

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

YORK CURLING CLUB

CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

Version	Revision Date	Author	Comments
1	Oct 25, 2011	K. Morrison	Initial version of the document
2	Jan 1, 2012	K. Morrison	Comments from Curling Committee review
3	Jan 10, 2012	K. Morrison	Second curling committee review
4	Jan 18 2012	K. Morrison	Third curling committee review
5	Feb 28, 2012	K. Morrison	Comments from Monday Men's, Saturday Mixed, Thursday Men's conveners
6	Mar 6, 2013	K. Morrison	Comments from start of 2012/13 season review
7	April 10, 2013	K. Morrison	Comments from conveners
8	April 14, 2013	K. Morrison	Updated with comments from the board
9	Mar 23, 2014	K. Morrison	Updated with Curling Committee annual review comments
10	Nov 15, 2015	K. Morrison Board Approved Mar 20, 2016	Updated with Curling Committee annual review comments. Cleaned up the document to remove reference to 2013 start. Added in the Sunday Novice league

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

BACKGROUND

The York Curling Club (YCC) Board recognized the club expansion and membership growth, warranted a review of the various leagues and how they serve the membership as a whole. This review was conducted over several sessions with members of the Board and Curling Club Staff. The result was a proposal, that was presented to the YCC Board as a whole and the conveners of all the leagues at YCC. After Board approval the Policy was published and shared at the 2013 AGM.

The intent of the policy is to meet the ongoing curling demands for YCC membership.

An annual review of this document is recommended to ensure continued reasonability of the assumptions and recommendations included in this document.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

These guiding principles are used to direct the discussion and proposed changes for the leagues.

1. Goal of the YCC is to provide a safe and friendly environment which provides the opportunity to develop curling across our membership as a whole. Ensure fair and equitable opportunity to the membership as a whole.
2. Each gender will have priority on one night for team entry and one night for House League dependent on demand.
3. Team Entry leagues are run as a flight system based on number of teams in the league, flight leagues will typically have more than 1 full draw.
4. Ice should be allocated and used as much as possible, within the guidelines of allowing proper ice maintenance.
5. Existing curlers have priority over rentals. Schedules should be planned for the leagues first and rentals second.
6. Minimize spill over games.
7. Development path would be considered as Mixed Recreational, House League leading to joining the Team Entry leagues.
8. A standard number of games is defined as 21 weeks of curling for House League and Team Entry and 14 weeks for Mixed Social and Friday Open. Some leagues and seasons may have more or less availability based on calendar and league format.
9. Monday Ladies and Tuesday Men's Team Entry leagues should ideally run without BYES.

APPROACH FOR ANNUAL REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. Finalize the updated policy through reviews with the Curling Committee
2. Present the updated policy to the YCC Board.
3. Update the policy based on feedback and establish the appropriate communication plan for implementation.

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

PRIMARY AREA OF PROPOSED CHANGE

There is a major area of proposed change that warrants highlight.

MONDAY NIGHT CURLING

Consideration has been given to dedicating Monday and Tuesday evenings to Men's and Ladies Team Entry league. It is fully appreciated that this introduces a major change and concern to a number of existing YCC members.

A challenge with instituting this change is ensuring that the demand exists to initiate the change. In April 2013 the committee recommended and the Board approved an annual assessment be done to determine if the demand for Ladies Team Entry warrants redirecting Monday Men's House League membership to other Men's league opportunities. This assessment is based on declaration of interest in joining the Team Entry Leagues by the end of February every year.

Every year it will be assessed if there is demand from the Monday Ladies Team Entry to warrant allocating the Monday evening ice to this league. Specific triggers for a change in Monday night ice allocation are:

- If there is a total of 25 or more ladies teams seeking entry for the upcoming season it will be recommended to allocate the Monday night ice to Ladies Team Entry. The Monday Men's league would be disbanded.
- If the decision is made to disband Monday Men's House League, prepayment of the Team Entry League fees will be implemented prior to the end of the then current season. Teams seeking entry for the next curling season will be required to pay their Team Entry league fees only for the entire team prior to April 1 of that season to secure their spot in the league.

