

APPENDIX:

Optimist U18 (Boy's and Girl's)

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 on, at a minimum, an annual basis.

Special note for all competitors under 18 years of age: As per section 4 of the Competitors' Guide, Curling Alberta will require at least one parent/guardian of each player under 18 years of age to complete the online [Safe Sport Program in order for the minor to participate in any sanctioned event. To complete Safe Sport training, parents must sign up for 'The Locker' via the Coaches Association of Canada website. Access the Safe Sport Program website, information, and participant training here: <https://safesport.coach.ca/participants-training>](#)

Teams competing in a Curling Alberta Provincial Qualifier do so with the knowledge that they must continue to play at all levels, up to and including the Provincial Championships, until they are eliminated. In effect, this means a competitor may enter the U18 category and another category (e.g. Mixed Doubles, U20 (or Women's/Men's) as long as there is no date conflict up to and including the Provincial Championship.

The draw and schedule for the Provincial Qualifiers and Provincial Championships will be supplied to all teams and posted on the Curling Alberta Website. Reference the Competitors' Guide for details on draw making procedure and seeding if applicable.

A. PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS:

1. The details and format are described in section 1 of the Curling Alberta Provincial Berth Policy.
2. Eight (8) provincial berths are awarded in total, per gender. Seven (7) of these berths are standard berths earned through Provincial Qualifiers.
3. One (1) berth is awarded as a Provincial pre-qualifier; see Berth Policy, section 3(C). Note that a team who has accepted a pre-qualifying berth to the Provincial Championship is ineligible to compete in a Provincial Qualifier.
4. All games are eight (8) ends (no minimum # of ends).
5. Coaches will utilize the Enhanced Coaching Involvement Pilot.

6. Game timing may occur, with no penalty assessed. It is expected participants and officials will use this timing opportunity to enhance training and skill development. Pace of play may be further managed by the Chief Umpire.
7. There are no "free agents" in any Curling Alberta U18 competition.
8. Teams must have a coach. Coaches at this competition are considered a team member and must abide by all relevant policies and team expectations (see the Competitors' Guide for details).

B. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

1. The format is an eight-team full round-robin with "top 3" playoffs.
2. All games are eight (8) ends and are timed (minimum of four (4) ends).
3. Pre-event seeding shall occur using the Alberta Junior Tour Ranking Points (AJTRS). When AJTRS is not available for teams, teams will be given zero points. Ties in AJTRS points will be broken by random draw. Curling Alberta reserves the right to amend the seeding procedure at the discretion of the Competitions Committee should the format of the championship change.
4. Coaches will utilize the Enhanced Coaching Involvement Pilot. In doing so, 4 minutes of thinking time will be added, but there will be no timeouts. Thinking time is 34 minutes per 8 ends; 5 minutes and 30 seconds are allowed for each extra end. The fourth end break is 5 minutes.
5. Each player must deliver one LSD during the round robin.
6. Teams must have a coach. Coaches at this competition are considered a team member and must abide by all relevant policies and team expectations (see the Competitors' Guide for details).
7. PLAYOFFS:
 - a. After the round-robin, the first place team will advance to the finals.
 - b. The second and third place teams will play in a semi-final with the winner advancing to the final (see Playoffs section 2(C)(5) in the Competitors' Guide for complete details, including the procedure in the event of a tie for a playoff position).

C. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

1. The team in each gender that wins the Provincial Championship will represent Alberta at the 2023 U18 Canadian Championships.
2. Alberta has been awarded a second berth per gender to the 2023 U18 Canadian Championships. Curling Alberta will award the second berth to the team highest on the AJTRS at the end of the Provincial Championship. This will include points awarded at the Provincial Championship. If the team at the top of the AJTRS at this time is also the Provincial Championship winner, Curling Alberta will award the second berth to the next highest ranked team on the AJTRS.

As per Curling Alberta's Code of Conduct, please be advised that competitors and coaches are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages during a U15, U18 or U20 events sanctioned by Curling Alberta. This shall include the entire time period from departure to the competition through to and including arrival at home from the sanctioned event.