

Curling Alberta Announces Postponement of Select Sanctioned Events in the U18, U20, & Masters Categories, and the Cancellation of Provincial Qualifiers for the Men's and Women's Categories

To prioritize the safety of all of us, and to safeguard the viability of our clubs as much as possible, Curling Alberta announces:

- All U18 events sanctioned by Curling Alberta, including the U18 Excel Cup, the provincial qualifiers, and the provincial championship will be postponed to the spring of 2021.
- All Masters events sanctioned by Curling Alberta, including provincial qualifiers and championship, will be postponed to the spring of 2021.
- The U20 Excel Cup will be postponed to a later date.
- All provincial qualifying events in the men's and women's categories are cancelled outright (qualification processes for the provincial championships are described below).

"I know this may represent disappointment for some curlers," said Jill Richard, Curling Alberta's Executive Director. "But we also hope this will offer some measure of clarity for our curlers and their families. Our approach through the pandemic has been to curl only when it is safe and responsible to do so. We did not make this decision lightly, but our safety, as well as the collective interests of our communities and local curling clubs are our priorities. We are thankful for the ongoing support of our host clubs, volunteers, and curlers for their understanding as we continue to pivot. Although it will undoubtedly look different this season, I think we are fortunate to still have a shot at competing to name our provincial champions, while keeping club-level curling strong and vibrant as well."

Details on the U18 Postponements

- Revised event dates will be announced as soon as possible. Note that event locations are also subject to change.
- Registration for the postponed events will be reopened. Teams already registered will also have an opportunity to withdraw without penalty or amend their rosters prior to registration deadline (note that the allocation of the standard qualifying berths will be calculated after the registration deadline as well).
- The eligibility period for the accumulation of U18 category-specific Excel Points to determine the prequalifying berth to provincial championships will be extended to a future date (after the rescheduled U18 Excel Cup).

Details on the Masters Postponements

- Revised event dates will be announced as soon as possible. Note that event locations are also subject to change.
- Registration for the postponed events will be reopened. Teams already registered will also have an opportunity to withdraw without penalty or amend their rosters prior to

registration deadline (note that the allocation of the standard qualifying berths will be calculated after the registration deadline as well).

Details on the U20 Excel Cup Postponement

- The revised event date will be announced as soon as possible. Note that the event location is also subject to change.
- The eligibility period for the accumulation of U20 category-specific Excel Points to determine the prequalifying berth to provincial championships will be extended to a future date (after the rescheduled U20 Excel Cup).

Qualification for Men's & Women's Provincial Championships

1. 2021 Alberta Boston Pizza Cup Presented by Best Western (men's provincial championship)

As previously planned, in order, four prequalifying berths will be awarded:

- The defending provincial champion will receive berth #1.
- The highest ranked team using the point totals from all qualifying PTRS events will receive berth #2.
- The highest ranked teams from the Men's Excel Points Race standings will receive berths #3 and #4.

Points from the 2019/'20 Canadian Team Rankings System (CTRS) in combination with the 2020/'21 Excel Points Race will be used to determine the top eight eligible teams to complete the 12-team field as per the process below:

- Each individual player will be awarded 25% of their team's Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) points from the 2019-'20 Year-to-Date Standings (alternate players will not receive credit for the team's point totals).
- Based on the team rosters submitted online at registration deadline, each individual player's total will be added together to form the total 2019-'20 CTRS points for each complete team.
- Those totals will be added to their current team's Excel Points this season. The eligibility period for the accumulation of Excel Points will be extended to January 4th.

Note that only teams who are registered online and paid prior to the registration deadline, which will be extended to January 4th, 2021 at noon, will be eligible to accept a berth to the provincial championship. Any teams who register but do not qualify for the provincial field will receive a full refund of their registration fees.

2. 2021 Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts (women's provincial championship)

If a minimum of three events eligible for the 2020/21 Women's Excel Points Race are reached, three pre-qualifier berths will be awarded as originally planned, which are in order:

- The defending provincial champion will receive berth #1.
- The highest ranked teams from the Women's Excel Points Race standings will receive berths #2 and #3.

In this instance, the remaining five berths will be determined by the process described below. If the minimum of three events that are eligible for the 2020/21 Women's Excel Points Race are *not* reached, the defending champion will receive a berth as originally planned, and the remaining seven berths will be determined by the process described below:

- Each individual player will be awarded 25% of their team's Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) points from the 2019-'20 Year-to-Date Standings (alternate players do not get credit for the team's point totals).
- Based on the team rosters submitted online at registration, each individual player's total will be added together to form the total 2019-'20 CTRS points for each complete team.
- Those totals will be added to their current team's Excel Points Race standings this season.

Note that only teams who are registered online and paid prior to the registration deadline, which will be extended to January 4th, 2021 at noon, will be eligible to accept a berth to the provincial championship. Any teams who register but do not qualify for the provincial field will receive a full refund of their registration fees.

Men's and women's teams should note that that the following events are currently scheduled to proceed in the coming month and are eligible for PTRS points:

- Men's & Women's Vesta Energy Red Deer Curling Classic
 - November 27th - 30th
 - Registrations are open on the World Curling Tour Site until November 23rd at noon
- Original 16 WCT Bonspiel
 - Calgary Curling Club, December 4th - 6th
 - Currently full but waitlist registrations still accepted
- Okotoks Ladies Cash Spiel
 - December 18th - 21st
 - Registration open on the World Curling Tour site until December 11th at noon
- Avonair Cash Spiel
 - Edmonton, December 4th – 6th
 - Registration currently open on CurlingZone

Please reach out to Curling Alberta with any questions. Our email is info@curlingalberta.com, or you can talk to a person at 780-454-2875.