



# RACC Newsletter

August 2023

**Welcome** to the RACC's summer Newsletter. In this edition you will find plenty of information to help you prepare and register for the coming season. Also included are highlights from the spring 2023 member survey.

**Registration opens August 8!**  
**Club curling starts on October 10!**

## **In this issue:**

- Pre-season Club events
- League and Program Updates
- Registration process, membership options and fees
- Events during the 2023/24 season
- Highlights from the member survey
- Call for volunteers
- Coach training courses
- Leagues fall schedule
- Step by step registration guide

## **Pre-Season Events – More Details Coming Soon!**

### **Club Social: September 6 (late afternoon / evening)**

*An informal get-together. Come by and join us for a beverage and try out the Riggins BBQ munchies on the Sundeck. Re-unite with your curling friends and teammates, and talk to convenors and the Club Council. Outdoors, weather permitting; otherwise plan B: indoors!*

### **Try Curling Day: September 23**

*This “give it a go” event invites adults, youth, and the wheelchair community to come out and try curling. Have a friend or family member interested in learning how to curl? Then drop-by and our instructors will give them a brief introduction to the sport.*

### **Daytime Women’s Social: October 3, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, Courtside B**

### **Rust removal! October 4 (afternoon and evening)**

*Come on the ice to shake off the cobwebs before the season starts. Note: This is for registered members only and is not instructional. Sign-up will be required to manage sheet usage.*

### **Stick Clinic: October 5 (afternoon)**

*The clinic is designed for registered members who already know how to curl but are transitioning, or have just transitioned, to using a delivery stick. Registration required as space is limited.*



## LEAGUE AND PROGRAM UPDATES!!

We are excited to announce a **new addition** to our leagues this season.

**New! Doubles Draw League, Friday 9:00 am:** The Club's Doubles leagues continue to be very popular, and we have now added a daytime Draw format, open to players of any gender. For those who are unable to play in the Monday or Thursday daytime fixed Doubles, who do not have a partner, or are hesitant to try out the game, this new league offers a welcoming low-stress option.

The schedule for a typical fall week is included at the end of this Newsletter and provides a quick visual overview of all our leagues and programs for each day of the week. Check out the website pages for descriptions of the [leagues](#) and the contact information for the convenors. Don't hesitate to ask the convenors for any additional information. One important clarification from us: all league spots are available when registration opens – there are no reserved spots. It's first come, first served!

**Please note!** There have been **changes to the scheduling** of a few leagues and programs:

- **Monday Evening Draw, 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm:** the league is back to starting at 7 pm, and now occupies both the 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm timeslots; games will be scheduled in both timeslots.
- **Friday Evening Recreational Open Fixed, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm:** games will now be scheduled in these two new timeslots.
- **Evening Learn-to-Curl:** the 10-week program is still on Mondays, but now starts at 5:00 pm.

Another important modification: **The Tuesday 5:00 pm Youth league is expanding this year from U18 to U21.** Youth 12 to 20, with two or more years of curling experience, are welcome to join.

Finally, there is an exciting **addition this fall to the Saturday Wheelchair Program: a 10-week U25 Learn-to-Curl.** This is the first of its kind in the Ottawa area and is being run with the partnership and support of Curling Canada's "[For the Love of Curling](#)" philanthropic program. Check out the details on the website.



## Membership Options, Fees, and Registration Process

We are pleased to announce that there will be **no increase in adult league fees for the 2023/24 season**. The membership model and fee structure adopted last season remain in place.

### Recap of the key aspects of the membership structure and options:

1. Membership can be one league, two leagues, three leagues, or Unlimited (i.e., a membership fee allowing unlimited play in more than three leagues).
2. There is a base membership fee for the one league only option to which a per-league fee is added. (This per-league fee varies depending on the league category.)
3. There is a different base membership fee that applies to both the two league and three league options, and a different set of per-league fees as well depending on the league category.
4. Whether a person registers for one or two or three or more leagues, they must specify/select each individual league at registration.

