2288 - 47th Avenue SW
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Group Curling Event Planner 2026-27

What We Can Offer 1
Questions to Ask Yourself (because we're going to ask you!) 2
- How many people are coming to the event? 2
- When Can I Hold My Event? 2
- How Much Will My Event Cost? 3
  - Ice 3
  - Instruction 4
  - Hospitality 4
- What On-ice Experience do I Want for My Guests? 4

What to Tell Your Guests 5
- Assume the Position! 5
- What to Wear/Not Wear 5
- Arriving at the Club 6
- Equipment 6
- Basic Safety & Operational Rules 6

Next Steps 7

The Garrison Curling Club is a great place to organize a team-building event, bonspiel or a friends & family get-together.

What We Can Offer

- Six sheets of ice that can accommodate up to 48 curlers at one time (any more than that and you'll have to curl in shifts, with some people on the ice and others watching).
- All the equipment you'll need: sliders, brooms and stabilizers. We even have delivery sticks for those who can't crouch down for a conventional delivery.
- An instruction staff that can do a 45-60 minute curling boot camp for newbies at the beginning of your event. This can make all the difference in having your entire crew get the most out of the event.
- A full-service kitchen and bar that can keep you fed and watered before, during and after your event in a lounge that will accommodate ~110 people for a sit down buffet and ~140 for a stand-up cocktail service.
- Sound systems on both the ice and in the lounge to play *your* music, including a dance floor in the lounge.

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- Lots of free parking.

Questions to Ask Yourself (because we're going to ask you!)

How many people are coming to the event?

A conventional curling team has 4 people, although the rules allow for teams of three. So the maximum number of curlers on one sheet will be eight (8).

When Can I Hold My Event?

The GCC has ice from late September until mid-April.

"In-season", while we have league play (late September to mid-March), we have fewer sheets of ice available. During this period, **we can accommodate group rentals on:**

- Wednesdays from 1130a-230p (1 sheet)
- Fridays from 1200-300p (up to 6 sheets)
- Saturday from 700-1000p (up to 4 sheets)

During this period, rentals are a minimum of 2 hours and a maximum of three hours.

"Post-season" - once league play is completed in mid-March - we have considerably more flexibility and can accommodate groups Monday to Thursday from 900a-500p; and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 900a-900p. **During this period, it's easier for us to accommodate larger, multi-day events.**

If you're a large group/organization planning an event that requires the entire arena which would result in the cancellation of regularly-scheduled leagues over one or more days (which we consider on a case-by-case basis), we would require notice prior to April 1 **of the previous curling season**, so we can create our league schedule around your event. Once the schedule comes out in May, there is no opportunity to take the ice out of play from regularly scheduled leagues. The premium pricing for these events is set out below. See: "How Much Will My Event Cost".

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How Much Will My Event Cost?

Your event will generally have three cost components: the ice; instruction; and food & beverage.

Ice

- Up to 24 curlers (1-3 sheets): $135/sheet/hour (minimum 2 hours)
- Up to 48 curlers (4-6 sheets): $125/sheet/hour (minimum 2 hours)

# Sheets	Max # Curlers on the Ice	Ice Rental Charges				
		2 Hours	3 hours	4 Hours	5 Hours	6 Hours
1	8	$270	$405	$540	$675	$810
2	16	$540	$675	$810	$945	$1,080
3	24	$810	$945	$1,080	$1,215	$1,350
4	32	$1,000	$1,125	$1,250	$1,375	$1,500
5	40	$1,250	$1,375	$1,500	$1,625	$1,750
6	48	$1,500	$1,625	$1,750	$1,875	$2,000

All our ice rentals come with *complimentary sliders and brooms*.

As noted above, should your organization want to schedule *a larger event "in-season" that would result in the entire arena being taken out of play* (all 6 sheets) to the exclusion of leagues, we charge premium rates, which are as follows. These apply seven days a week. The times are expressed in "blocks"; so if your event takes up any time inside a block, you commit to the entire block:

- 900a-200p; or 700p-1130p: $2,880
- 900a-630p; or 430p-1130p: $4,320
- 9:00a-1130p: $7,200

Instruction

While not mandatory, hiring an instructor at the front end of the event is a great way to introduce the novices to the sport. This includes a safety briefing, equipment orientation, delivery basics,

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sweeping basics, and help getting games started. It's also often a useful "warm-up" for those who were last on the ice back in high school PE class!

While some groups may be tempted to opt out of instruction because they have one or two participants who are "experienced" curlers, these people often do not have the training to effectively and efficiently take brand new curlers through the basics.

Group instruction is $75/sheet/hour, subject to a minimum of $150. For a booking that will result in instruction occurring on 4 or more sheets, two instructors will be booked. Examples:

INSTRUCTION CHARGES		
Sheets of Instruction	**# Instructors**	**Cost (45-60 minutes)**
1	1	$150
2	1	$150
3	1	$225
4	2	$300
5	2	$375
6	2	$450

Food & Beverage

The Garrison has a full service kitchen that can do sit-down breakfast, lunch or supper buffet meals for ~100 guests, as well as party platters and snacks if you're looking for more of a grazing experience. Click here to be taken to the food and beverage page of our website.

The bar is most definitely open before, during and after your event to serve soft drinks, beer (we have 8 taps), highballs and wine. If you're planning on doing a modified host bar (i.e., a certain number of drink tickets per person) or a full host bar, we will work with you to come up with a menu and price points to fit your budget.

