

BC/YUKON COMMAND
The Royal Canadian Legion
#101 - 17618 58 Avenue Surrey, BC V3S 1L3 Phone (1) 604-575-8840 Fax (1) 604-575-8820
info@legionbcyukon.ca or visit us at www.legionbcyukon.ca
November 9, 2023

TO: All Branches
For Information of Members of Command Executive Council

FROM: Bill Higdon, Command Sports Chair

SUBJECT: **2024 Sports – Provincial Playdowns**

Memo # 56.23

Please bring this to the attention of the Branch Sports Chair and ensure all members of the Branch involved in Sports have access to the information in this memo.

The BC/Yukon Command Sports Committee has chosen the following Branches to host the BC/Yukon Command Championships for 2024:

Host Branches for Provincial Championships - 2024

Eight Ball	#006 - Cloverdale	March 8 - 10
Darts	#288 - Westbank	March 15 - 17
Cribbage	#091 – Prince Edward	March 22 - 24
Euchre	#088 – Maple Ridge	TBD

Host Branches for Dominion Championships – 2024

Crib	#033 – Shediac, NB	April 26 - 29
Darts	#251 – Laval, QC	May 3 - 6
Eight Ball	#051 – Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL	May 24 – 27

Note: Eight Ball location subject to change, dates will not change

NEW – LADIES DARTS

This year we will be trying something new, ladies darts. Please encourage any ladies in your branches who might like to be part of darts to participate individually, as a duo or as a four-person team. At this time the ladies darts will only go as far as the provincial level championships. However, we do encourage any ladies who want to participate in the Provincial championship for the National representatives, do not be shy, we welcome all members to be part of the sports. The darts players for the National representatives can be a mixed team of men and ladies.

Euchre

Just a reminder that Euchre is only played up to the Provincial Championships, there is no National Euchre.

Zone/Branch Eligibility Requirements to Participate in BC/Yukon Championships:

Zones must submit their completed Intent to Participate form and cheque by the deadline date in order to participate in sports at the BC/Yukon Command level.

It is the Zone Commander's responsibility to ensure that the Command office has received the Intent to Participate form by the deadline. **The deadline date is January 31st, 2024. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS STRICT DEADLINE. The form is attached to this circular, please ensure it is completed and signed before submitting.**

The Zone entry fee is \$400 each for Crib, Mixed Darts and Eight Ball and \$200 for Euchre and Ladies Darts. The funds from these registration fees assist with the expenses of the winning participants attending the national finals and for various expenses of the BC/Yukon Command championships such as trophies, welcome receptions, etc.

If a Zone withdraws from any provincial sport event after the deadline date of February 1st, **THERE WILL BE NO REFUND** of the registration fee unless that particular sport has been cancelled at the Command level due to lack of participation.

In order for the BC/Yukon Command championships to take place, involvement is required from at least five zones for cribbage and darts and at least four zones for eight ball and euchre. Host branches put a lot of time and effort into organizing the championships and deserve good attendance.

Players and teams entering competition(s) at zone that lead to BC/Yukon and/or Dominion finals are required to sign a "Letter of Commitment" form. Failure to fulfil the obligations of the "Letter of Commitment" may result in the suspension of the player, the team and/or the Branch for a one-year period. Such suspension could include one or all sports. **Please note, this has been upheld and a one-year suspension from all sports to a specific player was enforced for 2024.**

Also keep in mind the following regarding Dominion Championships. A motion was adopted at the 2005 March Dominion Executive Council meeting that any team(s) that withdraw from Dominion level play downs without a valid reason may be subject to disciplinary action under Article III of the General By-laws.

DARTS, CRIBBAGE & EIGHT BALL: In order to qualify for competition at the BC/Yukon Command level, it is a requirement that within every zone, there be actual competition involving at least two teams. If only one branch in a particular zone is involved, then competition within that zone shall be deemed to have existed, if within that one branch, there are at least two teams that have actually played off against each other. This will be accepted as genuine competition "within the Zone".