## League Categories

Daytime Leagues	Category	Evening Leagues	Category
Men's Draw League	B	Open Draw League - Monday	A
Men's Fixed League - Monday	B	Open Fixed League - Tuesday	A
Open Fixed League - Wednesday	B	Open Draw League - Wednesday	A
Women's Draw League	B	Women's Fixed League - Thursday	A
Women's Fixed League - Friday	B	Open Fixed Recreational League - Friday	A
Open Doubles League - Monday	C	After-Hours Open Fixed League - Thursday	B
Open Doubles League - Thursday	C	Open Doubles League - Wednesday	C
<b>NEW!</b> Open Draw Doubles League - Friday	C	Open Doubles League - Sunday	C
Stick Curling League - Tuesday	D		

The Club's webpages on the RA website provide all the information on the base membership fees and per-league fees for each of the one league, two or three leagues, or Unlimited membership options. The fees are also listed in the step-by-step registration guide included at the end of this Newsletter.



**Registration for members opens August 8!**

**Members have priority registration until Monday August 14!**

**We encourage you to register early to reserve your spot.**

**Several leagues were at or near capacity last season.**

**If the league is full, you will be put on a waiting list.**

## Registration Options

- In-person at the Membership desk
- By phone at (613-733-5100)
- ***New this year!*** You can also **register on-line through PlayRA.**  
A step-by-step "how to register on-line" guide will be available on the Curling page of the website shortly. *If you plan to register on-line you MUST call Member Services to have your portal activated prior to registering.*

### Helpful registration tip:

To best prepare for and help speed up the registration process, we have prepared a summary sheet (attached at the end of the Newsletter). Print this off, circle your base membership, circle your selected leagues, and have this page at hand when you register.

### Locker Rental:

Full and half size lockers are available for RACC members to rent in the Curling Centre of Excellence change room space from Oct 10, 2023 through April 30, 2024 **DON'T MISS OUT!** .  
**Purchase your locker when you register!** An RA associate will contact you with your assigned locker number before the start of the season.

## Adult and Youth Learn-To-Curl – Registration

If you know someone who wants to start curling, our 10-week [Adult Learn-To-Curl Programs](#) start the week of October 16. There is both an Evening course (Mondays at 5:00 pm) and a Daytime course (Wednesdays at 9:00 am). The post-L2C Development Program follows in January.

The [Wheelchair U25 Learn-to-Curl Programs](#) run for 10 weeks and begin Saturday October 14 at 1:00 pm.

Our [Youth Instructional Curling Program](#) runs Saturdays at 9:00 am, beginning October 21 through to the end of the season.



## What's on at the RA's Curling Centre of Excellence this Fall and Winter!

- **September 5 to 8:** Curling Club Ice Technician Practical Course (part of Curling Canada's Ice Tech Pathway)
- **September 29, 30 and Oct 1:** Hot Shots Curling Camp
- **February 5 to 10:** Curling Canada's National U18 Championship. **NOTE:** the event officially runs from Feb 5 to 10, but **there will be no member curling Feb 1 to 11.**

### RA Curling Club Council for 2023-2024

Chair	Margo Burgess
Secretary	John Rowland
Treasurer	Susan Crawford
Evening	Greg Kresko
Men's Daytime	John Drayton
Women's Daytime	Susan Murray
Marketing/Publicity	Vacant
Social	Rob Hudson
House and Property	Cynthia Gray
Wheelchair	Doug Morris

#### Ex-officio non-voting member:

RA-Coordinator Recreation Club Services: Melody Rochon

[mrochon@racentre.com](mailto:mrochon@racentre.com)

#### Other club contacts:

Learn-to-Curl Evening: Paul Armstrong / John Cooper (as of November)

Learn-to-Curl Daytime: Doug Murphy and Leslie Behnia

Youth programs: Margo Burgess

Webmaster: Lynn Gullins

*Note: The Club Council will soon be getting an RA email address for general inquiries. This email address will be posted on the website in due course.*

### Practice Ice

Once the season gets underway, a schedule of available practice ice will be posted. Members will again be able to book practice ice. The booking process may be changing to on-line. Stay tuned for more details in the fall.