It was determined that until the demand exists, the Monday Men's House League should remain intact.

Coincident with this recommendation, it is also proposed that while the league remains intact, the league structure and format of play undergo minor modifications.

The recommended structure of the league is a maximum of 8 teams, reducing the need for spill over games. The recommended format of the league is to follow the standard house league format of 2 draw round robins with the winners of each draw competing in the Club Night of Champions to determine the overall winner of the league for that curling season.

Details for all leagues are included in the pages following.

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

Team Entry Leagues

Team Entry leagues provide an excellent opportunity to apply curling skills and experience at a more competitive level than House League play.

1. MONDAY NIGHT LADIES

1.1. League Description

- Team entry league targeting curlers who choose to curl together at a more competitive level than house league play.
- Flight system play with teams shifting between flights based on draw results
- Number of draws are determined by the number of teams per flight and number of available Monday nights during the season. Entry into the league is determined for the next season based on
 - Returning teams placing above last & second last position in the league based on the year's cumulative results.
 - Play downs between the bottom 2 teams of the current season and new teams seeking entry for next season, following OCA double knock out format.
- A returning team is defined as the existing team owner plus one other existing team member OR three existing team members.(note team owner is not always the skip)

1.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- League runs on Monday nights with no spill over games and ideally no BYES
- Promoted as a progression league for curlers looking to apply their skills and experience at a more competitive level than house league.
- Promoted as a league to supplement not replace House League play.

1.3. Maximum number of teams

- Currently 18 ideally expanding to 24.

1.4. Expansion Criteria

- Demand for entry is realized through number of teams seeking entry and declaring by the end of February of the current season combined with the number of returning teams from the current season.
- Refer to PRIMARY AREA OF CHANGE – MONDAY NIGHT CURLING section for specific expansion criteria.

1.5. Ideally, and to be consistent with men's team entry, an 18 team league would be run with 9 sheets resulting in 24 games with no byes.

1.6. Short Term goals

- Continue development of the league, promoting the intent of the league to House League curlers to ensure they are aware the opportunity is open and available to them.

1.7. Long Term goals

- Expand the league to meet the growing demand year over year

2. TUESDAY NIGHT MEN

2.1. League Description

- Team entry league targeting curlers who choose to curl together at a more competitive level than house league play.
- Flight system play with teams shifting between flights based on draw results
- Number of draws are determined by the number of teams per flight and number of available Tuesday nights during the season. Historically 5 draws of 6 team flights per season, resulting in 25 games per season.

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

- Entry into the league is determined for the next season based on
 - Returning teams placing above last & second last position in the league based on the year's cumulative results.
 - Play downs between the bottom 2 teams of the current season as at the end of the season and new teams seeking entry for next season, following OCA double knock out format.
- A returning team is defined as the existing team owner plus one other existing team member OR three existing team members. (note team owner is not always the skip)

2.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- League runs on Tuesday nights
- Promoted as a progression league for curlers looking to apply their skills and experience at a more competitive level than house league.
- Promoted as a league to supplement not replace House League play.

2.3. Maximum number of teams

- 24

2.4. Expansion Criteria

- No plans to expand this league beyond 24 teams.

2.5. Short Term goals

- Continue development of the league, promoting the intent of the league to House League curlers to ensure they are aware the opportunity is open and available to them.

2.6. Long Term goals

- No plans for change

3. WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY AFTERNOON MEN

3.1. League Description

- Team entry targeting curlers seeking a level of play between house league and Tuesday Men's team entry.
- Currently run with two round robin draws per season
- Entry into the league is determined for the next season based on
 - Returning teams placing above last & second last position in the league based on the year's cumulative results.
 - Play downs between the bottom 2 teams of the current season as at the end of the season and new teams seeking entry for next season, following OCA double knock out format.

