

# Shamrock Curling Club

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## RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES FOR 2020-21



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Updated versions can always be found on our [COVID Response website page](#)

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## Introduction

### About Us

The Shamrock Curling Club is an 8 sheet curling facility located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. We have been in operation since 1956 and during a regular season we are home to 17 curling leagues and over 1,000 curling members. The Shamrock is a registered Not-For-Profit and our financial reporting information is publicly available via *Alberta Registries*. Over the past 5 seasons we have averaged an operating income of approximately \$500,000 against an average operating expense of approximately \$450,000. If we were to close for a curling season we would anticipate an annual fiscal loss that approximates \$200,000, along with the loss of employment for almost all of our key team members.

The policies and ideas informing these Return to Play Guidelines stem from the collective contributions of members of the Shamrock's Return to Play Sub-Committee: Chris McTavish (lead author), Nicholas Hucal, Nancy Jarnevic, Philippe Manseau and Evan Ramage. Formatting assistance and illustrations were provided by Leah Anaka and Lori Anaka.

### COVID Response Guiding Philosophy

“The Shamrock is committed to the positive well-being of all members of the Shamrock community. The Shamrock has aligned its COVID Response with updated AHS Guidelines and recommendations from our sport partner associations, Curling Canada and Curling Alberta. We agree with our sport partner associations that “it is entirely possible for people to continue to curl in a manner that is physically distant and low-risk, while still enjoying the positive social and physical benefits of the sport.””

### Disclaimer

Given the ever-evolving information that we receive from local, provincial, and federal governments and health authorities, the contents of this document are subject to change and should not be considered medically authoritative. Please refer to the date at the top of this document and to the resources below to ensure up to date information. Updates will always be posted our website page entitled “Shamrock's COVID Response” ([click here](#)).

### References and Resources

Curling Canada's Return to Play Guidelines: [click here](#)

Curling Alberta's Return to Play Guidelines and FAQ: [click here](#)

City of Edmonton COVID Updates Page: [click here](#)

Alberta Health Services COVID Resources Page: [click here](#)

## The Short Version

- ✓ Your curling experience will be different and unique this season, both on the ice and as you move throughout the Shamrock facility.
- ✓ These guidelines outline and detail these unique differences so that you can thoughtfully plan and visualize your curling experience this season
- ✓ Prior to your first game you must sign and submit all required waivers and declarations of compliance as directed by your League Organizer
- ✓ Stay home if you are feeling sick or have been in contact with any confirmed cases of COVID-19
- ✓ Team captains should notify their League Organizer if a non-roster player (i.e., a substitute) will be participating in a league game
  - Subs must complete a waiver and declaration of compliance as well
- ✓ Maintain respectful physical distancing of 6 feet at all times with all non-cohort members
- ✓ *Face coverings*: face coverings are **required throughout the facility** with the exception of:
  - When you are safely-seated in the Lounge
  - During on-ice play when you are sweeping or regaining a comfortable rate of breathing.
- ✓ Adhere to new game start and end times this season (if applicable to your league)
- ✓ During play, adhere to the new curling rules including “the single sweeper rule” and the new designated standing locations (see pages 11-13 of this document for more information)
- ✓ Prior to each game, one designated player from each team will be responsible for sanitizing their team’s stone handles (sanitizing spray and paper towels will be available on each sheet)
- ✓ Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Shamrock’s General Manager Chris McTavish ([chris@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:chris@shamrockcurling.ca)) if you have any questions or concerns

## Before Arriving at the Shamrock

All curlers prior to the start of the season must sign a **Waiver and Declaration of Compliance** form. A link for completing this required form can be found [here](#).

**If you feel unwell or have COVID related symptoms or have been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID then please stay home and do not come to the Shamrock.** For more information on COVID related symptoms please visit this Health Canada [page](#) and / or see diagram below.

## Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:**



For contact tracing purposes, all team captains and league organizers will provide the Shamrock with roster and contact information for every player on every team participating at the Shamrock.

