

LAKES REGION CURLING ASSOCIATION

Policies and Procedures

Membership

Membership in the LRCA is open to all persons who are 14 years of age or older.

Membership fees are due at the time of sign-up. Membership is for the duration of the association's fiscal year (July to June) and must be renewed each year. LRCA-sponsored leagues may run several times per year and require separate registrations and fees.

Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult during curling events, and applicants under the age of 18 need the written approval of a parent or guardian.

Participation

Membership in the Lakes Region Curling Association is required in order to participate in LRCA curling leagues. For each seasonal league, members may register to play with a team or as alternates.

Prior to the start of each curling league the LRCA Curling Committee will establish the minimum number of registrations required to ensure the success of league play. Failure to achieve that minimum will result in cancellation of the league schedule.

The LRCA Curling Committee will also identify the maximum number of alternates available to support league play.

All members who sign up to play are required to complete the appropriate league participation waiver(s).

All first-time curlers must participate in at least one learn-to-curl session.

League play will be held at Pop Whalen Ice Arena, 390 Pine Hill Road, Wolfeboro, NH 03894.

LRCA League Play

The LRCA Curling Committee sets each league schedule. The time of learn-to-curl sessions and league schedules will be posted on the LRCA web site (www.lakescurlingnh.org)

Members are eligible to register for all available curling schedules offered by the LRCA during a membership year. A separate fee is charged to register for league play.

Team makeup

A team consists of four to six members.

A group of individuals may register as a team for a given curling schedule.

At the time of signup for a given schedule, the Curling Committee will match individuals without a team affiliation with teams whose roster is incomplete or whose numbers allow for the addition of members in order to balance rosters.

After a schedule has started, new participants may join team play at the discretion of the Curling Committee.

The team representative / team captain is responsible for ensuring that all team members participate equitably in game play.

Alternates

After league registration reaches a level determined by the Curling Committee, members not registered for a given session may register to participate in that session as alternates.

Alternates will be available to play only with a team whose numbers are below four for a given match.

A team that finds itself in this situation for a match has three options: a) invite a player from another team on the ice to move over for the duration of the match; b) play the match with three players; c) invite one or more of the official alternates to play the match in order to bring the player count back up to four.

The LRCA Curling Committee will provide a list of available alternates for teams unable to field a minimum of four players in an upcoming match.

If a member of a team is unable to play a scheduled game and his or her team will have fewer than four players available for the game, he or she, working with the team representative, is asked to find an alternate from the alternates list.

If one or more alternates agree to play for a team, they must take the lead (and, if there are two, the second) position on the team. An alternate cannot act as vice-skip or skip. This is to prevent giving an unfair advantage to a team using experienced curlers as alternates.

A team is free to call on any registered LRCA alternate(s) that it chooses.

Prior to the start of game play, the team representative will notify the LRCA Curling Committee of any alternates playing on his or her team.

Members who sign up to play as an alternate are required to complete the appropriate league participation waiver(s).

Team play

Lakes Region Curling Association league play follows the Rules of Curling as defined by USA Curling. A link to these rules is available on the LRCA web site (www.lakescurlingnh.org).

LRCA supplements USA Curling rules with the following local rules:

- When a team has only two or three of its players present and available to participate in a match, it may add one or two registered LRCA players, as needed, to bring its strength up to four players.
- A team may play a given match with three players. During an end, the first two team members throw three stones apiece, with one team member sweeping. The skip throws two stones.
- A team that lacks at least two players present and available to participate in a match forfeits the match. If a team has only two team members at the start of a match and cannot supplement the roster as outlined above, that team forfeits the match.
- If a team begins a match with three team members and the fourth team member arrives late or an alternate is added after the match has commenced, the fourth team member (or alternate) cannot join the game until after an end is completed.
- If a team has a roster of five or six team members present for a match, rotation into the match may take place only when an end has been completed. Participation in the game must be distributed equitably among the available players who join the game.
- A member present as the fifth or sixth player on a team for a scheduled game may play as an alternate in any other game.

- Scoring an incomplete end: In the event that an end is not completed when time runs out, the end will be scored based on each team throwing the same number of stones. If the final stone thrown when time expires creates an odd-numbered count, the hammer team shall throw one stone to even the count. The end shall then be scored.
Teams should avoid delivery of an odd number stone with a minute or less remaining on the clock.
- Except for a tied tournament game, a match is considered complete at the conclusion of the eighth end.
- Team standings over the course of a season are determined on the following basis:
 1. The total points assigned for wins (2 points) and ties (1 point)
 2. The results of any head-to-head matchups between teams with the same number of win/tie points
 3. Winning percentage (the number of wins and half of all ties, divided by the number of games played)

If these standards fail to identify a clear winner at the end of a season, the league championship shall be shared among the tied teams.
- Since the Lakes Region Curling Association is a volunteer-led organization, members are asked to volunteer 10 hours per year. Assistance with setup, cleanup, and sheet preparation, as well as fund-raising, helping at open houses, or volunteering on committees are all easy ways in which to meet the volunteer requirement.