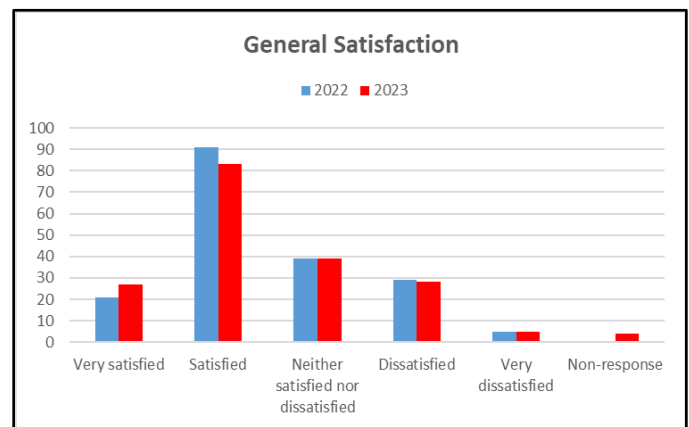


## “We Want Your Input” Member Survey Highlights

Thank you to everyone that took the time to participate in this spring’s member survey. There were 186 respondents, for a response rate of 47.2%. While this is considered to be a good response rate, it is below the 60.7% response rate to the 2022 survey. Key findings from the 2023 survey are summarized and presented below.

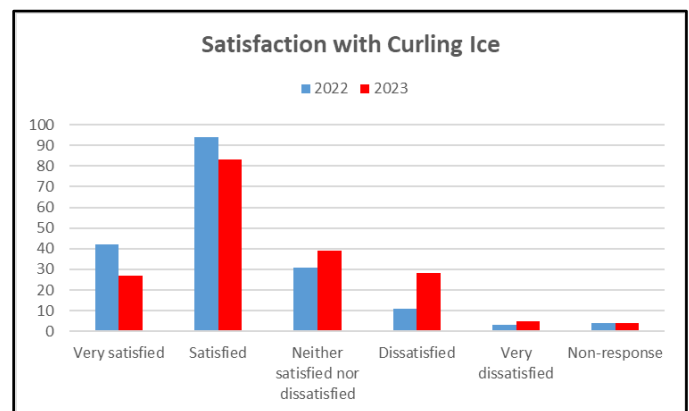
### General Satisfaction

A clear majority of the responding members (59%) were very satisfied or satisfied again this season, with only 33 members (17.8%) dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. As in the 2022 survey, about twice as much dissatisfaction was reported by women than men, and younger curlers were more likely to be satisfied than older curlers.



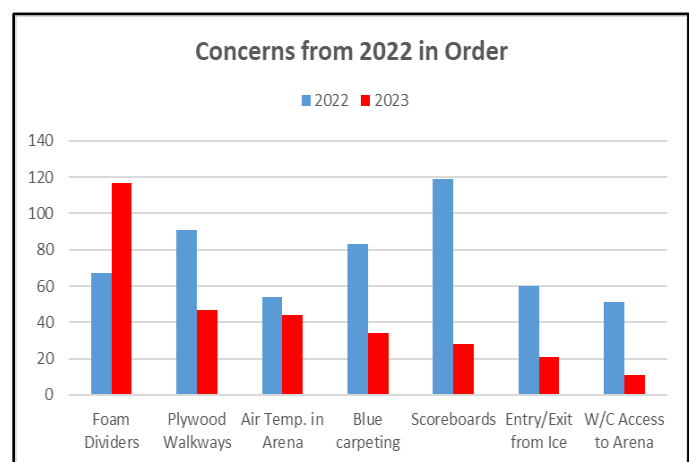
### Satisfaction with Curling Ice

As with the 2022 survey, a large majority (68%) of the responding membership were either very satisfied or satisfied with the curling ice for this season. However, the level of dissatisfaction increased from 2022 to 2023. This dissatisfaction is more prevalent among men than among women, and among those who curl in the evening.



