



**CURLING  
ALBERTA**

## PROVINCIAL BERTH POLICY

### SUMMARY OF KEY REVISIONS FOR THE 2025-'26 SEASON

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

- Men's & Women's
  - o All qualifiers will earn a berth into a combined men's and women's provincial championship.
- U15
  - o Reduced the provincial field from 18 teams to 14 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 competition policies.
- B. Berths must be accepted in the order that they are offered.
- 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/>.
- C. Teams which may become eligible for a pre-qualifying berth must enter one of the Provincial Qualifiers by the published registration deadline and pay the entire entry fee, including the Curling Canada Competitor's Card fee.
- 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 team has earned a pre-qualifying berth for the Provincial Championship, and is in conflict with a National or International competition, they must maintain two of three or three of four players listed on the pre-qualifying roster. If a Provincial Championship team cannot maintain a minimum of two of three or three of four of its original players, the team will become ineligible for advancement beyond the provincial level and the runner-up will advance in their place.

## 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. A team 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), Canadian Mixed Doubles Ranking (CMDR) points (in Mixed Doubles), ACT points (only in 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, ACT for 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, and both genders of the U18 Alberta Provincial Championships.

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

Definitions:

- "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/>
- "ACT" stands for Alberta Curling Tour, with standings specific to each event category, whereby teams accumulate points from competitions held only with established Curling Alberta boundaries.
- "WCR" means the World Curling Rankings. The Alberta Curling Tour will use the WCR to rank teams for the 2025-26 season. See more information at <https://worldcurling.org/teamrankings/>
- "CMDR" means the Canadian Mixed Doubles Ranking. See more information at <https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/mixed-doubles-rankings/>

Policies applying to all categories of pre-qualifying berths:

- For a team to earn applicable points or claim a pre-qualifying ACT berth in any category, except Mixed Doubles, they must retain a minimum of three original team members as registered with the WCR and Alberta Curling Tour.
- 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.

## B. 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 ACT 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. Five (5) standard qualifying berths will be distributed over the first two PQ's via pro-rating. The remaining two (2) berths will be awarded at the Last Chance PQ.

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

- i. The #1 to #3 ranked teams on the World Curling Ranking (WCR) , Year-to-date (YTD) will receive berths #1, #2, and #3.
  - a. Teams must meet provincial eligibility requirements.
- ii. The #1 and #2 ranked teams on the current ACT 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 2025-26 season, teams must follow CTRS substitution guidelines. For the 2025-26 championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of ACT points is up to and including November 24, 2025.
  - b. The qualifying events/bonspiels for ACT 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, **U25**, 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 ACT berth.
  - d. If the #1 or #2 ranked team on the ACT has already received a WCR berth, Curling Alberta will award the pre-qualifying berth to the next highest ranked team on the ACT standings until all pre-qualifying berths are awarded.

## C. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - WOMEN'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 ACT 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. Five (5) standard qualifying berths will be distributed over the first two PQ's via pro-rating. The remaining two (2) berths will be awarded at the Last Chance PQ.

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

- i. The #1 to #3 ranked teams on the World Curling Ranking (WCR) , Year-to-date (YTD) will receive berths #1, #2, and #3.
  - a. Teams must meet provincial eligibility requirements.
- ii. The #1 and #2 ranked teams on the current ACT 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 2025-26 season, teams must follow CTRS substitution guidelines. For the 2025-26 championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of ACT points is up to and including November 24, 2025.
  - b. The qualifying events/bonspiels for ACT 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, **U25**, 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 ACT berth.
  - d. If the #1 or #2 ranked team on the ACT has already received a WCR berth, Curling Alberta will award the pre-qualifying berth to the next highest ranked team on the ACT standings until all pre-qualifying berths are awarded.

## C. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - U18 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the U18 competition, one (1) pre-qualifying provincial berth in each gender will be awarded to the leading team on the U18 Alberta Curling Tour.

- i. For the 2025-26 championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of U18 points is August 1, 2025, up to and including [November 24, 2025](#).
- ii. All events/bonspiels must occur within the established Curling Alberta boundaries.
- iii. For the purpose of determining this berth, Curling Alberta will use the U18 Alberta Curling Tour points.

