United States Women's Curling Association

USWCA 5-Year and Under Bonspiel Guidelines

A. Any curler with five (5) years or less total curling experience is eligible to participate. (Years spent in a junior curling program or persons who have not curled for a number of years and then return to curling must include their previous curling experience as part of their five years.)

B. Each skip must submit an Eligibility Form when the rink is registered. Eligibility Forms must be signed by a club officer to verify that each member of the team has in fact curled five years or less. Any substitution to the rink must be accompanied by a signed Eligibility Form.

C. Composite teams are acceptable. Eligibility Forms must be signed by an officer from the various players' clubs.

D. Individuals may also register to participate and must submit a signed Eligibility Form.

E. Bonspiels should have four (4) events to keep as many teams in the competition as possible. The pins for each event are supplied by the USWCA and may be obtained by each Area Bonspiel Chair through the USWCA Five Year & Under Procedure Committee Chairman. If a bonspiel has less than 8 teams any unused pins should be returned after the completion of the event. Please do not engrave the pins with the year of the event unless you are positive you will be using all of the pins.

F. All games, including the finals, should be eight (8) ends.

G. Each team is guaranteed three (3) games.

H. Area Bonspiel Chairpersons should be encouraged to maintain flexibility in order to accommodate all eligible participants.

I. If a substitute is required to complete a team, the substitutes playing position shall be at the discretion of the Area Bonspiel Chairperson.

J. A traveling trophy has been donated to each area by the USWCA. It is the responsibility of the winning rink to have the trophy engraved. The winning rink is also responsible for the safe keeping of the trophy until the next bonspiel where it will be presented to the winners. It is also their responsibility to ship the trophy to the next year's event.

K. Coaching at this event should be limited. If there is a team that is traveling with a coach, any coaching shall take place away from the curling club. Please remember that everyone is there to have a good time and that the camaraderie after the game is as important as the game itself.

L. These bonspiels are open to any club within an USWCA area. You do not need to be a USWCA member to participate. Also we allow teams from another area to participate in your event if there are openings and if they had conflicts with the date or location in their own area. However, they may not play in two different areas in the same year.

M. If a curler plays half a season in one league, two half seasons will equal one whole year of eligibility. If a curler plays half a season in multiple leagues, that half season will be considered 1 whole season.

N. Each area may now hold two bonspiels if sites can be found. One bonspiel will be the Five Year and Under Women's Challenge and the other is the USWCA Five Year and Under Open Bonspiel. Remember that an area has the option of hosting one or more of the bonspiels.