



Member's Handbook

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Welcome to the Chester Curling Club

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Rationale

The purpose of this handbook is to provide the executive and members of the Chester 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. There is a Club bulletin published at the beginning of the season and from time to time throughout the year. The Club also maintains a website (www.chestercurlingclub.com) which is updated frequently with Club news and upcoming events. Results from regular leagues and special competitions are posted on the site. The website also contains general information about the Club, contact names and numbers and email addresses of executive members and committee chairs.

Members are encouraged to submit news and photos that would be of interest to the membership by emailing the webmaster.

The Chester 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 matches or attend functions.

All members and their guests of legal drinking age are permitted to purchase refreshments at the bar.

All adult members have the right to attend general meetings of the Club and are encouraged to do so to keep it a vibrant, growing organization.

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.

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. Use the shoe cleaner on your street shoes as you enter the curling club to keep sand and grit out of the club. Clean your curling shoes as you enter the ice shed to make sure debris is not carried from the Club lounge to the playing surface.

Before the game begins, 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.

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 hogline 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 a player on a good shot. Never embarrass another player by making remarks, clapping or cheering for an unsuccessful shot.

At the conclusion of each end, all players, except the Thirds, or Mates, must remain outside the house until the score is counted. Only Thirds or Mates 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. If the rock is burned prior to crossing the hog line at the playing end, it is to be removed immediately. Otherwise, players should only 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 has a number of options under the rules. The burned stone may be removed and all the other stones returned to their original positions, or all the stones may be placed where they would likely have landed had the stone not been burned.

At the conclusion of the game, shake hands with the opposition. The losing team should buff or clean the ice for the next draw.

Traditionally, the winning team may offer to buy their opposite on the losing team a drink. This can be an alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage. This is not meant to compel anyone to provide an alcoholic beverage. Juniors are not required to buy drinks for adults.

Cell phone use is strongly discouraged in the ice shed.

When two or more draws are scheduled on the same night, no end may begin with less than 10 minutes remaining before the next scheduled draw. The teams are to finish the end they are playing but not start a new end.

Under the rules, ties are broken by playing extra ends until there is a winner. However, in regular club play, if a game is tied, a draw to the button will determine the winner. This will be a full team shot with one member holding the broom and two sweepers. Some competitive leagues and events use other tie-breaking methods.

Membership

Membership in the Club entails the following privileges; use of the curling ice, lounge, bar, locker room and participation in Club activities.

To represent our Club at competitions, curlers must be members of the Club and play in at least one regularly scheduled league.

Dues

Annual dues are set by the Executive. Dues for adult members include the Club membership fee, Nova Scotia Curling Association fee and HST.

Annual dues for the Junior Program are determined in consultation with the Executive

Students and intermediates attending full-time post-secondary education facilities pay a reduced fee.

A social membership is available at a reduced fee.

Dues must be paid by October 15. If not paid by October 31, curling privileges may be suspended.

A limited number of lockers in the men's and ladies' changing rooms are available for rent, on a first come-first served basis. The fee is \$20.00 for the season. Members are encouraged to share lockers where possible.

Junior curlers may rent lockers after Nov 1st.

Types of Membership:

- All members receive the club newsletter

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

Adult Social:

- May curl up to three times in regular league, drop-in or member fun spiels

Honorary:

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

Non-member Curlers:

- May curl once in regular play as a guest of a member without charge

Operating Season and Hours

The Chester Curling Club normally is ready for operation the third week of October although installing the ice surface begins 2 to 3 weeks before this. There is a short break at Christmas. The end of the season banquet is held in early April and the Annual General Meeting is held in May.

The Club is normally open by 9:00 a.m. weekdays, except Wednesday for ice maintenance, and remains open until the evening draws are finished between 11:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.

Most afternoons are reserved for Junior Curlers for instruction and practice.

On weekends, with the exception of bonspiels, access to the Club should be pre-arranged with a member of the Executive.

Any member is free to make use of the ice for practice during unscheduled times. It is important to check with the schedule book at the bar to see what times are available and fill in the time desired and your name or team's name to avoid conflicts in booking.

Club Leagues

Participation in league play is the major focus of the members of the Chester 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 Day 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.

All players must be member of the Club. There may be some minor changes such as game times depending on the number of members registered for each league.

Day League:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The league is open to all adult active members of the Club. A "pick-up" format is used, with those that show up being put onto teams. There will be some "home and away" games with other Clubs as well.

Monday Night Competitive:

Currently, this is a junior competitive league. Play begins at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Night Cash League:

Open to all teams looking for competitive play. The entry fee is \$100.00 per team. All the money collected is distributed in prizes. The number of teams accepted is limited.

Wednesday Women's Night:

Open to adult women's teams. Team and individual entries are accepted. Individual players will be placed on teams. There are separate draws before and after Christmas. Play begins 7:30 p.m.

Thursday Men's Night:

This is open to adult men's teams. Team and individual entries are accepted. Individual players will be placed on teams. There are separate draws before and after Christmas. Play begins 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Friday Night Mixed:

This is open to adult mixed (two men, two women) teams. Team, individual couple entries are accepted. Individual players or couples will be placed on teams. There are separate draws before and after Christmas. Play begins 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Competitions

Members of the Club may compete in competitions within the Club and represent the club in outside competitions.

In league play there are competitions for numerous trophies for each of the draws and for all skill levels. There are also a number of special trophies and awards. All of these are usually presented at the annual year-end banquet

There are also separate Club Championships for both Men and Women which are open to all Club Members able to ice a team. This competition is usually held in March and follows a double knockout format.

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 Chester Curling Club. The supervision of the Junior Program is delegated to adult members of the Club. The head of the Junior Program is a member of the Executive Council. The Junior Program will be responsible for paying the per capita assessment of the Nova Scotia Curling Association (NSCA).

Juniors 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 the regular Student/Intermediate rate.

Individual junior curlers may play in adult league as spares or on regular teams but must have the permission of the Junior program chair and the chair of the adult league to do so. Because space is limited in some adult leagues, preference will be given to adult curlers.