



CURLING ALBERTA

CURLING ALBERTA'S UPDATES FOR THE 2023-24 COMPETITION SEASON

UPDATED AUGUST 29, 2023

To ensure that Curling Alberta continues to develop with our sport and offers the best opportunities for our curlers, we have made the following changes:

Competitor's Guide [all categories]:

- Curling Alberta has decided to align with Curling Canada and will remove tie-breakers from all sanctioned events. Head to head and/or Last Stone Draw (LSD) will be utilized instead to break any ties. Further information is documented in the relevant category appendices and will be communicated in the pre-event meeting script that will be sent to all category registrants.

Athlete Team meetings with Chief Umpire

These meetings will be held for all qualifiers and youth category championships (U15, U18, U20 and U21 Mixed Doubles).

- For qualifiers, these meetings will remain status quo. In other words, they will continue to be held 1 hour prior to the team's first game. At least one team member or coach (as listed on the roster) from each team must attend this team meeting.
- For the youth category championships, these meetings will be held virtually by Curling Alberta and the competition's Chief Umpire and all registrants will be invited to join via email, otherwise stated in the official schedule of events. At least one team member and coach (as listed on the roster) from each team must attend this team meeting.
- For all adult categories, a team meeting will no longer be held for adult categories (men, women, seniors, masters, mixed doubles, mixed and wheelchair). Instead, the team meetings script will be emailed directly to each registered team and will be posted at the competition site. It is the player's responsibility to ensure they read the script so they are familiar with the competition prior to pre-game practice.

U15:

Coaching interactions will remain status quo for this category. Please note the coaching interactions document for U15 is different from Curling Canada's Coach Interactions Rules that relate to U18, U20 and U21 Mixed Doubles competitions. The U15 interactions can be found on our website.

U18 & U20:

- Curling Alberta announced earlier this summer that the U18, and U20 divisions will now fall under the umbrella of the Alberta Curling Tour. Going forward, the Alberta Curling Tour Standings will now feature an Under-18 Division and an Under-20 Division. Points previously earned on the Alberta Junior Curling Tour (AJCT) will be replaced with these standings and will be used to determine the pre-qualifying provincial berth and for pre-event seeding at the championship.

"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 Alberta Curling Tour points."

- The Enhanced Coaching Interactions Program has been replaced by Curling Canada's Coach

Interaction Rules - 2024 Under-18 and Under-21 Coaching Rules document. The most up to date version can be found on our website.

- Nationals Berth: Alberta has been awarded a second berth per gender to the 2024 U18 and U20 Canadian Championships. Curling Alberta will award the second berth to the team that places second in their respective category at the 2024 U18 & U20 Provincial Championships.

U21 Mixed Doubles:

- Coaches will not need to be Competition Coach Trained as previously released. Coaches do not have NCCP requirements but do require Criminal Record Check, plus Making Ethical Decisions or Safe Sport.
- The Enhanced Coaching Interactions Program has been replaced by Curling Canada's Coach Interaction Rules - 2024 Under-18 and Under-21 Coaching Rules document. The most up to date version can be found on our website.

Women:

Teams may only register for one of two women's qualifiers by the registration deadline. In other words please do not register for the Last Chance PQ unless that is the only qualifier you will enter. Registered teams that were not successful in winning a provincial berth will be sent a private link to register for the Last Chance and are required to pay another entry fee minus the competitor fees. The Last Chance registration will not reopen to the public following the registration deadline.

Men:

- Curling Alberta has made the decision to reduce the Last Chance Provincial Qualifier to two standard qualifying berths. Five (5) standard qualifying berths will be distributed over the first two Provincial Qualifiers via pro-rating
- A team accepting a pre-qualifying berth is ineligible to compete in a Provincial Qualifier. Reference Curling Alberta Provincial Berth Policy for details.
- Teams may only register for one of three Men's qualifiers by the registration deadline. In other words please do not register for the Last Chance PQ unless that is the only qualifier you will enter. Registered teams that were not successful in winning a provincial berth will be sent a private link to register for the Last Chance and are required to pay another entry fee minus the competitor fees. The Last Chance registration will not reopen to the public following the registration deadline.

