

September 14, 2021

Dear Shamrock Curling Community,

At its September 9th Board meeting, the Board of Directors of the Shamrock Curling Society voted unanimously in favor of a vaccine mandate for curling at the Shamrock during the 2021-22 curling season.

For fuller details on the nature of our policy, along with an accompanying FAQ, please consult our COVID Response Resources Page ([link here](#)).

We realize that this decision will not be welcome news to all of our Shamrock community members. We knew that whether we implemented this requirement or not, we would not make everyone happy. This is the reality of being forced to make a hard decision.

Given this challenging situation, we wanted to explain the rationale we employed in order to arrive at this difficult decision. Here are some of the principal reasons that supported our decision in favor of a vaccine mandate:

- We are following the lead of our national and provincial sport body associations, Curling Canada and Curling Alberta, who are implementing a COVID vaccine mandate policy
- We always strive to do our best to ensure the positive health, safety and well-being of our curlers. A vaccine mandate against the COVID-19 virus seemed to us to be the most reasonable manner forward to ensure that our curlers, staff, and volunteers were kept safe this season.
- We surveyed our curlers and an overwhelming majority of our curlers approved of the mandate ([see survey results here](#)). We always strive to best respond to the needs and interests of our curling community.
- The survey results also decisively showed ([see responses to question #2 and #3](#)) that we would lose many more curlers if we did not implement a mandate than if we did. Given the shutdowns and financial losses we experienced last season, the prospects of making a decision that would lead us to lose even more curlers seemed imprudent and irresponsible.
- Our curling community cannot afford another shutdown. Our curling community is outstanding and generous. They relinquished over \$100k in refunds last season in order to help us break-even when we were forced to shut-down in early November. However, we cannot simply rely on our curlers to bail us out again. We need to make decisive decisions that best enable us to keep our lights on this season for the whole season. It is the collective belief of the Board that a vaccine mandate is what best positions our population from not placing undue harms and stresses on our health care system, and thus avoid another shutdown. The Shamrock always strives to be a force for good within our larger community. We believe this decision reinforces that commitment.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding as we work our way through yet another challenging curling season. Please visit our COVID Response Resources webpage ([link here](#)) for further information on our Vaccine Mandate Policy and for information on the season ahead.

On behalf of the Shamrock's Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Evan Ramage', is positioned above the printed name.

Evan Ramage
President,
Shamrock Curling Society