

# Members Handbook



COMOX VALLEY  
CURLING CENTRE

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## Welcome to the Comox Valley Curling Club

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### Overview

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### History of the Comox Valley Curling Club (CVCC)

In 1958, there was a thirty-acre parcel of land owned by the now defunct Comox Valley Exhibition Association who ran their annual fall fair on the site. This association was in desperate need of a permanent building in which to house their fair. They formed a committee, raised funds but the feasibility study proved such a venture would not be self funding. Another party was interested in the development of a skating rink and the idea

of a winter venue emerged. With the planning for a dual-purpose building for skating/curling and an exhibition hall, the two groups joined forces and construction plans were devised for what is now the Comox Valley Curling Centre. The doors to curling opened January 31, 1959. Three days later, with six sheets of ice, league play commenced sporting an original membership of 192. The initial skating/curling rink concept was carried out for a couple of years but skating was then dropped as the difference in required ice depths proved too difficult to properly maintain. Eventually, the Exhibition Association dissolved and the Curling Club became the sole owner of the building. Funds were difficult to come by during the Club's fledgling years and it operated on a shoestring budget. It was inevitable that they went into financial difficulties resulting in the sale of the building to the Regional District for one dollar. The building became a public facility and was put to other uses after the curling season ended. Currently, the Comox Valley Curling Club has a lease agreement with the Regional District where the society is responsible for the overall maintenance of the curling centre and can facilitate rentals for the full year. Nevertheless, with a membership of just under 500, it is proving to be a challenging venture to sustain a 55+ year old building that is in need of a major upgrade. A complete renovation of the slab, windows, equipment and ice plant was completed in 2015 through a cooperative effort with the Regional District. Having formulated a business plan through the 'Business of Curling', the Club executives have developed a long-range goal to sustain and build the great game of curling in the Comox Valley. The challenges ahead will involve the participation of the volunteers of our club along with a good strategic plan that will be implemented to ensure our success.

***NOTE: The Comox Valley Curling Club operates within the Comox Valley Regional District Curling Centre and is a Society under the BC Societies Act.***

## **Rationale**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide the Board of Directors and Members of the Comox Valley Curling Club with a reference guide for the policies affecting the day to day running of the Club and its many activities. It is not a substitute for the Constitution and By-laws which ultimately govern the operation of the Club. It is hoped the guide will provide some history that will eliminate “hearsay” and assumptions when questions arise. It is meant to be “a work in progress” document which will be changed from time to time as the needs and operation of the club change.

The Club uses a number of tools for communication with email being the most effective. The Club also maintains a website (**[www.comoxvalleycurling.com](http://www.comoxvalleycurling.com)**) which is updated frequently with Club news and upcoming events. The website also contains general information about the Club, contact names and numbers and email addresses of executive members. Club news can also be found on Facebook at **<https://www.facebook.com/ComoxValleyCurlingClub>**. Members are encouraged to submit news and photos that would be of interest to the membership by emailing the General Manager who is the webmaster.

The Comox Valley Curling Club is a curling “family” which works together as an enthusiastic volunteer management team. Everyone benefits from the lasting friendships that develop and the spirit of volunteerism that infuses all activities of the

Club. Members are encouraged to make new members and guests feel welcome and to invite friends to come into the Club to socialize, watch curling events or attend functions.

Having formulated a business plan through the 'Business of Curling', the Club executives have developed a long-range goal to sustain and build the great game of curling in the Comox Valley. The challenges ahead will involve the participation of the volunteers of our club along with a good strategic plan that will be implemented to ensure our success.

## **Code of Ethics and Fair Play**

Members are expected to play the game with a spirit of good sportsmanship, conducting themselves in an honourable manner both on and off the ice. Members will respect the rules at all times and admit to any breaches, keeping in mind that the purpose of the rules is to ensure that the game is played in an orderly and fair manner. No one will say or do anything that could be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate or demean opponents, teammates or officials.

