

APPENDIX:

Novice

The Novice Provincial Championship is for players with 5 years of curling experience or less. Each club hosting a Provincial Qualifying Bonspiel (PQB) is responsible for verifying the eligibility of the competing teams. The 2020-2021 season will not be counted due to COVID-19.

This new grassroots event will feature an “open” format allowing for four players of any gender or ability to participate (must be 18 years of age or older as of June 30, 2022).

See below for competition specific details. The rules and details contained in the main body of the Competitors’ Guide apply to this competition. In the event there is a perceived conflict between the Competitors’ Guide and this appendix, this appendix is considered to take priority.

This appendix is subject to further review and evaluation, at a minimum, on an annual basis. The 2022-2023 Novice Championship Eligibility requirements will be posted on the Curling Alberta website once they are available: <https://curlingalberta.ca/competitions/competitors-guide-policies>

Teams competing in a Curling Alberta Provincial Qualifier event do so with the knowledge that they must continue to play at all levels, up to and including provincials, until they are eliminated.

In summary, sixteen provincial berths are awarded in total:

- All of these berths are “standard berths” awarded through the Provincial Bonspiel Qualifiers. There are no pre-qualifying berths in the Novice Championship category.
- The draw and schedule for the Provincial Championship will be supplied to all teams and posted on the Curling Alberta website. Refer to the Competitors’ Guide for details on draw making procedure and seeding if applicable.

SPECIAL NOTE:

- Teams may add an alternate, substitute, or replacement as per section 1.B. (1) of the Competitors’ Guide. However, they must be an active member in good standing and follow all Novice eligibility rules.

A. PROVINCIAL BONSPIEL QUALIFIERS:

1. Sixteen (16) provincial berths are awarded in total, all through results at the “Novice” Bonspiel Qualifiers held across the province.
2. Provincial Qualifiers must have a minimum of eight registered teams in order for Provincial Berths to be awarded.

3. A maximum of eight separate Provincial Berth Qualifier's will be offered, with two berths per bonspiel offered. The two A finalists will qualify for the Novice Provincial Championship.
4. If any of the qualifying teams decline their berth or if there are less than eight Provincial Bonspiel Qualifiers, the berth(s) will be offered to teams that have played in 2 of the qualifying bonspiels, using a lottery. If the berth(s) can still not be filled, the berth(s) will then be offered to teams that have played in 1 of the qualifying bonspiels, using a lottery.
5. A random draw will be used to seed the event.
6. All games are 8 ends. Ties are decided by a full extra end or ends if required. Teams must play a minimum of four ends.
7. Games will not be timed.
8. Teams will conduct a coin toss to determine stone handle colour or hammer.
9. A delivery stick and/or wheelchair may be used.
10. WCF approved broom heads are recommended, but not mandatory. Broom heads must be synthetic fabric.

B. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

1. The format is a sixteen team, triple knockout with 8 qualifiers advancing to a single elimination playoff.
2. A random draw will be used to seed the event.
3. All games are 8 ends and are not timed. A minimum of 4 ends must be played. Teams are expected to maintain a reasonable pace of play as managed by the Chief Umpire.
4. Ties are decided by a full extra end or ends if required.
5. Pre-game practice procedures are identified in section 1.D. (4) of the Competitors' Guide.
6. Teams will draw for hammer (LSD), as per Competitors' Guide section 1.D. (5), immediately following their pre-game practice (no requirement per player).
7. A delivery stick and/or wheelchair may be used.
8. WCF approved broom heads are recommended, but not mandatory. Broom heads must be synthetic fabric.
9. Curling Alberta's cresting policy and uniform policies will not apply to this event. However, teams at the Provincial Championship are encouraged to wear matching jackets with the Curling Alberta crest on the right chest and the category crest underneath it.
10. PLAYOFFS - Single elimination playoff format shall be as follows:
 - i. The Provincial Championship will be an open entry triple knockout form with an 8 team playoff.
 - ii. There will be 2 winners from the "A" event, 2 winners from the "B" event, and 4 winners from the "C" event.
 - iii. Playoffs will be seeded with winners from the A and B events playing the winners from the C event in a sudden death format to declare a Provincial Champion.
 - iv. A plays B or C - A gets hammer or rocks
 - v. B plays C - B gets hammer or rocks

- vi. A plays A - same pre-game practice with LSD for hammer or rocks
- vii. B plays B - same pre-game practice with LSD for hammer or rocks
- viii. C plays C - same pre-game practice with LSD for hammer or rocks

C. PLAYOFF MEETING:

1. Immediately following the last draw, a meeting will occur between the Chief Umpire and the skips from the remaining playoff teams.
2. It is mandatory that a designated member of each team be present for this meeting.
3. The Chief Umpire will further identify each team's responsibilities with respect to hammer or handle colour selection(s), and any adjustments to scheduling or ice allocations if necessary.