3.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- Leagues run on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon

3.3. Maximum number of teams

- Maximum of 14

3.4. Expansion Criteria

- No plans to expand beyond the maximum of 14 teams.

3.5. Short Term goals

- Continue development of the league, promoting the intent of the league to House League curlers to ensure they are aware the opportunity is open and available to them.

3.6. Long Term goals

- Maintain this league.

4. SUNDAY MIXED TEAM ENTRY

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

4.1. League Description

- Team entry targeting curlers who choose to curl together at a more competitive level than Mixed Social league play.

4.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- League runs on Sundays at 4:00pm
- League could increase in size and be run as a flight system

4.3. Maximum number of teams

- Maximum of 12 teams.

4.4. Expansion Criteria

- This league has seen varying levels of interest over the years. As the interest increases, a flight system and 2 draws can be introduced.

4.5. Short Term goals

- Continue development of the league, promoting the intent of the league to House League curlers to ensure they are aware the opportunity is open and available to them.

4.6. Long Term goals

- Consider shifting this league to an Open league as the popularity of Friday Open increases.

5. FRIDAY OPEN TEAM ENTRY

5.1. League Description

- Team entry targeting curlers who choose to curl together at a more competitive level than house league.
- Flight system play with teams shifting between flights based on draw results
- Run as an 18 team league 3 flights of 6 teams, 1 of 3 weeks is a bye, resulting in 15 games per season over 3 draws.
- Entry into the league is determined for the next season based on
 - Returning teams placing above last & second last position in the league based on the year's cumulative results.
 - Play downs between the bottom 2 teams of the current season as at the end of the season and new teams seeking entry for next season, following OCA double knock out format.

5.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- Leagues run on Friday afternoon

5.3. Maximum number of teams

- Maximum of 18.

5.4. Expansion Criteria

- Capacity reached – no plans for expansion

5.5. Short Term goals

- Continue promoting the league

5.6. Long Term goals

- Could be considered as either a feeder or receiver to a potential Sunday Team Entry League.

HOUSE LEAGUES

House leagues provide an excellent opportunity to learn new skills or enhance existing skills, all within a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

1. LADIES WEDNESDAY EVENING

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

1.1. League Description

- House league teams with skill levels from beginner to experienced.
- Currently run as 2 round robin draws
- Individual entry where teams are formed by the convener and through skips draw.

1.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- Leagues run on Wednesday evening
- League is to develop the skills of all curlers at various levels.
- League is promoted as a development league to prepare interested curlers to seek additional curling opportunities in the various team entry leagues available to them.
- 21 games per season is a good curling experience. Byes are acceptable.

1.3. Maximum number of teams

- Maximum of 28

1.4. Expansion Criteria

- Based on year over year demand

1.5. Short Term goals

- Continue standard play format with no playoffs. Winners of draws compete in the Night of Champions for overall League Champions.
- Continue promoting the league to women in the Social Mixed leagues as an opportunity to develop skills and experience.
- Consider a “Come out & Try it” night from the Friday & Saturday Social leagues to the house leagues.
- Continue to encourage experienced curlers from Team entry leagues to participate in this league.

1.6. Long Term goals

- Continued emphasis on curler development from Novice to Experience curler.
- Focus training and opportunities on preparing the curler for the level of curling they strive for.
- Continued expansion of the league to capacity

2. LADIES DAYTIME

2.1. League Description

- House league teams with skill levels from beginner to experienced.
- Currently run as 2 round robin draws
- Individual entry where teams are formed by the convener and through skips draw.

2.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- Leagues run on Tuesday and Thursday early afternoon
- Continue standard play format with no playoffs. Winners of draws compete in the Night of Champions for overall League Champions.

2.3. Maximum number of teams

- Maximum of 14, byes acceptable

2.4. Expansion Criteria

- No plans to expand beyond the maximum.