**Roster changes:** for contact tracing purposes, if a team's roster deviates from its standard roster at any time (e.g., a sub is brought in to play) then the team captain must notify either the Shamrock ([info@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:info@shamrockcurling.ca)) or their league organizer of this change of roster for their game. Subs must also complete a [Waiver and Declaration of Compliance](#)

**New start and end times this season:** Some leagues may have staggered start times this season. Please check your draw's start-time and sheet number ahead of time by visiting the Shamrock's website: [www.shamrockcurling.ca](http://www.shamrockcurling.ca)

### “Shamrock Toolkit” *(what to bring with you for a positive curling experience):*

- A face covering / mask that complies with the [City of Edmonton’s By-Law](#)
- A curling broom (if you have one)
- Arrive in your “ready-to-curl” clothing
- A small handbag that includes:
  - Curling shoes / indoor clean-soled shoes
  - Your curling equipment (e.g., slider, stop-watch, gloves, etc)
  - Water bottle(s) filled with water
  - Personal hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes (if you prefer your own)
  - If you are a third then please consider bringing a pen and dry erase marker for scorekeeping purposes
- A positive attitude 😊

### AHS Notes on Cohorts:

Alberta Health Services released their sector guidance on curling as part of Phase 2 of “Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation” ([link here](#)). Here is a summary of what this means for you and your curling community connections this season:

- **Teams should be considered cohorts:** AHS recommends that teams “should form a cohort” ([p. 2](#)). Following AHS’s recommendations, we therefore strongly recommend that you consider your team as part of your cohort. Among many reasons, this would safely allow teammates to stand nearer to one another in the staging lobby in order to better maintain respectful physical distance from non-cohort members (i.e., curlers on other teams). Cohorting with teammates would also allow teammates the opportunity to enjoy one another’s social company in the lounge after curling or perhaps to carpool together, if necessary. Maintaining strong social connections, however limited they be, will be an important part of our mental health during the up-coming winter months. We strongly recommend and advise that you consider your curling team as part of your cohort and that you maintain consistent cohorting principles. Further information on cohort principles can be found on AHS’s website [here](#).
- **Leagues and curling clubs do not need to be considered cohorts:** The curling club or league where you curl does not need to be considered as part of your cohort. This is because the sport of curling can be enjoyed while maintaining physical distance with non-cohort members. Unlike sporting activities that require close proximity to opposing teams as part of their sporting activity (e.g., basketball, hockey, volleyball, etc.), since the activity of curling can maintain physical distancing within its field of play one does not need to consider opposing teams or the curling club where you play as part of your cohort. Just as you maintain respectful distancing from others as you visit different grocery stores in the City, you should likewise maintain respectful distancing from others if you visit different curling clubs or leagues or bonspiels in the City. Following AHS Guidelines, it is strongly recommended that you consider your teammates as part of your cohort, but since the

activity of curling itself does not require close proximity to opponents as part of its activity you do not need to consider your league or curling club as its own cohort.

## Face Coverings

In accordance with the [City of Edmonton's Face Coverings By-Law](#), face coverings **will be required throughout the facility**. Limited exceptions include the following:

- **Lounge:** Your face covering may be removed while remaining safely seated upstairs in the Lounge (face coverings are required to remain on while moving throughout the Lounge but once you are safely-seated you may safely remove your face covering).
- **During play:** Your face covering may be removed during on-ice play when:
  - You are sweeping OR
  - Regaining a comfortable rate of breathing.

**Notes on “during play face coverings”:** AHS advises that “masks should not be worn during intense physical activity” ([p. 5](#)). One of the reasons given by AHS is that mask-use during intense physical activity can make it hard to breathe comfortably. The extent to which the sport of curling can be considered “an intense physical activity” depends upon a number of considerations that vary from curler to curler and position to position. Generally speaking, for instance, a skip is not engaged in an intense physical activity, but a dedicated sweeper can be.

Since the Shamrock is committed to providing a healthy, low-risk physical activity that is aligned with AHS requirements, our face covering policy on the field of play is the following:

- Face coverings are required on the field of play unless: (i) one is sweeping and / or (ii) one is regaining a comfortable rate of breathing.

***If I am taking my face covering on and off, how should I do that?*** AHS provides helpful guidance on how to wear, remove, and replace face coverings [here](#). It is required that any face covering removal periods will maintain at least 6 feet of respectful distance from all non-cohort members.

**Performance tip:** Get a lanyard-type strap for your face covering so that any safe removals of your mask can hang temporarily around your neck

***What kind of face covering should I wear?*** The Shamrock’s policy for face coverings follows in lock-step with the [City of Edmonton's Face Covering By-Law](#). The City’s By-Law requires the wearing of a face cover that fully covers the nose, mouth and chin, and thus includes bandanas,

scarves, buffs, and non-medical masks. A face shield alone, however, does not meet the City's bylaw requirements, and therefore does not meet the Shamrock's requirements either.