Depending on the day of the week or time of the year, we may not have all the food options available (we start to slow down once our regular season concludes in mid-March). If you plan to eat at the club, please contact the F&B representative identified on the first page of your rental agreement as soon as you're booked to discuss options.

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As far as our lounge goes, it will generally be open to other guests during your event - unless the size of your group dictates otherwise.

Here are the F&B related charges:

FOOD & BEVERAGE CHARGES			
# Guests	**Lounge Exclusivity**	**Lounge Fee**	**Minimum Food Buy/Person**
Up to 16	No	Not applicable	Not Applicable
17-24	No	$150	$15.00
25+	Yes	$200	$15.00

There is no minimum spend on beverages.

What On-ice Experience do I Want for My Guests?

We leave it up to our clients to decide what *on-ice experience* they want for their guests and to work the logistics accordingly. This will depend on many factors, including the number of people participating in the event; the duration of the event; and the nature of the event (office team-building; friends & family funspiel; industry association networking; etc.).

For example, if you're booked for two hours on one sheet of ice and you've got a lesson for the first 45-60 minutes, you will have fewer format options than if your group was renting all six sheets for 5 hours. In either case, our presumption is that once you're done with your lesson (if applicable), you'll organize yourselves into teams and play one or more games. If you're completely unfamiliar with curling and want some ideas on what to do for the remainder of the session after your lesson, ask us to help **ahead of time**. We've actually had some groups show up the day of a large event without any on-ice organization and ask us on the spot to help them make teams, create game formats, etc!

When thinking about the on-ice experience, consider factors such as:

- How much time do we have for games?
- How far in advance will I be able to confirm attendance (it's great to be able to make teams before the event, but often there are no-shows)?

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- An “end” (which is like a “period” in hockey and concludes when each team has thrown all 8 of their rocks) takes ~15-20 minutes to play. How many ends will we be able to play?
- If I have time to play 4 ends, for example (~60-70 minutes), do I want to play one game or two, 2-end games?
- If more than one game, do we keep the same teams or do we make new teams?

These are the sorts of things organizers need to consider as they near the event date.

What to Tell Your Guests

Having an idea of what’s in store is usually a comfortable feeling for anyone trying something for the first time. Please feel free to cut-and-paste this section and send it along to your participants/guests, so they know what to expect.

Assume the Position!

Curling is universally more difficult than newbies believe. Our instructors have spent thousands of hours on the ice with rookie curlers, many of whom may have watched the sport on TV and a recurring comment they hear is “*...I had no idea it was this difficult!*”. **We strongly recommend** that you have your novice curlers review these videos on set-up; pull-back; sliding forward; grip & release. If nothing else, encourage your newbies to at least get into the long, low lunging positions in the videos so they can verify that their knees/hips/ankles are mobile enough.

What to Wear/Not Wear

Everyone tolerates cold differently, so we like to tell people to dress as if they’re going for a light hike and the temperature will be between -5° to +5° celsius.

Wear

- Stretchy/athletic pants and short jackets for a comfortable delivery.
- Layered clothing and thin gloves/mittens to stay warm.
- **Clean indoor shoes** that are flat and preferably have rubber soles (for extra grip).

Do Not Wear

- Boots/shoes with leather heels/soles. Note that hiking shoes with treads, while grippy, often have treads that catch rocks and other small debris - these will damage the ice badly if brought into the Club.
- Shorts.
- Long scarfs or coats.

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- Pants with ripped knees.

Arriving at the Club

We're located at 2288 47 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB, just off Crowchild Trail next door to *Flames Community Arenas*. We have ample parking in front of and beside the curling club. We ask our guests to arrive at least 15 minutes early, to ensure that you get onto the ice at your start time. If you're there early enough and it's open, check out our second floor bar and lounge before going onto the ice. Drinks may be brought down to the lobby but may not be brought into the arena (other than water).

Note that outside alcohol may not be brought into the Club.

Feel free to use our change rooms. Please note that we do not have lockers for day use, so you'll need to bring all valuables with you onto the ice.

Equipment

No curling gear - no problem! Included with your group's rental are brooms and sliders. These are located in the arena and will be provided to you once you go out onto the ice. We also have a Pro Shop if anyone in your group wants to buy their own stuff.

Basic Safety & Operational Rules

- Shoes should be cleaned by using the boot cleaner before entering the ice area.
- Do not lift rocks off the ice. This is unsafe and often results in damage to the ice and potential injury to the curler.
- Listen carefully to all instructions from GCC staff. They are there to ensure you have fun and remain safe.
- If you're wearing a slider, always step on the ice with the non-sliding foot first. Only use a slider when you're delivering a rock.
- Don't throw a rock to the other end without someone there to catch it. Don't allow rocks to impact the hacks or end boards.
- Use discretion when throwing rocks, as they may be dangerous to others.
- Don't run on the ice. Picking up your feet in a conventional running stride often leads to a slip-and-fall.
- Return the rocks, sliders and brooms to their original spots at the end of the game.
- Avoid placing hands, kneeling or lying on the ice; it degrades the pebble.

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- Only water in spill-proof containers may be brought into the arena. All food and other beverages (this includes alcohol, coffee, etc.) must remain in the lobby.

Next Steps

Once you're ready to book, we'll send you a rental agreement via an electronic signing application for the ice portion of your event which will, among other things, include a link to our Facility User Agreement. Payment may be made by credit card or electronic funds transfer. All ice rental and instruction fees will be due in full upon signing the agreement and are non-refundable, unless the event is cancelled by the GCC or as a result of public health restrictions. If you're also making arrangements for food services, a separate agreement will be created with our Food & Beverage department.