2.5. Short Term goals

- Continue to promote the leagues as an opportunity to develop skills and experience.

2.6. Long Term goals

- Expand the leagues to capacity.

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

3. MEN'S MONDAY EVENING

3.1. League Description

- House league teams with skill levels from beginner to experienced.
- Run as round robin draws with 2 playoffs during the round robin and at the end
- Individual entry where teams are formed by the convener and through skips draw.

3.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- League runs on Monday evening

3.3. Maximum number of teams

- Maximum of 8

3.4. Expansion Criteria

- No plans to expand

3.5. Short Term goals

- Continue to promote as a development league

3.6. Long Term goals

- Based on annual assessment of Monday Night Ladies demand.

4. MEN'S THURSDAY EVENING

4.1. League Description

- House league teams with skill levels from beginner to experienced.
- Currently run as 2 round robin draws with 2 playoffs during the round robin and at the end
- Individual entry where teams are formed by the convener and through skips draw.

4.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- League runs on Thursday evening
- League is to develop the skills of all curlers at various levels.
- League is promoted as a development league to prepare interested curlers to seek additional curling opportunities in the various team entry leagues available to them.
- 21 games per season is a good curling experience. Byes are acceptable.
- League could increase in size, introduce byes and eliminate playoffs

4.3. Maximum number of teams

- Maximum of 28

4.4. Expansion Criteria

- Based on year over year demand

4.5. Short Term goals

- Continue promoting the league to Men in the Social Mixed leagues as a developmental opportunity
- Consider a "Come out & Try it" night from the Friday & Saturday Social leagues to the house leagues.
- Depending upon the demand for Monday Ladies this league may be an option for redirecting Monday Men's House League members.
- Shift to standard play format with no playoffs. Winners of draws compete in the Night of Champions for overall League Champions.

4.6. Long Term goals

- Continued emphasis on curler development from Novice to Experience curler.
- Focus training and opportunities on preparing the curler for the level of curling they strive for.
- Expand the league to capacity.

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

5. MIXED SOCIAL FRIDAY EVENING

5.1. League Description

- Mixed curling having a social, less-competitive atmosphere.
- Couple/individual entry where couples play on the same draw but typically not on the same team, with teams being formed by the club. Two draws each season, where teams are "shuffled" between each draw.
- 3 draws of 12 teams with 1 BYE out of every 3 weeks
- Entry based on first come first served.

5.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- League runs on Friday evening, 2 draws 6:50 & 9:00 pm
- 14 games per season is a good curling experience, BYES are acceptable.

5.3. Maximum number of teams

- Maximum of 36

5.4. Expansion Criteria

- No plans to expand

5.5. Short Term goals

- Continued emphasis on curler development from Novice to Experience curler.
- Promotion of House leagues as developmental opportunities towards Team Entry leagues.

5.6. Long Term goals

- Continued emphasis on curler development from Novice to Experience curler.
- Focus training and opportunities on preparing the curler for the level of curling they strive for.

6. MIXED SOCIAL SATURDAY EVENING

6.1. League Description

- Mixed curling having a social, less-competitive atmosphere.
- Offers the opportunity for new curling couples and singles to get started.
- Team entry, couple or individual entries will be accommodated.

6.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- League runs on Saturday evening, 2 draws 6:50 & 9:00 pm
- 14 games per season

6.3. Maximum number of teams

- Maximum of 24

6.4. Expansion Criteria

- No plans to expand beyond the maximum.

6.5. Short Term goals

- Ensure the Saturday curling calendar/schedule is established before rentals are accommodated / booked.

