



October 23, 2022

Dear Curling Community,

Friday night the USA Curling (USAC) held its members assembly and formally voted to remove the Grand National Curling Club (GNCC) from the organization due to concerns about a policy in GNCC allowing a club to receive support and be a member without being a formal member of USAC. This action was done hastily and without an adequate attempt to mediate or resolve the conflict between the organizations. We watched Friday thousands of recreational and competitive curlers be disenfranchised from our sport, through an ugly use of parliamentary rules to manipulate the conversation and direction of the meeting towards the USAC Board's desired outcome.

The issues at hand with this dismissal are near and dear to Curl Troy's heart, because as an arena club we don't have a traditional membership structure, and attempts at using a traditional membership structure have been damaging to our long term growth, yet we continued to pay our dues to Great Lakes Curling Association (GLCA) and USAC based on our participation numbers. What happened to GNCC last night was directly due to their desire not to impose arbitrary membership requirements on organizations and to help ease financial challenges revolving around growth and recovery from the pandemic.

Because last curling season was our return to curling post pandemic our season did not begin in earnest until after the deadline for membership dues, and our dues did not meet the deadline for us to maintain our votes in the members assembly. We had no way of submitting dues prior to the January 31 deadline as we hadn't at that point had registration available for the bulk of our programming. Because of this we were not afforded a voice or vote in the happenings at the members assembly. Another prime example of how the archaic membership model forced upon clubs by USAC isn't built for grass roots curling or to drive growth of the sport.

In July of this year our board unanimously voted to join the Grand National Curling Club and support their push towards growing grassroots curling despite the attacks from the national governing body, and we look forward to becoming formal members in the coming curling season and helping them grow their organization. In the same vote we chose to table a discussion about departing USAC and GLCA until after the results of the members assembly. In our next meeting we will finalize our vote to leave these two organizations.

USAC and GLCA need to act now to back grass roots curlers and re-enfranchise the curlers lost in yesterday's meeting and we urge you as our last request as members to do the following:



- Immediately reinstate GNCC and its members into USAC
- Suspend the 95% rule and form an exploratory committee including the founders of curling clubs started since curling became an olympic sport to explore a membership structure that supports growth of grassroots curling and high performance curling
- Immediately remove all board and staff members complicit in the parliamentary efforts to suppress GNCC at the members assembly
- Immediately release the results of the internal investigation into USAC CEO Jeff Plush
- Immediately remove Jeff Plush as USAC CEO and open an investigation into all Safe Sport complaints filed during his leadership

Sincerely, The leadership of Curl Troy