EUCHRE: Each zone can send up to three (3) doubles teams to the BC/Yukon Euchre playdowns. These are the top three (3) winning teams from the zone playdowns. Euchre is not an approved Dominion level sport so the final competition takes place at the BC/Yukon level.

General Eligibility for Branch and Ladies Auxiliary Members

BC/Yukon Command sporting events are open to members in good standing as defined in the General By-laws, including the Ladies Auxiliary.

A member who is not in good standing is someone who meets Section 1203(d) of the General By-laws: A member who has not paid their membership dues by January 31st of that year is no longer a member in good standing for any purpose. However, as soon as the membership dues are paid, the member's status of being "in good standing" is immediately restored permitting all rights and privileges.

New members are eligible to participate in sports immediately. NEW member's status is someone who has NEVER belonged to The Royal Canadian Legion at any time.

Reinstatements and members, who have transferred into a branch, must be members in the new branch as of 31 January of the year prior to the year of the playoffs to be eligible.

It has been recognized that a rigid application of the above criteria can be unfair. Exceptions have been authorized to permit members in the following circumstances to participate:

- ⊗ An eligible member, in good standing, who is a member of a branch that was required to surrender its charter and the member has submitted an application to transfer to another branch, shall enjoy the same rights and privileges he/she would have enjoyed had the charter not been surrendered and the branch dissolved.
- ⊗ A member who retires or who has been transferred by their employer or the member's personal circumstances dictated a change of employment, is eligible to participate, providing the member can, on request, provide proof that:
 - the transfer was initiated by the employer,
 - the member was a member of the branch at their former place of residence on or before 31 January of the year preceding the year in which the competition is to take place,
 - the member changed their permanent place of residence, and
 - further to the above, the member has one year of grace, from the effective date of retirement, change of employment and/or permanent resident, to transfer his membership to his new branch.

The Zone Commander is responsible to confirm to the Command office, through the completed Acknowledgement and Entry form, that any member proceeding to the BC/Yukon Command level of competition is a paid up member in good standing for the prior year and for the current year in which the Command level championships are held.

For transferred members, they must follow the criteria as set out in the Sports Guide, stating they MUST have been a member of their new branch as of January 31, the year PRIOR to the Command level championships.

Any branch with less than 100 members who cannot field their own team may join with another branch and may request a maximum of two (2) players from that branch within the same zone.

Branches should encourage their Ladies Auxiliary members to participate and make them aware of their eligibility to participate in Member Participation Sports. The same rules govern their participation as for Branch members. Where Ladies Auxiliary members participate, they do so as part of their particular branch, not separate and apart from the branch.

Participants must register in person at each level of the competition, and must produce their current membership card or receipt upon registration at Branch, Zone, BC/Yukon and Dominion Command championships.

Zone Championships

It is the responsibility of the Zone Commander to work with their Zone Sports Chair, who, in turn, works with the Branch Sports Chair to arrange an appropriate timeline, subject to the relevant regulations for zone championships.

Branch and zone championships can be held jointly or separately. Zones can combine for a regional championship and declare the same numbers of winners as there are zones participating in the competition.

Branch and zone championships must occur at least three weeks prior to the BC/Yukon Command finals – this is to give the winning players time to arrange travel and the host branch advance time to gather names for print material, set up catering numbers and set up the order of play for the BC/Yukon event.

Branch Presidents and Zone Commanders are urged to encourage branch participation within their zones, so that we can have the maximum zones participating in the BC/Yukon Command finals.

Teams/players that are winners at zone level and proceed to command championships may make a substitution with the written approval of their respective Zone Commander. The substitute must meet all eligibility requirements and

be a member of the same branch as the team members within the zone they represent. The substitute player is provided should a team member be unable to attend Command championships due to injury, illness or other extenuating circumstance.

Extenuating circumstances could include:

- ⊗ job related conflicts; and
- ⊗ death and/or family illness

Extenuating circumstance does not include:

- ⊗ participation in other sporting events where conflicting dates at Command or Dominion exist; and
- ⊗ unable to cover the expenses of travel.