### Concerns about Curling Environment

There were seven “concerns” about the curling environment that were rated by respondents in both 2022 and 2023, and the item of most concern in 2023 (based on summed responses of “very concerned” and “moderately concerned”) is the foam dividers.





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Six other concerns about the curling environment were rated by respondents to the 2023 survey, and the issues of most concern (again, based on summed responses of “very concerned” and “moderately concerned”) are timely access to the ice followed by sticky mats. The other items rated are of less concern to respondents.

## Satisfaction with Maintenance

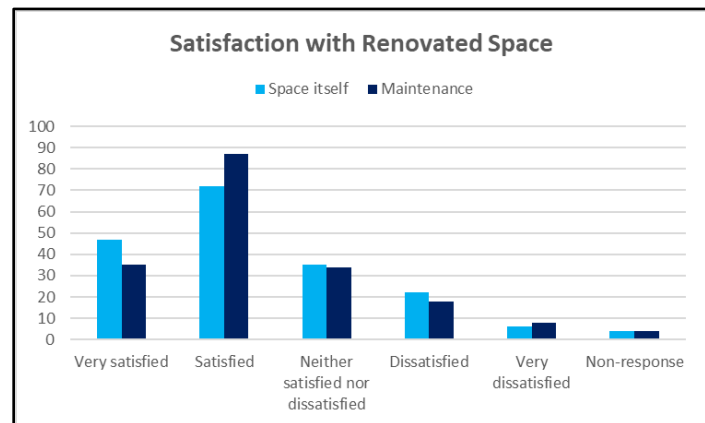
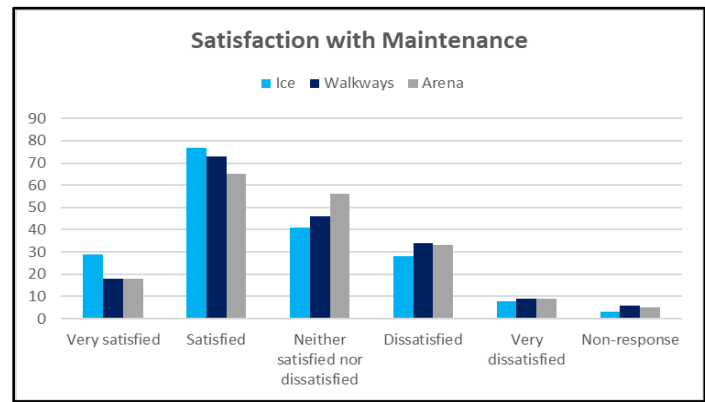
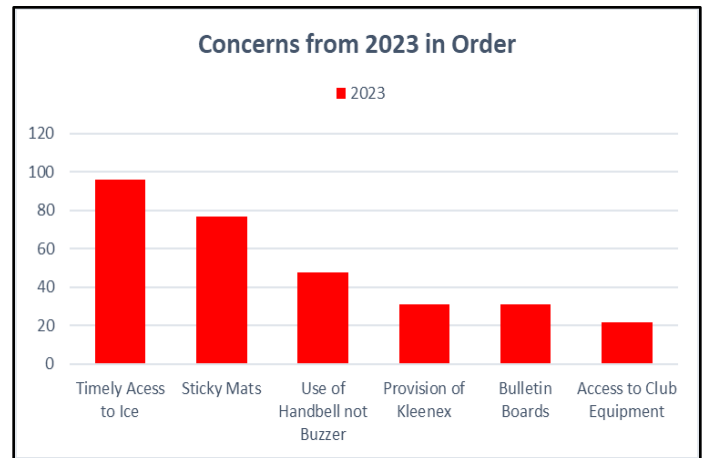
The level of satisfaction with maintenance is slightly lower than general satisfaction with the curling experience. Specifically, less than 50% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the maintenance of the arena space (i.e., the area outside the ice surface), and only 50% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the maintenance of the blue-carpeted walkways in and around the ice surface. Satisfaction with ice maintenance is somewhat higher, with about 58% of respondents either satisfied or very satisfied.

