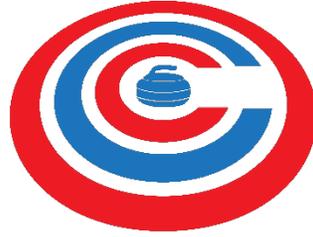


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Ontario Curling Council

Ontario Curling Council's Covid-19 Operational Response

2021-2022 Season

The Ontario Curling Council (OCC) is excited about the Return to Play for the 2021-2022 Season. We are committed to following health and safety practices intended to minimize risk to our staff, volunteers and participants. As such, the OCC will follow the following guidelines in response to the Covid-19 pandemic for the 2021-2022 Season.

General

The Ontario Curling Council will follow all Provincial and Local Public Health Emergency orders at a minimum and may choose to invoke a higher minimum standard. These orders may include but are not limited to; vaccination standards, contact tracing, active screening, masking, distancing, and waivers.

As a renter of a facility, we may be subjected to standards different from that of our own – we will make every effort to align standards, but participants of OCC events may experience varying rules based on Host Facility standards and Local Public Health rules.

As we all know, the “rules” or “standards” have changed often during the pandemic and we expect that to remain true for this season. Please consult this document for any changes – refer to the “Version” in the header for the most recent copy of this document.

Vaccination

- All participants who are age-eligible to receive a vaccine as per the Government of Ontario (including youth under 18) must be fully vaccinated (2 doses + 14 days) to participate in in-person Ontario Curling Council events – this includes all competitions, training camps, meetings, and educational events.
 - [Medical exemptions](#) will be considered on a case-by-case basis for Ontario Curling Council events, and only exemption letters from physicians or nurse practitioners will be considered.

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- A phase-in period for children aged 5-11 will be invoked when vaccination for that age group is approved.
- All Staff must be fully vaccinated
- All Contractors (Coach Developers, Program Coaches, and Ice Tech Trainers) must be fully vaccinated. If a contractor is not vaccinated, they will be placed on “leave” for the 2021-2022 season.
- All Volunteers (Board members, Officials) must be fully vaccinated to meet or participate in in-person events.
- The Ontario Curling Council will not store vaccination records of any of its participants, coaches, board members, officials, etc...

Masking

- In accordance with provincial masking mandate, masks are to be worn indoors unless seated and eating or drinking.
- Curlers are to wear a mask until they reach the ice surface at which time they can remove their mask to curl/exercise.
- Coaches are to remain masked during all competitions (unless eating or drinking while seated).
- Program coaches, and Coach Developers are to remain masked during teaching/coaching unless seated and eating or drinking..
- Officials are expected to remain masked during competitions unless seated and eating or drinking.
- The Ontario Curling Council expects all coaches, athletes, staff, contractors, and volunteers will provide their own masks.
- All masks must conform to Health Canada guidance for non medical masks.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html#a2>

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing remains the responsibility of the Host Facility
- If requested, the Ontario Curling Council will aid the Host Facility in contact tracing using our participant records. The Ontario Curling Council cannot be held responsible for contact tracing of fans, club employees, etc..., only for registered coaches, athletes, officials and staff.

Screening

- Active Screening and vaccination verification remains the responsibility of the Host Facility

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- The Ontario Curling Council will send reminder emails to participants not to attend an event/competition if they are symptomatic or are a close contact of a positive person.

Waivers

In addition to our annual Liability Waiver, participants of OCC in-person events will be required to complete a Covid-19 waiver.

Distancing

- Unless required by local Public Health Orders, and since participants are fully vaccinated, physical distancing during play will not be required for Ontario Curling Council Events and two sweepers and sweeping behind the t-line will be permitted.
- Classroom set-ups – are recommended to be designed with physical distancing in mind, although it is not required as of October 25, 2021 when capacity limits were lifted by the Ontario Government.

Withdrawal without Penalty

- The Ontario Curling Council will issue refunds for any participant who withdraws their registration because of Covid-19 symptoms in the participant themselves or a close contact with a Covid-19 positive individual.
- A participant/team withdrawing their registration due to Covid-19 will not suffer a penalty – financial or otherwise.
- If one member of a team can be safely replaced so that a team can continue in a competition, the Ontario Curling Council will be flexible in administering that change (i.e. Safe Sport training delayed).
- Back up Coach Developers/Program Coaches will be scheduled so that Coach Developers/Program Coaches do not report for duty with symptoms, or if they have been in close contact with a Covid-19 positive individual