Authorization for substitution must be obtained prior to arrival at the site of command championships. Zone Commanders must inform the BC/Yukon Command Sports Chair and the host branch of any changes immediately. Substitutes will not be allowed to play if they arrive at the host site without written permission from the Zone Commander.

Zone Winners Proceeding to BC/Yukon Championships

The agenda for the BC/Yukon Command championships will be provided to the winning participants in each event after the zone finals have been held and the winners' names and branch information has been provided to the Command office by way of the Acknowledgement and Entry Registration form. It is the Zone Commander's responsibility to ensure the completed Acknowledgement form and Letter of Commitment form are sent to BC/Yukon Command office immediately following the Zone play downs, and no later than the deadline date indicated on the Acknowledgement form.

If the team events begin later than the singles and doubles events at any level of competition, team players wishing to arrive later **must make arrangements with the host branch** in advance. It shows respect and courtesy to the hosting branch and fellow players when all players arrive on time.

In the event of any singles, doubles, teams withdrawing after play has commenced, without mitigating circumstances, the team will be disqualified and all teams will be given a win just as if the games played previous to the team departing had never been played. **The Player, the Team and/or the represented Branch may be suspended for failure to complete all play.**

Any disputes arising at the site of any of the BC/Yukon Command finals shall be submitted in writing by the team captain and the decision of the host committee and the BC/Yukon Command Sports Representative in attendance at the BC/Yukon Command finals shall prevail. Technical rules can be found in the Dominion Command Sports Guide.

Important Note: At no time during any event or championship for BC/Yukon Command will personal items or beverages, non-alcoholic or alcohol, be placed on the playing area or table of each sport. They may only be placed on a separate side table or area that is not used by spectators. Use of or consumption of these items will not be allowed while the participants are playing, example: throwing darts.

The winners and runners up will be given individual keeper trophies for the Command level win. These trophies are provided to the host branch for each sport by BC/Yukon Command.

BC/Yukon Command Winners Proceeding to National Finals

A package providing details for the Dominion Command finals will be provided to the winning players at the BC/Yukon Command championships unless not yet available from Dominion Command. If this is the case, the package will be sent to the branch where the winning players belong, as soon as it is available. Players are expected

to organize their own travel to the site of the Dominion finals. The details for booking flights, transportation to host branch, available accommodation and agenda for the event, are provided in this package.

If the BC/Yukon Command winners declared at the site of the BC/Yukon Command playdowns cannot participate for whatever reason in the national playdowns, the runners-up team for that event will be declared the BC/Yukon Command winners and will receive the BC/Yukon Command championship trophies and attend the national playdowns as the BC/Yukon Command champions.

The captain of the team attending the nationals must provide a written report to the BC/Yukon Command office following their attendance at the nationals. This report must be in the BC/Yukon Command office within one month following the return of the team from the finals.

BC/Yukon Command will courier to the home branch of the winning players attending National Finals a shirt and a \$200 cheque (the maximum, regardless of the number of events the member qualifies for) to assist with the cost of accommodation or meals. When available, Command pins are also provided to each player for trading purposes at the nationals.

BC/Yukon Command winning representatives to the national finals will receive up to \$700.00 towards transportation and mileage for four competitors per member sport event from their place of residence to the national airport nearest the site of the Championship and return (See Section 302.b of the Dominion Sports Guide). Transportation for spouses and/or guests is the responsibility of the players.

Any additional expenses (hotel/food) will have to be covered by the participants personally, or through the zone or home branch. Players will need to check with their branch and/or zone to determine if any additional funds have been authorized.

The Sports Committee will be sending out an additional sports memo with updated sports rules and regulations for BC/Yukon Command championships at the end of January.

If you have any further questions about sports:

Branch level sports – please contact your Branch Sports Chair

Zone level sports – please contact your Zone Sports Chair

BC/Yukon Command Playdowns – please contact Linda Candelaria (linda.candelaria@legionbcyukon.ca) at BC/YK Command

Dominion Command Finals – please contact Steven Van Muyen (SVanMuyen@legion.ca) at Dominion Command

Respectfully,
Bill Higdon