**Performance tip:** A number of companies (e.g., Under Armour, Adidas, Dynasty Curling, etc.) have recently come out with athletic / performance wear face coverings. We strongly encourage you to source out face coverings that will help contribute toward a safe, positive experience while curling. Based on early feedback, curlers are strongly preferring moisture-wicking / performance based masks to cotton based / disposable masks. Some curlers are also indicating that they are benefitting from bringing more than one mask for a game.

***What if I forget or don't bring a face covering?*** The Shamrock's Office and Lounge will have a limited number of disposable and branded masks for purchase for such occasions since you will not be allowed in the facility let alone to curl if you do not have a face covering.

***What if I have a medical exemption for face coverings?*** If you require an exemption for a face covering for medical reasons please contact Chris ([chris@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:chris@shamrockcurling.ca)). Persons with exemptions will still be expected to wear a face-shield and will be provided with a lanyard that states "Face Shield Exemption"

***How will teammates effectively communicate with one another if we are wearing face coverings?*** Communication will undoubtedly be a challenge, especially as we become accustomed to our "new curling normal" this season. However, it could be fun and interesting to see how new forms of communication can emerge within this unprecedented context.

**Performance tip:** Consider discussing some hand signal options with your team in advance to help make for a more effective and positive experience. Some fun hand-signal options include: "lasso up-high" for sweep and a "side-ways Judo chop" for off.

## Arriving at the Shamrock

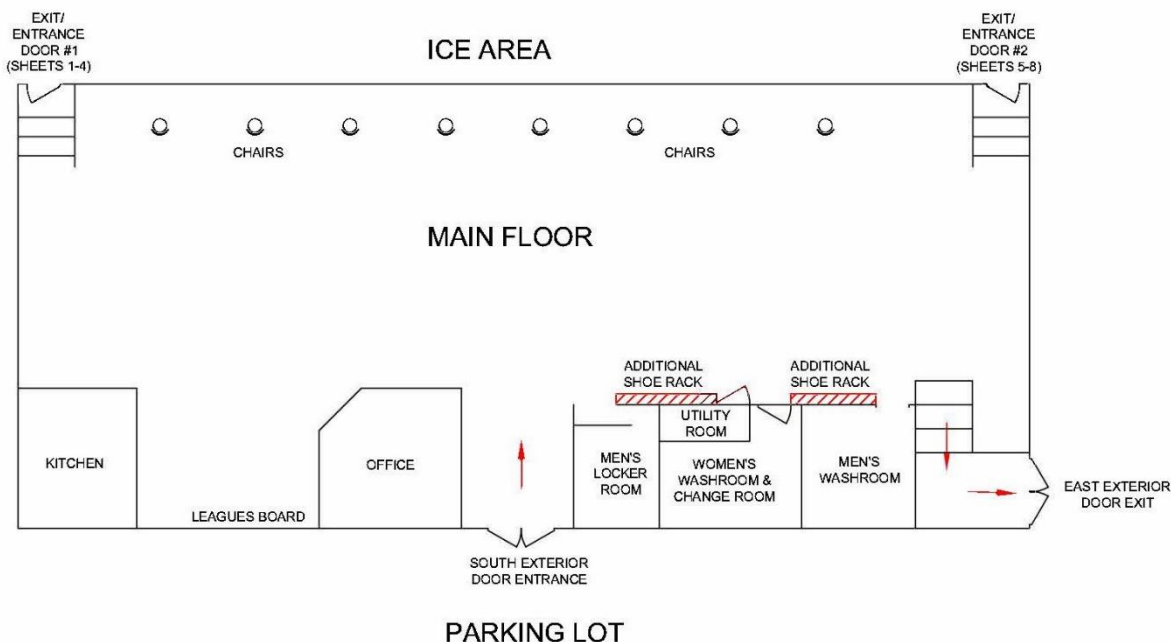
The Shamrock's entrance door will be the same "south exterior door" as in previous seasons. The "east exterior door" will be the default exit door for this season.

**Face coverings will be required upon arrival.**

As always, please remove your outdoor footwear when you arrive.

New "additional shoe racks" will be provided this season in the main lobby (the new additional shoe racks will be where the lockers used to be). Here is how the main floor lay-out will look this season:





The old shoe racks will remain in place and can still be used, but we especially encourage early draw curlers in our evening leagues to use the new additional shoe racks in the main lobby in order to better retrieve your footwear and belongings *after* curling (this will help to mitigate against congestion in the entrance area when the later draw curlers begin arriving)

Some mindful strategies for avoiding congestion in the front entrance:

- wait outside in line if the front entrance becomes over-populated,
- after removing your shoes at the front door, move promptly through the front entrance area to the additional shoe racks in lobby
- when leaving the Shamrock, use the exit door at the east end of the building

Some limited seating will be available in the main lobby for changing into your curling footwear. We ask that you do not lounge on the chairs in order to ensure that others can use the limited seating for changing their footwear as well.