Cancelations

In the event of inclement weather at the time of scheduled league play, the final decision on whether to hold matches is the responsibility of the Lakes Region Curling Association Curling Committee. However, the decision regarding whether to attend a match is the responsibility of each member, parent, or guardian.

The process for communicating cancellations by the Lakes Region Curling Association Curling Committee is as follows:

1. The Curling Committee will contact team representatives whose matches have been cancelled. Members other than the team representative are asked not to contact the Curling Committee directly.
2. Each team representative is to contact his or her players to inform them of the cancellation.
3. If possible, a cancellation message will be posted on the home page of the Lakes Region Curling Association web site (www.lakescurlingnh.org) reporting the games or sponsored events that have been cancelled.

Any member choosing not to attend a match due to inclement weather is asked to notify his or her team representative in a timely fashion.

What to wear

- Warm, loose clothing is essential to account for the cold of ice arena venues and to accommodate the stretching required for the slide delivery. Additionally, the LRCA recommends that all participants consider the use of protective head gear and gripping footwear.
- It is essential that **no footwear that is worn outside** be worn on the ice, since a very small amount of dirt on the ice can affect the path of a thrown rock.

- Footwear should provide adequate traction in order to prevent falls on a slippery ice surface. Sneakers that are not worn outside and a slider are good for new curlers; eventually, most curlers opt to buy proper curling shoes.

Curling equipment

The LRCA supplies most of the essential equipment for scheduled league games, such as curling stones, sliders, push sticks, and brooms.

Handling of complaints

With some exceptions noted in the organization's "Policies and Procedures," LRCA matches follow the rules of curling as captured in the "Rules of Curling: Club and Bonspiel Use" published by USA Curling.

At the same time, curling is a sport rooted in hundreds of years of tradition, typically referred to as "the spirit of curling" or "curling etiquette," which is considered as important to the sport as the technical rules of play. For the LRCA, that spirit is embodied in the association's "Code of Conduct and Fair Play."

Because the LRCA is committed to ensuring an atmosphere of friendly competition, sportsmanship, and rewarding play, the Association has an interest in maintaining observance of both the formal rules of the sport as well as the spirit of curling.

Registration for any LRCA league constitutes agreement to adhere to the principles embodied in the "Code of Conduct and Fair Play," the rules of the sport as contained in the "Rules of Curling: Club and Bonspiel Use," and any additional rules and regulations of the Lakes Region Curling Association contained in the organization's "Policies and Procedures" document.

In the event that a) conflicts arise in the interpretation of any of the rules of play, or b) a member exhibits behavior judged by fellow players to be contrary to the spirit of curling, the following guidelines are intended to provide a predictable process of resolution.

Self-help

At least once a year, members should be provided access to a copy of "Rules of Curling: Club and Bonspiel Use." Members – and in particular skips – should be encouraged to acquaint themselves with the contents of the document.

Laminated copies of this document should be available at the arena during LRCA curling matches. Teams should be encouraged to consult the rules as the first means of settling questions about game play during matches.

Also, members should annually be given access to the LRCA's "Code of Conduct and Fair Play," and it should be a given that the guidelines embodied in that document govern the conduct of all players during LRCA matches.

Each team as a whole, and the skip in particular, should accept responsibility for ensuring the compliance of the team's players with both the letter and the spirit of the sport.

Designated arbitrators

In the event that a question of game play or conduct cannot be resolved by those participating in a match, LRCA officers should make themselves available to act as arbitrators to review and resolve the conflict. It is understood that an officer does not provide a ruling in a match involving his or her own team.

At the time of the match, an arbitrator's decisions are to be considered binding on both teams.

Review

At the request of a team, an individual, or an officer, the Board of Directors may choose to review the outcome of a dispute and may, at its discretion, provide a formal response. To assist its deliberations, the board may request and in any event will welcome a written account of events from any and all participants involved in a dispute.

The board's final ruling may include simple ratification of an arbitrator's ruling, clarification of rules of play and conduct, or even disciplinary action.

That action may include, for a team, declaring the team in forfeit of a match for failure to abide by an arbitrator's ruling and, for an individual, suspension or removal from the Association.

Refund Policy

A person who has registered for a curling season may, prior to the first match of that season, request and receive the full refund of the registration fee. Likewise, a registered player who is prevented by injury from continuing to curl before the third week of a season may request a prorated refund for the remainder of the season. The board may consider exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis.