

Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League

www.optimistjuniorcurling.ca



Hosted at the Cloverdale Curling Club

ATTENTION: YOUTH CURLING COORDINATORS

ANNOUNCING OUR 23rd SEASON - BE PART OF IT!

The Optimist Junior Interclub (OJI) Curling League was formed in 1989 to supplement the development of Junior Curlers and to promote the sport of curling through a Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley league. Our successful program has grown to as many as 56 teams.

OJI accommodates teams of all skill levels, separated into four or more divisions on most Sunday afternoons from mid-October to culmination in a weekend of playoffs in early March. A block system that rotates every three games is used to match teams to their skill level. A team may consist of any combination of junior or juvenile boys or girls. Active participation by team coaches is mandatory.

- It is not necessary that team participants be the same from week to week. However, all players must be registered in their own club program.
- League entries will be accepted only from the Youth Curling Coordinators of each curling club.

Fees are \$300 per team and include awards and prizes. Optimist Junior Interclub appreciates that some member clubs have paid team registration fees as a contribution towards the development of their junior curlers. This support is strongly encouraged from all clubs.

As our league expands, so does the need for more coordinators to assist in all activities. Registration requires that each team designate a coordinator to be identified on the Division 2, 3 & 4 Application Form. Coordinator tasks will be assigned at the **Mandatory Coaches Meeting, 7:15 pm Tuesday October 18, 2011 upstairs Cloverdale Curling Club.**

At the outset of each season there is a development camp in rotating years for novice, intermediate or advanced curlers. Coach mentoring is a component of each camp. September 17th is the "Curling Performance" Camp especially for advanced-level curlers being introduced to the physical and mental elements of high performance competition.

Such a far-reaching, overwhelmingly successful OJI program, as we now enjoy, would not be possible without the continued strong support we receive from our most generous sponsors. The Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League sincerely thanks each of them.

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INFORMATION

PURPOSE

To aid in the development of junior curlers and to promote the sport of curling by providing an additional competition option to regular youth curling programs.

COST

\$300 PER TEAM. All or a large portion of the entry is normally paid by the Member Clubs with the team being sponsored by the entering club's Junior Curling Program Coordinator.

FORMAT

Divisions 1, 2, 3, & 4 games will be played on Sundays from October to March in a block system structure. We would like to meet with youth curling coordinators throughout the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and across BC to develop satellite divisions or clusters of community interclub programs. The season will conclude with teams participating in league playoffs and awards ceremonies for Highpoint Division 1 late January to mid- February, Divisions 2, 3 & 4 in early March and new Divisions in February. The Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League banquet will follow immediately after Division 2, 3 & 4 final games in Cloverdale.

TEAMS

It is not necessary for team participants to be the same from week to week. However, each player must be registered in his or her own club's youth curling program. This allows the clubs with many Curlers the opportunity to rotate players in a developmental environment.

PLAYERS

The Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League will not certify players for playdown eligibility. The Curling Club is the registered participant in the league, not the individual.

COACHES

Coaches are encouraged to participate by role modeling ethics, coaching fair play and teaching technical and tactical aspects of the sport.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

Al Kersey 778-988-4337

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Hosted by the Valley Curling Club in Cloverdale

Key Things That Make Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League So Successful

- 1. Each child belongs on a team, this is extremely important to kids this age.**
- 2. Going on a road trip, those seem to be our best memories of junior curling even when a road trip is just 30 minutes to the next town.**
- 3. Wearing a uniform like matching sweatshirts or something they are each likely to have in their closets.**
- 4. In curling, you don't have to be bigger, stronger or faster to grow from playground to podium. Imagine, the Olympics! A 10-year old sure can.**
- 5. Every player contributes 25% of the team effort on every play for 100% of the game. No child waits during a play while his or her teammates participate.**
- 6. At the league, one of the coordinators takes the trouble to go around during each game to interview every Curler and record his or her name, confirm the correct spelling and pronunciation. I don't know of any other sport that does this for each and every game. It makes each kid important and I'm certain it is one of the main reasons for our growth to more than 50 teams with 250 kids over 22 years.**
- 7. We have maintained a photo album of action shots and team photos since day one and the photo albums are on display for every league game.**
- 8. At windup, every team plays in the semi-finals and in the finals, no one sits out, they play off for 3rd and 4th or 1st and 2nd in each block.**
- 9. At the windup banquet, every child gets a "Winners" pennant with his or her final standing sticker on it. Every Curler gets a team photo. Every team gets a small plaque to put on display at their home club. Every 4th team gets their names on a perpetual wall plaque. Every 12th team gets a large banner to proudly display permanently at their home club.**
- 10. We have a 5 to 10 minute coaches meeting within 30 minutes of the start of every game to discuss current issues and scheduling.**
- 11. Teams are seeded before their first game of the season, based on skill level from "just learned to curl 10 minutes ago" to "experienced".**

12. Teams are placed in blocks of 4 for a 3-game round robin after which one team moves up and one team moves down (based on the 70% success formula). It would be good if you can start with 8 teams but even two blocks of 3 would work just fine.