Your small bag of belongings may fit neatly in the new shoe rack area (if space permits) or you can plan to bring your bag with you into the ice arena for neat storage under the shelf along the wall.

While waiting for your draw time, please respect everyone's space and avoid congestion areas. Members within a cohort can remain reasonably near to one another, which will help for distancing among non-cohort members.

Although we will all be wearing masks, we will all assume that we are all smiling at each other under our masks so that we will all feel just a little bit better about life 😊

## Entering the Ice Arena

Once our ice-technicians have safely opened the ice area for entrance, curlers may enter into the ice arena area.

Face coverings must remain on while entering the ice arena for your draw.

***Staggered start times:*** in order to help mitigate against congestion, many leagues at the Shamrock will have staggered start times. Please consult with your league's schedule for further information on your league's start times. Typically, for a league that will have all 8 sheets in use, the early draw will begin on sheets #3-6 while 15 minutes later the next draw will begin on sheets #1-2 and #7-8.

- If you are playing on sheets #1-4 then your entry and exit door will be the sheet #1 door.
- If you are playing on sheets #5-8 then your entry and exit door will be the sheet #8 door.

If you will be using a loaner broom then please step to the side and wipe your broom handle down with the sanitizing materials that will be provided next to the loaner brooms.

When crossing behind sheets it may be necessary to wait or ask players on other sheets to allow for space. Likewise, players being asked to make room for participants should do their best to accommodate as we should all be doing our civic best to ensure respectful distancing for everyone.

When you arrive at your sheet of ice please be respectful of appropriate distancing requirements and expectations – there is lots of room on your sheet of ice to space out and stretch.

## Before Your Game Begins

Be sure to greet your opponents in a friendly manner (a 'raise of the broom' works! Or 'a tip of the hat'! Or a 'hand on the heart with a nod'!)

Each team should always have a designated player who together with the opposing designate is responsible for:

- Determining the hammer (rock-paper-scissors works);
- Selecting the color of your stones; and,
- Wiping down your team's stones before play begins.

**Each team should have one designated player who will wipe down all of your team's stones.**

- A spray bottle with sanitizer along with a paper towel dispenser will be found on each sheet of ice. The designated player will: (i) spray the paper towel with sanitizer, (ii) wipe down their team's stones handles with the sanitized paper towel, and (iii) dispose of the used paper towel in the lined receptacle provided.

Typically your designated player is your team's "vice" (third) but you may choose another designate if desired. This designated player is also responsible for reporting the result of the game after play (further info provided below).

The two designates will also decide who among them will be the one person responsible for scorekeeping for the game and, if need be, measuring stones (further info provided below).

## Curling at the Shamrock

The two biggest changes to your on-ice curling experience this season will be (i) the "Single-Sweeper Rule" and (ii) On-Ice Distancing.

### The "Single-Sweeper Rule"

Curling Canada has adopted a new "Single-Sweeper Rule" that allows curling to be enjoyed as a physically distant sporting activity. All Shamrock leagues will be adopting the "Single-Sweeper Rule."

The "Single-Sweeper Rule" means that:

- Only one sweeper maximum is permitted to sweep a stone
- No "relaying" (no sweeper taking over for another sweeper at any time)
- No sweeping an opponent's stone after it passes the T-Line
- No one aside from the dedicated sweeper for a given shot can sweep any stone (including ticks and bumps and raises, etc)

### On-Ice Distancing

The Shamrock will have dotted markings in the ice area that will help to signify the standing locations for the non-delivering team and for the non-active player on the delivering team.



These dotted markings will be along one dedicated side of the sheet and behind the house. A simple rule to bear in mind for on-ice distancing is as follows:

**"If it is not your shot, find a dot"**

The following diagram shows the 10 x standing locations on each sheet of ice at the Shamrock:



The basic idea is pretty straightforward: “if it is not your shot then find a dot.” The **non-delivering team** relinquishes play altogether – the skip stands behind the house while all the others stand on the side dots. Meanwhile, on **the delivering team**, the skip owns the house, the thrower delivers the stone, and the one sweeper sweeps the stone. The non-active sweeper on the delivering team can either stand on a side dot or on the dot behind the thrower.