**NOTE: Curl BC Rules apply to league curling.**

## **Curling Etiquette**

- Players should arrive at least 15 minutes before game to get equipment ready. Be prepared to go on the ice at the scheduled time. Lateness may be penalized. Let your skip know as soon as possible if you can't play in a scheduled game. You should try to obtain a spare for yourself and let your skip know who it is.
- Curling footwear should not be worn anywhere but on the ice and inside the Club. Clean curling shoes as you enter the ice rink to make sure debris is not carried from the Club to the playing surface.
- Each player introduces themselves to the opposition, shakes hands and wishes them, "Good curling!"
- Be ready to play when it is your turn. Position yourself in the hack immediately, clean your stone and watch your skip for instructions. Sweepers for the delivering player should be in position promptly.
- Don't leave your hands or knees on the ice after releasing the stone as the heat of your body will create imprints in the ice and may affect the running of the stone. It takes less than 4 seconds to leave an imprint!
- Place grippers and stabilizers in such a way that they do not pose a tripping threat to players. Equipment, grippers, gloves should not be placed on the ice surface between the sheets of ice.
- Never distract a curler who is delivering or in the hack preparing to deliver by talking or moving. Never run or walk across the ice in front of a player about to deliver a stone.
- Sweepers for the team not throwing should stand outside the hog line and should not enter the house unless instructed to do so by their skip. Do not block the view of the player delivering the stone, stand well back.
- Compliment players on good shots. Never embarrass other players by making inappropriate remarks for an unsuccessful shot.

- At the conclusion of each end, all players, except the Thirds must remain outside the house until the score is counted. Only Thirds are to be in the house while a stone is being measured. Once the score is determined by the Thirds, the stones should be carefully returned to their positions beside the hack.
- Any stone touched by a broom, a foot, handkerchief or anything else becomes a “burned” stone. *Canadian Curling Association rules apply.* Players should indicate to their skip that the stone has been burned. You are on your honour to say when you have burned a stone. Once a burned stone comes to rest, the skip of the non-offending team will decide upon which option to apply under the rules.
- In regular club play, if a game is tied, the league tie-breaking method applies, i.e. even points for a draw. Some competitive leagues and events use other tie-breaking methods.
- Cell phone use is strongly discouraged in the ice rink.
- At the conclusion of the game, shake hands with the opposition.

**See: "Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination" policy on website under CLUB tab**

## Membership

A member is one who has paid, in full, the Membership Fee. Membership in the Club entails the following privileges; use of the curling ice, lounge, bar, locker room and participation in Club meetings and activities.

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

NON-MEMBERS **must** sign the GUEST BOOK in compliance with our liquor license.

## Dues

Annual dues are set by the Board of Directors. In addition, Curl BC and affiliation fees plus GST are applicable. Annual dues for the Junior Program are determined in consultation with the Board of Directors. The date by which the dues are payable is set out by the Board and curling privileges may be suspended for non-payment. Cash, cheques, debit and credit are accepted.

## 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 end of season for yearly cleaning/maintenance. Junior curlers have their own lockers.

## Types of Membership:

### **Full/Active:**

- eligible for membership on executive
- voting member
- eligible to play in provincials
- eligible to practice when ice available
- eligible to play in all appropriate leagues

- eligible to play in club fun spiels

#### **Student/Intermediate:**

- Have all the same privileges and responsibilities as a regular Full, Active member.

#### **Life:**

- Have all the same privileges and responsibilities as a regular Full, Active member except they are not eligible to be on the executive.

#### **Registered Spare:**

- Pays the Membership Fee, equivalent of one league and affiliation/CurlBC/Curl Canada fees and has unlimited sparing privileges in all leagues with the exception of the Monday/Wednesday 50+ League.

## **Operating Season**

A 'Learn to Curl' clinic is held the latter part of September.

The Comox Valley Curling Club begins curling by the first week of October, takes a two week break at Christmas and continues to the end of March with the season wind-up.

There are generally 22 games in the season.

The Annual General Meeting is held in November (unless otherwise posted).

The Office/Pro Shop/Concession and Practice Ice hours of operation are posted on the CVCC website. On weekends, with the exception of bonspiels, access to the Club should be pre-arranged with the General Manager. Any member is free to make use of the ice for practice during scheduled practice times. It is important to check with the practice ice schedule posted online and with the General Manager to see what times are available. Most afternoons are reserved for Senior and Junior leagues.

There is a Spring Meeting in March where the Election of Officers takes place for the Officers/Board of Directors. Leagues have their own method of selecting a league representative that will meet with the Director of Membership/Curling each month at a pre-determined time.

