



Wine Country Curling Club

Proposed Plan for Socially Distanced Curling at Skatetown Ice

About Curling and Wine Country Curling Club

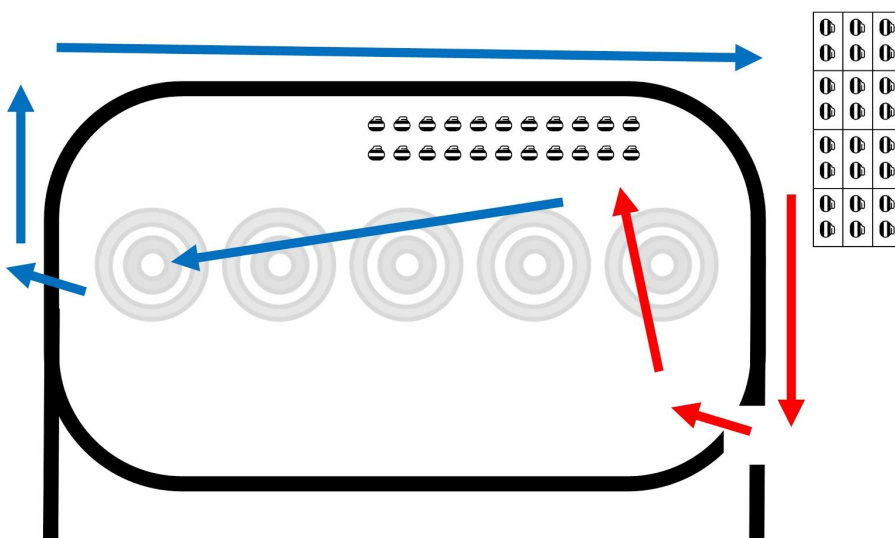
Curling is an ice sport that requires teams of four players to slide 42-pound stones over an ice sheet to a target at the other end, known as the house. Considered to be one of the most captivating sports, curling is popularly known as chess on ice and a hybrid of bowling and shuffleboard.

Wine Country Curling Club is dedicated to promoting the sport of curling in Northern California. We curl out of Skatetown Ice in Roseville and offer leagues, learn-to-curl programs, corporate events, tournaments, and adaptive curling. We curl on Sunday mornings and Tuesday nights but we also offer the occasional Saturday night event. We are one of six clubs in California. WCCC is a volunteer-run, 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is a member of USA Curling and the Mountain Pacific Curling Association (MoPac). In the past (pre-COVID-19), we also held two tournaments per year which has brought 32+ teams at each event (including past Olympians) to the Placer County area to compete in a 3-day bonspiel.

Pre-COVID-19, Wine Country Curling Club would host as many as forty people on the ice at one time. This breaks down to ten teams playing on five sheets of ice located in rink #2 at Skatetown Ice. In addition to our league games, on occasion when one of the playing sheets was not being used, we would also offer a 2-hour learn-to-curl class with up to eight people with two instructors.

Proposed Plan for Set Up of Curling

Pre-COVID-19, we would have upwards of eight people helping to put the 80 stones out onto the ice, but now the number of people putting out the stones will be decreased to four people who will use a rotating system so that they are always at least six feet apart. As one person places two stones on the ice at the door of the rink, the other person is picking up two more stones from the shelf. The person who just set the stones on the ice, will walk to the other door. Then the person who just picked up the stones from the shelves will walk to the entry door. It would look like this:

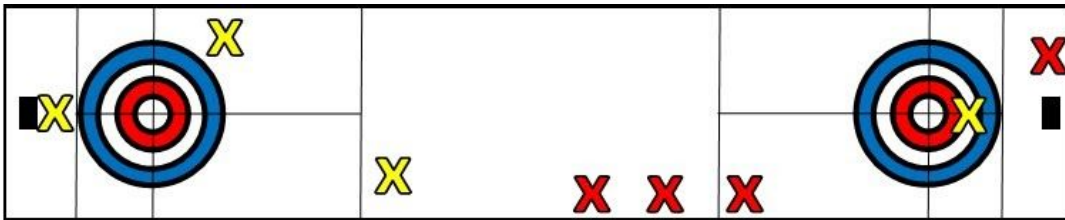


As the stones are placed on the ice, there will be two people who will be disinfecting the stone handles. We have been cleaning our stone handles before each game since October and will continue to do so. We will also continue to disinfect brooms and stabilizers using wipes that contain 70% isopropyl alcohol. No play will begin until all the stones and equipment have been disinfected. It should be noted that each person playing is assigned two stones per game and they use only those two stones during the game. There is no sharing of stones.

During set up, we will mark on the ice (using a sharpie) where each person is to stand when they are not throwing or sweeping a stone. These markers will be at least six feet apart. See the diagram below (the red Xes and the yellow Xes).

Proposed Plan for Actual Game Play

Each sheet will contain two teams of four people. This is the yellow team and the red team as shown below.



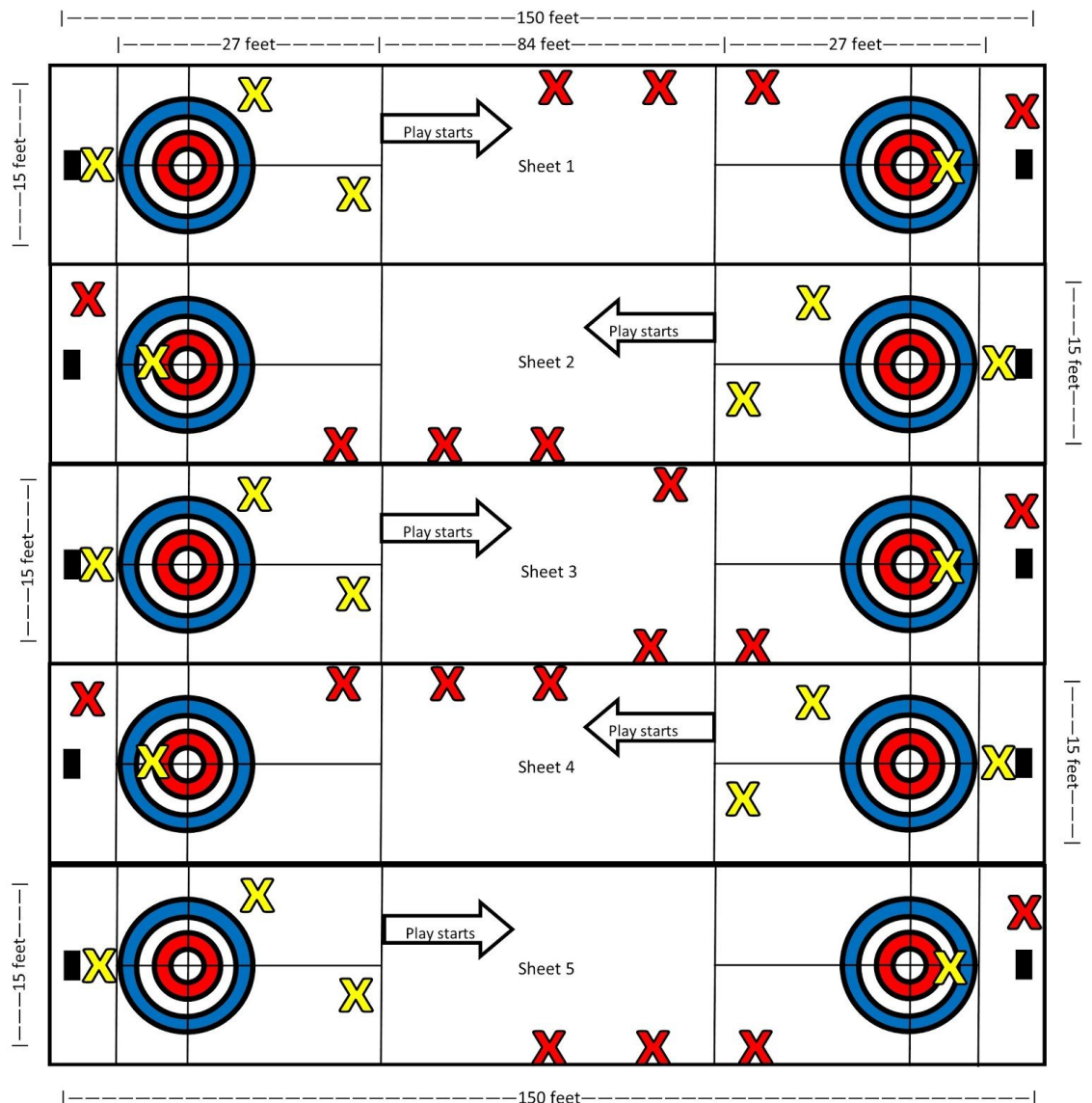
When the yellow team is curling (left side of the image above), the person throwing the stone is positioned in the hack. There will be two sweepers to run alongside

the stone while it travels down the ice, but only one of those people will be the sweeper. The other will be yelling out the speed of the rock. The skip of the yellow team will be standing in the opposite house. While the yellow team throws, the red team stands in the marked spots along the sheet of ice. The red skip stands behind the hack to watch the yellow team's stones and there will be no defensive sweeping. At no point will any of the team members be within six feet of another person.

Only one person from each team will clear the stones (using their foot) at the end of the end. While the stones are cleared, the curlers not moving stones will stand in the marked spots which are six feet apart. Play will continue the other way towards the other house but the layout as shown below will be used.

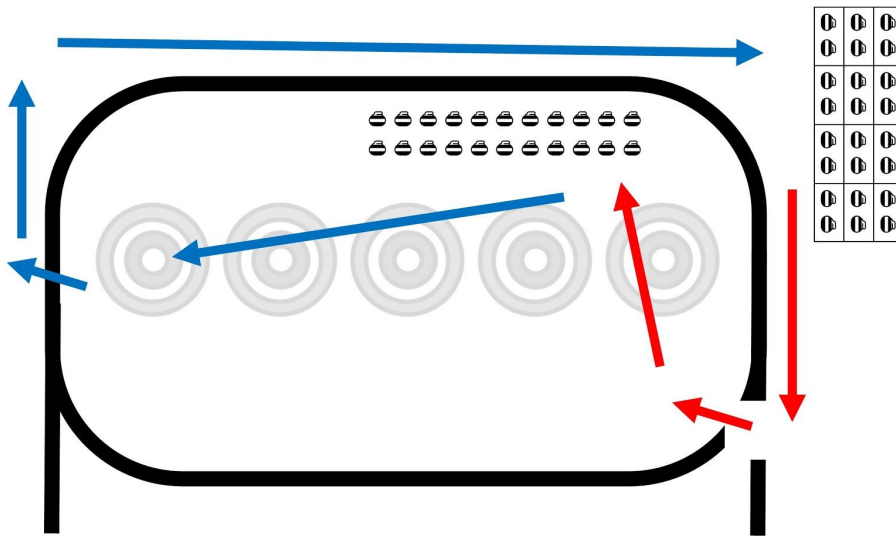
Since there are five sheets at Skatetown Ice, we will start games on opposite ends of each other so that there is not a group of curlers huddled together.

Reminder: each sheet is 15 feet by 15 feet so there is plenty of room to stay six feet apart from another curler.



Proposed Plan for Clean Up of Curling

For clean-up after the games, we will now limit the number of helpers who stay to assist when putting the 80 stones away. It will be similar to the set up where we will use both doors and work in a rotation.



Stone handles will be disinfected again once all the stones are placed back on the shelves.

Broomstacking After the Game

Curling is a very social sport that relies heavily on the relationships that are cultivated after each game in Skatetown's café area. This is known as broomstacking and involves curlers celebrating (or commiserating) while sitting at the café tables in groups of four. Our plan is to cancel broomstacking (the term used for hanging out after a game) for the foreseeable future. We will encourage all members to leave the building after their game. We will encourage members to continue to use our Zoom room for virtual broomstacking.

Hosting Learn-To-Curls

When it comes to hosting learn-to-curl classes, we will limit our classes to four people per sheet. Two of the people will be at one end of the sheet with an instructor while the other two people are at the opposite end with a different instructor. Instruction will be given from six feet away. The classroom portion of the 2-hour class will now take place in the bleachers of the rink instead of in the party rooms. This will allow the students to sit on marked spots that are six feet apart. Learn-To-Curlers will also be assigned stones of their own which will prevent the sharing of stones. Stones for learn-to-curls will also be disinfected before and after each class.

What Our Members Can Do

Pursuant to Placer County guidelines, we will remind our members not to leave their homes if they have a cough or a fever. We will also ask them to not come to Skatetown if they have interacted with a sick person. We are prepared to monitor entries into the building and take temperatures for high fevers. Those with high fevers will not be allowed into the building. We will remind curlers to sneeze or cough into a cloth or tissue or into their elbow if necessary. We will continue to provide tissues and we will add waste receptacles onto the ice. We will also continue to provide hand sanitizer gel both on and off the ice. Face masks will be required for all curlers who enter the building. These face masks will be worn during the game and/or the curling class. There will be no exceptions.

Conclusion

Wine Country Curling Club is very anxious to get back onto the ice but only if we can provide a safe environment for our curlers. We feel that our proposed plan does offer a socially distanced environment and

is based on our understanding of the latest county and state guidelines. We will adjust as recommended by the health departments.

Lowered Revenue

In regards to revenue, we anticipate a drop of 25% when we do curl again (according to our latest member survey). Some of our members won't be returning because their income has changed due to the COVID-19 shelter-in-place restrictions. There are also some curlers who won't return until a vaccine has been developed. We feel that the total amount of money our club has available to dedicate to curling is probably 50% of what it was before.

Thank you for your consideration,
The Board of Directors of Wine Country Curling Club
Point-of-Contact, Katie Feldman, President, 916-849-9731
katie@winecountrycurlingclub.com

Curling Terminology



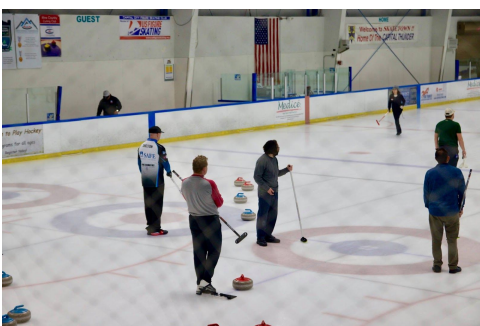
This is what curling stones look like. The colored parts are the handles that would be disinfected using wipes that contain 70% isopropyl alcohol before each game. Stones are assigned to each curler which prevents sharing.

The broom that a curler uses to sweep the ice. No one shares a broom and all brooms are disinfected using wipes that contain 70% isopropyl alcohol before each game begins. There would be only one sweeper per thrown stone instead of two sweepers (pre-COVID-19).



Many curlers use a stabilizer (or crutch) which helps with balance when delivering a stone. The club will assign stabilizers to those that need it to limit the numbers of sharers. The stabilizers will be disinfected using wipes that contain 70% isopropyl alcohol before each game.

Socially distanced sweeping would look like this. The thrower (in the crouched position) releases the stone and the sweeper (the one standing) runs alongside it ready to sweep if necessary. Notice the allotment of 6 feet of distance between the two curlers.



As you can see from this photo taken from a tournament in March 2019 (pre-COVID-19), curling can be set up to be socially distant. All of the people in this photo are six feet apart.