Mixed Doubles:

- To alleviate pressures on mixed doubles and four-player teams forming for the next Olympic Trials, Curling Alberta has made the decision to change the Mixed Doubles Provincial Championship to an Open format. In other words, there will not be any provincial qualifiers or pre-qualifiers.

Seniors:

In response to feedback gathered at the in-person athlete consultation and the athlete survey, Curling Alberta has decided to reintroduce the three provincial qualifying events to determine 8 (eight) provincial qualifiers to the Seniors Men category. The Senior Women's will remain as an Open Championship.

Masters:

- New this season, alternates and/or replacements are allowed to have competed in another level of competition within the Masters Category. The Competition's Working Group determined that due to the age of this category and declining numbers, it was important to eliminate restrictions on who could act as an alternate or replacement. Please note, these individuals must still meet all other requirements noted in section 1.B Teams in the Competitor's Guide.

- In response to feedback gathered at the in-person athlete consultation and the athlete survey, Curling Alberta has decided to reintroduce the three provincial qualifying events to determine 8 (eight) provincial qualifiers to the Masters Men category. The Master Women's will remain as an Open Championship.

Club Championships:

- Clubs with 250 or more members will have the option to enter two (2) teams per gender into Provincial Qualifiers. This is a reduction from last season's statement of club's with 300 or more members.
- The 2023-2024 Club Championship appendix continues to be reviewed and will be published as soon as possible. Curling Alberta aims to provide eligibility clarification while being bound to Curling Canada's rules.

Mixed and Wheelchair category appendices remain status quo with no key changes.

CHANGES TO CURLING ALBERTA'S PROVINCIAL BERTH POLICIES

Curling Alberta has made a number of key changes to offer teams more flexibility with their team sponsor crests.

- The Curling Alberta crest can now be placed in one of four positions and the exclusivity area has been reduced.
- The exclusivity area has been reduced and now only applies to the men's, women's and U18 provincial championship title sponsor crests.
- Multiple Curling Alberta crests (including category) may now be worn and can be stacked.
- If a team is deemed to be non-compliant with the Cresting Policy at Curling Alberta's discretion, the team will be issued a \$500 fine which must be paid in full prior to participating in the competition, including the pre-competition practice.

The Cresting Policy applies to all categories, excluding open championships, with the exception of Wheelchair. To clarify, U15 and Wheelchair qualifiers will also be awarded crests and will be expected to follow the published cresting policy, however dress standards may be different for these categories. Please refer to their appendices for more information.

CHANGES TO CURLING ALBERTA'S SAFE SPORT POLICIES

Policy Statement: Curling Alberta requires **all athletes** in the Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, Mixed, U20, ~~U21 Mixed Doubles~~, Seniors and Wheelchair categories to complete the online Safe Sport Program in order to participate in any Curling Alberta sanctioned event. At least one parent/legal guardian of every curler under the age of 18 must complete the online Safe Sport Program in order to participate in any Curling Alberta sanctioned event, with the athletes within the U15, U18 and Masters categories being strongly recommended to complete the online Safe Sport Program as well.

Competitors who register for a Curling Alberta U15 qualifier without a parent/legal guardian who has completed the program will be contacted and given explicit instructions to do so before registering for their next event. This warning applies only once; if a player in non-compliance registers for a second event, he/she will be removed from that competition and will remain ineligible until the Safe Sport Program is completed by his or her parent/guardian. There will be no warning for other categories.

Review the full Safe Sport Policy on the Curling Alberta website to become familiar with the new policy. Curling Alberta encourages you to complete the Safe Sport Program as soon as possible so that it isn't left until the last minute.

A kind reminder that it remains the responsibility of the competitors and coaches to read and adhere to all policies contained in the most recent publication of Curling Alberta competitive policies [including appendices] available on the Curling Alberta [website](#). Any questions should be directed to the Curling Alberta office.