



## **PCMCA Newsletter #1 – October 31, 2023**

### **The PCMCA Website ( [www.pcmca.ca](http://www.pcmca.ca) ) :**

- There have been a lot of positive changes within the website. We hope the contents are more in tune with your expectations and the sort of information you are seeking. If they are not or if there is something else you are looking for, please let us know!
  - Our website is interactive!
    - When you first click on [www.pcmca.ca](http://www.pcmca.ca), please scan around the opening page. If you don't see what you are looking for, please click on [Ask a question of the PCMCA Executive](#) located on the upper right side of the page. You will then be able to ask a question, pose a concern or simply make a comment. Someone will respond within a day and likely a few hours at most.
- PCMCA events have now been updated. You will find announcements for an extensive number of activities listed by Zone, type, dates and other important pieces of information. Take a look by clicking on <https://pcmca.ca/Event.aspx?opt=list&from=menu>
  - Bonspiel calendar
    - Leagues from every Zone have posted their most recent updated bonspiel schedules on the website. They are arranged in chronological order but if you want to see them by Zone or club or type, simply click on that button and it will re-sort.
    - Many of the bonspiels have included posters that provide a lot more information about the spiel such as who is eligible to participate, entry fees, what's involved etc.
  - Playdowns calendar
    - Playdowns are not very far away! Enter your team!
    - Most, if not all of the Zone playdowns have been set for all 5 categories. This includes when and where they will be held as well as playdown rules and any special arrangements.
    - There are several new features to this season's playdowns that you'll want to take note of.
      - Entry deadlines.
        - To help our organizers establish schedules and any special arrangements we are asking members to declare their intentions for the men and women categories by filling out completed entry forms before [December 1](#).
      - Entry fees.
        - There are no changes to the \$160 entry fees per team participating in the playdowns. These fees are collected by the PCMCA for some of the costs associated with co-hosting the Combined playdowns etc. Further, in situations where ice rental costs are significant, teams will be charged small additional amounts.



- Entry deposits.
  - This year, small entry deposits will now be required. This might vary between Zones but generally, they range from \$40 to \$50 per team to confirm each team's commitment.
  - If a team or individual member has entered more than one category and is successful, as in the past, the entry fees plus deposits, etc are refunded for other categories.
- Playdown Rules etc
  - Playdown rules, entry forms etc are also now available to be downloaded.
  - When members click on a playdown category, these pieces of information can be found by clicking on the available documents on the upper right side of the page.

## Women in curling

- Messages and Goals:
  - By the end of last season, the message was loud and clear - more participation by women in the PCMCA at every level – as individual members, leagues, league and club representatives, and, Zone and PCMCA executive members is greatly needed. The PCMCA is very pleased to report this call out to get more involvement has received a very positive response.
- We are very pleased to hear that more women have joined the PCMCA this year and we confidently project the gap between men's and women's participation will be significantly narrowed! As a result of the increase in participation, there are more women's leagues signed up and preliminary reporting suggests that other women's leagues are also considering signing up!
- Welcome to the Women members of the league and PCMCA executive.
  - In the earlier President's reports, we were pleased to announce that Cheryl Eason agreed to join the PCMCA as our Treasurer. Her experience and qualifications make her a perfect match for the challenges ahead. We are very pleased Cheryl has signed on! Our conversations and decisions have already benefited from her experience and insights.
  - Thanks to Nancy Stagg (president), Isobel Gardner (Treasurer) and Monica Hunter (Secretary), for the very first time, we have a Zone with women occupying all three executive positions at the league level.
- The message from the women PCMCA members is clear. They are up for the challenge and will make the difference that will enable us to grow in numbers and stature. Thanks, ladies!! Stay tuned to hear more about this important development.

## Stick Curling

- Stick curling is our new/old kid on the block. Last year, the demonstration event in Chilliwack was an immediate success. Consequently, it was a no-brainer to add a 5<sup>th</sup> category to the PCMCA and Combined playdowns.
- Due to the newness of this category, interest and excitement are still building. That said, Stick Curling bonspiels are not yet part of the Events Calendar but we are looking forward to seeing them show up soon.
- This year each Zone has announced Stick Curling playdowns will be occurring alongside the other 4 categories. Participation will be governed by the same PCMCA Playdown rules. For playdown



locations, dates etc please check the Events Calendar. If you are a Stick Curler, consider entering a team and joining in on the fun and competition.

- Once you click on the Zone Playdown you are looking for, entry forms, PCMCA rules, specific Stick Curling rules etc can be found in the upper right side of the page.

## **80+ Curlers**

- Did you know the current count of PCMCA members that are 80+ has now exceeded 300 curlers? At last count, we have 266 men and 49 women regular members of our curling leagues who are at least 80 years old. This number can be expected to grow significantly as more and more of us are aging gracefully remaining healthy and active well into our 80's and 90's.
- This season, 80+ bonspiels are being hosted by Zone 2 in Abbotsford and Zone 3 in Richmond. We encourage all members to support the spiels and if you are 80+, join in and Rock & Roll!

## **Follow-Up Newsletters**

- Thanks for taking the time and interest in reading this newsletter! We appreciate it more than you might realize.
- Please encourage your fellow members to take a look at your PCMCA website and most definitely read this newsletter.
- We plan to follow up with other interesting articles over the coming weeks, focusing on timely topics and items of interest, such as
  - Women in Curling,
  - The 2024 PCMCA/Combined Playdowns in Vernon/Armstrong
  - Items that have been brought to our attention by members.
    - If you have a question, suggestion or concern, please let us know by tapping on "[Ask a question of the PCMCA Executive](#)". We will do our best to answer you directly or as an article in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Thanks everyone!!