



Welcome Back!

Lethbridge Curling Club Junior Curling Newsletter September 2013

Welcome back to a new and exciting season of Junior curling at the Lethbridge Curling Club! I would like to take this opportunity to explain what we're hoping the season will look like, and also introduce myself!

My name is Taylor Bourassa and I took over the Junior Curling Coordinator position from Casey Scheidegger back in January of 2013. I was born and raised in Lethbridge and am happy to have called the Lethbridge Curling Club my second home for the past 15 years. I started out in the Junior program when I was 5 years old, and stuck with it until I was 12. Since then I've curled competitively, played in leagues at the Lethbridge Curling Club, and spared for many teams in the Lethbridge area. I've been with the Junior Curling Program for the past three years, volunteering my time at first, and then becoming the Coordinator in January. I'm currently in my second year at the University of Lethbridge, pursuing a degree in Education with hopes of becoming a teacher!

Program Changes:

At the club we're thrilled about some of the changes that have been made to the Junior program over the summer and can't wait to implement them this fall! With our numbers tripling in the past couple of years, we felt the need to introduce a second time and day for the program. Our program now not only runs Wednesdays from 4:15pm to 5:45pm, but also Saturdays from 10:30am to 12:00pm! We're pleased to see that registration for both Wednesdays and Saturdays is filling up!

Not only have we added an additional day for the program, we've added an additional level and made some changes to the current levels!

Juniors: For the most part, the Junior level will be staying the same. Each week, the kids will be taking part in games. New this year however, is that the kids designated to the Junior level will be playing only Third and Skip positions on their teams (please note that this may vary with numbers and attendance).

Novice: New this year is the novice level! It will serve as a bridge between the Little Rocker level and the Junior level since I've noticed in the past that this jump is difficult for most kids. The kids in the Novice level will be grouped at random and will be working on skills one week and filling in the Junior level teams (playing Lead and Second – again this depends on numbers and attendance) the next week. The hope is that the Novice level allows the kids who are capable and want to play games the chance to do so, while also focusing on growing their skills and technique.

Little Rockers: We're also looking at some exciting changes to the Little Rocker level! While we loved the idea of rotating the kids through stations like we did last year, we know that it's cold out on the ice and an hour and a half is a long time to be out there for some of those little bodies! So this year we're introducing some stations focused on the theme of curling that will be held inside where it's a little warmer! Some ideas that

we've come up with are puzzles, colouring, shuffleboard, beanbag toss, sculpting, and maybe even a photo booth with Rocky, our club's mascot! We're looking forward to giving our Little Rockers a break from the cold and a chance to create some neat things that they can take home and share with their friends and family!

Volunteers at the club:

On that same note, we're looking for volunteers on the ice as well as off of the ice supervising our activities inside! No knowledge of the sport is necessary, just maybe a bit of creativity and patience! Please let Dave, Nanette or myself know if you're at all interested in helping out this year! Last year we had a wonderful volunteer banquet at the end of the season that was catered by our Lounge Supervisor, Maggie! She makes a mean prime rib dinner!

This year we've decided to continue with our snack days. Traditionally they've been the last Junior Curling Wednesday of the month, and so we're looking to do the same thing this year for the Wednesday program as well as the Saturday program. While all the food is provided, extra hands are needed for the preparation/supervision of the kids upstairs. We also asked on the registration form for any allergies, so we can make sure that the food we're serving is safe for all the kids to consume. If your child has an allergy and it wasn't written on the registration sheet, please let the office staff or myself know.

We are also in need of parent volunteers for our Christmas and End of the Year parties. We're hoping to have some food and fun games and activities for the kids after they curl the last day before Christmas and the last day of the season. We normally end our curling time 30-45 minutes early. If you're interested in doing any of the planning for these days, let me know and I can give you more information!

Bonspiels:

After the success of last year's Junior Bonspiel, we decided to do it again this year! Except we're hosting not just one, but TWO junior bonspiels! The first one will be held on Saturday, November 9th and will be limited to just the kids in our club. There will be no charge, and kids can sign up as a team of four or as an individual with Nanette in the office. Our second bonspiel will be held on Sunday, April 6th 2014. It will be open to junior program teams from all over Southern Alberta. There will be a small fee for this spiel, but we plan on making it lots of fun with a theme, banquet, prizes and lots of great curling! Again, kids can sign up as a team of four or as an individual with Nanette in the office. Don't forget that they can invite their friends from other clubs to this one too! We want to get the word out and make it a big event for Junior program kids in Lethbridge and the surrounding area!

Curling Etiquette:

Lastly I would like to address the expected **attendance** and **behaviour** of our Junior curlers.

- Curling is a team sport and therefore these young curlers have three other players that count on their presence. It's extremely difficult to get games going when kids are absent or tardy. We understand that life happens: kids get sick and can't make it, parents are working and can't bring their child to curling on time, other sports and activities conflict with our times, etc., but we encourage kids and parents to try their best to make Junior curling a commitment.
- The safety of our young curlers is very important to us. We understand that there is the possibility for injury on the ice, but we want to make this possibility as unlikely as we can. Therefore, if any of our instructors observe a Junior curler acting in an inappropriate and unsafe way we reserve the right to ask them to remove themselves from the ice surface until they are able to conduct themselves in a more appropriate manner. Behaviour that will not be tolerated includes, and is not limited to: lifting rocks off the ice, swinging brooms around wildly, pushing/shoving/hitting, losing control of a rock, lack of self-control or a general disregard of the safety of other curlers and instructors on the ice. All curlers appreciate appropriate behaviour, etiquette, and regard for safety both on and off the ice.

Important Dates for the Program:

October 2nd, 2013-----First Wednesday!
October 19th, 2013-----First Saturday!
November 9th, 2013-----LCC Junior FunSpiel!
December 19th, 2013--Wednesday X-mas Party!
December 21st, 2013-----Saturday X-mas Party!
April 5th, 2014-----Last Saturday!
April 6th, 2014-----Season's End Junior Spiel!
April 9th, 2014-----Last Wednesday!

Snack-day Wednesdays: October 30th, November 27th, January 22nd, February 26th, and March 26th.

Snack-day Saturdays: October 26th, January 18th, February 22nd, and March 29th.

No Curling Wednesdays: December 25th, January 1st and 29th.

No Curling Saturdays: November 2nd, 9th (LCC Junior Funspiel), 16th, 23rd, and 30th, December 28th, January 25th, February 1st, and 15th, and March 8th, and 22nd.

We know that we're making a lot of changes this year and we're still ironing out lots of the details. To help us improve, we would love to hear feedback from the parents of the Program as well as the kids who are a part of it! Please feel free to approach or e-mail Dave or myself if you have any comments or concerns, or if you're willing to help out with any of the events mentioned! I look forward to an awesome season of Junior curling and can't wait to be back on the ice! See you soon!!

Taylor

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Junior Curling 2013 - 2014



Where throwing rocks at houses is encouraged!

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