

2019 LCC International Play-In Info sheet and FAQ

Why are we using the Santa Spiel as a “play-in” for the international?

Our International Bonspiel has grown extremely popular. As a matter of fact, we have set earnings records each of the past two years running. In addition, the 2019 spiel is not only already full (as of October 1st), we have two teams on the waiting list...one of which has already sent a check to ensure their spot.

Last year (for the 2018 International) when online registration was opened...we filled 17 of the 20 available spots before we could close down registration. This left only 3 spots for Lewiston Teams. The bonspiel committee chairman decided that those three spots would go to the Bonspiel committee, the Ice committee and the House Committee...since the people on those committees would be at the club taking care of our guests the whole weekend anyhow...and deserved to play. It was also decided then, that there would have to be a more open opportunity for members of LCC to get a chance to play in the international.

After receiving much feedback and in conjunction with the LCC Board of Directors, it was decided that we would reserve four spots in the bonspiel for LCC teams...and that the Bonspiel committee should look into a “Play-In” for the International, as most other clubs do for their popular spiels.

The LCC curling season begins January first...and within the month of January, there is the Detroit Men’s International (that is usually attended by 1 or 2 LCC teams), the Timbertown – Wine Country Spiel (with TCCC) and the Battle of the Axe (with MCC). Then in February...the first weekend of February is Bon Soo (which is usually attended by 2 or 3 LCC teams) and then the LCC International is the 3rd weekend of February. This would leave only 2 weekends to organize a “play-in” during the time when the Bonspiel Committee and Chairman are extremely busy with preparing for the International. In other words...there would be no time, or people to organize a “play-in” during the regular curling season.

This brings us to December...and inevitably, the conversation also turns to other challenges of our club. A couple of which, are: the lack of interaction within the club with other league nights and the lack of LCC teams that travel to other spiels. The reason for the latter is often drawn back to the impression that Bonspiels are “competitive” and some less experienced curlers not feeling confident enough to “take their game on the road”. A long discussed solution for both of those, has been an inter-club bonspiel. So folks could get a taste of what “spieling” is all about, in a safe, comfortable environment. No one has ever taken the bull by the horns and got it done...until now.

Thus, the Santa ‘Spiel was born, to directly address the above two concerns...and then as an attempt to kill “three French hens” with one stone (see what I did there), we could also

use this opportunity as the play-in for the international...for those who wish to be considered for International play.

Obviously, this will not please everyone. Nothing ever does. But we need to develop long term, established solutions and procedures for some of these challenges. And it was thought that this would be an effective and fun solution. I would ask critics of the idea to ponder exactly what they want out of our club...and exactly what their expectations of LCC are. At heart, we are (supposed to be) a SOCIAL club...a recreational club...a group of folks who gather together out of a common fondness for this sport...to enjoy a little physical activity, a little friendly competition...and most of all, to enjoy some comradery and EACH OTHER. There is no “one size fits all”. But this solution is certainly a size that will fit most. I hope you will keep an open mind and give it a try.

What happens if I do NOT want to “opt in” for International Bonspiel consideration?

Absolutely nothing...you enjoy the Santa ‘Spiel for what it’s worth and all the fun that will go along with it.

Will the games/scoring be different for those who opt in vs. those who don’t?

Not at all. All teams will play the same exact format for the spiel. The results for play-in will occur in the background and be presented to those who opted in after the Santa ‘Spiel is over.

How do we “opt in” to have our outcome considered for International inclusion?

You simply will check the box on your registration form to “opt in”. Nothing else.

What will the format be? Bracketed playdown? Round Robin? Points spiel?

That is yet to be decided based on the number of entries we receive. We are hoping for minimum of 8 teams. But we will work the format to try to ensure a 3 game guarantee, regardless of wins vs. losses. The one thing we are sure of is: we will play 6 end games. Not just to “mirror” the games we play in the international, but more importantly...the fact that this may be the first curling event of the season for people...and none of us want to die on the ice!

What if the same teammates for the Santa ‘Spiel aren’t available for the International?

The International Spot will be assigned to the Skip and he/she will be given much latitude for the composition of their team for the international. In the event the SKIP is not available for the international...then can transfer the international to the team IF the three remaining members from the Santa ‘Spiel stay together for the International. If a team

that has earned a spot for the International decides to drop entirely...the spot will then go to the next team in line from the Santa Spiel results.

What if I want to play in the International, but am not available to play in the Santa ‘Spiel?

Well...in that case, you may be out of luck. Unless you can work something out with a team that one of the teammates is a “sub” that would play for the Santa ‘Spiel and then you would play for the International. You just have to hope then, that your team makes the cut.