

Hi Gents, already the club has played a few games, and last Tuesday we held a Covid “try out” game attended by most of the Committee and Doctor Phil. The idea was to find out how to follow the KCT laid down procedures, and to be able to help other members to settle into what I would call the “new” game that we will all be playing this season.

I have had feedback now from most of the curlers on the evening, and now feel able to identify areas that we all need to pay attention to, when curling at the Kinross facility.

The first issue that was raised related to when we accessed the building. When we use the access stairs to the “bar area”, which are on your left as you enter the building, it is essential that we observe “social distancing”.

When you reach the top of the stairs and go to the designated changing area for your rink, you should choose one of the vacant chairs in your allotted area. You should change your shoes, and sit on the chair and wait until the bell goes to signify that the rinks should make their way down the appropriate stairs to the curling hall.

On the ice it is important that the skips do not shout instructions to players delivering stones. Speaking is permitted, but emphasis should be placed on the use of “hand signals” to instruct team members. I will come back to this later. This was confirmed today by Fergus Shaw who is the KCT Covid Officer.

It is also essential that skips do stand behind the line behind the hack when not involved in the stone being played by the opposition.

It is also important that when not playing or sweeping a stone that curlers stand in the “boxes” marked on the ice.

The items raised above are areas where we failed on Tuesday. Please try to ensure that we all as individuals, and collectively do not fall into committing the same errors.

I am sure that given a couple of games each under our belts that the Covid requirements will become second nature to us all.

Below is a list of signals to be used by skips when instructing curlers delivering stones.

Draw – The skip should pull his brush on the line that he requires the stone to be played, and should indicate the spot that he wishes the stone to land, by tapping the end of his brush.

Take out – Skip should tap his shoulder then indicate the stone he wishes taken out.

Guard – Skip should tap brush on the spot or line that he wishes the stone played, and should place his brush horizontally across his chest.

Freeze – The skip should tap his brush in front of the stone that he wishes the curler to come to.

The following are the signals to be used to indicate the weight that the curler should use to deliver the stone.

“Tee” weight – The skip should slide his brush along the “tee” line.

“Hack” weight - the skip should tap his foot with the brush.

“Barrier” weight – the skip should place his hand across his stomach

One late change to procedure on the ice has been advised by KCT, relating to the sweeping of an opposition stone by the designated sweeper when a stone has been delivered. The sweeper, and only the sweeper who has swept the stone all the way down the ice can sweep anything necessary until the shot is finished. They may sweep behind the tee line and they may sweep an opposition stone that has been hit.

I have tried to make the above points as simply as I can, to ensure that we do not get bogged down with information. It is important that while we are all fairly competitive in our curling, that we also enjoy the experience!!!

I look forward to meeting you all on the ice and to enjoying your company – at a safe distance!!!

Take care.

Sandy Graham