**Video tutorial:** Thanks to generous assistance from a number of dedicated curling volunteers and supporters, [the following 5-minute video](#) was created to help visualize and explain how the flow of curling will look this season. This video shows both the “Single-Sweeper Rule” in action, along with a descriptive visual of On-Ice Distancing.

Some further notes on On-Ice Distancing:

- If the non-active player on the delivering team stands behind the thrower, then that non-active player should follow the thrower during delivery in order to make room for the non-delivering team to enter into the delivering team area.
- It may be helpful to bear in mind that skips never sweep under these playing conditions
- The standing location dot for a non-delivering team skip can be somewhat fluid. It is perhaps better thought of as a starting point. The non-delivering skip may need to move for a variety of reasons (e.g., to better see the line, to create space for the delivering team skip, etc.). The important principle to always bear in mind is that the non-delivering team skip must always provide the delivering team’s skip 6 feet of respectful distance at all times.
- Control of the house transfers between skips when the delivered stone comes to rest
- Skips and thirds can communicate with one another in the house when they have control of the house

### Other On-Ice Curling Notes

**Loaner equipment:** Loaner brooms will be available (with appropriate sanitizing materials and protocols) but sliders, grippers and stabilizers will not be loaned out during public league play this season. We strongly encourage our curlers to source out their own curling equipment this season. Chris ([chris@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:chris@shamrockcurling.ca)) is happy to help make recommendations that suit your needs. Chris also recommends that you check out local businesses such as United Cycle or Kevin’s Curling Supplies for your curling equipment needs (shop local rather than Amazon!).

**Touching Stones:** The only stones that players should touch with their hands are the stones that they will deliver, which is determined at the start of the game. Players may move stones that they

are not using but must only do so by using their broom or their foot *on the side* of the stone and avoid any contact with the handle.

***Putting stones away at the end of an end.*** Between ends, the team that will throw first in the next end should put the stones away while the team that has the hammer should vacate to behind the hogline.

***Putting stones away at the end of the game.*** In a show of good sportsmanship, the winning team should put the stones away at the end of the game while the other team waits at the hogline for them to finish and depart.

***A “raise of the broom”.*** Instead of handshakes to complete a game consider “raising your broom” or “tipping your cap” to your opponents for acknowledging a good game played. Let’s not let COVID take away our good sportsmanship manners!

***Cleaning your stone.*** Players should not clean the bottom of the rock with their bare hand, but should instead use their broom.

***Scorekeeping.*** Only one designated player on the sheet of ice should mark the scoreboard during the game. The designated player will have two options for score-keeping. Either: (i) use the provided numbers as usual (sanitizing materials will be nearby for self-serve use) or (ii) the scorekeeper can use a dry-erase marker (the scoreboard will have whiteboard material installed on the scoreboard). If you are a scorekeeper we recommend that you bring your own dry-erase marker with you (thanks from everyone!).

***Measuring.*** If a stone requires measuring then teams will have two options: either (i) the two designated thirds can battle for the contested point with a random measure of some sort (e.g., paper-scissor-rock) or (ii) one of the designated thirds can measure the rock (sanitizing materials will be provided nearby).

***Buzzers.*** with staggered start times for many leagues, this means that there will likely be two buzzers in your league every night. A schedule of the buzzer times will be provided before the start of the season. Please be mindful of the buzzer time for your specific draw. A buzzer means that you may finish the end you are playing and play one more end. An end is considered complete when the thirds agree to the score in the end. We kindly ask that you please be respectful of this buzzer rule since it will be important to remain on proper time-lines both for our ice-technicians and for the anticipated time-line and movement of other curlers throughout the facility. *Note:* a long buzzer sound (6 seconds) will signify the first buzzer while a shorter buzzer sound (3 seconds) will signify the second buzzer.

***Doubles Board.*** Among the COVID victims this season is the “Doubles Board.” Unfortunately we cannot do the “Doubles Board” because of shared touch-points and the logistical hurdles that the necessity of two buzzers introduce. We realize this really sucks. In lieu of a “Doubles Board” this season, the Shamrock will offer every registered evening league team 1 x \$10 gift voucher for

the Lounge. To cash in your team’s voucher simply ask your bartender – your bartender will have a list of all registered teams this season.

**Drinking Water.** For public health safety reasons, we have removed all of our water coolers for this season (the one in the ice area and the one in the main lobby). We have purchased a \*touchless\* water bottle filling station but it is back-ordered until late October. Since we all need water while exercising, we strongly encourage you to bring your own water bottle to the Shamrock this season.

### Leaving the Ice Area

Your face covering should (of course) remain on as you leave the ice area.

