

# JVL Players' Committee - Where We Started, Where We Are, Where We Go

## In the Beginning.....

- The Red Deer JVL Pool League was fresh off the heels of the league administrator embezzling most, if not all, of the players' money for the 18/19 season.
- There was community support for the creation of a committee so players could have some reasonable input into how the league was run, most specifically to address subjective, autocratic ranking, perceived sandbagging, and to feel like there was some measure of oversight when it came to money players paid into the league.
- **Committee Structure**
  - Comprised of volunteers with interest in donating time to the improvement of the league
  - No Chair or Secretary
  - Not a committee of consensus; each member had equal voice and vote
  - JVL will attend meetings on an ad hoc basis
- **Committee Functions**
  - To serve as interface between the players and JVL
  - To field questions from players and take suggestions for league improvement
  - To facilitate player input
  - To develop a system for ranking
  - To develop strategies to address sandbagging
  - To assist JVL when and where necessary
- **Committee Goals**
  - To create a more equitable system which encourages competitiveness by reducing the disparity between top teams and the rest of the field
  - To develop a method to prevent players from loading teams, thus creating a more level playing field
  - To set up such systems to foster player enjoyment and thus growth of the league
  - To implement systems designed to minimize the opportunity and effects of sandbagging
  - To facilitate dissemination of league information to help ensure players/teams keep abreast of new or evolving information
- **Methods to Achieve Those Goals**
  - Assigning permanent handicaps using objective rather than subjective methods

- Allowing teams to enjoy comradery and a social night out during regular season without affecting handicaps carried into playoffs
- Encouraging players to improve their skills without impacting current season's handicaps with the goal of reducing sandbagging
- Encouraging competitive play by awarding prize draws for feats
  - Intermediate - one ballot for every feat achieved
  - Advanced - one ballot for every two feats achieved
- Suggesting awards for first place in regular season in order to make the season meaningful and to encourage teams to play to the best of their abilities - went to player vote in the 2019/2020 season. Result of vote was first place team in regular season receives equal prize money as first place team in playoffs.. Unfortunately the season concluded before playoffs
- Requesting playoffs sheets from locations so data can be added to player quantitative data
- Creating the Red Deer JVL Players Committee Facebook group and email address
  - Purpose of Facebook Group - post polls, provide information specific to league, answer player questions
  - Purpose of Committee email - communication amongst Committee members and venue for players to ask questions not appropriate for the Facebook group, questions regarding handicaps of certain players, etc.

#### ■ What Was Asked of Players

- To understand that no system is perfect and to give the current methods/structures a year, at which time outcomes will be evaluated
- To understand that players/teams can have exceptional nights and that a 6 is capable of running a table; they are just not going to do so with the same frequency as higher ranking players
- To approach committee members with respect, remembering they are volunteers trying to do their best
- To know that Western Canadian rankings have no bearing on player handicaps, unless no other skill information on a player can be found. All Red Deer league players are evaluated based on league play, not outside tournaments, this is especially true for women whose outside rankings are based on playing only female players
- To understand that new players to the league will be subject to a mid-season review of handicaps. The exception to this are

established players about whose handicaps we have received multiple complaints/concerns

- To keep abreast of all information coming from JVL and the committee via the various sources - emails, postings in the Facebook group, information sheets on the stats, etc.
- To use the [rdplayerscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:rdplayerscommittee@gmail.com) email to address concerns/complaints and to abide by the 24 hour rule, which states that all players are asked to wait 24 hours after a concerning event before contacting the committee
- To

## **Where We Are.....**

- Much water has flowed under the bridge. The committee and league have yet to see a conclusion to a season due to forces beyond our control. Three seasons have started and none completed, thus the committee has not been able to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented changes.
- Over the last several years, the committee has taken on roles we now view as outside the committee purview and wish to return the decision making to the role of JVL
- The committee has now returned all input/ decisions regarding money and player payout to JVL. JVL manages the finances for all other league locations and Red Deer will be no exception.
  - **Committee Structure**
    - Structure remains the same
  - **Committee Functions**
    - To manage the created system for player rankings and handicaps
    - To field player suggestions for improvement of the league
    - To help ensure players understand the role of the committee versus the role of JVL
    - To direct questions about rules and payout to JVL
    - To manage the committee Facebook Group and email and address or forward questions as appropriate
  - **Committee Goals**
    - To monitor and modify the player ranking/handicap to encourage competitiveness by reducing the disparity between top teams and the rest of the field
    - To monitor the method developed to prevent players from loading teams