## Satisfaction with the Renovated Space

The level of satisfaction with the renovated space and its maintenance is higher than the satisfaction with ice, walkway, and arena maintenance. Close to two thirds of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the renovated space and its maintenance.

## Priorities for Improvement

Comments on priorities for improvement were provided by many respondents. The most frequently mentioned priority was an improved social space / lounge area with a view of the curling ice, with upgrading the physical structure of the facility (including fixing the leaky roof) being the second most frequently identified priority.



## Membership Model and Registration

About two thirds of respondents indicated that the new RACC membership model was both “fair and equitable” and “good value for money”. Men were slightly more likely than women to agree with both statements.



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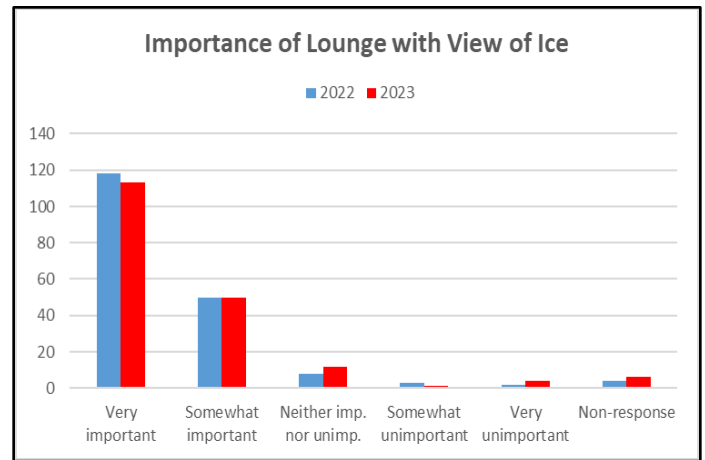
## Use of Central Lounge

Only 50% of respondents made regular use of the Central Lounge for socializing, and the majority used the Lounge only when goods and beverage services were available. Similar to the 2022 survey, an overwhelmingly large majority of the membership responding to the 2023 survey feel that a lounge with a view of the curling ice is either very important or somewhat important.

## Suggestions for additions to club league and training offerings

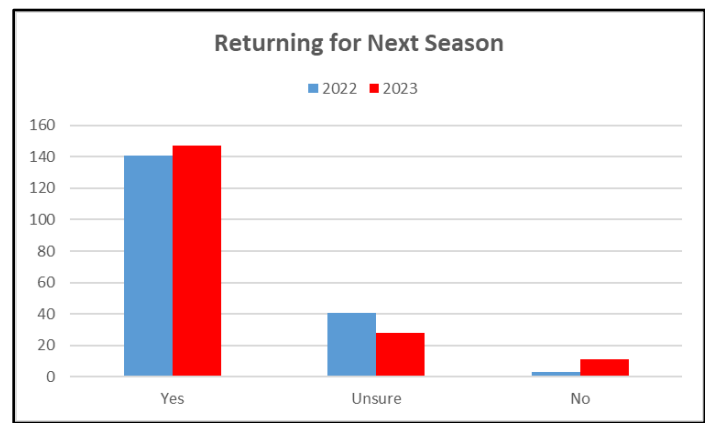
Many survey questions were open ended, providing respondents with ample opportunity for detailed comments and suggestions, and over 1000 written comments were received. On the subject of coaching and training, numerous members indicated their desire for the Club to offer advanced clinics and opportunities for members to improve delivery, strategy, etc., through skills analysis and other clinics beyond the Club's learn-to-curl (L2C) and development programs. CurlION offers a range of clinics and the RACC will be looking into hosting some this coming season.

