



**CURLING
ALBERTA**

PROVINCIAL BERTH POLICY

SUMMARY OF KEY REVISIONS FOR THE 2022-'23 SEASON:

The number or type of provincial berths in these specific categories has been amended:

- Men's & Women's
 - Teams will be given two chances to win a provincial berth through provincial qualifying events. If a team is unsuccessful at one qualifying event, they may enter the final qualifying event. When entering a second provincial qualifying event in the same category, teams will pay another entry fee minus the competitor fees.
- Mixed Doubles - Reduced the provincial field from 24 teams to 16 teams.
 - Removed the defending champion berth and replaced pre-qualifying berths with two (2) CMDR berths.
 - Increased the number of Excel Points Race berths from two (2) to four (4).
 - Reduced the number of provincial qualifier berths to ten (10)
 - To be eligible for pre-qualifying berths, event requirement changed from two (2) to one (1). Teams must compete together to be eligible for berth.
- Mixed, Seniors, and Masters – open entry provincial championship (no provincial qualifiers or pre-qualifying teams).

1. POLICIES APPLYING TO ALL PROVINCIAL BERTHS:

- A. All participating teams are required to read and understand the Curling Alberta Competitors' Guide, the applicable category appendix and policies.
- B. Berths must be accepted in the order that they are offered.
- C. All participants must be members of Curling Alberta and meet age, gender and residency requirements as defined by Curling Canada and/or Curling Alberta. For the Men's and Women's categories only, one non-resident "Free Agent" per team may be exempted from the residency requirement by application and approval as per Curling Canada and Curling Alberta guidelines. <https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/hp-athletes/policies-guidelines/residency-eligibility-requirements/> and <https://www.curling.ca/free-agent-rules/>.
- D. In the event of a potential or actual date conflict between Curling Alberta playdown categories, consult the current Competitors' Guide (see excerpt below).

"Teams competing in a Curling Alberta qualifying or provincial event do so with the knowledge that they must continue to play at all levels, up to and including provincials, until they are eliminated. If a team member has a date conflict between a Curling Alberta Provincial Qualifier or Provincial Championship in one category, and a National or International competition where they are representing Alberta or Canada in a different category, that member can be replaced in the Curling Alberta playdown competition. If a provincial championship team cannot maintain a minimum of three of its original players, the team will become ineligible for advancement beyond the provincial level and the runner-up will advance in their place. If a mixed doubles team member has a date conflict because they are representing Alberta or Canada at a national or international level in another category, he/she may be replaced on the mixed doubles team in advance of any Curling Alberta playdown competition. A mixed doubles team cannot replace more than one player."

2. STANDARD QUALIFYING BERTHS:

Policy Statement: Each season, Curling Alberta will sanction a maximum of three Provincial Qualifiers (PQ's) in each event category and award a minimum of one provincial berth per PQ. Any additional berths will be awarded in a pro-rated manner based on the number of entries.

The following policies apply to Section 2, Standard Qualifying Berths.

A. GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS & ENTRY CRITERIA

- i. As much as it is reasonably possible, Curling Alberta will award the Provincial Qualifiers (PQ's) to host communities that are geographically spread within the bounds of Curling Alberta.
- ii. The dates for these qualifiers may be different, however the entry deadlines and entry fees will be identical. In all categories except for men's and women's, a participant may only enter one qualifier, and teams must finalize their choice of which qualifier they will enter prior to deadline. Note: teams can amend their original line-up and/or choice of location only if it is done prior to deadline (an additional administrative fee may apply to any amendment).
- iii. Eligible participants may reside anywhere within the boundaries of Curling Alberta, and teams may be comprised of players from any member club.

B. DISTRIBUTION OF STANDARD QUALIFYING BERTHS

- i. A mandatory minimum of one standard provincial qualifying berth will be awarded at each of the Provincial Qualifiers (PQ's). If only one team enters a specific PQ, that team will be offered the mandatory qualifying berth by default.
- ii. In all categories, there will be additional berths available. Those additional berths will be distributed among the PQ's on a pro-rated basis; that is, specifically based on the remaining number of entries after the mandatory berths have been allocated and subtracted from the total number of entries.
- iii. In the event of a withdrawal or disqualification, refer to the Team Fill Procedure in the published Competitor's Guide.
- iv. In the event that any PQ does not award a berth (e.g. lack of entries, disqualification, etc.), this unclaimed berth (or berths) will be distributed or redistributed on a pro-rated basis as per the process described in section B(ii) above.
- v. In the event that standard berths cannot be evenly distributed to PQ's having the same number of entries (e.g. if they are tied for a single extra berth), the following tie-breaking procedure will be used, in order as below:
 - a. World Curling Ranking (WCR) points (only in Men's, Women's, and Mixed Doubles categories) or AJTRS (only in U15, U18, and U20) will be used to calculate the event strength of field, and subsequently the PQ with the highest strength of field will be awarded the extra berth;
 - b. If necessary, in categories without points, or in the rare circumstance the strength of field is tied, the extra berth will be awarded to the PQ with more participants who had attended the previous season's provincial championships in the same category.

