

The 2020 International Tankard is officially cancelled.

After careful consultation with involved curling governing bodies, we have determined it is in the best interest of all to cancel the 2020 International Tankard. The decision was the most difficult we have had to make in our 58 year history, but the health and well-being of our participants, volunteers, the host club staff and guests remains the top priority.

It may seem like we have had a slow response to the Covid-19 outbreak but we had to contact a number of the groups involved. First, there was our equal partner in this endeavor, the Washington State Curling Association (WASCA), followed by the CurlBC Region 11 Committee, then the Nanaimo Curling Club Host Committee and finally the Chilliwack Curling Club Host Committee.

Time Line:

Monday, March 9th - Sensing the unease of our volunteers and participants of both the International Tankard and the Pacific International Cup (PIC), Katherine and I came up with several back up plans in the event the Tankard had to be cancelled.

Thursday, March 12th - We saw a sharp rise in the number of Covid-19 cases particularly with our neighbor to the south, Washington State. We sent an email to our WASCA partner, Mr. Jim Pleasants, requesting phone numbers so we could have a discussion regarding the upcoming Tankard in Chilliwack. We could not get back to him until early evening and by that time all major sports leagues in North America had suspended all league play. Jim Pleasants agreed with any of our back up plans we wished to use. We had a telephone conversation with Mr. Jim Schuman, PIC chair and a member of the Tankard Committee (Mr. Wayne Braun is also member of this Committee). He advised us that the 2020 PIC had been cancelled and he also advised us on which of the back up plans to use. We contacted the Chilliwack Host Committee chair to advise her of what was coming down the pike.

Friday, March 13th - We contacted the Nanaimo Host Committee to let them know of our back up plan for the Tankard and they were in agreement. We learned that CurlBC had cancelled all future playoff events. A number of the nominating clubs and participants had contacted us during the day and we were advising them that the Tankard was unofficially cancelled. We also advised Jim Pleasants he could do the same for his participants.

Sunday, March 15th - We attended the Region 11 morning AGM and advised them of the plan to cancel. In the afternoon, we attended the Chilliwack Host Committee meeting advising them of the plan. Everyone is now in agreement and we have our ducks in a row.

The Plan:

Cancel this year's Tankard. All the upcoming International Tankards will be pushed back one year. In other words, the Chilliwack Tankard will be pushed back to 2021, Seattle to 2022, Nanaimo to 2023 and the 2024 host site is still open for bid by any curling center in Regions 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Chilliwack will retain the partial payment already in their possession and to be used for next year's Tankard. They will receive the rest of the payment next year.

Post this notice to the International Tankard web site and notify the nominating clubs and participants of cancellation by email. We will refund fees to the nominating clubs should they request it. Those clubs that leave their fees with us, will have priority for next year's Tankard. We hope all nominated participants will stay on board for next year. Participants should cancel their hotel reservations. For those participants who have already received a 2020 International Tankard Crest, keep them. You now have a unique memento of the Tankard that never was. For those Canadian participants who did not receive a crest, if you provide us with your home address, we will mail your crest to you.

Keep your social distance, wash your hands, sneeze or cough into your elbow and perhaps we can "flatten the curve".

Ross and Katherine Johnson, Members of the BC International Tankard Committee

www.internationaltankard.com