

President's Message

On behalf of the NODA executive, I am providing the additional breakdown and allocation to support the decision on the fees for the 2019-2020 season. The breakdowns are included in the email message to all members as a separate attachment. I encourage everyone to carefully read all the information provided in this message and in the breakdown.

I would first like to start off by thanking everyone for their patience as we all navigate through these unprecedented times. All the timing, delays and decisions have been the result of a multitude of factors with the main concern of communicating with everyone involved. The decisions made have not been made solely by one individual. The executive and the district director for Sault Ste. Marie (SSM) have all had their voices heard and done their part in moving forward. On behalf of all our NODA members, I also want to express gratitude for the work done by all the executive and the SSM director in handling this situation.

Please note, the decisions made only concern the 2019-2020 season that was abruptly shortened. The executive will be having a multitude of discussions on possible scenarios and contingency plans for the upcoming season. Again, we ask for patience while all the details are worked out. We do not know how the upcoming season will look or what regulations may be implemented by any level of government and what affect those regulations may have on our organization. Information will be provided when we are able to give our district directors and all our members proper direction.

Regarding the fees: All event fees include a membership fee to NODA as well as a fee for local district shoots and Provincial championships (a total of 4 shoots, events or tournaments depending on your terminology).

The membership fee of \$50 (returning) and \$70 (new) for members is a mandatory, non-refundable, annual fee. NODA is just like any other organization that charges a fee for membership. A person must be a member to partake in the advantages for members. For NODA, this membership fee provides the opportunity to earn ranking points in tournaments ranked by NODA or NDFC. It also enables the member to participate in a local district shoot/event to earn the eligibility to participate in the annual Provincial championships. A NODA member is then able to participate in the NODA Provincial Championships and if successful, the NDFC Canadian National Championships as part of the Northern Ontario team.

While some may consider the local district shoots irrelevant with the cancellation of the provincials, the shoots were completed, and players participated in them. Unlike other tournaments, there is no money to be won at the district shoots, the prize is the eligibility to participate in the Provincials. That prize/eligibility was no longer possible with the cancellation of the 2019-2020 Provincials. However, 75% of the season was completed (3 out of 4 events). This was another consideration in the decision on how to handle the fees.

Refund vs Credit – included in the attachments is the reasoning and explanation for the difference in taking a refund or rolling over the credit. NODA is like other businesses; we want to entice members to renew next year and come back and play. Therefore, the credit is higher.

The monies not being refunded are still held within the NODA bank account. Its purpose is to be used for future years' teams or to keep fees at the current level or minimize any increases. The money is not lost, missing, or taken. Any reference to such a thing is a disservice to the many hours, blood, sweat, and tears put in by our VOLUNTEERS. Unfounded and unsupported accusations and innuendos could have a long-term negative effect on Northern Ontario.

Financial reports are provided (every Easter weekend prior to the start of Provincials) at the annual AGM to the district directors. The directors are the contact between the members and the board of directors. The directors are also the ones to share the information with the members in the district. However, the same information is available to members if requested through proper channels.

This year presented some challenges in preparing for the Provincials, including the financial information. There was some district information that was not presented on time as required. This delay had a cascade effect on all information as it is not deemed accepted and complete until all forms and monies are provided. And then there are the effects of the pandemic. A complete financial picture of Northern Ontario will be provided once the treasurer has it completed since we are late in the year and our year-end is August 31. While it can be provided in an instant, a bank balance or a listing of the annual fees does not provide a complete picture of the financial transactions for Northern Ontario.

NODA has a website that is updated whenever information is provided to our webmaster. It can be found at northernontariodarts.com. It is still a work in progress but can be a valuable source of information. The NODA Facebook page is for the promotion of darts in our province. Any derogatory comments against the province or a member, profanity or the like will be removed.

I would ask that you put aside any personal opinions or perceptions and acknowledge we are all a team working to grow Northern Ontario. I and the rest of the executive make decisions based on what is best for our province now and for the future. This is not personal, this is darts.

Respectfully,

Christine Stark
President
Northern Ontario Darts Association