Players should gather their belongings while maintaining respectful distance - allow the winning team to gather their belongings first and clear the area for the opposing team to gather their belongings next.

Teams should exit through the ice arena door that they arrived in (sheets #1-4 via the door on sheet #1 while sheets #5-8 via the door on sheet #8)

When crossing behind sheets it may be necessary to wait or ask players on other sheets to allow for space. Likewise, players being asked to make room for participants on other sheets should respectfully accommodate.

### Next Steps after Curling

The vice of the winning team is responsible for reporting the result of the game in the Leagues Binder by the Leagues Board. Sanitized pens will be available by the Leagues Binder. However, we recommend that thirds bring along their own personal pen in order to minimize shared touch points (thanks from everyone!). If you are in a House League and you wish to e-mail your game results instead please send to [Jolene@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:Jolene@shamrockcurling.ca) Jolene will be tracking League Standings for all House Leagues this season.

If you plan to leave after curling then please gather your belongings, change your footwear and depart via the east exterior door.

*We kindly ask that any lounging around in the downstairs lobby be kept to a minimum, especially if/when groups begin emerging.*

If you plan to enjoy our Lounge after curling for drinks and “safely-seated-socializing” © please see notes below for use of the Shamrock Lounge.

## Other Useful Information

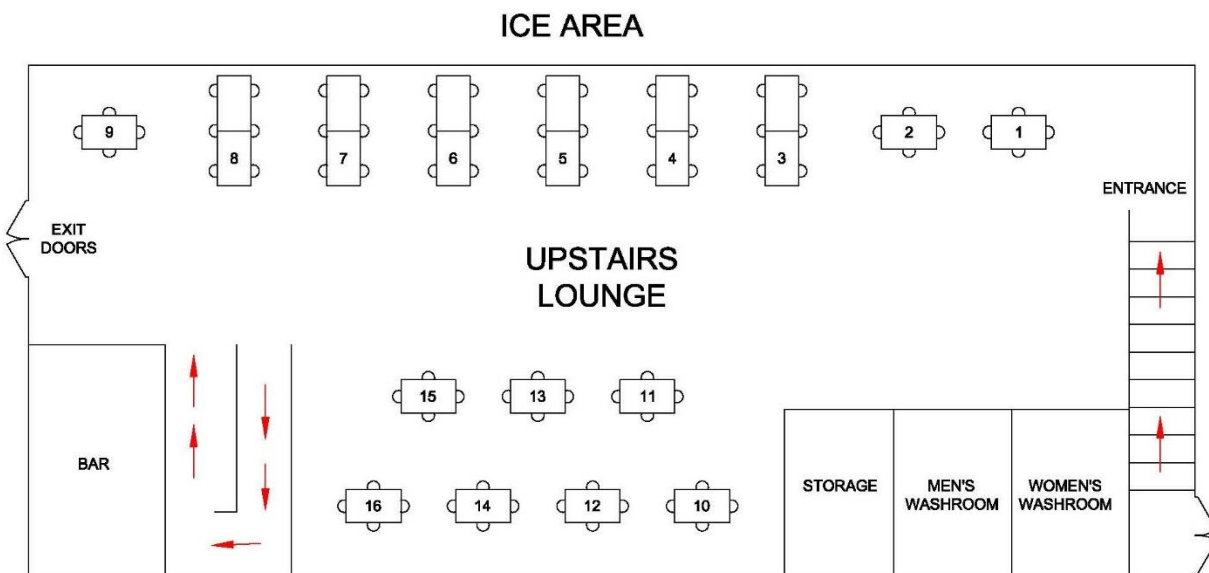
### Shamrock Lounge

The Shamrock's Lounge will be open for service and “safely-seated-socializing” ©

Face coverings should be worn at all times in the Lounge until one is seated safely. Once one is seated safely one may remove their face covering while remaining seated.

Seating availability has been reduced to effectively half in the Lounge in order to ensure respectful physical distancing.

There are now only 16 tables available for seating: 10 tables for 4 person seating and 6 tables for 2 person seating. Each table is spaced at least 8 feet away from every other tables. Each table also now has table number for helpful reference. Here is a layout of how the Lounge will look:



Tables and chairs will not be permitted to move from their pre-set location.

All Lounge patrons are asked to maintain respectful physical distancing requirements from non-cohort group members

To help mitigate against “drink-order crowding,” stanchioned spacing and flow-traffic arrows have been designed in order space out the drink ordering line-up. The staggered start times should also help to mitigate against over-crowding after games.



