



October 2020

Celebrating 86 years

**Message from the President, Eric Johannsen:** I have been curling at the club for 18 years starting in our junior curling program. Over the years, the club has become my home away from home. I look forward to being back on the ice with everyone. This curling season will be different due to restrictions and precautions that must be taken. We know none of this is ideal, but we hope that you will help us keep everyone at the club safe while enjoying the great game of curling. Also keep in mind that, although we would like to see a full season completed, it might be necessary to temporarily shut down the club at some point. Please see the Covid-19 plan below for what to expect this coming season.

**Message from the General Manager, Eric Fenson:** Welcome back for another great year of curling! We will continue to offer curling supplies for sale in the office on the main level. Just stop by and take a look if you need something. Also, remember to bring a friend or relative to join your team in league. The club can always use more members. One last note on the ice. Please remember to have a separate pair of "curling" shoes to wear when you are in the arena. Outside shoes are not permitted on the ice. Nobody likes to have a "picked" stone. I am looking forward to another fantastic year. GOOD CURLING!

**Covid-19 Plan for the Season:** Here is a quick glance at what to expect this coming season. See the full plan at [https://www.bemidjicurling.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID\\_19\\_Preparedness\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.bemidjicurling.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID_19_Preparedness_Plan.pdf). Note: this is subject to change and will be updated throughout the season.

- Masks are required in the building, including while curling.
- The bar will be open but only authorized people can go behind the bar. Please limit six to a table.
- The locker rooms will be open but only available to those who rent a locker this year.
- Maintain social distancing as much as possible while in the building and on the ice.
- High touch areas and surfaces will be sanitized after each league.
- We will be relying heavily on players and volunteers to help with sanitation before and after games.
- There will be stations with tools and instructions for sanitation.
- To help avoid congestion, curlers playing on sheets 1-3 will enter and exit the ice at the far entrance, and sheets 4-6 will enter and exit the ice at the entrance by the locker rooms.
- In addition, sheets 1, 3, and 5 will start games on the away end of the ice by the scoreboards, and sheets 2,4, and 6 will start games on the home end like usual.
- Hammer will be predetermined before the game instead of using the wooden discs, and the vice skip of the team with the hammer will be the only person to put up the score during the game.
- No handshakes, elbow bumps, or other physical contact before, during, or after games.
- Only one sweeper will be allowed at a time. This includes skips of both teams. The other sweeper can time the rock or be involved in other ways.
- The non-delivering team should be between the hog lines and off to the side and use social distancing. Skips of the non-delivering team should be behind the hack.

- No courtesy rocks. Please only touch your two rocks throughout the game. The lead throws rocks 1 and 2. The second throws 3 and 4 and so forth. After an end, use your feet on the side of the rock to move the rocks.
- No shared drinks and food or curling equipment.

The board and Covid-19 Preparedness Committee will evaluate and review, as necessary. For any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions contact the club at [curlbem@paulbunyan.net](mailto:curlbem@paulbunyan.net).

**League/Draw Times, and Contacts for the 2019-2020 Season:** This year's leagues and league chairs are listed below. Since all league start dates are different, please confirm with league chair.

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|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| ➤ Monday Junior League, 3:45           | Jaime Quello, 218-556-3545                |
| ➤ Monday 2 on 2, 5:30                  | Pete Bahr, 218-444-4813                   |
| ➤ Monday Open League, 6:45             | Eric Johannsen, 218-760-2262              |
| ➤ Monday Mixed Doubles, 8:15           | Amanda Kelly, 218-252-3005                |
| ➤ Tuesday Afternoon Legends Open, 2:30 | Kirby Bahr, 218-444-8008                  |
| ➤ Tuesday Afternoon Open, 4:30         | Lynn Baird/Liz Johnson, 760-6447/760-7300 |
| ➤ Tuesday Night Open League, 6:15      | Matt Boyer, 218-766-2526                  |
| ➤ Wednesday Night Men's, 5:30          | Dan Haluptzok, 218-751-8948               |
| ➤ Wednesday Night Novice League 7:30   | Lanny Cyr, 218-556-9440                   |
| ➤ Thursday Afternoon Open, 1:00        | Kirby Bahr, 218-444-8008                  |
| ➤ Thursday Businessmen's League, 3:00  | Terry Matson, 218-308-0949                |
| ➤ Thursday Businessmen's League, 4:45  | Riley Fenson                              |
| ➤ Thursday Businessmen's League, 6:30  | Eric Johannsen, 218-760-2262              |
| ➤ Friday Open Curling/Learn-to-Curls   | Eileen Campbell 218-760-2605              |

**Bonspiels and Events:** Due to Covid-19, a full list of bonspiels and events is not available. Updates will be posted on the club's website and at the club.

**The Bar:** Greetings from Charlie's Bar! Due to Covid-19 related concerns, we are currently looking for a new bar manager for this season. If you or someone you know is interested in the position or have any questions about the position, please contact the club. We want to continue the great job that Monet and Cathy did the last couple of years and serve the members well.

**Junior Committee Report:** Junior curling had another exciting year with 5 players in the Jr Nationals and 2 players making it to the world tournament level, due to the pandemic the U-18 nationals was cancelled and I believe in my biased opinion that we would have had a U18 championship team all from our club. Bemidji Jr Curling has the largest Jr Curling program in the nation with over 150 students in instructional leagues. These Jr's are our future and need guidance from the adult members. If you want to donate your time to help navigate this next generation contact Jaime Quello @ 218-556-3545.

