is a problem with the ice sheet not being ready, or other causes (weather, power outage, Force Majeure).
- In the event a team is ten minutes late for their game, they will forfeit the hammer (last rock) and one point. For each subsequent 5 minutes that team is late, they will concede an additional point. Example: a team is 21 minutes late; they will be down 3-0 on the scoreboard and start without last rock advantage.
- Members unable to attend a game must inform their Skip and help arrange a spare.
- Spares are required to be CVCC Members, unless otherwise approved and waived by CVCC Management. Casual Spares (see Types of Membership above) must pay a drop-in fee. There is no cost for members in full season leagues to spare in other leagues. The 50+ Social Club League is excluded; they collect their own spare fees and donate to youth curling and other CVCC initiatives when they have an excess.
- Spares are only allowed to throw front end stones (Lead or Second). A spare can hold the broom and call the game but must still throw Lead or Second stones. A team may choose to have their spares throw Third or fourth stones, but that team will be scored a loss in the league standings.
- Spares can only make up to 50% of the original team. If a team does not have 50% of their original members present, the game can still be played but it will be counted as a loss. Example: a team is playing with 3 curlers, has 2 spares but only 1 original team member; this is a loss in the standings.
- Teams using a spare must declare the spare and the position they are playing to their opponent at the start of the game.
- In the event of the CVCC having to cancel play due to weather, power outage, or other Force Majeure, that game will be considered to have not happened, and will not be made up. No score (W, L, or T) can result when a game did not take place. No refunds are available in the event of a cancelled game or a bye.
- There is no option for make-up games, or any rescheduling of games.
- The General Manager and/or office staff must be notified of forfeits.

Competitions

- Members can compete in club and external competitions.
- Teams in BC Provincial Playdowns must pay Curl BC dues.
- Financial assistance is available for Provincial or Canadian competitions (contact General Manager in writing).

- League Championships are in March, with a Playdown format.
- Trophies and awards are presented at the season's-end wind-up.
- Bonspiels are scheduled, with information on the website and bulletin boards.
- See: "Competitor's Financial Support" policy on the website under the tab Our Club > Board Information > Policies and Procedures.

Junior Program

- Age limits are set by the Curling Canada.
- The program operates semi-autonomously.
- Supervision is by adult volunteer coaches and parents.
- The program head is a volunteer.
- Juniors aged 13 and above can spare in adult leagues without extra fees.
- The Ladies, Men's, Mixed, and Open League will offer a spot to a competitive Junior age team when there is room in the league. If there is no room in the league, the spot for the Junior team will be at the top of the wait list and revisited at the start of each season.
- Juniors in full season adult leagues pay half the league fee.
- Juniors in CVCC run bonspiels pay half the bonspiel fee.
- Juniors not in the Junior program pay regular adult fees.
- The club has a Junior Learn to Curl program available to a limited number of local elementary schools.

Other

- **Registration:** Online, on the phone or in person, as set by the CVCC Manager.
- **Teams:** Conventional curling league teams are comprised of four members, with the option of a registered 5th player/alternate. Triples teams are comprised of three members, with an optional 4th player/alternate. Stick teams are comprised of two members, with an optional 3rd player/alternate.
- **Alternate Definition:** Spares must deliver the Lead or 2nd player stones. Alternates must be declared and registered if a team seeks an additional player that wants to throw in the Third or Skip position.
- **Teams splitting up:** In the event of a team disbanding, the spot is prioritized to be claimed to the Skip and at least one returning position player, OR three returning players that are not the Skip. If neither of those scenarios exist, then whatever combination of those players will go to the end of the wait list.

- **Rules:** Teams follow Curling Canada rules unless modified in this CVCC Member handbook.
- **Playing short:** New Curling Canada rules require teams to start games with four players, however CVCC allows games to start and be completed with three players.
- **Bell System:** A bell rings at 1:35 into a 2-hour gametime, (or 1 hour 5 minutes into a 90-minute game) allowing one more end after the current end in play is completed. The current end is determined to be over when the final stone delivered comes to a complete stop at the start of the bell ringing.
- **Spares:** Spares are required to be CVCC Members, unless otherwise approved and waived by CVCC Management. Casual spares must pay a drop in fee. There is no cost for members in full season leagues to spare in other leagues. The 50+ Social Club League is excluded; they collect their own spare fees and donate to youth curling and other CVCC initiatives when they have an excess.
- **Grippers:** Care is needed to prevent rubber pieces from damaging the ice. We recommend changing grippers once annually for however many times a week a curler plays. Example: A member curls once a week, they should likely consider replacing their gripper annually. If a curler plays twice a week, they might consider changing their gripper at the beginning AND midpoint of the season. This is for safety, and ice cleanliness. Grippers do not last as long as they once did.
- **Brushes/Brooms:** Fabric brooms are required. Hair brooms are restricted to Skips/Vice-Skips in the house only (not for sweeping).
- **Head Gear and Safety:** Helmets are mandatory for children under 12, and while optional, are still recommended for all curlers and coaches.
- **Pro Shop:** Offers curling equipment and apparel from all of the main suppliers.
- **Volunteers:** Essential for club operations, with recognition programs.
- **Tolerance:** Zero tolerance for unethical behavior, including foul language, discrimination, and bullying. See: "Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination" policy on the website under the tab Our Club > Board Information > Policies and Procedures.

Late update: September 2026