*Consider sending only one person up to order your group's drinks. Drinks can be placed on a handy "sanitized tray" that you can bring to your table so that so that your 'mates can handle their own drinks.*

Every table setting will have a QR code on its table-topper that you can scan with your phone to view the Shamrock's Lounge Menu options, including snacks.

Glassware options will be limited so the cooler will be stocked with more canned and bottled options than in previous seasons. Pints, wine and spirits can be served in plastic cups, if desired. Coffee, tea, and hot-chocolate can be served in recycled paper cups, if desired.

Spectators / non-curling guests are permitted, if space allows. If space does not allow then spectators / non-curling guests may be politely asked to leave to make space for Shamrock members. This policy will be evaluated as the season progresses.

If you bring your broom upstairs, please place your broom on the "Hall of Fame Wall." Any other belongings (e.g., purse, shoe bag, jacket, etc.) should be placed neatly under or on your chair.

- ☹ The Shamrock's "Mug Board" has been put on pause for this season.
- ☺ Drift Eatery will be providing the Shamrock's Lounge with Nevin-inspired "snack-packs" that can be purchased from the Shamrock's bartender.

### **Drift Eatery**

- ☹ Drift's concession will be closed for counter service to start the 2020-21 season (to be evaluated).
- ☺ Drift will remain on site for catering and event services, including our popular Doubles and Dinner events, which will be a great opportunity to support them. As mentioned above, Drift will also be providing the Shamrock's Lounge with tasty and original "snack-packs" for our Lounge patrons to enjoy throughout the season.

### **Junior Curling**

- ☹ The Shamrock's Junior Curling Program for 2020-21 has been cancelled.
- ☺ Opportunities for structured, league junior curling will be available through the Edmonton Youth Curling Association this season: [www.eyca.ca](http://www.eyca.ca).

### **Learn to Curls**

Learn-to-Curl opportunities will be available for new curlers who have joined Shamrock leagues this season. Please contact Chris ([chris@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:chris@shamrockcurling.ca)) for further information.

## Ice Rentals

Ice Rentals will be available this season under modified conditions. Please contact Chris ([chris@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:chris@shamrockcurling.ca)) for further information.

## Events / Bonspiels

Events and Bonspiels will still run this season under modified conditions. Please consult the “Events / Spiels” section of our website [www.shamrockcurling.ca](http://www.shamrockcurling.ca) for further information or please contact Chris ([chris@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:chris@shamrockcurling.ca))

## Fundraising

The fiscal viability of the Shamrock from year to year relies on its fundraising efforts. Fundraising will be especially important this season with increased expenses coupled with reduced league registration numbers and significant reductions in our non-league sources of revenue such as bar sales, ice rentals, and advertising. Further complicating the situation is that our traditional sources of fundraising are obstructed, e.g., no Mug Board fundraising, our Casino slotting date has been pushed back indeterminately, and we cannot in good conscience responsibly continue with the traditional cash-sale-ticket 50/50 format.

Instead of a cash-sale-ticket 50/50 format this season we will be using the online platform provided by Rafflebox: <https://rafflebox.ca/raffle/shamrock> We will be running monthly draws for the season. A great way to support the Shamrock this year will be to purchase tickets. Thanks for your support!

## League Ambassadors / Volunteers

Given the unique challenges of this up-coming season, the Shamrock would greatly benefit from increased assistance from League Ambassadors and Volunteers, especially to help with the first few weeks of the season as we all become accustomed to the new curling normal. If you are interested / able to help please let Chris know ([chris@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:chris@shamrockcurling.ca)). Thank you for your help and understanding as we work our way together through this.

## Facility Cleanliness

The Shamrock will perform a deep clean and thorough sanitization prior to the opening of the curling season. As always, maintaining a high level of facility cleanliness will be a priority at the Shamrock. The Shamrock will have a scheduled daily cleaning and disinfection of common areas and high traffic surfaces.

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will be located throughout the building, including entry points to the building and lounge, as well as throughout the ice arena.

## Staff Health-Checks

All Shamrock staff will perform a daily Self-Assessment Health Check when they report for their shift. Staff members will not be permitted to come in for a work-shift if they are experiencing any COVID related symptoms or have been in contact with a confirmed COVID case in the previous 14 days.

## Outbreak Protocol

The reason for collecting all the names and contact information for participating individuals at the Shamrock is to assist AHS should an individual test positive for COVID-19 and contact tracing is deemed necessary by AHS.

