



Return to Play Survey RESULTS SUMMARY

191 Members Completed the Survey - 65% of the membership! Note: an average internal survey response rate is 25%.

Only 8% of those who completed the survey have made the decision to not curl this season. This baseline has helped the Board of Directors make the decision to proceed with a 2020/21 TSA curling season.

91% of those surveyed understood and accepted a COVID-19 levy may need to be applied to membership dues to operate in the new conditions presented by COVID-19.

By way of the survey there were several good questions and suggestions with some resulting in changes to the Return to Play Plan which can be found on TSA's website. Below you will find TSA President Steve Copeland's feedback to some of the responses received.

Q1: When the risk is as low as it is now, we should play as normal as possible and adjust with the risk.

A: There will be ongoing changes to our play guidelines, and we are committed to continual review of those guidelines and adjusting when introduced with a change of regulation. With that said, we must work within the guidelines established by the province of New Brunswick and WorkSafeNB. At all times an update to date Return to Play Plan can be found on TSA's website.

Q2: I think it is important to try and encourage new members to join and old members to come back and join the fun. New and creative ways to bring in new curlers and young curlers is important.

A: Agree. We must stay positive and be creative. There are many sports that unfortunately are not able to Return to Play. TSA has the opportunity to safely introduce new people to curling. Recruiting new members will be critical in helping the club make up for the membership revenue we now forecast will be lost by some members not returning to the sport in 2020/21. The Board of Directors have begun work to advertise TSA and the sport. We welcome ideas and kindly ask for members to do what they can to recruit new curlers.

Q3: Since you cannot ensure 2 metre clearance on the stairs and masks are not required, I think the stairwells should be designated as one up (front) and one down (back). I think it will take longer to play a game so a reminder

should be included to arrive a bit earlier than usual, keep the pace moving or consider the option to play abbreviated games.

A: The stairways will be designated up (at the entrance) and down (at the back). We will be working with the various league coordinators to enforce a new game start and end policy, so that all games will end on time.

Q4: May need to have an info session 1st night - many details may be missed by people reading the new rules.

A: Good idea. We will be working with the league coordinators to roll out the plan and communicate the details to their teams. We are also planning to have our annual Open House on October 3rd where we will be on hand to train and answer questions.

Q5: I am not confident that all curlers will follow the rules.

A: There is an element of trust in this plan. If a curler sees someone not following the rules/guidelines, if comfortable doing so, they should bring it to the curler's attention. If not comfortable, they can inform the league coordinator, the club manager, or any member of the board, who will then follow-up.

Q6: This plan seems to address evening curlers but does not mention men's daytime and or stick curling. How would that be arranged?

A: The Return to Play Plan will apply to all leagues.

Q7: Looks like a good balance between safety and returning to play in some form. Are there any plans to do any random testing of curlers for early detection?

A: We will be implementing passive screening – poster on front door, signs throughout the club reminding to social distance and good hygiene. It is important to note that it will be every curlers responsibility to self-screen prior to entering the club and not to enter if not feeling well.

Q8: May spend the money to get ice in and then we have a second wave and must close again.

A: Unfortunately, this is a possibility. We can only control what happens at the club, and insure we provide a safe environment for our curlers. We hope everyone else takes necessary precautions so that the impact of a second wave is minimized.

Q9: I can accept a COVID LEVY for cleaning and safety accessories at TSA. This LEVY could be applied along with a detailed costing list so members can understand this special charge fee.

A: Our goal is to be as transparent as possible regarding the COVID-19 Levy, and the impact COVID-19 has had on the financial health of the curling club. The levy amount will be communicated shortly. It was first necessary to estimate membership numbers which we can now do based on the results of the survey. The number of members impacts

revenue and corresponding operational expenses which include sanitary supplies. Other additional COVID-19 expenses like signage is now calculated and does not change based on membership numbers.

Q10: I have been lawn bowling since June 13, with sanitizing, social distancing, and rules to comply with Government regulations.

A: Thanks for setting an example for another sports organization and letting us know organized sports can be offered in a safe environment.

Q11: If I plan not to return this season, I will miss the play/socializing greatly. I find from reading the rules I am left feeling somewhat overwhelmed with all the changes to the game.

A: There definitely are changes, and it will likely take a few weeks of play before we are all comfortable with them. We are also planning to have visual aids on the ice surface to assist with the where to stand and to support the new rules.

Q12: I feel masks need to be mandatory.

A: We are following the guidelines established by the Province, WorkSafeNB, and Curling Canada. Masks are not mandatory at this time where physical distancing can be maintained while on the ice. While in the lounge, if curlers are in line for drinks, or going to the bathroom, masks are required and therefore every curler should have a mask as part of their equipment while at the club.

Q13: Can a husband/wife who are on the same team sweep together?

A: We discussed allowing two sweepers if they were living partners, however, after thorough discussion and review of other club guidelines including Curling Canada, we have decided to keep it simple and implement consistent rules. It is also important it is fair and equal play for each team.

Q14: If I choose to return in the fall but once play starts and I do not feel comfortable with how things are going can my membership be reimbursed in part or whole?

A: Curlers must take the time to thoroughly review the guidelines defined in the Return to Play Plan and be proactive in asking questions prior to the start of the season. The Open House scheduled for October 3rd will be a great opportunity to further learn about the changes. It would be detrimental to the club and other members if space is held in a league for someone who then decides to cancel their membership. We also will be limited by the number of players per league and upon registration will have setup the teams and schedules.

Q15: If I can help out in any way please let me know.

A: Thank you! All help is appreciated, and we will let members know when we may need additional support.

Q16: Can we use "rock, scissors, paper" as an option to replace the coin toss or must we go with the preassigned last rock?

A: Good creative suggestion. We will discuss this at our next board meeting and let everyone know what will replace the flip of a coin. Thank you.

Q17: My only area of concern is the social gathering after play is complete. You are sitting at a table directly facing the other team. We may need to limit the social aspect. I didn't see guidelines regarding me buying a drink for losing team either. Do I handle their drink?

A: Thank you for this question. There will be further guidelines released specifically on how the lounge will operate. We will be required to follow the same guidelines bars and restaurants must follow. We are in the process of establishing a table layout that maximizes distance and will have further discussion on if buying and then transporting a drink to another person will be permitted.

Q18: Just concerned about the mess we may create by tracking in snow/sand during the winter. Can the coat room area closure be revisited to see if we can just limit 2 people and take turns?

A: Thank you for this comment. We regrouped on this decision and have changed the Return to Play Plan and will allow 2 people in the coat room at one time while each wearing a mask.

Q19: Will there be hand sanitizer at each sheet of ice and mandatory hand sanitizing at entrance.

A: Yes! We will be providing sanitizer at each sheet for cleaning the rocks prior to each game. Hand sanitizer stations will be set up at the club entrance as well as throughout the lounge.

Q20: Only question about equipment bags. Everyone will need a bag to put outside shoes and jacket in. Does not seem realistic to expect no bags and will increase the amount of clutter if not contained.

A: We are asking everyone to leave their gear at their table. There will be fewer tables due to spacing, and fewer sheets used on each draw, which should help with clutter. There will also be space by the window if necessary.

Q21: Very thorough plan that makes me completely comfortable to return to curling this season at TSA. Job well done to the Board.

A: Thank you, we really appreciate this type of feedback. The Board represents the members and we are doing our best to think of everyone when making tough decisions. This will be the most challenging year TSA hopefully will ever face, but the survey results have given us encouragement that our members are up to the challenge with their passion for curling and love of our club expressed in many other comments not included in this survey summary report.