

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://coach.ca/sport-safety/safe-sport-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>

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.

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.

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 number of ends).
5. Coaches will utilize [Curling Canada's Coach Interactions Program for the U18 Category](#).
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 (RR) [with a four \(4\) Team Page- Playoff](#).
2. All games are eight (8) ends and are timed, (Game Duration refer to the Competitors' Guide).
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 LSFE \(Last Stone First End\)](#)
 - i. [During RR, each player on each team will deliver a minimum of two \(2\) LSD's. The 2 LSD's can be taken anytime during the Round Robin but not in the same game, and must be one \(1\) of each rotation. Based on the Original Team Lineup, the four \(4\) players](#)

must complete the minimum number of required LSD deliveries. Teams and/or coaches are responsible for tracking their players' rotations to ensure both rotations are thrown. Refer to Competitors' Guide for more information.

- ii. Teams will name two (2) players that will deliver the LSD, indicating their respective turns before the team's first practice begins. Failure to do so will result in an assigned distance of 399.20cm.
 - iii. Coaches may NOT deliver stones in the pre-game practice.
 - iv. Speed traps are NOT allowed in the pre-game practice.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. Each team's pre-game practice will be nine (9) minutes. First practice will commence thirty (30) minutes prior to the posted draw time.
 - vii. Last Stone Advantage will be determined by the Last Stone Draws (LSD) before each Round Robin game and will be completed immediately following each team's pre-game practice.
 - viii. Following each team's pre-game practice, the two (2) 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 delivers the counterclockwise rotation. The better (lower) distance of the two draws between the two (2) teams will receive LSFE advantage.
6. No tie breaker games will be played. Teams tied for a playoff position shall be ranked first by their head-to-head results, and then by Draw Shot Challenge (DSC).

7. PLAYOFFS:

Post-Round Robin

- i. After the Round Robin, the Chief Umpire will notify each team of their playoff position. There will be no formal meeting held following the Round Robin.
- ii. Teams advancing to the playoffs will receive their playoff information directly from the Chief Umpire and will not need to attend a post-Round Robin meeting. To streamline the process, any decisions such as colour of stone and/or LSFE (hammer) will be communicated to the Chief Umpire via text or email.
- iii. Teams should be prepared to make their choices within 15 minutes of

notification and communicate their decisions to the Chief Umpire. Teams must be prepared to select colour of stone and/or LSFE (hammer) following their last round robin game.

8. PLAYOFFS

Unless otherwise stated in the Team Meeting Document, the playoffs are a 4-Team Page Playoff. See Competitor's Guide 2(C)(5) for format.

C. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The team in each gender that wins the Provincial Championship will represent Alberta at the 2026 U18 Canadian Championships.
2. Alberta has been awarded a second berth per gender to the 2026 U18 Canadian Championships. Curling Alberta will award the second berth to the team that places second at the 2026 U18 Provincial Championships.