## **Club Leagues**

A league will consist of twelve (12 ) teams with the minimum being eight (8) teams. Participation in league play is the major focus of the members of the Comox Valley Curling Club. It is important that players are on time. A team must be composed of at least two of its regular players for a game to be official. Being more than :15 minutes late requires that your team forfeit the game. If you cannot attend, arrange for a spare and let your skip know (except 50+ League).

If a team can't make a game, they can arrange with the other team to play a "make-up" game at the other team's convenience. If possible, the make-up game should be played within a week of the missed game. If a make-up game cannot be scheduled, the team who could not make the original game will forfeit with the opposition recording a 'win'. PLEASE ADVISE THE GENERAL MANAGER AND/OR THE HEAD ICE TECHNICIAN OF GAME FORFEITS. Makeup games are arranged through open ice allocated by the General Manager.

### **50+ League:**

Monday and Wednesday mornings, this league is open to all adult active members of the Club who are 50+ years. A “pick-up” format is used with those that show up being put onto teams.

### **Sunday Open (Mixed) Doubles:**

Two-person teams playing 1:30 game.

### **Sunday and Monday Night Open:**

A fun league with open teams.

### **Tuesday Ladies Early and Ladies Evening:**

Open to 12 ladies teams for each sub-league looking for competitive play.

### **Tuesday Men's League:**

Open to 12 men's teams looking for competitive play.

### **Wednesday Junior League:**

Male and female Junior level curlers must be under the age of 21.

### **Wednesday Mixed:**

Open to couples; two men, two women alternating.

### **Thursday Competitive:**

This is a competitive league of up to 24 teams that is open to adults who are 50+.

### **Thursday Ladies League:**

Open to 12 ladies teams looking for competitive play.

### **Thursday Men's League:**

Open to 24 men's teams looking for competitive play alternating times.

### **Friday Night Fun League:**

Open to new members and novice players with a five to six-week session and six-end games.

**NOTE: League times can be found on the CVCC website. Schedule changes may result from time to time.**

## **Competitions**

Members of the Club may compete in competitions within the Club and represent the club in outside competitions. Teams competing in BC Provincial Playdowns and Competitions must pay Curl BC dues. Financial assistance for teams competing in Provincial or Canadian curling competitions is available by contacting the General Manager in writing in advance of the event.

There are League Championships held in March after regular play has finished and follows a predetermined Playdown format. Special trophies and awards are presented at the annual season's-end wind-up.

The club schedules many bonspiels throughout the season and this information can be obtained from the website or noted on the respective league bulletin boards.

**See: "Competitor's Financial Support" policy on website under CLUB tab**

## **Junior Program**

Minimum and maximum age limits for junior play are established by the Canadian Curling Association.

The Junior Program operates in a semi-autonomous relationship within the Comox Valley Curling Club.

The supervision of the Junior Program is delegated to adult volunteer members of the Club. The head of the Junior Program is a volunteer elected from amongst the membership.

The Junior Program will be responsible for paying the per capita assessment of Curl BC.

Juniors who have paid their Junior fees and playing as spares in adult leagues will not be charged additional fees. Juniors not participating in either Junior Club play or Provincial play will pay a Junior Fee as determined by the Board of Directors.

Individual junior curlers, who are registered with the Junior League, may play in adult league as spares or on regular teams but must have the permission of the Junior Program Chairperson and the Chairperson of the adult league to do so. Because space is limited in some adult leagues, preference will be given to adult curlers. Juniors playing within an adult league pay half the league fee. Juniors playing in bonspiels will pay half the bonspiel fee. A junior curler who does not belong to the Junior Program will pay the regular adult fee(s) for league play and bonspiels.

The Curling Club also has a Junior Learn to Curl Program through a select elementary school system with six weeks in the fall and again in the new year. Instruction is through the volunteers of the club.

## **Other: Registration**

Registration will take place as set out by the Board of Directors and is available online or in person at the posted registration dates with payment by credit, debit or cash/cheque made at the time of registration.

## **Teams**

A team consists of four members. The team must be registered for league play in a league sanctioned by the Society.

Teams competing in league play must conform to rules of the Canadian Curling Association (CCA) unless specified.

## **Bell System**

A bell system, put in place January, 2017, is to ensure league times do not exceed the 2 hour allotment for an 8-end game. A bell will sound 1:35 from the start of the scheduled league time. Once the bell has rung, the teams can play the end they are in plus one. The next end begins when all rocks come to rest whether in play or out of play.

