



New Member Quick Start Guide

Rochester Curling Club

Equipment

- **Brooms, sliders, and grippers.** The club has brooms, strap-on sliders, and a variety of sized grippers available for your use for your first few draws. Step-on sliders should not be used during league play. You are responsible for cleaning equipment after use and ensuring your shoes are free of dirt and debris before using the sliders and grippers on the ice. There is a shoe cleaner both by the front door and at the entrance of the ice shed.
- **Stabilizers.** A limited number of stabilizers are available in the ice shed for community use.
- **Purchasing equipment.** Members are strongly encouraged to purchase their own equipment during their first year of curling. Curling equipment (brooms, shoes, stabilizers, grippers, etc.) is available for purchase through Clark Raven (ceraven@gmail.com) or can be purchased online through various curling websites. Grippers and broom heads should be replaced at least once a season.
- **Lockers.** Lockers are available in the locker rooms on a first-come basis. If you plan on using a locker to store your equipment when you are not at the club, there is a \$10 fee for the locker rental. A sign-up sheet is available in the locker room and the cost will be added to your monthly bill at the beginning of each season. Lockers must be emptied and locks removed at the end of each season.
- **Name Tags.** Name tags can be ordered using the sign-up sheet available on the bulletin board across from the men's locker room. The cost for the name tag (approximately \$15) will be added to your monthly bill when the name tag is created. When the name tag order is complete, it will be available at the end of the bar for pickup.
- **Personalized Cups.** Personalized acrylic pint glasses are available for purchase through Gretchen Soule (crickita@gmail.com) using the sign-up sheet available on the bulletin board across from the men's locker room.

Practice

- Practice time on the ice is available most Sundays throughout the season from 9-11 a.m. The full schedule is available at <https://rochestercurling.org/index.php/club-calendar>.

League Play

- Registration for league play happens in the fall before the season starts. New teams are not often added mid-season, but occasionally there are teams that need to replace a player for the second or third draw. The best way to find out about these opportunities is to respond to any requests for subs on nights when you are available and/or interested in playing. New players are welcome to play in any league as a sub. Sunday and Monday leagues have preferred sub lists for members available to sub regularly. If you are interested in playing on those nights, contact the drawmaster to be added to their list.
- If you don't have a team of 4 to play with at the beginning of the season, the Sunday night, the Monday Women's league, and the Monday Night league allow single players to register.

On Ice Tips

- **Be on time.** Get to the club early enough to be ready to curl at the appointed time. You should be in the warm room and ready to curl a few minutes before your game starts to hear any

announcements. If you know you'll be unavoidably late, let your team know ahead of time or as soon as possible. When you arrive you can join the game at the beginning of the next end.

- **Get a sub.** If you are unable to make a game as scheduled, it is your responsibility to communicate with your team and find a substitute player. For some leagues, the drawmaster will provide a list of members who have indicated their availability to sub regularly.

A team is required to have three members to play a game and at least two regular (non-sub) members must be present. If there are not two or more regular team members the game will be forfeited.

- **Keep the ice clean.** The shoes you wear to curl should be only for curling. Sand and grit from street shoes can ruin the ice surface. ALWAYS clean your shoes before entering the curling area. Clothing with excess fuzz or glitter should also be avoided.
- **Keep drinks safe.** Beverages can only be brought into the ice shed in a non-glass container and must be left on the shelves at the warm room end of the ice. Beverages should not be brought on the ice or to the far end.
- **Be courteous.** At the beginning and end of each game, it is customary to shake hands with all of your teammates as well as your opposing team. Avoid distracting movements when a curler is in the hack. When your team is not shooting, keep your distance and stand quietly behind your team's stones or at the sides of the near-throwing hog line. Never walk or run across the sheet while a curler is in the hack.
- **Be ready.** Get into the hack as soon as the opposing team has delivered their stone. Keep the game moving – delays detract from the sport. Be prepared to sweep as soon as your teammate releases the rock. When finished sweeping, sweepers should return to the hog line at the throwing end and remain at the sideline.
- **Ice cleaning duties.** When the game is finished it is customary for the winning team to clean the hacks and ice. In the case of a tie, skips clean the ice.
- **Post-game broomstacking.** After the game is finished and equipment has been put away, it is customary to return to the warm room and spend some time socializing with your opponent. If you are on the winning team, buying a round of drinks for the opposing team is expected. Whichever position you play on your team, you will offer a drink of their choice to your counterpart on the other team.

Warm Room and Off Ice

- **Payment for Drinks.** The bar is run on the honor system. Drinks purchased from the bar are tallied on a chit and billed on a monthly basis. Blank chit cards and alphabetical storage boxes are available next to the bar. Each month you are responsible for creating a new chit card with your name and the current month and adding hash marks in the appropriate category boxes for any beverages consumed or purchased for other members. Cards are collected each month to calculate a monthly bill sent by email. If you are unsure which category your drink falls under, check with the bartender or another member. You can pay your monthly bill online or leave cash/check in the payment box downstairs across from the men's locker room.
- **Maintaining the bar.** Only the assigned bartender should be in the service area of the bar when the bar is open for service. During or after their shift, in addition to serving drinks, the bartender is expected to clean up the bar area and the tap overflow, replace kegs, restock the cooler, run and empty the dishwasher, etc.

- **Keeping the common areas clean.** Every member of the club is expected to clean up after themselves after using common areas of the club like the kitchen and warm room. At the end of broomstacking, tables should be wiped down and any debris should be swept off the floor. Garbage bins in the warm room can be emptied and garbage can be brought out to the dumpster in the parking lot. Returnable bottles and empty kegs can be placed in the shed outside the side door. Non-returnable recyclables can be placed in the marked dumpster. Instructions are posted in the bar area and kitchen for refuse disposal and dishwasher use. Cleaning supplies, additional paper goods, and plasticware can be found on shelves in the pebbling room.
- **Volunteering.** Members are expected to contribute 10 hours of volunteer time to the operations of the club. Throughout the year volunteer requests and opportunities are sent to the member email list. Help is frequently needed on committees, helping with group instruction, community outreach, teaching learn to curl, running the bar and kitchen during bonspiels, assisting with building maintenance, and more.
- **Bulletin Boards.** Regularly check the bulletin boards in the hallway across from the men's locker room for notifications and sign-ups for in and out-of-town events, curling skills camps, equipment offers, etc.

Socials, Friendlies, and Bonspiels

- Socials are in-house events held for our club members. They often include a meal and one or more games with teams determined at the event.
- Friendlies are events where one club invites members of another club for the day. Usually, there are two draws (games) held where teams of opposing clubs play against each other. Often there is a method of accruing points and a winning club is named at the end of the day.
- Bonspiels (aka spiels) are curling tournaments consisting of several games usually held over a weekend. They typically have a minimum number of games guaranteed and usually have multiple brackets of play with three or more final events. Bonspiels are often themed and may or may not be restricted to certain subsets of curlers (women only, under 5 years of curling experience, juniors under 18, seniors over 50, etc.) Other bonspiels are an open format meaning that teams with any composition are welcome. Bonspiels generally require you to register as a team of 4 and usually include meals throughout the weekend. When you attend a bonspiel the usual broomstacking rules apply. It is also customary to offer to exchange club pins with any of your opponents. Pins are available in a drawer behind the bar and should be added to your chit by writing in Pins in the "Other" section and adding a hash mark for each pin taken.

Additional information about club rules and traditions can be found at rochestercurling.org on the Member Home page under Club Documents.