There were many positive comments about the leagues and programs, most just stating that the curler enjoyed the leagues/programs. The daytime league options and the L2C program were both specifically mentioned several times.



## Returning for the 2022-2023 season

As in the 2022 survey, the 2023 data show that over 75% of responding members plan on returning to the RACC next season.



All survey responses and the RACC survey analysis have been shared with RA management. RACC Council members are engaging with the RA to the extent possible to put forward ideas and suggestions for improvements in several areas: e.g., bumpers, buzzers, coatracks, clinics.





## Call for volunteers!!

Over 30 survey respondents indicated a willingness and desire to help out with club activities, and to work with one of more of the RACC volunteer committees or convening leagues. **Thank you – that's terrific!!**

There is always lots of work behind the scenes, and many hands not only make light work, but also provide a diversity of perspectives and a wealth of ideas. To those individuals, and any others who are interested in volunteering, please talk to a Council member or contact us to discuss your interests and to sign up!!!

## Coach Training

We are always looking to increase the roster of coaches to deliver our Adult and Youth, able-bodied and wheelchair, instructional programs. To become a coach, Club Coach Training is required, and the Ontario Curling Council puts on courses each season. Coach training opportunities nearby this season are as follows (as of the publication of this newsletter):

[Club Coach](#) course (2 days, \$235 + HST) required for Adult Learn-to-Curl: Prescott Curling Club, October 21-22.

[Club Coach Youth](#) course (1 day, \$170+HST): Almonte Curling Club, October 14



## Special Offer for RACC Members Continues



Start off the season with new gear! Replace that old disintegrating gripper, or purchase that needed new broom or gloves. The Club is pleased to once again offer its members Goldline curling equipment at 15% off retail prices. And once again Pippa Sellers ([pippa.sellers.racc@gmail.com](mailto:pippa.sellers.racc@gmail.com)) is our volunteer coordinator for your orders. The first order date will likely be in mid to late September – stay tuned. In the meantime, take a look at the [Goldline equipment](#) on-line.





Wheelchair curling program launches

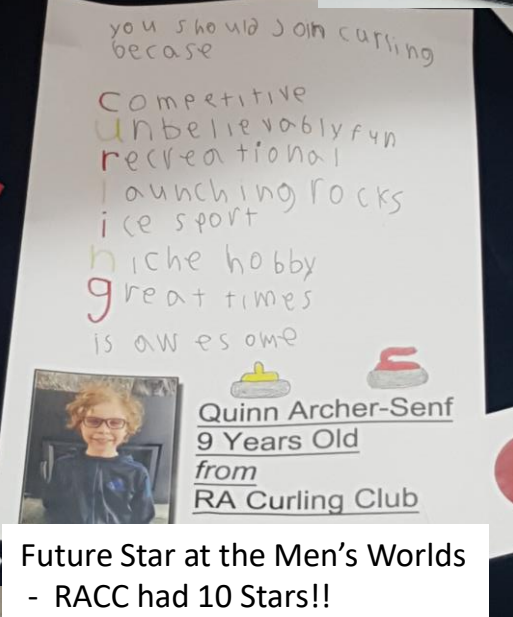


Some 2022-23 Season Highlights

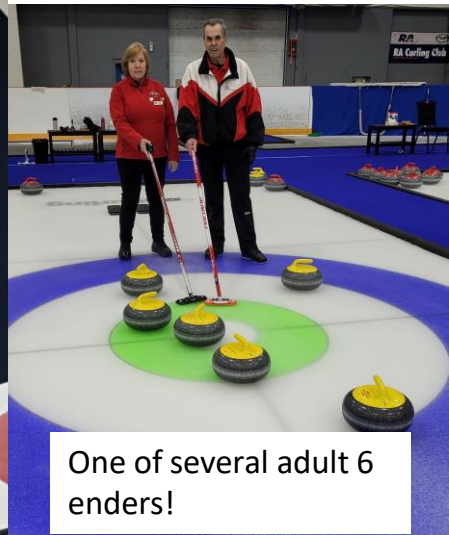
The scoreboards returned



Doubles 6-ender Youth league



Future Star at the Men's Worlds - RACC had 10 Stars!!



One of several adult 6 enders!



Mini Brier came back in Feb!



Feb. 25



SASKATCHEWAN



President's Closing Spiel Winners, April



## RACC League Schedule – typical week Fall 2023

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 - 11:00 am	Doubles	Women's Draw	Daytime Learn-to- Curl	Women's Draw	NEW! Doubles Open	Youth  Instruction Program	
	Open				Draw		
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Men's Fixed 11:00 - 1:00 and 1:00 - 3:00	9:00 - 11:00 and 11:00 - 1:00	Open Fixed	Men's Draw	Women Fix- overflow		
		Men's Draw			Men's Draw overflow		
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Women's Draw	Open Stick 1:00 - 2:00  and 2:00 - 3:00	Women's Draw	Doubles	Women's Fixed	Wheelchair  Program	
				Open Fixed 1-2:30 pm			
3:00 - 5:00 pm	maintenance	maintenance	maintenance	maintenance	maintenance		
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Evening Learn-to- Curl 5:00-6:45	Youth League 5:00 - 6:45					Doubles Open
							Fixed Rec 4:30-6:00 and 6:00-7:30
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Open Draw 7:00- 9:00 and 9:00-11:00	Open Fixed 7:00 - 9:00 and 9:00 - 11:00	Open Draw	Women's Fixed	Recreational Open Fixed 6:00 - 8:00 and 8:00 - 10:00		
9:00 - 11:00 pm			Doubles Open Fixed 9 - 10:30	After Hours Open Fixed			



## RACC Registration Step-by-Step Guide

### Step 1 – Select how many leagues you will be playing in.

- I am registering in only **one league** (Base membership fee is **\$230**)  
 I am registering in **two leagues** (Base membership fee is **\$345**)  
 I am registering in **three leagues** (Base membership fee is **\$345**)  
 I am registering in more than three leagues (**Unlimited** membership = **\$735**)

### Step 2 – Identify which league(s)

√	<b>Category A</b>
	Open Draw League – Monday evening
	Open Fixed League – Tuesday evening
	Open Draw League – Wednesday evening
	Women’s Fixed League – Thursday evening
	Open Fixed Recreational League – Friday evening
√	<b>Category B</b>
	Men’s Daytime Draw League
	Women’s Daytime Draw League
	Men’s Fixed League – Monday morning
	Open Fixed League – Wednesday morning
	Women’s Fixed League – Friday afternoon
	After-Hours Open Fixed League – Thursday evening
√	<b>Category C</b>
	Open Doubles League – Monday morning
	Open Doubles League – Wednesday evening
	Open Doubles League – Thursday afternoon
	Open Doubles Draw League – Friday morning ( <b>NEW</b> )
	Open Doubles League – Sunday evening
√	<b>Category D</b>
	Stick Curling League – Tuesday afternoon

### Step 3 – Fee calculation for the one, two, and three league options.

Take your Base membership fee (identified in step 1) then add the relevant per league fee from the table below for each of your selected league(s).

	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D
Per league fee for <b>Single League</b> membership	<b>\$235</b>	<b>\$170</b>	<b>\$120</b>	<b>\$10</b>
Per league fees for <b>Two or Three League</b> membership	<b>\$130</b>	<b>\$105</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$60</b>



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