



23rd September 2022

LITTLE ROCKERS

Coaching and Curling for Kids

Dear parents and curlers,

We hope you've had a fun and relaxing summer and are ready to return to the ice!

We wanted to let you know about some changes that we are making to the Juniors program this year. We hope that these changes will allow us to continue to run a successful, fun and safe Juniors' program for the children.

First, as you can see, we will be rebranding the "Little Juniors" to call our group the "**Little Rockers**". This will simply help everyone to identify which group of Juniors we are talking about, since the Juniors are split into two sections. The Little Rockers are, and will continue to be, a part of the Juniors Curling Club, and all the Junior coaches will continue to work closely together to cover lessons, assess children and move children up to the "older Juniors" when we feel they are ready for more advanced coaching. This is generally around age 12, but may vary depending on the skill and ability of each curler. The changes in this letter will apply only to the Little Rockers, not the older Juniors who are able to play a full game with minimal supervision.

Second, we will now start Little Rockers sessions at **11:30 am** rather than 11:00 am on Sunday mornings. We will still finish at 1:00 pm. This change was made in part to allow all our coaches to be there and set up in time, and in part because we felt two hours was a bit too long for the under-12 children, as many of them were getting cold after long periods on the ice.

Third, we are asking the Little Rockers to **pre-register and pre-pay** for a block of six lessons at a time, with one 6-lesson block before Christmas, and one after. This will allow the coaches and children to get on the ice right away without spending much time on administration. This will also allow us to be better prepared for each lesson, as we will know how many children to expect each week, and generally where the children are at in their training/ability. We are limiting registration to 16 children initially, but if this fills quickly, we will try to recruit additional coaches to allow us to accept more children into the program. We would not wish to turn anyone away, but must maintain a safe ratio of coaches to curlers.

Fourth, there will be a small price increase this year, to **£5 per lesson**, although lessons will now include a drink for each curler to enjoy during the off-ice break. This can be a hot chocolate, tea, or other drink. We hope that making the Little Rockers sessions cash-free on the day will make break time more efficient, with less time standing in a queue. (Since most children were ordering a hot drink during the break, this may be a cost saving for some!) Like last year, the break will allow children a chance to sit with their parents/carers for a time, and we will have a short off-ice lesson or activity where children can finish their drink. The café will continue to be open on Sunday mornings for parents and other spectators.

As like last season, all equipment is included in the lesson price, including brushes, shoes and/or sliders as well as safety headwear. The coaches are all volunteers and are all trained by Scottish Curling and PVG certified, and the cost of the ice rental is covered by Ayr Ice Rink to promote the sport. This means that all lesson money collected by the Juniors goes into a fund to pay for trips, administration, competition entry fees and other costs related to events for the Juniors.

Finally, for the safety of all children (and for peace of mind for the coaches!), we are requiring all Little Rockers to **wear protective headwear** this season. This can be a bicycle or other helmet from home, or a protective and warm “bobble hat” available from the curling club. These will be clean and available for the children to use during their lessons.

It has been agreed by the club that these changes will be made on a trial basis for the upcoming season, and we welcome any feedback from parents/carers. We do not want these changes to discourage anyone from returning to curling, but we also want to ensure that we are offering a fun, efficient and safe program for our youngest curlers. If you would like to comment on the changes, please feel free to contact the coaches below or speak to us any time during the season.

Below we include the dates and times of the Little Rockers lessons for the upcoming season. You should also have received a Registration Form that you can fill out and return for each child, and that includes payment instructions if you wish to pay online, or you can pay on the first day, but please return your Registration Form right away to hold your spot.

Thank you for supporting the Little Rockers program. We hope your Little Rocker is excited to get back on the ice this year, and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

Regards,
Your Little Rockers Coaches

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Block 1: 2022 (All sessions are Sundays from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm)

9 th October	13 th November
16 th October	20 th November
30 th October	4 th December

Block 2: 2023 (All sessions are Sundays from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm)

8 th January	12 th February
15 th January	26 th February
5 th February	5 th March