



## **2017 FALL NEWSLETTER**

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### **2017-18 BCIMCA BOARD of DIRECTORS**

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### **WELCOME**

Here we are again. ...the start of another great curling season for all Master Curlers. If you are like me, you are still thinking of getting in that last golf game or that last fishing day before curling season gets into full swing. Once Thanksgiving is over, our curling season gets into full gear. On behalf of our BCIMCA Executive I extend a warm welcome to all Master curlers. This will be a big year for the BCIMCA as we are hosting the 2018 Combined Championships. **This year's Combined Championships will be hosted by the Kamloop's Curling Club on March 21-24, 2018.**

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

In 2016-17 our BCIMCA enjoyed a total membership of 1,051 Master Curlers across all 4 Zones. Our membership was made up of 783 men and 268 ladies. We thank all of our curlers for their continued membership and commitment to our great organization. Zone 4 remains a bright light within the BCIMCA in terms of membership numbers and teams participating in Zone Playdowns. We were very pleased to have the Penticton Curling Club in Zone 3 to be back into the fold with 52 members. Unfortunately, membership in the Kootenay Zone 1 and 2 is down considerably. Membership at Grand Forks remains very strong and we remain hopeful that clubs in Nelson, Castlegar and Trail renew their membership in 2017-18. Membership remains strong in Creston and Kimberly and we are hopeful that the clubs in Cranbrook and Fernie renew their membership.

Club and curler membership within the BCIMCA remains an ongoing concern and priority. There was a great discussion on this topic at our recent AGM held in Langley this past March and again at our BCIMCA spring executive meeting. In many cases it comes down to simple things like communicating to clubs and curlers about who we are and what we offer the master curler. We are not an elite group, however we all love the sport of curling, we enjoy healthy competition in a friendly environment and in the spirit of good sportsmanship. Competition fees are kept low and all monies collected through our playdowns goes to support teams advancing to the Combined championship.

I want to thank all teams who entered our Zone Playdown's last season. I congratulate the two BCIMCA teams who won Combined championship Event's in Langley this past season and those teams who won the four BCIMCA Championship trophies. The Wayne Saboe team from Kamloops captured the Combined 70+ Men's Championship as well as the BCIMCA Championship and the Francis Reglin team from Kelowna captured the 60+ Mixed Combined Championship as well as the BCIMCA Championship. Congratulations also the Karen Mosure Team from Vernon who captured the BCIMCA 60+ Ladies Championship and to the Gordon Duplisse team who captured the 60+ Men's BCIMCA Championship.

As many of you may know, the Women's and Mixed Events were added to the 2015 Combined Championships held at Richmond. This had followed a very successful Ladies BCIMCA Championship held at Salmon Arm in 2014. The Interior Mixed Championship had been going for several years at that time. The 2015 Combined Event experienced a huge set-back on its first year. Only 2 Zones from the Interior sent teams in the Women's category and only 2 Zones sent team's in the Mixed category. Thus our first experience of using "fill-in" teams as it was felt that a having 2 "Bye's" for each was not desirable. This did not work out well for a host of reasons. In 2016 Combined Championships were held in Kelowna and again we encountered a similar situation. This occurred again at the 2017 Langley Combined Championships.

We thought there would likely be growing pains when we added the Women's and Mixed Events at the Combined Championship ... but not to this degree. We had some good discussion on this topic of playdown interest and participation at both our BCIMCA AGM and the Combined Joint Meeting. It was obvious from the women attending that they strongly endorse

the Women and Mixed Combined Event and don't want them dropped or put on hold. We obviously have work to do in getting Zone playdown interest and commitment if these are to proceed in 2018.

We are also starting to see fewer teams competing at Zone playdown's in the 60++ Men and 70+ Men categories as well. Our lowest participation being from the Kootenay's. We need to obviously do a far better job of communicating to our new members about the BCIMCA and Combined Championships and a great opportunity it is. You can put out brochures, put information on a website or put posters on the bulletin boards but nothing seems better than face to face communication. I know that it took me 6 years to finally understand what the BCIMCA and the Combined were all about, so I can appreciate where some of our newer members are struggling to comprehend what we are about. I would guess talking it up by our Zone Directors, Vice President and President to clubs and by old members to new members is like the surest route.

Your Executive is committed to do everything possible to get our BCIMCA message out, to grow our membership in 2017-18, to see a greater number of teams entering our Zone playdowns, and to making the Combined Championships to be held at the Kamloops Curling Club from March 21-24, 2018 a great time and a huge success for all involved.

## **WHAT'S NEW IN THE BCIMCA FOR 2017-18**

The BCIMCA Executive remains the same for the 2017-18 season

Team entry fees for the 2018 Zone Playdowns has been raised from \$140 to \$160. All monies received will go back to teams advancing to the Combined Championships to help offset team travel costs. The more teams competing results in more monies available for team travel. In 2018 75% of total team entries in each Zone for each event category will go to the zone winner for travel. The remaining 25% will be placed in a "pot" to be further distributed in a fair way to help offset travel costs of all teams within the BCIMCA for that event category.

BCIMCA Executive had discussion at its Spring meeting to determine if it is advantageous to our membership and to playdown participation if we were to make a small amendment to Zone boundaries. The question being, perhaps Winfield should move from Zone 4 to Zone 3 and perhaps Osoyoos and Oliver should move to Zone 1? Zone Directors will be discussing these possibilities with respective clubs and membership and report back to our BCIMCA Executive.

Efforts are continuing to seek a sponsor(s) for the BCIMCA/PCMCA and our Combined Championship.

The BCIMCA has not had a "Dissolution Plan" in place in the event the BCIMCA fails to remain viable. The Executive has passed a policy which basically sets out what should be done with any remaining

funds once all financial obligations have been satisfied. The main thrust of the policy is that any remaining funds would be distributed to a member club in support of their existing junior curling program on a pro rated basis.

## **2018 BCIMCA Zone Playdowns**

2018 BCIMCA Zone Championship Playdowns for each region are being finalized by the respective Zone Directors. A poster will be put up in each club announcing the dates for your Region shortly, as well as dates being posted on our website.

The BCIMCA emphasis has always been on providing competitive curling opportunities to 60+ Master curlers through a spirit of good sportsmanship, opportunity for all, and to foster and promote the sport of curling throughout the BC Interior. We represent a strong voice for Master curlers in BC. 100% of all playdown entry fees go to support the Zone winning teams in each respective event category to help offset team travel costs to the Combined Event. The more teams competing in each event category obviously benefits the amount a Zone winning team will receive. We encourage all curlers to compete in their respective Zone playdowns. Team entry fees in each zone playdown event will be \$160 per team entry. All team entry funds will go towards offsetting travel of teams advancing to the Combined Championship.

Strong emphasis will be placed on having Zone representative teams in ALL 4 event categories from ALL 4 Zones. Concerns have arisen in recent years with filler/replacement teams in 60+ Lady and 60+ Mixed categories. This is not a desirable outcome for many reasons. For Mixed and Lady 60+ Event Zone Playdowns, Zone Directors will be asking for and giving commitment of a minimum of one team entry for the Mixed and Ladies competition by December 1, 2017. Ladies and Mixed Combined Championships Events are planned for the 2018 Combined Event in Kamloops. Should we not have a minimum of one team commitment to enter Zone competition in these two categories a decision will then be made to “go” or “no-go” with these Events.

Enjoy a great curling season and we look forward to many teams entering our Zone playdowns and hosting of the Combined Championships in Kamloops March 21 – 24, 2018.