



New Curler Webpage Template

Get Ahead of the Games
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PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE POSTING

Text marked in red below is intended to be updated with language specific to your club

Olympic interest is ramping up! Please use this guide to help make YOUR club website accessible to future curlers. We strongly recommend a dedicated page (or more!) on your website to address questions and concerns new curlers may have. We've generated a list of recommended FAQs and supplied some responses, however, many of the answers will be specific to your club. Help to-be curlers find the smoothest path to membership by providing clear and concise information about how they can start curling, and what are the next steps once they've decided to come back.

This guide is intended as a starting point with basics and common questions, but you know what is important to your club and your members. Feel free to add to/remove from this list, tweak responses, elaborate, or make it your own! You can also include some information about the basics of curling for the extra curious minds or point them to the Intro to Curling page of our website to get into the nitty gritty: <https://www.usacurling.org/intro-to-curling>

TEMPLATE BEGINS BELOW

FAQ

General Curling

What is curling and how is it played?

How can I try curling?

Our (calendar/LTC page/schedule) has a list of upcoming events. *consider including pricing information here, and any generic scheduling, e.g. if LTCs are always on Tuesdays at 8 pm*

What do I need to bring for my Learn to Curl/Try Curling/Open House?

All special equipment will be provided for you. Wear comfortable clothes you can stretch in easily (a lunge is part of the curling delivery). We recommend you wear layers, as you may be cold during demonstrations, but you'll warm up once you start sweeping! Please avoid wearing jeans.

How Can I Play at the Olympics?

The pros on TV certainly make curling look easy, but it's not! Like most Olympic sports, the road to the Olympics usually begins with a childhood passion for curling and a lifetime of dedication, training, and hard work.

Curlers who fall in love with the sport later in life still have many opportunities for competition. ***include a mention of any bonspiels your club hosts, as well as local, state, regional, or national championships your members have participated in. Consider including links to the Competitions pages of those organizations as well***

What is a bonspiel?

In curling, tournaments, especially for recreational players, are called bonspiels. Many bonspiels take place over a weekend and include a 3-4 game guarantee. This means that over the weekend, you'll play at least 3-4 games, but you may have the chance to play more! Bonspiels are a terrific way for new curlers to get more exposure to the game and repetitive experience in a short span of time. ***include details of your club's bonspiel(s), and consider encouraging members to travel and check out nearby or far off bonspiels as well! A curler who bonspiels is usually a curler for life.***

Club Specific

What comes after my Learn To Curl?

add information about your club's ideal path from Learn to Curl to League.

How do I register for league?

include upcoming dates, if known, and estimates if not. How members will be notified of upcoming registrations, any membership/experience requirements, and league fees

What level of experience is required to play?

should be mentioned in the league registration question as well but doesn't hurt to have a dedicated section for the specific question

Can I sign up for a league without teammates? AND Can I request specific teammates for a league?

this may vary from league to league. If you have restrictions on either side of this, it's helpful for new players to know as they're entering leagues

What can I expect in a league game?

include information about general league times, if times are split between two or more time slots (some weeks you'll play the early draw, others you'll play the late draw etc.), how long games are expected to be (ends and hours), post-game socializing customs at your club, if they need to arrive early to help with set up, etc.

What is included in and expected of my membership?

summarize membership benefits, but feel free also to point to a membership page with all the details. Give them a quick bite here though. This is a good opportunity to mention any membership obligations such as volunteering, code of conduct requirements etc.

My Child is Interested in Curling. Can They Play?

offer information or links to any youth or junior programs your club has. Minimum age/experience requirements for leagues and competitions etc. If your club cannot accommodate children or you do not have a youth program, if a nearby club is more equipped to handle our future competitors, consider using this space to refer parents to them

I want to play in a league I'm not registered for. Are there opportunities for me to substitute?

new players may not want to commit to a full league and may prefer to spare to dip their toes in. It's important in these discussions to encourage players to try to spare, regardless of ability and reassure them that they're not going to bring down the team if they play poorly, and no one will be mad at them for being inexperienced. It's useful to have a league coordinator who can pair rookie subs on flexible teams

Is practice ice available? Does the club offer coaching assistance?

promoting opportunities for new curlers to get more experience and become more comfortable on the ice can fast-track their curling confidence.

I'm really enjoying curling and the community here. How can I get more involved?

Offer information on volunteer opportunities. People who've been made to feel valued and excited by curling are likely to want to give back. They can shadow/help teach Learn to Curls, answer emails on the website, help clean the windows, or learn to tend bar. Having a list of volunteer opportunities accessible to everyone can help boost volunteer participation