

January 6, 2024

Hello curlers!

The registration process for our bonspiel was, to put it mildly, messy. We truly appreciate the overwhelming interest, but the demand far exceeded our expectations. To compound matters, some players from previous years were unintentionally omitted from the email distribution list, rendering them unaware of the out-of-town team early access codes. Additionally, there was a miscommunication about the registration time on westerncup.com, which was erroneously stated as 7:00 pm instead of 12:00 noon.

The 12:00 noon registration reached full capacity within 15 minutes of opening, surprising teams that were patiently awaiting 7:00 pm just to find the spiel had sold out. In response to this and the feedback from a previous survey advocating for expansion, we are thrilled to announce an expansion to 48 teams. This will not only accommodate all waitlisted teams but also leave a few spots available for teams that may have considered registering but didn't join the waitlist.

The overarching themes from the survey included the challenge of some players not being able to play on Sunday and the desire for all teams to have the option to participate in the social events. To address this, we have secured ice at the nearby North Hill Curling Club, which is also Apollo's home rink. The Calgary Club has 8 sheets of ice compared to North Hill's 6, and we have traditionally used the Calgary Club for our bonspiel. Both clubs are great, and are within walking distance of each other (with a 'few' stairs) or a short drive away.

What does this mean for participants? The originally stated format and draw times won't change significantly. Some teams will play games at both rinks, while some may only play at one. However, all organized social events will be held at the Calgary Curling Club. There will typically be 16 teams at North Hill and 32 teams at the Calgary Club. All finals on Saturday afternoon will take place at the Calgary Club. Except for the finals, the general rule will be that if your first game of the day is at one rink, all your games that day will be at that rink.

While splitting the games between two venues isn't a perfect solution, it seems to be a more viable option than attempting to fit all games into one venue over essentially two days.

Thank you for your patience as we work through these logistics. For any teams that find this solution unsatisfactory, we will refund your registration fees in full. For teams that are interested in registering but didn't bother getting on the waitlist, registration will be opening up again early next week (Tuesday, January 9 at 12 noon MST). If you were waitlisted, organizers will be reaching out to you to finalize your registration.

Sincerely,

Apollo Curling