

Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League

www.optimistjuniorcurling.ca



ATTENTION: JUNIOR CURLING COORDINATORS

ANNOUNCING OUR 31st SEASON - BE PART OF IT!

The Optimist Junior Interclub (OJI) Curling League was formed in 1989 to supplement youth curling development and to promote the sport of curling through a Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley league. Our successful program has grown to 38 teams in 4 Divisions across BC.

OJI accommodates teams of all skill levels, separated into 12-team divisions on Saturdays or Sundays from mid-October to culmination in a weekend of playoffs in early March. A block system that rotates after every three games is used to match teams to their skill level. A team may consist of any combination of U21, U18, U15 or U12 boys or girls. Active participation by team coaches is an integral part of Optimist Junior Interclub. There may be reimbursement for training costs.

- It is not necessary that team participants be the same from week to week. However, all players must be registered and signed in by a Junior Curling Coordinator or authorized representative of a member club of the Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League.
- League entries will be accepted only from recognized community curling organizations. The Application Form may be signed by any one of the Junior Curling Coordinator, Executive Member, or Manager of the organization.

Fees range from \$180 to \$400 per team and include awards and prizes. Optimist Junior Interclub appreciates that some member clubs have paid a portion or all of the 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 all Division Application Forms. Coordinator Tasks will be assigned at the **Mandatory Coaches Meeting, 7:15 pm Tuesday October 15, 2019 upstairs Cloverdale Curling Rink**. All Application forms must identify each player with their name, age and year experience. First year entry level teams are strongly encouraged to register so they can learn immediately to play meaningful games against their peers.

At the outset of each season there is an Optimist Development Camp in rotating years for novice, intermediate or advanced curlers. Coach mentoring is a component of each camp. Saturday, October 19, 2019 at Cloverdale Curling Club, will be the “Feeling Great” Camp especially for Optimist Division 3. They will be first year entry level curlers starting the “Learning to Train” Phase of Long Term Sport Development & Physical Activity in the Sport for Life (S4L) movement.

Such a far-reaching, overwhelmingly successful Optimist Junior Interclub 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

\$180 to \$400 PER TEAM (Average \$5.25 per Curler per game). All, or a large portion of the entry is often paid by the Member Clubs with the team being sponsored by the entering club's Junior Curling Program Coordinator.

FORMAT

Divisions 1, 2 & 3 games will be played on Sundays from October to March in a block system structure. We will be meeting with youth curling coordinators throughout the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and across BC to develop league expansion divisions or clusters of community interclub programs. The season will conclude with teams participating in playoffs and awards ceremonies for Optimist Division 1 in January or February while Divisions 2 and 3 are early March. Optimist Division 11 and other new Divisions design their schedule to suit their needs. Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League Windup and Awards Banquet follows immediately after Divisions 2 and 3 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 approved and registered by his or her own club's junior curling program coordinator. This allows the clubs with many Curlers the opportunity to rotate players in an entry level or developmental environment.

PLAYERS

The Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League (OJI) will not certify players for playdown eligibility. The Curling Club is the OJI Member and the registered participant in the league, not the individual curler and not the team.

COACHES

Coaches are encouraged to participate by role modeling ethics, coaching fair play and teaching technical and tactical aspects of the sport. As the National Coach Certification Program (NCCP) motto says: "Every athlete deserves a certified coach."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

Al Kersey 778-988-4337

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Key Things That Make Optimist Junior Interclub Curling League So Successful

1. Each child belongs on a team, this is extremely important to children 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 community.
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. The Olympics! Imagine. 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 offside during a play while his or her teammates participate.
6. At every game, one of the Coordinators takes the trouble to speak with each team and interview every Curler and record his or her name while confirming the correct spelling and pronunciation. I don't know of any other sport that does this for each and every game. It makes each child important and I'm certain it is one of the main reasons for our growth to 38 teams with more than 150 kids over 30 years.
7. We have maintained a photo album of action shots and team photos since day one and the photo albums are available for viewing or on display for every league game.
8. In playoffs, 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 4-team 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 "no chairs" Coordinators 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 four for a 3-game round robin after which one team moves up and one team moves down (based on the 70% Challenge Zone for success formula). It would be good if you can start with eight teams but even two blocks of three would work fine to start.

