



Ontario Grandmasters Curling Association  
c/o The Thornhill Club  
7994 Yonge Street  
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[www.grandmasterscurling.com](http://www.grandmasterscurling.com)



September 6, 2021

Good day Ontario Grandmasters.

The Executive hopes that this notice finds you, your family, and friends in good health and hopefully COVID free.

We know many of you are looking forward to a return to curling to fill those long winter days. However, the emergence for the DELTA variant is giving many of us pause to commit to a new season of curling. As word is spreading that clubs are planning to open for the season or may have early ice are open now, many are asking about the return of the Ontario Grandmasters Curling Association being re-activated.

With great reluctance the Executive is currently announcing a continued pause in the running of this great Championship. We know this will be disappointing to many of you and not what we are wanting to do.

The following were of great concern to us:

- 1) The increasing number of COVID cases of the DELTA variant even among the fully vaccinated. While most infections are among the unvaccinated those of us fully vaccinated are still susceptible to getting infected by the DELTA variant.
- 2) The concern that even thou the numbers show a substantial less likelihood of being hospitalized or dying from DELTA if fully vaccinated, our concern lies with what underlying health issues that many of us have may be exacerbated.
- 3) CurlON has issued their guidelines for reopening, and they once again strongly suggest a positional play status with only one sweeper.
- 4) The health officials continue to alert us to what they expect will be a rough fall and possible winter seasons because of:
  - a. Stage 3 reopening with both vaccinated and unvaccinated in more social gatherings and day to day activities along with a return to workplaces away from working from home.
  - b. Children going back to school that are unvaccinated due to age, of picking up COVID and bring it home to the family.
  - c. The possibility of a flu season emerging on top of COVID. Basically, the flu season did not occur last year as we were mainly under lockdown because of COVID.
  - d. The ability of the DELTA variant to infect more easily and being a more virulent strain.
- 5) The uncertainty of clubs welcoming non club members into their club for bonspiels and in our case zone playdowns. Some clubs have said they will but at this time the extent of that being the norm is unknown.
- 6) Finally, the more important reason is our overwhelming concern for the health and safety of our curling family, you, and your family.

For these reasons we would rather error on the side of caution and not be a source of possible outbreak of COVID DELTA by running our zone and championships for the 2021-2022 season.



By delaying one more season we will get a far better understanding of what curling could look like post or along side of COVID for the 2022-2023 season.

For those of you choosing to curl at your local clubs this season, where possible, we wish you a safe and enjoyable season.

On behalf of the OGCA Executive

A cursive signature of the name "Gary" in a black, elegant script font.

Gary C Norris - President