## **Spares**

Non-members of the Society who wish to curl in a league as a spare shall pay a fee as determined by the Board of Directors. Payment of the spare fee is to be made to the General Manager prior to the game. Members from the 50+ Monday/Wednesday who have paid the membership fee and play within that league are eligible to spare in the regular leagues without paying a spare fee.



NOTE: During the Covid pandemic, spares must be a member who plays in a sanctioned league and has paid the membership/league fee.

### **Grippers**

Grippers...Older, worn out grippers tend to peel off small pieces of rubber that can definitely cause picks. Also, grippers are being worn out from the inside. The teflon or metal sliders dig away at the inside of the gripper causing small pieces to break off and get onto the ice and cause picks when the sliding foot gripper is removed for throwing. How can we help 'fix this'? New grippers OR a concerted effort to keep them "new" through washing and removing small pieces of rubber about to come off OR remove the sliding foot gripper behind the hacks. It is also recommended that player's who remove a gripper/anti-slider for the purpose of delivery, should leave it on the ice as opposed to setting it up on a walkway. There is a substantive difference in the ambient temperature of the two surfaces.

### **Brushes/Brooms**

Everybody has the same goal of protecting the spirit and integrity of the game and making sure the playing field is level for all of our teams. After the rock is delivered and as it glides the length of the ice, it can only be swept with fabric broom heads. Hair broom-heads can only be used by skips or vice-skips holding the broom in the house.

### **Head Gear and Safety**

Change and innovation in sport often trickles down from the professional to the recreational level. When it comes to curling and head protection, it may be the reverse. Anecdotal evidence indicates a slow, but growing, trend of recreational curlers donning helmets or some type of head protection on the ice. Witnessing another curler take a bad spill can spawn a burst of orders for helmets and headgear.

### **Helmet Recommendation**

In 2017, Curling Canada adopted a recommendation that the following groups use helmets.

- o Children under 12
- o Anyone in a Novice or Learn to Curl program
- o Coaches for U12 (so that the youth model behaviour)

### **Pro Shop**

The Pro Shop offers a variety of curling apparel (including protective head gear), equipment, shoes and related curling articles and is open during office hours. See the Manager for service.

### **Volunteers**

The Club Executive is run by volunteers as are the leagues. These members dedicate their time and energy to the success of curling and the growth of the curling club. In addition, volunteers are needed for the Junior Learn to Curl School program, Adult Learn to Curl, Bonspiels and Playdowns that we often host. There can never be enough volunteers and members are encouraged to offer their assistance whenever they can.



Curl BC will honour "Club Volunteers of the Year" and "the Pat Kennedy Award: Long Service Volunteer". You, as a member, can recognize a fellow member who has volunteered and has exceeded the call. More information can be found on the CurlBC website.

The Club hosts a Volunteer Appreciation Night at the end of each season.

## **Tolerance**

There is zero tolerance of unethical or inappropriate behaviour which includes foul language or disparaging remarks towards any member or staff. Disciplinary action up to expulsion as a member of the club may result.

***See: "Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination" policy on website under CLUB tab***

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## **Curling Explained**

The game of curling is played on ice with (approximately) 42 pound granite stones. The playing surface - a 'sheet' - 38 feet long from hack to hack, and just over 14 feet wide, with a house at both ends. In each 'end' of the game, 16 stones are played, 8 by each team, and the more stones closer to the button than any opposition stones, scores the end. Members of a team delivers 2 stones each, one at a time, alternating with the opposing team. The stones are delivered from the hack at one end of the sheet to the house at the other end, by the player and releasing it with a spin - 'curl' - which gives Curling its name. When delivering a stone, one can play a 'draw', which means the stone comes to rest somewhere in the playing area, or a 'takeout', whereby the delivered stone takes out an opposition stone. A draw stone that comes to rest in front of another stone, thereby making it difficult for the opposition to remove the guarded stone, is called a 'guard'.

## **THE CURLING ROCK**

The original curling stone - or 'rock' - used in Scotland, was just a large chunk of rock, without any particular size or shape bowled across the ice. This evolved into the 42 pound rocks we use today, which are made of granite and shaped and polished to a specified size and shape, concave on both upper and lower surfaces. On some stones the degree of concavity is different on the two sides, allowing for reversal of the stone for 'faster' or 'slower' ice. A handle, usually on a circular plastic disc, is bolted onto the stone by way of a channel running through the middle of the stone.

