

Simcoe Curling Club (SCC) **Good Curling Guide**

Welcome to the Simcoe Curling Club:

Our goal is to **promote the sport and camaraderie of curling**. Congratulations on your decision to join the SCC to learn/improve your knowledge and skills of the game of curling.

You have joined a growing number of Canadians who have decided to:

- enjoy the sport and strategy of the game
- expand their social network
- get some exercise
- have some fun

It is a known fact that Canadian winters are shorter for curlers!

This booklet is intended to provide you with information that will enable you to quickly feel at ease with the etiquette and basic rules of curling. The Simcoe Curling Club is a member of the Ontario Curling Association (OCA) and complies with their standards and rules. There are three representatives of the OCA within the club and they are listed with the Board of Directors (available on our website www.simcoecurlingclub.ca or in the Curling Calendar).

The Simcoe Curling Club welcomes members who have physical and visual limitations. You will see our club members using stabilizers, delivery “sticks” and other equipment intended to improve their abilities and to reduce stress on hips, knees, etc. There are a number of club members who would be happy to offer you information and instruction regarding these aides. Please feel free to ask for their advice and assistance.

The SCC provides an annual “**Learn to Curl**” series intended for those new to the game or those who wish to review current techniques. In addition to instruction, participants will play in a Learn to Curl (LTC) league. The LTC is in the first draw and participants are able to join a regular league in time for the start of the second draw. Sign up for this highly successful program at Registration Night or contact the club through info@simcoecurlingclub.ca.

The **Curling Calendar for the SCC** is an excellent reference and provides dates for all the curling activities, bonspiels, clinics, draws and social events of the curling season, along with the names of your curling club executive.

Curling has often been referred to as a “Gentleman’s Sport”, quite like golf, as there are more courtesies to the game than actual rules. Most curling matches are played without referees... only when play progresses into advanced “play down” levels do you typically see referees overseeing a game. For the most part, players monitor themselves and “confess” their infractions of the rules.

We have attempted to pass along the basics in this booklet and urge you to refer to the “LINKS” section of our club website for more in depth information. Two small booklets that will be informative for you are “**Touch the Rock**” and “**Curling 101-How the Game is Played-The Simple Version**”, both available from www.ontcurl.com.

The OCA rule book is available on-line, at the above web-site, and there is always a copy in the “Hogged Rock Lounge” area at the club.

Let curling **Rock your World** at the Simcoe Curling Club this winter!

On behalf of our members, we wish you a warm welcome and “Good Curling”
Board of Directors, Simcoe Curling Club

The Curling Season

The Simcoe Curling Club opens following Thanksgiving and the completion of the Norfolk County Fair and continues through early to mid April. The Curling Club building is located on the Fairgrounds and is leased by the club from the Fair Board. The curling season is divided into three "draws" of approximately 6-7 weeks, and other than in our two competitive leagues, player rosters are reconfigured each draw for maximum diversification.

Leagues

The Simcoe Curling Club provides several leagues...female, male, mixed, seniors, social and others, to suit the interests, availability and skill level of all members. These are included in your membership fees, and you are welcome to join as many leagues as your time permits. Games are generally 8 ends in length unless otherwise stated.

Evening Leagues:

OPEN COMPETITIVE LEAGUE – is open to all curlers regardless of gender, choose your own team. Teams typically are determined prior to the start of curling in October. The league convener will assist interested new curlers on getting assigned to a team or at least on the spare list. Teams are regrouped within the league every five weeks according to proficiency and generally speaking you will curl with your team throughout that season but move up or down the ladder according to your success. Playoffs determine the club champion from group A as well as division championships for groups B, C and D. Game times are traditionally 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM.

EVENING LADIES LEAGUE – you are requested to "sign up" for each of the three draws and teams are formed by the Draw Committee. Champions and consolation winners are declared each draw and you will curl with different team members each draw. Delicious dinners are served weekly and you are required to sign up for the meal in advance. Game times are traditionally 5:30 PM and 7:45 PM Tuesday nights.

MIXED COMPETITIVE LEAGUE -- choose your own team of two male and two female curlers that remains the same for the duration of the curling season. There are two draws playing a round robin format. Champions and Consolation winners are declared each draw. Game time is traditionally 6:00 PM and 8:15 PM Wednesday nights.

MEN'S EVENING LEAGUE – you are requested to "sign up" for each of three draws and teams are formed by the Draw Committee. Champions and Consolation winners are declared each draw and you will curl with different team members each draw. Game times are 6:00 PM and 8:15 PM Thursday evenings.

MIXED SOCIAL LEAGUE – sign up for each of the three draws and curl with different team members (couples generally curl together). Games are six (6) ends in duration. Game times are at 5:30 PM, 7:15 PM and 9:00 PM Friday nights with the possibility of alternate days of play also. First, Second and Third placing is rewarded.

Delicious dinners are served each Friday evening and are available to the entire club membership. You are required to sign up for the meal in advance.

DAYTIME CURLING:

SENIOR MEN'S CURLING -- Mon-Tues-Wed-Thurs-Fri 8:30-10:30 AM. Show up and curl. Tumbleweed format whereby each player plays two ends at each position. Delicious muffins and coffee are available.

MONDAY DAY LADIES – sign up for each of three draws. Teams are formed by the Draw Committee. Game time is 10:30 AM -12:30. Delicious soup, muffins and coffee are available.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON MIXED -- 1:00-3:00 PM. Show up and curl. Tumbleweed format whereby each player plays two ends at each position. Delicious muffins and coffee are available. Couples and individuals welcome. Available to all members and on a pay as you play basis.

THURSDAY DAY LADIES – sign up for each of three draws. Teams are formed by the Draw Committee. Game time is 10:30 AM -12:30. Delicious soup, muffins and coffee are available.

WEEK-END CURLING:

JUNIOR CURLING – *Sundays 1:00 – 2:00 PM Little Rockers, 2:00-4:00 PM Juniors; check the curling calendar for details.*

Bonspiels:

Bonspiels are special curling events, with lots of fun, prizes and camaraderie. Watch for signup sheets. Some bonspiels are “in-house”, held for SCC members only, while others are a little more competitive with out of town teams competing. You may choose to travel to other clubs for their Bonspiels. Out of town bonspiels are listed on the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs by the ladies locker room and on the OCA website-- www.ontcurl.com

OCA Competitions:

Throughout the year there are numerous competitions held, some leading to Provincial Championships and others to National and World Championships. There are competitions for Bantam and Junior curlers, and for Men, Women and Mixed teams. Generally events held at our club would be "Zone" or "Regional" competitions although we have hosted a few "Provincials". These events are usually quite exciting to participate in or watch when they are hosted by our club. For more information, please contact the club OCA representatives.

Sponsors:

All through the history of this club, our sponsors have shown generous support. We continue to be grateful for their support and we encourage our members to express appreciation to our sponsors at each and every opportunity.

Curling Club “Pro Shop”:

The SCC Pro Shop is stocked and managed by David McBride, one of our members. He maintains a good inventory of brooms, shoes, sliders, and clothing. David’s intent is to have curling gear readily available to members at a reasonable cost. In addition, sales from the Pro Shop are revenue generating for our club and your patronage is very much appreciated.

The Ice Surface:

Making and maintaining good curling ice is a constant challenge with lots of variables to be considered. We are indeed fortunate at the SCC to have excellent ice. This accomplishment requires lots of patience, skill and technique on the part of our ice technician and assistance from the members themselves. All curlers are obliged to ensure that each time they enter the ice area, shoes, brooms, clothing etc. are free from debris. All curlers are reminded to be watchful and remove any debris that you see from the ice surface. Often, clothing fabric, hairs and particles of disintegrating, worn grippers are the culprits.

What Equipment Does a New Curler Require?

The good news is that for the sport of curling, you don’t have to spend a lot of money to get started. Please consider the following:

- **Footwear** – for the new curler, a simple running shoe with a clean surface is fine. You will need to purchase a gripper and a slider to fit over your running shoes.
- **Clothing** – needs to be warm, comfortable and flexible (stretchy is good). Most curlers prefer to dress in layers, so as they warm up during the game, jackets and sweaters can be removed.

- **Gloves**- need to fit snug and have a “grip” in the palm. Vinyl gloves are fine (Isotoners work well for the ladies) and leather curling gloves are available at the Pro Shop.
- **Brooms, Stabilizers, Sticks** – are all available at no charge to the members to use for each game. Before you purchase your own broom, check out the Pro Shop, and the brooms used by your team mates. There are a variety of brooms on the market to suit your own preference and skill. Whether you own your broom or use a club broom, you must clean it often as a dirty or damp broom will not create the friction you require for sweeping effectively. Use the brushes provided, at either end of the ice, and *always* clean your broom over the waste can.

LET THE GAME BEGIN!

Pre-Game – Courtesies and Rules:

- ❖ Always check your schedule to confirm game time, available on the web-site. www.simcoecurlingclub.com or on the bulletin board just inside the entrance door.
- ❖ Players should arrive at least 15 minutes before game time to get equipment ready.
- ❖ Be prepared to go on the ice at the scheduled time.
- ❖ If you cannot make a game, arrange for a spare from the "spare list" as far in advance as possible. Let your skip know that you cannot make it and who the spare will be.
- ❖ Curling footwear must not be worn anywhere but on the ice and inside the club. All footwear should be checked and cleaned prior to each game.
- ❖ Do not use any equipment that might damage the ice.
- ❖ Do not wear new materials or those that might shed fabric onto the ice.
- ❖ Enter the ice area by the door closest to the kitchen, not the door by the club entrance.
- ❖ Clean shoes using the electric "boot cleaner" as you enter the ice area.
- ❖ Traditionally, before play begins, players introduce themselves to the opposition, shake hands, and wish them “good curling”. Name tags should be worn and can be purchased at the beginning of each year from the club secretary.
- ❖ Watch for the “coin toss” by the vice skips ...the “winner” of the coin toss has the advantage of throwing the last rock or “having the hammer” for the first end. The “loser” of the coin toss chooses the color of rocks their team will use and throw the first rock of the end.

During the Game

Once the coin toss is completed, if your team is up first -

- ❖ Position yourself in the hack immediately, clean your stone, and watch your skip for instructions.
- ❖ Brushers should get into position promptly. Never run across the ice in front of a player who is about to deliver a stone.
- ❖ Never distract a player who is delivering, or preparing to deliver a stone by walking, moving or having side conversations. All players should remain quiet and still as the person in the hack delivers their rock.
- ❖ Do not block the line of vision of the player who is delivering a stone, stay along the sidelines
- ❖ Brushers from the non-throwing team should take a position on the ice between the hog lines, in single file at the edge of the curling sheet.
- ❖ Brushers on the throwing team should be positioned between the top of the house and the hog line.
- ❖ Brushers on both teams must remain on the ice between the hog lines until the end is completed and, as a courtesy to the rock thrower, should not stand behind the hack with the skip.
- ❖ A running stone, if inadvertently touched by a broom, foot, or anything else becomes a “burned stone”. You are on your honour to say when you have burned a stone.
- ❖ To ensure the game is played within the time limits, be ready in the hack to throw your rock, as soon as the opposing team has thrown. This is especially true for the thrower of the first rock in each end.

- ❖ The lead or second should "set up" the stone for the Skip and Vice on their team. This helps to maintain the pace of the game.
- ❖ Compliment players on both teams when a good shot is made. Conversely, never embarrass another player by making remarks, clapping, or cheering for an unsuccessful shot.
- ❖ At the conclusion of each end of play, all players, except the Vice Skips, must remain outside the "house" until the score is counted. Only the Vice Skips are to be in the house while a stone is being measured.
- ❖ After the score for the end is determined by the Vice Skips, the stones should be carefully, but efficiently, removed by controlling the rocks with your broom, so they do not hit the feet of other players, which can cause falls and other serious injuries. Do not "knock" the rocks against one another as this may eventually damage or chip the "striking band" of the rock. Safety for yourself and others is tantamount. Be vigilant and careful. Never run or leap over stones and when stepping on to the end boards, always step with your "slider" foot leaving your "gripper" foot on the ice to maximize stability.

About the Free Guard Zone – The area between the rings and the hogline is called the "Free Guard Zone". If an opposition rock comes to rest in this area, it cannot be removed from play until after the fourth rock of the end is thrown. You can remove your own rock from the free guard zone at any time. An opposition rock can be moved anywhere within the curling surface but if removed from play, it has to be returned to its original position with the thrown rock removed from play. After the fourth rock of the end has been played (i.e. two rocks by each team), any rock can be removed from play. This rule makes the game more interesting and stops teams from just "peeling" the opposition rocks for the whole game.

After the Game

- ❖ Shake hands with the opposition.
- ❖ Carefully return rocks to the end board area, 2 deep, flat against the side boundary in numerical order.
- ❖ Vice Skips take note of the final score and the winning Vice Skip records the outcome on the league scoreboard in the clubhouse.
- ❖ Quickly collect personal items, grippers, wallets/purses etc. and exit the ice area using the nearest door.
- ❖ The victorious team buys the first beverage, so winners should ask their counterpart on the opposing team what drink they would prefer, make the purchase and deliver it to the table where the teams will be sitting to socialize. Courtesy requires the losing team to offer a reciprocal beverage to the winners.
- ❖ Remain for drinks if possible, with your team members and opponents. This is the social side of curling that allows for positive comments about the game and for you to get to know other curlers off the ice.

Remember that your promptness, enthusiasm, caution and courtesy create a very positive effect on the outcome of the game. Focus on playing your personal best and in that way, everyone wins. Curling can be frustrating as you continue to improve your game, but most of all, it should be fun!

Curlers' Code of Ethics*

I will play the game with a spirit of good sportsmanship.

I will conduct myself in an honourable manner both on and off the ice.

I will never knowingly break a rule, but if I do, I will divulge the breach.

I will take no action that could be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate or demean my opponents, teammates or officials.

I will interpret the rules in an impartial manner, always keeping in mind that the purpose of the rules is to ensure that the game is played in an orderly and fair manner.

I will humbly accept any penalty that the governing body at any level of curling deems appropriate, if I am found in violation of the Code of Ethics or rules of the game.

Fair Play*

Fair Play begins with the strict observance of the written rule; however, in most cases,

Fair Play involves something more than even unflinching observance of the written rule.

The observance of the spirit of the rules, whether written or unwritten, is important.

Fair Play results from measuring up to one's own moral standards while engaged in competition.

Fair Play is consistent demonstration of respect for teammates and opponents, whether they are winning or losing.

Fair Play is consistent demonstration of respect for officials, an acceptance of their decisions and a steadfast spirit of collaboration with them.

Sportsmanlike behaviour should be demonstrated both on and off the ice.

This includes modesty in victory and composure in defeat.

* Supplemental to the Rules of Curling for General Play – Canadian Curling Association – www.curling.ca

*“Not once in everything I’ve done
Have I ever felt the same wonder and humanity
As when I’m playing the game of curling”
-from the movie Men with Brooms*

Good curling!

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