6.6. Long Term goals

- Continued emphasis on curler development from Novice to Experience curler.
- Promotion of House leagues as developmental opportunities towards Team Entry leagues.
-

7. SUNDAY NOVICE LEAGUE

7.1. League Description

- Introduced in the 2015/16 season, driven by the influx of Learn To Curl program graduates.
- Open format for curlers with 5 years or less of experience.
- Season starts with the first round robin having on ice coaching and mentoring

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

7.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- League runs on Sunday evening at 6:50 pm

7.3. Maximum number of teams

- Currently 2 flights of 6 teams. Maximum of 14 for 1 time slot

7.4. Expansion Criteria

- Potential to expand the league and use the 9:00 pm time slot, or consider start times of 6:00 & 8:00 pm and an earlier Sunday Mixed start time.

7.5. Short Term goals

- Promote the league to new curlers.

7.6. Long Term goals

- Continued emphasis on Novice curler development.
- Consideration to expand the league into 3 or 4 flights while expanding to 2 time slots.
- Depending on future demand, consideration for opening up to curlers with greater than 5 years' experience.

8. SENIORS

8.1. League Description

- Strictly social and a lot of fun for curlers age 50+, retired and able to curl during the day.
- League games are 6 ends in length.
- Individual entry. At each outing, teams are formed by the club from among the participants then available.

8.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- Leagues run Mondays (am & pm), Tuesdays (am) and Wednesdays (am & pm)

8.3. Maximum number of Curlers

- For the 2012/2013 season the current maximum of 60 curlers can be signed up in any one time slot. This is subject to change at the annual review.

8.4. Expansion Criteria

- Based on annual demand, if the demand exists additional draws can be added on Monday and/or Wednesday.

8.5. Short Term goals

- Continued promotion of the league and curler development.

8.6. Long Term goals

- Continued emphasis on curler development from Novice to Experience curler.

9. JUNIORS

9.1. League Description

- For curlers aged 14 through 20, experienced curlers might enter at age 12.
- For those interested, opportunities may be available to participate in out-of-club bonspiels.

9.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- Room for growth however additional volunteers are required
- 1 volunteer per sheet is required, therefore 1 week in 8 volunteer time required from each junior family

9.3. Maximum number of curlers

- Maximum of 96 combined curlers with Little Rocks.

9.4. Expansion Criteria

- Based on annual demand and the ability to secure volunteers to support the curlers, a 3rd draw could be accommodated.

YCC CURLING LEAGUE REVIEW AND POLICY

9.5. Short Term goals

- Continue to promote the league
- Modify the Membership form for Junior Curlers to obtain the volunteer commitment of 1 week in 8 from the junior's family.

9.6. Long Term goals

- Continued emphasis on curler development.

10. LITTLE ROCKS

10.1. League Description

- Designed for those aged 7 or more who are not yet ready for the juniors program.
- The Little Rocks league introduces curling basics while HAVING FUN. Includes a "skills refresher" for returning participants, and teaching of basics to new participants.
- For those interested, opportunities may be available to participate in out-of-club bonspiels.

10.2. Planning assumptions, goals & objectives

- Room for growth however additional volunteers are required
- 2 volunteer per sheet is required, therefore 1 week in 4 volunteer time required from each little rock family

10.3. Maximum number of curlers

- Maximum of 96 combined curlers with Little Rocks.

10.4. Expansion Criteria

- Based on annual demand and the ability to secure volunteers to support the curlers, a 3rd draw could be accommodated.

10.5. Short Term goals

- Continue to promote the league
- Modify the Membership form for Junior Curlers to obtain the volunteer commitment of 1 week in 8 from the junior's family.

10.6. Long Term goals

- Continued emphasis on curler development.

OTHER

11. RENTALS

Rentals are acknowledged as generally a good source of income for the club. Rentals, will be accommodated second to the requirements of the YCC curling membership. Schedules for curling leagues will be drawn up prior to the scheduling of rentals to ensure a fair and balanced curling experience for the members of the league.

12. WHEELCHAIR CURLING LEAGUE

YCC has the capacity to accommodate a wheelchair league if the community demand is there.

13. STICK CURLING LEAGUE

YCC has the capacity to accommodate a stick curling league if the community demand is there.