According to AHS, “an individual is under no obligation to inform sport organizations or other participants, coaches, instructors, officials or volunteers of...the results of a COVID-19 test” ([p. 4](#)). The Shamrock respects this right of every individual participant and will be respectful of the privacy and sensitivity of every participant’s health information at all times.

A person who tests positive for COVID-19 will be interviewed by AHS and AHS public health investigators will determine if there are close contacts that should be made aware/ notified based on the period of infectivity. If contacted by AHS, the Shamrock will follow the direction and all next-step guidance from AHS in a way that complies with the relevant requirements that are set out in *Alberta’s Health Information Act*.

If the Shamrock receives direct news of a positive case, the Shamrock will immediately contact AHS for further guidance on next steps and who should be notified of a positive case. If required by AHS, the club may be closed for a certain period of time until it is deemed safe to return by AHS.

## Rapid Response Protocol

If someone within the Shamrock’s premises exhibits commonly known signs or symptoms of COVID-19 then Shamrock staff and League Ambassadors have been instructed to follow these steps:

- The person in question should be wearing a face covering and should sanitize their hands
- The person in question should be isolated from others
- The person will be asked to safely leave the facility and should arrange for a safe ride home that does not involve public transportation or a taxi.
- The person will be advised to contact AHS when they arrive home for next step guidance
- All surfaces that the symptomatic person may have come in contact will be cleaned and disinfected

## Refund Policy

A modified pro-rated league fee refund will be offered if AHS requires the Shamrock to shut down during our scheduled 2020-21 season.

The Shamrock's refund policy for all House League curlers during the 2020-21 season will be as follows:

***Interruptions:*** if the Shamrock is required to close temporarily because of AHS requirements then every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that make-up games can be re-scheduled during the 2020-21 season's timeframe (October – March).

If the 2020-21 season never begins or transpires then curlers will be provided the option of a 100% refund of all league fees or a credit toward next curling season.

If the 2020-21 season is cut short within 1 – 5 games then curlers will be provided the option of a 75% refund of all league fees or a credit toward next curling season.

If the 2020-21 season is cut short within 6 – 10 games then curlers will be provided the option of a 50% refund of all league fees or a credit toward next curling season.

If the 2020-21 season is cut short within 11 – 14 games then curlers will be provided the option of a 25% refund of all league fees or a credit toward next curling season.

If the 2020-21 season is cut short at or after 15 games then there will be no refund provided.

***Administration fee:*** all refund transactions will be subject to a \$20 administration fee to help cover the credit card fees and administrative labour.

With respect to the Shamrock's refund policy, it may be informative to point out that the Shamrock's refund policy is crafted in such a way to both protect our curler's financial interests and to ensure that the Shamrock is sufficiently viable to be able to offer its curlers a facility in subsequent seasons. The annual operating cost of an 8 sheet curling club such as ours approximates \$450,000 a year. Simply "shutting down" or "not opening" for a season has very serious fiscal implications that can make re-opening in a future season challenging if not impossible. We thank you for your support and understanding as we navigate our way through the challenges of this extra-ordinary fiscal period.

## Compliance enforcement of new "COVID rules"

Education of our new curling normal will play a vital role in ensuring compliance, coupled with the communal recognition that these new rules are being put in place so that we are allowed to curl this season.

On this front, all curlers at the Shamrock will be signing a Waiver and Declaration of Compliance this season. This Declaration includes a signed commitment to adhering to the rules and protocols that the Shamrock has established in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and provide a positive, low-risk experience for all members of the Shamrock community. The Declaration

includes the provision that the Shamrock reserves the right to remove any individuals that repeatedly do not comply with its standards and expectations.

Each league has its own Organizer(s) and / or Ambassador(s). These individuals are “point-people” for addressing concerns and questions. If you observe continued non-compliance please bring this to the attention of your League Organizer(s) and / or Ambassador(s). They are equipped with the tools for addressing such concerns. If you have any questions or concerns please never hesitate to contact the Shamrock’s General Manager, Chris at [chris@shamrockcurling.ca](mailto:chris@shamrockcurling.ca) or 780 466-5789.

### A Concluding Message to Our Community

The COVID-19 virus has created an unprecedented challenge for all of us. We at the Shamrock are committed to ensuring the positive well-being of all members of the Shamrock community. We are committed to providing a low-risk environment for our curlers to keep mentally, socially, and physically active during the up-coming winter season. We thank you for your understanding, patience, and support as we all work our way through this challenging time. Let’s all promise to smile under our masks and work together to responsibly enjoy a curling season for the Shamrock history books.

