



Dear members,

Curling Clubs are closing in small towns all over Canada. Curling clubs in large cities seem to be flourishing, and the Bemidji Curling Club is somewhere in between. We are doing okay, but membership has been dropping for years. This year the Bemidji Curling Club Board has created a membership committee to work toward creating a stronger membership for our club.

As the membership committee our first order of business is to adjust registration. The early registration deadline this year will be October 15. We pushed up the deadline several weeks for a few reasons:

1. It will help ensure that leagues start on time and curlers get their money's worth

In past years, the leagues don't start until the middle of December because teams haven't been established and schedules haven't been set. Many curlers have complained that they don't get their money's worth due to the delayed start. Also, we get a high number of cancellations because players and even complete teams don't show up.

2. It will allow us to better plan for leagues and fill teams.

With an earlier registration, the board can help league chairman fill open slots and recruit new teams to fill openings. Every year we have 40 members in our community ed. program and we don't retain even 50% of them. Early registration would give us a chance to find teams for them. If the earlier registration and fees pose a financial burden to anyone, please contact a board member, we can work with you.

Additionally, on the registration form there will be:

A place to list the teams and leagues you plan on playing in this season.

A place to list other leagues you may be interested in playing or substituting in.

A place to indicate if you would be interested in volunteering to get a discount on your membership.

Volunteer duties could include cleaning, painting, bartending, working in the kitchen. This will give us a list to call for help when we need it.

A spot to fill in the name of a new member you recruited, so we can welcome them and make sure they feel comfortable. We ALL need to be working on recruiting new members.

We know there will be some kinks to work through this year with all of these changes, so please be patient. We will see how this goes and modify accordingly. And please speak up if you have any ideas to help increase our membership.

We hope you are all enjoying your summer. We can't wait to start curling again!

Thanks!

The membership committee

Steve Johnson, Eileen Campbell, Pete Harrison, and Doug Fuller