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 meaningful game of curling is a competition. This is good for building the league and seeding it with future curlers. Fifth grade or 10-11 year olds is a great place to start. Interclub curling 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.' We 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 the U.S.A.

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

20. Optimist Junior Interclub is a terrific youth development opportunity and your program can be part of the feeder system like little league ball, minor hockey and youth soccer.

21. **Optimist International's slogan is "Bringing out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves."** and the **Optimist Clubs make a perfect sponsor for our programs.** Learn about Optimists at www.optimist.org and www.optimistjuniorcurling.ca.

22. May is a great month of the year to get Junior Coordinators to 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, Administrator

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OPTIMIST DIVISIONS '2' and '3' 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 to F = '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 15th at 7:15 pm upstairs at the Cloverdale Curling Rink. **This Application must attach a second sheet listing each player's name with their age and year experience – see form next page.**

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

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

Team #1: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Block Preference: ____

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

Team #2: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Block Preference: ____

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

Team #3: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Block Preference: ____

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

Team #4: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Block Preference: ____

Team #5: Coach: _____ Phone: _____ Block Preference: ____

Entry Fee Enclosed for: # of Teams _____ X \$315.00 = \$_____

Please enclose entry fee with application.

ENTRY DEADLINE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

Please make cheques payable to: Optimist Junior Interclub

Applications must be signed:

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

Application with cheque may be mailed to: #114 –19131 Ford Road, Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2R5

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

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ROSTER, AGE AND EXPERIENCE - ATTACHMENT TO OJI DIVISION "2" OR "3" TEAM APPLICATION

Coach: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Each team identified on the Application must attach these additional sheets listing each player's name with their age and years experience at home club, in OJI, playdowns and spiels.

No team will be allowed to start the season until this players' roster is complete.

Player #1: Name: _____ **Age:** ____ (Maximum as set by Division Manager)

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____

Player #2: Name: _____ **Age:** ____

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____

Player #3: Name: _____ **Age:** ____

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____

Player #4: Name: _____ **Age:** ____

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____

Player #5: Name: _____ **Age:** ____

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____

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OTHER OPTIMIST DIVISIONS - APPLICATION FORM

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

07 Special O; 08 High School; 09 College; 10 Alumni; 11 East Kootenay; 21 South Okanagan;
36 Upper Fraser Valley; 51 Vancouver Metro; 61 South Island; 63 Mid Island; 71 Northwest;
Peace; Other

Club Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Club Junior Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Designated Optimist Team Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please list names of Coaches with their phone numbers for each of the team spots requested with the players' names, ages and years' experience listed on the second page. This will drive the seeding process to start league games. Please have your club's Youth Curling Coordinator contact the appropriate Optimist Division Manager to provide them with your volunteer contact information.

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

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

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

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

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

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

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

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

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

Designated Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

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

*Each Division's Fees will be set by their respective committees depending on number of games to be played.

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

ENTRY DEADLINE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

Applications must be signed:

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

Application with cheque may be mailed to: #114 –19131 Ford Road, Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2R5

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ROSTER, AGE AND EXPERIENCE - ATTACHMENT TO OTHER OPTIMIST DIVISION TEAM APPLICATION

Coach: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Coordinator: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Each team identified on the Application must attach these additional sheets listing each player's name with their age and years experience at home club, in OJI, playdowns and spiels.

No team will be allowed to start the season until this players' roster is complete.

Player #1: Name: _____ **Age:** ____ (Maximum as set by Division Manager)

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____

Player #2: Name: _____ **Age:** ____

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____

Player #3: Name: _____ **Age:** ____

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____

Player #4: Name: _____ **Age:** ____

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____

Player #5: Name: _____ **Age:** ____

Years of: Jrs. (Little Rocks) ____ Jrs. (Big Rocks) ____ Adult League: ____ Spare Adult League: ____

Years of Optimist by Division: (3) ____ (2) ____ (Other) ____

Years of Playdowns: (HS) ____ (Juv.) ____ (BCWG) ____ (U18) ____ (Jr.) ____

Number of Bonspiels: (Nov) ____ (Jr.) ____ (Cash) ____ (BCJCT) ____