



Curling Alberta Announces 2020-2021 Excel Cups

Curling Alberta is pleased to announce that our U18 and U20 Excel Cups will proceed as planned in 2020-2021. “Building on the positive momentum that we gained last season, we are pleased to confirm that our Excel Cups will run again this season,” says Curling Alberta Executive Director, Jill Richard. “These innovative events have been designed to give our top young teams the opportunity to experience interprovincial competition, which is something that we see as being very important to their ongoing development.”

The U18 Excel Cup will be held November 27 to 29, 2020 at the Saville Community Sports Centre in Edmonton, while the U20 Excel Cup will be held January 1 to 3, 2021 at the Okotoks Curling Club. In both cases, a \$2,500 purse will be up for grabs in the male and female divisions (i.e., \$1,250 champions, \$850 runners-up, and \$500 semi-finalists), with substantial Excel Points also available. Both the U18 and U20 events will feature small fields, with six male and six female teams expected in each.

The intention is for these fields to include the top four Alberta-based teams from the Excel Points Race, along with one team each from Saskatchewan and British Columbia. These teams will compete in a five-game round robin, followed by a three-team playoff (i.e., second-place vs. third-place in semi-final, winner plays first-place in final). Although the fields and format could be modified depending on the evolving realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, we do not think this will be necessary. For more information about the Excel Cups, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The Excel Points Race will determine which Alberta-based teams will qualify for the Excel Cups. This year’s cut-off dates are November 17, 2020 for the U18 Excel Cup and December 15 for the U20 Excel Cup. However, the Excel Points Race will continue after these cut-off dates and ultimately will determine a single male and female pre-qualifying berth for our U18 and U20 Provincial Championships. Please note that these U18 pre-qualifying berths will be awarded on November 30, 2020 (i.e., the day after the Excel U18 Cup), with the U20 pre-qualifying berths awarded on January 4, 2021 (i.e., the day after the Excel U20 Cup).

Based on feedback and analysis from last season, Curling Alberta has decided to make a change to the structure of our U18 and U20 Excel Points Races for 2020-2021. More specifically, these two races will now only include points earned from events in that category and above. That is, the U18 Excel Points Race will now only consider events in the U18 category and up, while the U20 Excel Points Race will now only consider events in the U20 category and up.

“In the interest of fairness we wanted to ensure that all teams pursuing a goal of provincial qualification have access to the same events and points opportunities,” says Excel Point Race Coordinator, Renee Sonnenberg. “That would not be the case if we allowed points from U15 events to count towards the U18 race, or points from U18 events to count towards the U20 race.”

Based on this change, it will now be possible for teams to appear on more than one Excel Points Race (i.e., U15, U18, U20, etc.). In fact, teams are strongly encouraged to register for all categories in which they plan to play even one event. For more information about the Excel Points Race, or to register, please [CLICK HERE](#).