The BCC Junior Program continues its reimbursement program for certain fees. Eligible Juniors under the age of 21, participate in a BCC League or Program, and reside in the Bemidji area. In return, Juniors are expected to complete four hours of volunteer work at BCC or help in the Jr Bonspiel.

Beginners, intermediate and competitive curlers in 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade can participate in the Monday After School Curling Program from 3:45 to 5:10. Open to boys and girls, Juniors will get instruction and competition suited to their level of play. Due to uncertainty there is no known date of when this program will start. Check the Curling club website or Bemidji Community Education for further information.

Boys and girls in grades 1-5 will start curling Sunday Nights at 5:30pm. Due to uncertainty there is no known date of when this program will start. Check the Curling club website or Bemidji Community Education for further information.

**Registration:** Your registration is due before the season starts because we need your signed release form before you get on the ice. If for some reason it is a financial burden, please contact a board member or the club manager to work out a different arrangement. There will be a payment plan option this year if you pay online.

We have the same registration form this year and we will not be raising the membership fees. However, because we are expecting more expenses with COVID-19 sanitation guidelines, there will be a \$25 surcharge to help the club cover those costs.

We were planning to move to use-based dues this season but were not able to get member input on it since our last season was cut short. We will plan to move to use-based dues next year and get member input during the season.

**Locker Rooms:** Locker rooms will be open this year. If you already have a locker, please put your locker number on your registration form. If you would like a locker, please sign up with Dan Haluptzok or Eric Fenson.

**New Members:** Last year we had 28 new members and we anticipate even more this year. If you know of someone interested in joining, please have them contact a board member or download the application form on the website.

If you have ideas on how to increase membership or are interested in joining the membership committee, please contact a board member.

**Strategic Plan Committee:** The Strategic Plan Committee has been working to develop a 5-year strategic plan that can help guide the board in future decision making based on club member and community input. This strategic plan does not override the board but instead outlines four to five target categories for growth and progress. This creates a team unity that spans across multiple years and different boards. Currently, we are in the listening stage and have recently sent out a survey to all club members and the community. Please fill out the survey if you have not yet done so. We are hoping to have a completed plan by the end of the year. Thank you for your feedback!

**Membership Portal:** At BCC we are working hard to create an engaging online community for our members! Thanks to our new membership portal, we now have an online hub where you can register for membership, post league scores/standings, manage substitutes, volunteer around the club and so much more! To access your membership account, visit [www.bemidjicurling.org](http://www.bemidjicurling.org) and click 'Login' from the main menu. If you have never logged into the system before, please select 'Forgot your Username?' and 'Forgot your Password' to set up your online credentials. (You must have a past email address on file to use this function). If you need any help during this process, click 'contact the club' at the bottom for assistance. See you online!

**Mixed Doubles League:** Come learn how to play the exciting sport of Mixed Doubles! This fast-paced but casual league is for teams of two people (one male and one female) and we can accept up to 12 teams. A rules meeting will take place on the first night of league prior to play. Mondays @ 8:30 pm. Call or text Amanda Kelly for more information at (218) 252-3005

**Open Curling/Learn-to-Curls:** After a couple years of having open curling on Fridays, we are excited to continue growing this aspect of our club to get more people into the sport of curling. This year we are

going to have a bigger emphasis on a consistent Learn-to-Curl class. This class will follow USCA's Level 1 Instructional Training. The first half of the class will take place off the ice and go through many of the rules of the game. The second half will be on the ice and give people the opportunity to try their hand at the game. We will still offer open sheets during this time to anyone who wants to get some extra practice. We are also looking to be able to schedule ice time during leagues that have open sheets. If you are a member, this can give you the opportunity to bring in family and friends who are not familiar with the game and give them a chance to try it. At this time, we do not know when or how often these classes or open curling will take place, but details will be posted prior to the event.

**Community Ed and Open House:** Community Ed Intro to Curling classes will be held Nov 13 and 20 and Dec 4 and 11. We will need volunteers to help with instruction, so please keep that in mind. We will have an Open House/Small Bonspiel on Dec 12<sup>h</sup>. This is free to our Community Ed students and members of the Bemidji community. A free lunch will be provided to all who participate. Club members will be needed to help skip teams and provide instruction. Contact Eric Fenson for more details at [curlbem@paulbunyan.net](mailto:curlbem@paulbunyan.net)

**Broadcasting League Games:** This year we are excited to announce we are partnering with Twelfth End Sports Network (TESN) to broadcast certain league and bonspiel games online through TESN's website. This gives us the chance to showcase our club on a broader scale. We would like this broadcast to be well done and offer more than just a silent and static broadcast. If you are interested in helping with the broadcast in any way contact Eric Johannsen. If you are interested in sponsoring the broadcast or placing an ad, please contact Eric Fenson.

**Northwest Minnesota Foundation:** The Board of Directors, may accept on behalf of the corporation, any contributions, gifts, bequests, or devise, for any purpose of the corporation. This would be a 100% tax deductible donation through a fund at the Minnesota Northwest Foundation. An account has been established for this purpose.

**Holiday Fundraiser:** The Bemidji Curling Club has partnered with MN Brands for Good to launch our first annual Holiday Fundraiser! Grab gifts for your friends, family, employees, teachers, neighbors, whomever you want to spread holiday cheer to! 40% of all the proceeds will go to the Bemidji Curling Club helping us maintain our COVID Sanitation program and continue to strengthen the future of our club! Products are shipped right to your door so it's a safe way to shop while supporting small businesses all over Minnesota! Keep an eye out in your email, our Facebook page, and at the club for when shopping is live! The fundraiser launches on November 9th!