

SPORTS SECTION

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SPORTS

A GUIDE TO CURLING IN QUALICUM BEACH

– Article and photos by **Bev Shaw**, Manager, Qualicum Curling Centre –

With the calendar changing to September, the Qualicum Curling Centre (QCC) is ready to welcome curlers of all ages and abilities. In operation for 60+ years, it's home to over 400 curlers from ages 9 to 90.

"Curling is a sport that checks many boxes," says QCC President, John Evans. "It's athletic, competitive, affordable, sociable, and customizable to your physical abilities. We are excited to welcome new and returning curlers for another season."

For those looking to try curling, return to curling after a break, or join a league at QCC, here's a simple guide to how to get involved:

New curlers or Curlers Returning After a Break

Sign up for the 'Give It A Curl' event on Sept. 26th. You'll get one hour of instruction/refreshers on delivery techniques (traditional from the hack or stick), sweeping and more. Equipment is provided. Afterwards, you can join a weekly league or the Learn to Curl program. Or, book time with the Curling Pro who provides coaching for a nominal fee before the season starts.

Novice or Experienced Curlers

Join one of the weekly daytime or evening leagues. There is a huge variety to choose from – Ladies, Men's, Mixed/Open, Doubles, Triples, Stick, Fun, TGIF. The Out-of-the-Hat leagues place curlers on teams. The Team of Choice leagues have formed teams, but often are looking for a player or two. QCC will assist with placing curlers on teams and advise on the best league depending on your preferences.

Competitive Curlers

All leagues have an element of competitiveness, but the Sunday Cash League is intended for those looking for some friendly competition between experienced teams, for those looking to elevate their game and those wanting a chance to win cash each week. As well we hold nine bonspiels/tournaments each season that allow all curlers (locally and around the Island) to test their skills for cash prizes. The events typically include an evening banquet and are always lots of fun!



Young Curlers

Kids aged 9-18 can join the weekly Junior program from Oct. to March. Led by fantastic coaches, the \$120 fee covers the full season and includes all required equipment

Curlers with Limited Mobility

Choose a stick delivery vs. the traditional delivery from the hack. Stick delivery can be used in any league.

Curlers who Travel

Play in either the Fall session (Oct. to mid-Dec.) or the Winter session (Jan. to mid-March).

Curlers who Need Equipment

If you join a league or the Learn to Curl program, your own equipment is required which you can purchase from the QCC Pro Shop.

Registration is on now and league play starts the week of Sept. 28th. The average cost to curl for adults is under \$400 for one league for the six-month season (includes annual membership fees).

For more information about the 'Give it a Curl' Event, leagues, bonspiels and more, visit www.qualicumcurling.ca and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.