

Tuesday, 28 July 2020

Members of the Denver Curling Club,

I hope you are all staying well and safe.

This is an extremely long email, but please read until the end as it contains important information around our reopening process and a new membership/league structure. Also attached to this email are the club's full Phase 1 reopening plan, as well as a COVID-19 Waiver. (You do not need to sign the waiver now, but you will be asked to sign the waiver upon entering the club to curl for the first time in the 2020-21 season.)

This letter, as well as its attachments and other information, will be available on the "COVID-19 Information" section of the club website here:

<https://denvercurlingclub.com/index.php/covid-19-opening-status>. This page will go live very soon. The page is public-facing - you do not need to log in to the website in order to see it.

First off, thank you for the overwhelming number of responses to the survey that was sent - your responses certainly helped inform our plans. And thank you all for your continued interest and support for the Denver Curling Club.

For anyone who has been off the planet for a while, let's recap - a deadly virus has been circulating through our society, and humankind has been working to stay ahead of it. We're not doing a great job of that. This virus does not discriminate based on gender identity, race, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. It targets our elders more viciously than others, though nobody is immune from its effects. (As shared in the Annual Meeting in June, 39% of our club is older than 50.) This virus is what shut the club down on March 12, and what has kept us shut down since.

The Board of Directors has been meeting regularly since the shutdown began, in order to plan our response and our reopening. The reopening will be separated into phases, and we will progress forward or backward between these phases based on guidance from Jefferson County and State of Colorado public health officials and executive orders, as well as utilizing common sense.

Our reopening date is not set in stone yet, but we are developing plans based on a normal timeframe (i.e. leagues beginning in early October). Please bear with us during this extraordinary time - things change quickly these days, so the timeframe may shift to be later in time based on emerging guidance, and our plans may also look a little different over time. However we can confidently share with you that we do not plan to begin regular leagues earlier than October 1.

It should be noted that we do not yet know what phase we will be in when we reopen, but we would like to share our Phase 1 reopening plan with you at this time. (Phase 1 closely corresponds to State of

Colorado “Level 2: Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors”. This is the current state of the COVID-19 response in Colorado.)

Phase 1 Reopening Plan

The full Phase 1 plan is attached to this email. For all phases, the outlined policies must be followed by every person entering the club. Failure to comply with these policies will result in denial of entry to the club, and multiple violations will result in revocation of membership privileges.

Here are the three biggest Phase 1 changes that you should expect to see when you arrive back at the curling club. There are other changes as well, which is why I encourage you to read the whole plan.

1. FACE MASKS REQUIRED INSIDE THE BUILDING.

- Anyone attempting to enter the building without wearing a clean face mask that covers both the nose and mouth will be denied entry. Masks must be worn at all times inside the building, including on the ice and while sweeping. No mask, no play. Expect this policy to remain in place even if the State of Colorado or JeffCo mask orders expire.
- We are currently looking into a number of athletic type masks which should be more comfortable for the cardiovascular exercise performed in curling - we will attempt to source masks that are deemed to be the most safe, effective, and comfortable, and will offer those masks for sale to all members at a nominal price.
- We may also have a limited supply of disposable masks, however given the difficulty with sourcing these products, they may not be available at all times. Therefore, you should always come to the club with your own mask.
- **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.** If you do not feel comfortable wearing a mask or do not wish to wear a mask, we respectfully request that you sit out from curling until these restrictions are no longer in place.

2. ONE SWEEPER AT A TIME.

- During a viral pandemic of a respiratory nature, two people sweeping the same rock is perhaps the riskiest behavior that curlers undertake - even with masks on. Therefore, all sweeping in all Denver Curling gameplay will be done by one person at a time. You may not change sweepers during the same shot, although you will be allowed to change sweepers between each shot.
- The teammate who is not sweeping will be expected to be at least 6 feet away from the sweeper, and may help the team by following the rock down the ice, using a stopwatch, judging weight, and communicating with the skip/vice at the playing end.
- Any rock that is swept by two brooms will immediately be considered a burned rock. Both the delivering and non-delivering teams are expected to call out violations of this rule when they see it. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE FOR ANY PERSON, GAME, OR LEAGUE.**

- This policy is consistent with the suggestions and recommendations from the United States Curling Association and Curling Canada. As more information comes from the USCA, we will update our guidance on these rules to provide more clarity.

3. NO INDOOR SOCIALIZATION.

- The warm room will be staged in such a way to allow for easy traffic flow and for socially distanced changing.
- As such, the locker room will be CLOSED, at least through Phase 1, as there is no good way to mitigate or enforce social distancing in such a confined space. Access to the lockers will not be permitted, so please come to the club with your equipment and dressed to curl, and change your shoes in the warm room. (The ice crew will still have access to the room behind the men’s locker room, but are requested to only access that room as necessary and one at a time. Access to the lockers will be barred.)
- This also means that the pre- and post-game handshakes are no longer permitted, though you are still encouraged and expected to say “good curling” to each competitor.
- Any broomstacking must be done outside. We are looking into the feasibility of utilizing/expanding our outdoor space to allow for socially distanced outdoor broomstacking - this work is ongoing and more information will be coming on this.

(Addendum to #3: **Locker Cleanout.** The club will be open from August 13 to August 17, from 6-9 pm, for locker cleanout. Face masks will be required, all entrants will be signed in, and the bar will be closed. One person will be allowed into each respective locker room at a time. Members of the Board will be present at the club at this time in order to answer any questions and listen to any feedback you might have. If you are unavailable at these times or are uncomfortable coming to the club to collect your belongings, please email ben.allain@denvercurlingclub.com to make other arrangements. All lockers must be cleaned out by August 28.)

There are other policies and procedures as well, including steps to ensure good contact tracing and proper hygiene habits, so I again encourage you to read through the Phase 1 document attached. We hope to deliver a Phase 2 document very soon. (Phase 2 will largely correspond with State of Colorado “Level 3: Protect Our Neighbors”.)

Membership Updates

The Denver Curling Club has always relied on your support and participation for our success, both in the short term and the long term. With that said, we understand that some members may be hesitant to return to the club as a result of a) the additional risk associated with the recreational activity of curling, and/or b) adverse financial impacts due to the economic situation associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

A longer, more detailed email is forthcoming on this topic, but essentially the major changes are that we will be moving away from “first league/additional league” pricing, and we will be splitting the league season into two sessions.

Within the next couple of weeks, registration will open to allow you to register as a member of the club. This will grant you all of the benefits of being a member of a USCA club, as well as subbing privileges. It will also grant you the right to register for leagues, and to keep priority in your 2019-20 leagues, but membership alone does not put you into a league. This membership option will cost \$250. As a result of subbing privileges being included in the membership fee, the \$300 “subbing-only” membership option will be discontinued.

A separate league registration will come shortly after membership registration begins. The main season will be split into a Fall (approx. October thru December) session, and a Winter (approx. January thru March) session. Leagues for each of these sessions will be priced appropriately (i.e. each session’s league prices will be approximately half of the full season pricing from the 2019-20 season - roughly, \$130-150 for each session). A member playing in the same leagues as last season, for the same amount of time, will not see a significant change in their total cost of curling, though there may be some minor fluctuations in overall cost that result from calendar changes. This split season will allow for greater flexibility should the worst case scenario happen and force us to close back up after reopening. This will also allow members to wait things out through the fall, and return to curling in the winter if they choose. This plan is not yet finalized, so be on the lookout for that membership registration email for more details on how specific leagues will be structured.

We are looking into some other options related to uncertainty around COVID-19. One of these is the possibility of a “deferment” option, which would allow a 2019-20 member to pay a nominal fee to skip the entire 2020-21 season but retain some league priority rights upon resumption of play in 2021-22, as well as maintaining USCA membership. This option is still in the planning stage and we do not yet know what it may look like, but we are trying to come up with solutions for a wide swath of people. We have other ideas as well, which we will share with you as those ideas become more fully developed.

COVID-19 Waiver

Attached to this email is a waiver addressing the additional risks associated with being at the club during the COVID-19 pandemic. You are not expected to sign this waiver today - we will make copies available at the club so that you can sign when you return. All participants at the club will be expected to sign this waiver. You will only need to sign this waiver once, and it is in addition to the normal policies and waivers that all members agree to at the beginning of every season (it does not replace the participant waiver or the Code of Conduct). We encourage you to read the waiver in its entirety ahead of time so that you can understand the language to which you will be agreeing.

I understand this email is a lot to digest, and that you likely have a lot of questions. As a result, I would like to make myself personally available to chat with you. I plan to be at the club during all of the locker clean-out sessions. You can also send any questions, comments, or concerns directly to me at ben.allain@denvercurlingclub.com, or to the Board-monitored email address curldenver@denvercurlingclub.com. If you would rather talk over phone/video, please email me directly so that we can arrange a time to meet. Your feedback and questions are extremely important to all of us.

I know we are all looking for a sense of normalcy in our lives. It is important for everyone to understand that curling will not look or feel 100% normal for a while. But by staying unified as a curling community in the fight against this virus, we can hopefully get through this pandemic more quickly while bringing back at least a small piece of sanity to our crazy new world.

Please be smart, be safe, and be on the lookout for more information from the Board over the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

Ben Allain

President, DCC