

APPENDIX:

Alberta Winter Games (U15 Boys & U15 Girls)

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>

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.

A. ALBERTA WINTER GAMES (AWG) ZONE QUALIFIERS:

1. 8 Alberta Winter Games berths are awarded in total, all through Alberta Winter Games Zone Qualifiers.
2. New to 2025-26, teams must compete within their own zone for berths into the Alberta Winter Games. Teams within zones 1-3 must register in the zone 1-3 qualifier, teams within zones 4-6 must register in the zone 4-6 qualifier, and teams within zones 7-8 must register in the zone 7-8 qualifier.
 - a. Teams must have a minimum of 2 members of their team residing in a zone to represent a specific zone.
 - b. All teams at each AWG zone qualifier will compete against one another in Round Robin format, competing against all teams in the zone qualifier. Teams will be ranked within their zone, with the highest ranked team earning their zone's berth to the Alberta Winter Games.
 - c. After Round Robin play, teams will be ranked according to:
 - o W-L record; then
 - o H2H record against tied teams; then
 - o Draw Shot Challenge total
 - d. If a team from one zone is the only team from that zone to register for the AWG Zone qualifier, they will represent their zone at the Alberta Winter Games. However, they must attend the AWG Zone Qualifier to qualify for the Alberta Winter Games.
 - e. If all teams within the scheduled AWG Zone Qualifier are the lone representative of their zone, there is no requirement to host the qualifier, and all teams will advance directly to the Alberta Winter Games.
3. Zone Fill Policy
 - a. Should a zone not have a representative at the Alberta Winter Games Zone Qualifier, that zone will be filled by the highest ranked team competing at the specific zone qualifier that doesn't receive their zone's berth.
 - i. For example, should zone 8 not have a representative at the zone 7-8 qualifier, but zone 7 has multiple teams registered, the next highest ranked zone 7 team will earn for the zone 8 zone fill berth at the Alberta Winter Games.
 - b. If there aren't enough teams registered in a zone qualifier to award all zone berths, Curling Alberta will utilize the Provincial Berth Policy to distribute the remaining zone berths.

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4. All games are 8 ends, plus extra end(s) if needed (no minimum # of ends). Games will not be timed. Pace of play may be further managed by the Chief Umpire.
5. Teams must have a coach during any Alberta Winter Games Qualifier. Coaches at this competition are considered a team member and must abide by all relevant policies and team expectations (see section 1(A)(7) of the Competitors' Guide for details).
 - a. All coaches in the Alberta Winter Games qualifiers category must be at least 21 years old as of the beginning of the competition.
 - b. Although we encourage coaches to be Competition Coach 'Certified', there are no formal NCCP requirements in the Alberta Winter Games qualifiers. However, all coaches are required to complete the online Safe Sport Training and provide a criminal record check.
 - c. Please note: Coaches must be Competition Coach – Certified at the Alberta Winter Games. Should the team advance and roster a coach that doesn't meet this qualification, they must become certified in advance of the Alberta Winter Games.
6. Coaches will utilize Curling Canada Coach interactions - U15 category rules. Two (2) interactions will be allowed per end.
7. Last-Stone Draw
 - a. Two (2) different players will deliver LSD's prior to each game, with the combined distance which team has hammer in the first end. The teams that practices first will throw both LSD's with the clockwise rotation, while the team that practices second will throw both LSD's with the counter-clockwise rotation.

B. ALBERTA WINTER GAMES:

1. The Alberta Winter Games (AWG) Curling Competition will consist of (8) eight teams per gender, with the identical format used in both the male and female events. Preliminary round play will employ a two (2) pool round robin format (i.e., 2 pools of 4 teams each). Following the preliminary round the teams in each pool will be ranked 1st to 4th based on:
 - a. win-loss record
 - b. head-to-head result(s) if needed, and
 - c. aggregate last stone draw distance (LSD), if needed.
2. The 1st and 2nd ranked teams from each pool will advance to the A Playoffs, while the

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3rd and 4th ranked teams from each pool will compete against the 3rd and 4th ranked teams from the opposite pool (Pool X 3rd vs Pool Y 3rd and Pool X 4th vs Pool Y 4th). The semi-final play-off matchups will be as follows: Playoffs (Pool X 1st vs. Pool Y 2nd, Pool Y 1st vs. Pool X 2nd). The winners of the semi-finals will advance to the championship final, while the losers will play in the consolation final.

3. The above format will require a total of 6 draws (i.e., 3 in the preliminary round and 2 in the playoffs). The general draw schedule is as follows:

Draw 1: Saturday AM

Draw 2: Saturday PM

Draw 3: Sunday AM

Draw 4: Sunday Afternoon

Draw 5 (Semi-finals): Sunday Evening

Finals: Monday AM

4. