

Kettle Moraine Curling Club

COVID Guidelines as of 09/26/2021

The KMCC Board of Directors met this weekend to review the data collected during the registration process regarding mask requirements and to continue our discussion around COVID policies as we open for the 2021-22 season.

In following with current USCA recommendations, as well as Waukesha County guidelines, and the recommendations of the CDC, all persons entering the club *should* wear a mask at all times except while eating and drinking.

This policy is effective immediately.

The Board felt it appropriate in this announcement to include how we defined the word “**should**,” which according to Webster’s Dictionary and the Board’s agreed definition is “**what is probable or to be expected.**”

So, restated, we expect all persons entering the club to wear a mask at all times except when eating or drinking.

The Board did not arrive at this word choice lightly. Nor do we believe that the USCA arrived at this word choice lightly when they too chose to use the word “should” when addressing the topic of masks. The USCA in their Return to Curling guidance also encouraged clubs to prioritize the opinions of their specific membership, which is why we asked those members registering for the 2021-22 season to vote on this topic through Friday 9/24.

The results of the vote were as follows:

23 persons (14 Men/9 Women) voted for “I will only curl if masks are required.”

41 persons (30 Men/11 Women) voted for “I will curl if masks are recommended, not required.”

35 persons (24 Men/11 Women) voted for “I don’t care.”

The Board wrestled with this decision for several hours, but in the end believed the majority position from the collected ballots is consistent with many “business and social” venues in our community currently. We will be disappointed to lose any of our members uncomfortable with this policy, but coupled with the position of the USCA, Waukesha County trending data, and the guidance of the CDC we felt it appropriate to follow this course.

For those interested in the Waukesha County data: as of their update at 2pm on 9/24, the WI Department of Health Services web site reports Waukesha County at 281.4 total confirmed cases reported within the county per 100,000 people. The transmission rate over the last two weeks is described as Very High and Growing. The specific data that Board referenced can be found at dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm.

For those interested in the latest CDC guidance it can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

In addition to the mask policy, the Board approved a series of recommendations presented by the COVID committee which are detailed below.

- **Locker room areas will remain open, persons should maintain social distance where possible and arrive ready to curl if an option to minimize traffic in these spaces.**
- **Thirds are expected to have their own coin to flip or to use an alternative method (rock, paper, scissors)**
- **Draws beginning with 5 full sheets of play should begin play from the far wall on Sheets 2 and 4. Draws beginning with less than 5 full sheets of play should leave a sheet in between games where possible.**
- **Handshakes should be avoided and broom taps or elbow bumps used during pre/post game greeting.**
- **Sweepers: ONLY ONE SWEEPER IS ALLOWED in order to maintain social distancing**
- **One third should be designated to do all the scoring. He/She should also wipe them down after the game with disinfectant.**
- **Losing team sanitizes rock handles at the end of the game (same as last year).**
- **Shared Equipment: if club brooms or sliders are used, wipe down before and after play.**
- **Broomstacking:**

Traditional broomstacking in the clubhouse is an option, additional tables have been set for each sheet so as to allow for greater social distancing.

Utilization of outdoor space is encouraged.

Care should be taken to minimize congestion in common areas: kitchen, restrooms, etc.

Shared food should be individual portioned to prevent multiple persons touching utensils or popcorn/chip bags and bowls.

Finally, also in accordance with community best practices and CDC guidelines, individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will have to remain out of the club for a period of 14-days from the onset of initial symptoms. Those identified as a “close contact” of a positive case will have to remain out of the club for a period of 10-days from their period of “close contact.” The Board expects members to accommodate their fellow curlers appropriately and reschedule games as needed in the event of these circumstances.