

August 2, 2020

Greetings curlers! We hope everyone is enjoying the summer, regardless of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. This is a trying time for everyone with many changes to normal routines and uncertainty as to what lies ahead.



Attempting to re-open the SCC for curling this fall is no exception. Our primary concerns are being able to offer a safe environment for our curlers, having enough members sign up for the club to open, preparing the club to meet new guidelines and ensuring the club does not incur a large financial deficit this year.

The Executive at the curling club is working to understand the new rules for curling. We are hopeful that we can re-open in October while adhering to the guidelines set out by the Provincial Health Organization, Curling Canada, viaSport and Curl BC. Some of these rule changes include: the use of only one sweeper during games, no sweeping opposition rocks behind the tee line, new markings on the ice for non-throwing team members to be stationed, no handshakes, no coin toss and no use of manual scoreboards.

Work Completed by the Executive to date:

1. Officers of the club have attended 4 Curl BC webinars on re-opening amateur sport and specifically curling in BC.
2. The Executive at the club has held 2 regular Executive Zoom meetings since our season ended and have another one planned for August 9th.
3. To meet Curl BC guidelines for re-opening, members of the Executive are creating a risk management document and a comprehensive Safety Plan. This compulsory plan identifies the measures we are implementing to meet COVID-19 safety guidelines at the SCC.
4. On July 16th members of the SCC met with the District of Summerland to discuss key issues such as our License of Occupation Agreement, preparing a Safety Plan that aligns with the District's Plan, and discussing the likelihood the District will allow the curling club to open this fall.

5. On July 17th, a Survey was sent out to all curlers from last year asking if they will be curling in 2020/21. Preliminary numbers show 143 people responded out of 234 surveys sent out. 62% of people said yes, 10% said no and 28% were unsure if they would curl.

To meet new Curl BC and Curling Canada regulations, we will have to modify the way we run our leagues and operate our curling club. Social Distancing guidelines need to be followed which restricts the number of people allowed in both our lobby and our lounge at any one time. This will impact how we organize league play and how we move people in and out of the lobby, ice surface and lounge areas. Regular sanitization of common touch points such as door handles, chairs, tables, rocks, scoreboard numbers etc. will be a priority. Science continues to show that social distancing remains the single biggest way to reduce the spread of the virus. At this time, masks are considered optional at the SCC. The Executive will be providing more information to you as it becomes clearer how to safely proceed with curling.

Summer Club Updates:

1. Our Ice Technician from last year Andrew Barnes, has indicated that he is interested in returning to the SCC for another year. This is a huge plus for our club as we continue to make significant improvements and upgrades to the club and provide excellent ice conditions for all members.
2. The District of Summerland has been busy replacing the carpet on the stairs and in the lounge upstairs with modern carpet squares that match those in the rest of the curling club.
3. Another big change to the club this year is the replacement of the wooden chairs in the lounge. The SCC was fortunate to acquire 200 used chairs from the Penticton Convention and Trade Center at no charge. The chairs are stackable, in good condition and can be used this season without any refurbishing or upgrades. In a year or two when our financial situation is clearer, the plan will be to recover the chairs.
4. **Electronic Payments in 2020!** The club purchased a payment system which will allow us to accept debit card payments for registration and bar purchases. We will also accept registration payments via INTERAC e-transfers. You can pay the club using your banks website or app by sending money to payments@summerlandcurling.org. We would like electronic

payments if possible but will continue to accept registration payments via cheque and bar purchases via cash if you prefer.

Our new payment system has 2 components to it. One is the Point of Sale system which will replace the old cash register upstairs. It has a touch screen so bartenders can record drink orders electronically and the system automatically tabulates the order. It does accept tap payments as well as having the capability of tracking inventory and creating reports on products sold. The intent here is to track our liquor and beer products more closely and use the system to monitor product sales and help to simplify our ordering practises.

The second component is called a “Square Terminal” and it is a small, portable, handheld unit that can be used to accept payments anywhere in the club. We anticipate it will be used predominantly in the office downstairs.

5. The SCC has a new website to display all our curling information. Please note that you can access the site at www.summerlandcurling.org. We hope you find the site easy to use and informative.
6. The SCC also has a new email address, info@summerlandcurling.org. Our previous SCC email address summerlandcurling@shaw.ca has been inactivated. Make sure to update your records.

Volunteer Opportunities:

1. The curling club is looking for a volunteer to schedule bar staff for regular evening league play and for events that occur on weekends. If Curl BC restrictions remain as they are, there may not be any weekend activities such as bonspiels at the club this season. We urgently need to fill this role. Please contact any Executive member for more information.
2. Volunteer bartenders. To qualify you need to complete the online Serving It Right course which the club will reimburse you for. If you are interested, please contact one of the Executive members.

Curl BC Announcement:

As a result of the COVID-19 virus and the uncertainty of the curling season, Curl BC has decided not to print any yearbooks for the 2020 season. Instead they will be placing all the yearbook information online at <https://www.curlbc.ca/events-results/> . In addition, the 2020 online bonspiel calendar can be viewed at the same site. Please note that the SCC has tentatively scheduled bonspiels for the 2020/21 season but under current curling restrictions travel is not advised, and gatherings of 50 people or fewer is in effect. Therefore, at this point our bonspiels are all on hold.

Important Curling Dates:

Registration Night has been scheduled for **Thursday September 24th** from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in the SCC lounge. League fees and club membership fees remain the same as last year with Spare fees increasing this year. Further details on how to register online or in person will be made available in the next newsletter scheduled for September 1st, 2020.

Thursday October 1st is our SCC Annual General Meeting at 7:00 pm. We will decide in the coming weeks as to whether this will be a zoom meeting or if it will be held in person. More details will be sent to members in early September.

Tuesday October 13th league play is scheduled to begin.

Congratulations SCC Curlers:

At the end of last season the BCIMCA and PCMCA Masters curling championships were held in Summerland and Penticton. Congratulations to the 60+ women's team and 60+ men's team that represented the SCC. For more details on the event and results, please visit our website at: www.summerlandcurling.org.

SCC Officers for the 2020/21 season:

- Secretary – Emma Hartwick
- Treasurer – Mark Verhelst
- Vice President – Gary Raymond
- President – Don Lawrence

In closing the Executive will be providing another update to members on September 1st as additional information becomes available. Remember to periodically check the curling club website for newly posted items.

Sincerely, Your SCC Executive