

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.

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. 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>

Please ensure that proof of Safe Sport Training completion is uploaded to the curler's Curling Alberta Sideline Learning profile prior to the start of competition. If it is not uploaded to Sideline, then the requirements have not been met to compete. Curling Alberta's Sideline Learning can be found here: <https://curlingalberta.sidelinelearning.com/login>

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 but must register and pay the entry fee including the Curling Canada Competitors fee prior to the registration deadline.

4. All games are eight (8) ends (no minimum # of ends).
5. Coaches will utilize [Curling Canada's Coach Interactions Program](#).
6. Game timing may occur, with no penalty assessed. Pace of play will be managed by the Chief Umpire.
7. Teams must have an eligible 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 Curling Tour (ACT) - U18 Division Points. When ACT points are not available for teams, teams will be given zero points. Ties in 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 [Curling Canada's Coach Interactions Program](#) for the U18 category.
5. Pre-Game Practice & Last Stone Draw (LSD) for Hammer
 - i. Teams will name the players delivering the last stone draws, including which turns, before the start of the first team practice. Failure to do so will result in an assigned distance of 399.20 cm.
 - ii. Coaches may NOT deliver stones in the pre-game practice.
 - iii. Speed traps are NOT allowed in the pre-game practice.
 - iv. The teams listed on the top / first in the draw will practice first and will be assigned dark handled stones. The team throwing light-handled stones will have the same period of practice starting immediately following the dark handled stone draws for last stone advantage.
 - v. Each team's pre-game practice will be nine minutes. First practice will commence thirty minutes prior to the posted draw time.
 - vi. Last stone advantage will be determined by the Last Stone Draws before each round robin game and will be completed immediately following each team's pre-game practice.
 - vii. Following each team's pre-game practice, the two different previously named players from the team will each throw a stone. There will be an announcement to deliver each Last Stone Draw. The first player will deliver the clockwise rotation while the second player will deliver the counterclockwise rotation.
 - viii. During pool play, each player on each team will deliver a minimum of two LSD's. The 2 LSD's can be taken anytime during the round robin but not in the same game and must be one of each rotation. Based on the Original Team Lineup form, the four players must fulfil the minimum number of LSD deliveries.

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 2024 U18 Canadian Championships.
2. Alberta has been awarded a second berth per gender to the 2024 U18 Canadian Championships. [Curling Alberta will award the second berth to the team that places second at the 2024 U18 Provincial Championships.](#)

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.