## **THE DELIVERY**

Each stone is delivered from the hack, which is basically a rubber covered foot rest embedded in the ice surface. First, the stone is pulled backward where it may or may not be lifted off the ice surface, and then the curler and the stone glide forward together, the curler in stretched out pose. The stone must be released before it crosses the hog line to continue its glide toward the house at the other end of the sheet. The stone is released so that it rotates during its glide down the sheet, and this rotation makes it move gradually sideways, much like a very slow curve ball. This lateral motion is called 'curl'.

## THE TEAM

A team consists of four players, called the 'lead', 'second', 'third' and 'skip' and they each deliver two stones in that order. The skip, as the name indicates, is the team captain, who decides where he/she wants the particular stone to end up, holds his/her broom for the deliverer of the stone to aim at, and directs sweeping. When it is the skip's turn to deliver stones, the third temporarily acts as skip. The two team members that are not delivering a stone may be called on by the skip to sweep in front of the delivered stone. Such sweeping will both make a stone travel farther and reduce its curl, and so, can be used to assist the stone to behave in the manner desired by the skip. Vigorous sweeping requires curlers to be fit, and in a typical two hour game a curler walks almost two miles.

## THE ICE

Prior to games the sheet is sprinkled with water, which freezes and produces a pebble like surface. Without this pebble the concave shape of the stone would work as a suction cup, but with it, the rotating stone curls nicely down the sheet. Ice making for curling requires both art and science, involving control of temperature, air moisture content, purity of water, and pebbling among other things.

## THE GAME

Curlers always insist the game to be one of strategy, and not only because they want to be seen as doing more than just throwing rocks and slipping around on ice. A great deal of thought and effort goes into ensuring that your team has one or more stones closest to the button at the conclusion of each end. This can be accomplished by having the stone delivered with just the right speed, so that it stops where you want it to in the house - **a draw** where the rock stops on the button. Or an opposition stone can be removed from the playing area by hitting it with one of yours with enough force to remove it out the back of the house - **a takeout**. And once one or more of your stones is positioned where they may be scoring stones, you can deliver a stone so slowly that it stops in front of the potential scoring stone(s), making it difficult or impossible for the opposition to remove the scoring stone(s) with a takeout - **a guard**.

Since each team delivers 8 stones, the maximum score in any one end is eight, but typically, one to three points are scored. Games consist of 8 or 10 ends, lasting 2 or 2.5 hours, i.e. approximately 15 minutes per end.

## FIVE-ROCK RULE

The World **Curling** Federation and **Curling** Canada are both implementing the **five-rock** free-guard zone, starting with the 2018-19 season. The expanded **rule** will add another protected **rock** to the four that can't be removed from the area between the hog line and the house.

- Increase in offence (doesn't every sport want this?)
- Decrease in blank ends (how many of you like a good blank end?)
- Improved ability to come back from deficit (Down three early doesn't mean the game is over now?)
- Fewer early finishes (more competitive games for a longer duration ... novel concept)

## Speeding Up The Game

**SPEEDING UP THE GAME!**  
KEY WAYS TO KEEP THE GAME MOVING AND TO PLAY ALL 8 ENDS

### 5 MINUTES



Be ready to go on the ice 5 minutes before your game is to start. This allows for handshakes, warm-up slides and the coin toss!

### ROCK READY!



If your teammate has to get their slider on, or your skip is coming down the ice, get the rock out for them while you're waiting.

### HACK IT!



As soon as the opposing player has released their stone, the next player to throw should move quickly to the hack. Clean the rock and set up so when your skip takes control of the house, you're ready to throw.

### LEAD ON



At the beginning of an end, if you do not have hammer, your lead should NOT help to put the rocks away. Instead, the lead should find their first rock, get in the hack, clean their rock and be prepared to throw as soon as the skip is at the other end.

### OUT OF ORDER



Rocks do NOT need to be put away in order. Simply putting the rocks neatly in the corners and not worrying about number order saves A LOT of time! If you are compulsive about putting rocks away in order, skips can help by putting rocks that are out of play in their appropriate place as the end progresses.

### STAY FOCUSED



Skips must stay focused on the next shot and not be chatting with the opposing skip or players on adjacent sheets.

**NOTE:** This Document will be updated from time to time as required.  
Updated September, 2021