

## Information Sheet for New Curlers

The Rochester Curling Club (RCC):

- Private club – **all volunteer organization** – different than a bowling or golf league
  - First year members not required to put in volunteer hours, but volunteering is a great way to meet people and learn more about the club and is **highly encouraged!**
- Email is our primary form of communication

RCC Handbook – must read for all members...no, you won't be tested, but **you're sure to find out things that are both interesting and useful, find it on the website! <http://www.rochestercurling.org/>**

On the Ice - **Safety First! - IMPORTANT!!!** - curling is only dangerous if you fail to follow a few simple rules:

- **Grippers are required** on both feet at all times (Club grippers & sliders are in bins in warm room)
- Strap on slider or curling shoes required in all leagues; step-on slider are not used in leagues
- **Move deliberately**...sudden motions are discouraged
- Be sure to stretch before going on the ice
- **Do not run** on the ice and do not step backwards at any time on the ice (tripping danger).
- Sweep facing forward, and if you cannot keep up with a stone being swept, **STOP!**
- Do not stop moving stones with hands or feet
- When sliding stones after an end or at the end of a game, keep them under control; watch for others on the ice and do not slide stones in their direction...**don't hurry!**
- No lifting of the stones (Ignore veteran members using a lift delivery)
- If you are unable to deliver the stone in the traditional manner, delivery sticks are available
- **Ask** if you have questions or concerns
- No diving in the shallow end. Diving in deep end only if life guards are on duty.

Teams and Leagues:

- Draw Chair – Chris Lee - [leeca77@gmail.com](mailto:leeca77@gmail.com) (in charge of all leagues)
- Each league has a draw master (who sets up and runs the individual league)
- You may sign up for more than one league for the same dues (participation is not guaranteed...previous participants have first opportunity)
- Formation of teams - primarily by word of mouth - Fridays are great to get to know people
- Subs – **finding a sub and being a sub** - if you are flexible, you can curl quite often
  - If you cannot make a scheduled match, notify your skip as soon as possible
  - Subs must be club members, or occasionally, members of other curling clubs
  - Sub requests - sent via the club's email list - meet new people and play different positions
  - **Being a sub is a good way to work your way onto a team and/or get to know about opportunities to join teams.** Team members change frequently on many teams.
- You do not need to know how to skip immediately; it is often better to play on a team for a few draws before taking on the role of skip. You will find that all the good skips are still learning!
- Often it is better to initially split up friends to play with more experienced curlers at first and learn more about the game. Highly recommended. You can get back together again at any time.
- Ask strategy questions during the game! “Why are we attempting that shot?”
- **Join teammates and opponents in the warm room after a match.** It is customary and fun for the members of the winning team to offer a beverage to the members of the losing team.

Practice/Training:

- Sunday mornings, from 8:00 to 10:00, contact Clark Raven to arrange ([ceraven@gmail.com](mailto:ceraven@gmail.com)).
- Learn to Curl – you can participate if space is available; there is an additional charge
- Preseason session training sessions and other training events throughout the year – look to emails, the club calendar and the cork boards near the kitchen and on the way to the ice for information.
- See “Bonspiels” below. A great chance to learn quickly, and fun, too!

### Membership Dues and Bar Bills:

- Prompt payment is expected; eligibility to participate **will** be denied due to overdue bills
- Bills are sent by the treasurer as PDF attachments to an email

### Who to contact if you have more questions or need further assistance:

- Your team's skip, your league's drawmaster or a member of the Board – yellow name tags; contact information is also on the Club's website

### Ice surface:

- Our most important asset after club members
- Keep ice clean – ***carry in shoes to change into*** - Lint and dirt on the ice ruins the game!
- No food on the ice; drinks in plastic cups are allowed along the front walkway by windows
- Body heat will melt the ice
  - Do not kneel or place bare hands on the ice after a shot to watch...get up quickly
  - **If you do accidentally touch your knee or skin to the ice, remove immediately**
- Use brushes to clean off brooms before, during and after games. This will increase the effectiveness of your sweeping, and prevent “picks” that alter the path of the stone.

### Etiquette

- Sportsmanship **is not just an ideal...it is common and expected practice.**
- Handshakes, no trash talking, complimenting opponents shots, do not comment on poor shots. **You will very likely enjoy the game more when you compliment your opponents good play.**
- Calling “burning” the stone. Any time you touch one of your team's stones in progress, it should be taken out of play immediately, unless it crosses the far hog line (at opposing skip discretion).
- Throw stones in numerical order unless your skip tells you otherwise
- Sweepers:
  - When opposing team is throwing, stand still outside the hog line or behind the hack
  - As a courtesy to the opponents, avoid the center of the ice after sweeping a stone
  - Watch for action on other sheets (sometimes stones get redirected onto another sheet)
  - Don't walk in front when shooter is getting ready in the hack
- Stand still when others are in the hack, preparing to deliver
- Keeping the game moving. **When it is your turn to throw next, get your stone ready to shoot before you watch the progress of the opponent's stone.**
- Vices determine the score – all others step aside until score is determined – only then, move stones
  - Stone locations are only measured with proper device – not feet or broom
  - The house circles in the ice are NOT conclusive...they are just for reference.

### Bonspiels and Friendlies:

- **Can be great fun, an opportunity for improvement, and a chance to play with and make new friends not on your regular team.**
- All are eligible to participate (at an additional charge paid prior to bonspiel)

### TIPS FOR NEW CURLERS FROM A NEW CURLER

- **Listen** – Many of the veteran curlers will offer advice and tips on how to curl. Listen and thank them for the information. Sometimes you may hear different ways of doing things. Listen to them all and decide what is best for you.
- **Be an etiquette expert** – The physical side of curling takes time but the etiquette is something you can master in a short period of time. The veterans appreciate the effort, and you'll enjoy the game more!
- **Stay** after games – Table time after the match is the best time to get to know the veteran members and ask questions about strategy. No one is required to drink, but socialization is highly recommended.
- Don't be afraid to **sub on ANY night** – If the serious Mens/Womens leaguers need a sub dive right in. The more veterans you can come in contact with the better.
- **Participate in a friendly bonspiel** – there are a few friendly Bonspiels with neighboring clubs. They are a load of fun and gives the experience of curling in competition a rung higher than your league.
- Skipping – Once you feel you have a comfortable knowledge of strategy, give Skipping or Vice-Skip a try. **You can't decide if you like it or not until you try.**