13. We ask the children a lot about what they like about Optimist Junior Interclub; they give different answers than the parents and coaches.

14. The Curlers like to keep score and know their standings. Even if the numbers don't look good, children just love numbers.

15. Kids like competition so we try to get them in the league right at the beginning of their first year. After all, a curling game is a competition. This is good for building the league and seeding it with future curlers. Interclub leagues for just competitive juniors have not been able to keep their momentum going after a few seasons.

16. The main thing we want to get the children thinking is "The curling rink is a fun place to be." I'd like to see them laughing and talking about "next time" as they are going out the door.

17. We have learned that **children are really having fun when they are mastering a new skill** like "sliding without falling" and "getting a rock over the 2nd hog line" and "brushing". **Listen to what the kids say** to their parents after the game.

18. Kids that return to the program each year give reasons like well organized, being able to play on a set team and getting to play new kids from all over including U.S.A.

19. We've had a mandate since the beginning that **only a local club Youth Curling Coordinator could enter a team** in Optimist Junior Interclub. That way, kids and teams could not circumvent their local youth programs but would have to join one and help build their own program before they could play in Optimist Junior Interclub.

20. Now, the word seems to be out that Optimist Junior Interclub is a terrific concept and local clubs like yours are interested in the formula.

19. **Optimist International's slogan is "Bringing Out The Best in Kids"** and the **Optimist Clubs make a perfect sponsor for our programs.** Learn all about Optimists at www.optimist.org and www.optimistjuniorcurling.ca.

21. May is a great month of the year to get Junior Coordinators phone up their kids for next year. This may seem surprising but it has turned out to be the best time of year for a couple of the most successful junior programs I know.

Perhaps we could arrange for me to meet with your youth curling and little rockers development program volunteers – maybe a Saturday for an hour or two might work? My phone number is 778-988-4337 and my email is akersey@telus.net.

Al Kersey, OJI Board

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COLOURTIME DIVISIONS "2, 3 & 4" APPLICATION FORM

Club Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Club Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please list names of coaches with their phone numbers for each of the team spots requested and the team's Block Preference from A = Ready to enter juvenile competition, through B, C, D, E, F, G, H to I = Learned to curl 10 minutes ago. Use a wild guess to suggest which block each team might prefer. This will assist in the seeding process at the Coaches Meeting scheduled Tuesday, October 18 at 7:15 pm upstairs at the Cloverdale Curling Club.

Please note the Mandatory Requirement of Registration that each team provide a Designated Coordinator - preferably not the Coach but rather a parent or youth volunteer. No team will be allowed to start the season until a Coordinator is designated.

Please Note: **Designated Coordinator information must be provided.**

Team #1: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Block Pref: _____

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

Team #2: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Block Pref: _____

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

Team #3: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Bloc Pref: _____

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

Team #4: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Block Pref: _____

Team #5: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Block Pref: _____

Entry Fee Enclosed for: # of Teams _____ X \$300.00 = \$ _____

Please enclose entry fee with application.

Please make cheques payable to: Optimist Junior Interclub

ENTRY DEADLINE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011

Applications must be

signed:

Signature of Sponsor: _____ (Youth Curling Coordinator or Club Executive)

Application with cheque may be mailed to: #328 – 19528 Fraser Hwy, Surrey, BC V3S 8P4

For further information, please phone 778-988-4337 or E-mail: akersey@telus.net

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Hosted at various Curling Clubs in the Greater Vancouver Area

OTHER OPTIMIST DIVISIONS - APPLICATION FORM

Please Circle the Division Number in which you would like to register a team:

5 Vancouver; 6 Upper Fraser Valley; 7 Special "O"; 8 High School; 9 College; 10 Alumni

Club Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Club Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please list names of Coaches with their phone numbers for each of the team spots requested and the team's level including average age and average experience. This will assist in the seeding process for league games. Please have your club's Youth Curling Coordinator attend to observe the Coaches Meeting scheduled Tuesday, October 18 at 7:15 pm at the Cloverdale Curling Club: 6150 – 176th Street. Volunteer contact information must be provided.

Team #1: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Team #2: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Team #3: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Team #4: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Team #5: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Entry Fee Enclosed for: # of Teams _____ X \$100.00 = \$_____ includes 4 lunches

Please enclose entry fee with application. Make cheques payable to "Optimist Junior Interclub".

ENTRY DEADLINE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011

Applications must be signed:

Signature of Sponsor: _____ (Youth Curling Coordinator or Club Executive)

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