C. QUALIFYING PLAYDOWN FORMAT

- i. Provincial Qualifiers (PQ's) may use either a double or triple knockout format. In PQ's where more than two standard qualifying berths are being awarded, triple knockout formats are recommended. In PQ's where only one berth is being awarded, a true double knockout format is recommended. Curling Alberta reserves the right to choose the most appropriate format. Draws will be approved by Curling Alberta in advance of competition.
- ii. Seeding of PQ's will occur using WCR in Men's and Women's, AJTRS for U15, U18 and U20 and CMDR for Mixed Doubles categories. In the event teams are tied in points, a standardized random procedure (amongst those tied only) will be used to rank those teams into the draw. Any team without points will be appointed zero points. In all other PQ categories, teams will be placed in the draw utilizing a standardized random procedure.

3. PRE-QUALIFYING PROVINCIAL BERTHS

Policy Statement: Curling Alberta will award pre-qualifying provincial berths into the Women's, Men's, Mixed Doubles and both genders of the U18 and U20 Alberta Provincial Championships.

The following policies apply to Section 3, Pre-Qualifying Provincial Berths.

Definitions:

- i. "CTRS" means the Canadian Team Ranking System as administered by Curling Canada. See link at <https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/canadian-team-ranking-system/>
- ii. "Excel Points Race" means a standardized ranking system, specific to each event category, whereby teams accumulate points from competitions held only within established Curling Alberta boundaries.
- iii. "WCR" means the World Curling Rankings. The Excel Points Race will use the WCR to rank teams for the 2022-23 season. See more information at <https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/mixed-doubles-rankings/>
- iv. "CMDR" means the Canadian Mixed Doubles Ranking. See more information at <https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/mixed-doubles-rankings/>
- v. "AJTRS" means the Alberta Junior Ranking System. See more information at <https://curlingalberta.ca/competitions/competitors-guide-policies/>.

Policies applying to all categories of pre-qualifying berths:

- For a team to earn applicable points or claim a pre-qualifying Excel Points berth in any category, except Mixed Doubles, they must retain a minimum of three original team members as registered with the WCR, Curling Alberta's Excel Points Race and/or AJTRS.
- Once a berth is accepted, and the entry fee is paid, that team is considered registered with Curling Alberta as a provincial competitor. After that time, the substitution or replacement of players must meet Curling Alberta policy.
- The deadline date for residency declaration is September 1st annually. The deadline for both free agent declaration and WCR team registration is October 31st annually.

A. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - MEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In summary, twelve provincial berths are awarded in total.

- Five (5) of these berths are awarded through the pre-qualifying policy (i.e.- In order: three WCR berths, and two Excel Points Race berths). A team accepting a pre-qualifying berth is ineligible to compete in a Provincial Qualifier. Reference above for details.
- Seven (7) additional standard berths into the Provincial Championships are awarded in total, all through the Provincial Qualifiers.

In Men's competition, five (5) pre-qualifying provincial berths will be awarded in the order listed below:

- i. The #1 to #5 ranked teams on the World Curling Ranking (WCR) will receive berths #1, #2, and #3.
 - a. Teams must meet provincial eligibility requirements.
- ii. The #1 and #2 ranked teams on the current Excel Points Race standings will receive berths #4 and #5.
 - a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include all individual point totals from the previous season's cut-off point (approximately mid-December) to the end of that season. Upon the start of the 2022-23 season, teams must follow CTRS substitution guidelines. For the 2022-23 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of Excel Points is Nov. 29, 2021 up to and including Dec. 5, 2022.
 - b. The qualifying events/bonspiels for Excel Points eligibility must meet the following guidelines, in addition to those as defined in CTRS policy related to gender, the number of entries and prize values.
 - They must occur within the bounds of Curling Alberta and will not include Grand Slam, Canada Cup, or Provincial Qualifier, Provincial, National or World Championship playdown events.
 - c. Teams are allowed to count their best seven (7) events on the Alberta Curling Tour for the Excel Points Race berth.
 - d. If the #1 or #2 ranked team on the Excel Points Race has already received a WCR berth, Curling Alberta will award the pre-qualifying berth to the next highest ranked team on the Excel Points Race until all pre-qualifying berths are awarded.

B. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In summary, eight (8) provincial berths are awarded in total.

- Four (4) of these berths are awarded through the pre-qualifying policy (i.e.- In order: three WCTR berths, and one Excel Points Race berth). A team accepting a pre-qualifying berth is ineligible to compete in a Provincial Qualifier. Reference above for details.
- Four (4) additional standard berths into the Provincial Championships are awarded in total, all through the Provincial Qualifiers.

In Women's competition, four (4) pre-qualifying provincial berths will be awarded in the order listed below:

- i. The #1 to #3 ranked teams from the World Curling Rankings (WCR) will receive berths #1, #2 and #3.
 - a. Teams must meet provincial eligibility requirements.
- ii. The #1 ranked team listed on the Excel Points Race will receive berth #4.
 - a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include all individual point totals from the previous season's cut-off point (approximately mid-December) to the end of that season. Upon the start of the 2022-23 season, teams must follow CTRS substitution guidelines. For the 2022-23 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of Excel Points is Nov. 29, 2021 up to and including Dec. 5, 2022.
 - b. The qualifying events/bonspiels for Excel Points eligibility must meet the following guidelines, in addition to those as defined in CTRS policy related to gender, the number of entries and prize values.
 - They must occur within the bounds of Curling Alberta and will not include Grand Slam, Canada Cup, or Provincial Qualifier, Provincial, National or World Championship playdown events.
 - c. Teams are allowed to count their best seven (7) events on the Alberta Curling Tour for the Excel Points Race berth.
 - d. If the #1 ranked team on the Excel Points Race has already received a WCTR berth, Curling Alberta will award the pre-qualifying berth to the next highest ranked team on the Excel Points Race until all pre-qualifying berths are awarded.

C. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - U18 AND U20 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In both the U18 and U20 competitions, one (1) pre-qualifying provincial berth in each gender will be awarded to the leading team in their category-specific AJTRS.

- i. For the 2022-'23 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of U20 is August 1, 2022 to and including December 12*, 2023. The eligibility period for the accumulation of U18 category-specific AJTRS is August 1, 2022 to and including November 29, 2022.
- ii. All events/bonspiels must occur within the established Curling Alberta boundaries.
- iii. For the purpose of determining these berths, Curling Alberta will use the Alberta Junior Team Points System (AJTRS). For a detailed description of the AJTRS Points structure, please follow this link: <https://curlingalberta.ca/competitions/competitors-guide-policies/>.

D. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - MIXED DOUBLES PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

In summary, sixteen provincial berths are awarded in total.

- i. Six (6) of these berths are awarded through the pre-qualifying policy (i.e.- In order: two CMDR berths, and four Excel Points Race berths). A team accepting a pre-qualifying berth is ineligible to compete in a Provincial Qualifier. Reference Curling Alberta Provincial Berth Policy for details.

- ii. Ten (10) additional standard berths into the Provincial Championships are awarded in total, per category, all through the Provincial Qualifiers.

In Mixed Doubles competition, six (6) pre-qualifying provincial berths will be awarded in the order listed below:

- i. The #1 and 2 ranked team on the Canadian Mixed Doubles Rankings (CMDR), Year-to-date (YTD) will receive berths #1 and #2.
 - a. Both members must meet Alberta residency and membership requirements.
- ii. The #1 to #4 ranked teams on the Excel Points Race will receive berths #3 to #6.
 - a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include an entire year from January to January annually (ending the January immediately prior to the applicable Provincial Championships). For the 2022-23 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining this berth, the eligibility period for the accumulation of CMDR points is Jan 4, 2022 up to and including Jan. 16, 2023.
 - b. In order to qualify for this berth, both members of this team must meet Alberta residency and membership requirements.
 - c. The qualifying events/bonspiels for the Excel Points must occur within the bounds of Curling Alberta and will not include Provincial Qualifier, Provincial, National or World Championship playdown events.
 - d. If any team ranked #1 to #4 on the Excel Points Race has already received a CMDR berth, Curling Alberta will award the pre-qualifying berth to the next highest ranked team on the Excel Points Race until all pre-qualifying berths are awarded.
 - e. For a team to claim a pre-qualifying Excel Points berth, both team members must have competed in at least one (1) Alberta Curling Tour mixed doubles event together.
 - f. There is no limit to the number of events eligible in collecting Excel Points. A team can play in an unlimited amount of eligible events and all accumulated points will count toward their total.
 - g. Teams must be registered by the provincial qualifier entry deadline to be considered for a pre-qualifying berth.