- To monitor systems designed to foster player enjoyment and thus growth of the league
- To implement systems designed to minimize the opportunity and effects of sandbagging
- To facilitate dissemination of league information to help ensure players/teams keep abreast of new or evolving information

■ **Methods to Achieve Those Goals**

- Assigning permanent handicaps, except for new players, using objective rather than subjective methods
  - Allowing teams to enjoy comradery and a social night out during regular season without affecting handicaps (except new players) carried into playoffs
  - Encouraging players to improve their skills without impacting current season's handicaps, hopefully reducing sandbagging in the process
- Returning decision making regarding money back to JVL. This includes systems designed to limit sandbagging:
  - Determining if there will be a prize for first place in the regular season, and if so, how much
  - Determining if there will awards for feats
    - Intermediate - one ballot for every feat achieved
    - Advanced - one ballot for every two feats achieved
- Publicly supporting JVL in decisions regarding league structure and payouts.
- Requesting playoffs sheets from locations so data can be added to player quantitative
- Managing and monitoring the Red Deer JVL Players Committee Facebook group and email address for player concerns and questions. Once a question is answered, or if the announcement is informative, the post is generally closed so as to not facilitate negative chat sessions from a few versus the majority of readers. The committee encourages the use of emails for questions and concerns

■ **What Is Asked of Players**

- To approach committee members with respect remembering they are volunteers trying to do their best. Committee members are also players and come to league to enjoy their time with friends playing the game we all love, not to field complaints
- To know that committee members are approachable, but may not have an immediate answer to questions, especially on questions that reach into JVL management of the league, e.g. player eligibility, league payouts, league rules, etc.

- To use the [rdplayerscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:rdplayerscommittee@gmail.com) email for captains and players to submit concerns/complaints and to abide by the 24 hour rule, which states that all players are asked to wait 24 hours after a concerning event before contacting the committee. Email submissions are given thoughtful discussion amongst all committee members before issuing a response
- To rest assured that all concerns and suggestions are given weight and are fully discussed. The suggestions or concerns may or may not affect change for the league, but the discussions and resulting decision will be reported back to the author of the email
- To understand that no handicap system is perfect and to give the current methods/structures a year, at which time outcomes will be evaluated
- To understand that players/teams can have exceptional nights and that a 6 is capable of running a table; they are just not going to do it with the same frequency as higher ranking players
- To know that Western Canadian rankings have no bearing on player handicaps, unless no other data can be found on a player. All Red Deer league players are evaluated based on league play, not outside tournaments, this is especially true for women whose outside rankings, and Fargo ratings, are based on playing only female players
- To understand that until players have an established Fargo rating of at least 200 games, Fargo ratings will be considered, but will not be the sole factor for player evaluations/handicaps
- To understand that only new players to the league will be subject to a mid-season review of handicaps. The exception to this are established players about whose handicaps we have received multiple complaints/concerns at the **start** of the season. When new players are assigned a handicap, the committee will err on the side of caution, over rather than underestimating a player's ability. This is for the long-term benefit of the team because when players are evaluated part way through the season the tendency is for handicaps to down, rather than up, thus avoiding teams surpassing the handicap limit for the division
- To keep abreast of all information coming from JVL and the committee via the various sources - emails, postings in the Facebook group, information sheets on the stats

## Where We Go From Here.....

- Evaluation - use objective and subjective measurements to determine the effectiveness of implemented changes answering the following questions:

- **Committee Goals**

- Did we achieve what we set out to do?
  - Was the disparity between teams reduced?
  - Did systems in place function as intended?
    - Reducing sandbagging
    - Preventing heavily loaded teams which consistently win the large portion of the prize money
    - Encouraging competitive play
    - Increasing (or at least not reducing) player enjoyment of the league
  - Did the fee difference between divisions achieve what we hoped?