



# GRAND MATCH / GRANDE DAME

November 20<sup>th</sup> , 2021

The **Grand Match** and the **Grande Dame** will take place **Saturday, November 20, 2021**. It is an annual tradition where men's and women's teams from around Montreal meet on the same Saturday to play full 10-end games. It is one of the most important curling competition in terms of participation.

The general principle consists in half the teams (or less) from each gender playing in their own club, with the other half visiting other clubs. The competition's goal is to fraternize and to officially launch the winter season. After 5 ends, players stack their brooms and take a short break to warm up. There are no charges to play. After the games, the host clubs offer hospitality in the form of snacks or a meal.

## HISTORY OF THE GRAND MATCH IN MONTREAL

The competition is inspired from a Scottish tradition when, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, curlers would gather to play the game simultaneously at a **Grand Match** as soon as the first rivers and ponds would freeze. In the beginning in Montreal the **Grand Match** was organized by the Canadian Branch of the Royal Caledonian Club. The first Grand Match was held in 1925. A generous patron, Howard T. Stewart, rented the ice at the Forum, and he donated the Edinburgh Trophy. The first prize consisted of curling rocks (because many clubs still used irons to play the game). Mr. Stewart gave a total of 504 stones until 1930.

*The Granite Association Trophy is awarded to the winners of the Grand Match and remains for the whole year at the winning club.*



*Winners of the Grande Dame receive for one year the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Trophy to mark their victory.*



## GENERAL RULES

Coordinators in each club assign their own teams to the various destinations. To be eligible to the **Grand Match** ranking, each club must register a minimum of 2 teams per sheet of the club (to a maximum of four sheets). For the **Grande Dame** each club must register a minimum of 2 teams per club. Clubs who do not meet the minimum number of teams required can play in either (or both) competitions but their club will not be ranked for the category where the required minimum of teams is not met. In order to reach a percentage of points won, the total of points won by a club is then divided by the total number of points played by that same club. When a club presents more teams than the required minimum, a bonus point per extra team is added to the total points won. This is done separately for the **Grand Match** and the **Grande Dame**.

## GRAND MATCH / GRANDE DAME 2019 — There was no competition in 2020 (pandemic).

A total of 688 curlers from the Greater Montreal area participated in the 2019 edition of the **Grand Match** and **Grande Dame** (Sat., November 16, 2019). A total of 120 men's teams from 16 clubs participated, with Pointe-Claire CC finishing in first place. In the women's category, 52 teams from 16 clubs competed, with Bel-Aire CC winning the title. The **Grand Match** and **Grande Dame** won a "Coup de Coeur" Méritas from Curling Québec in 2020.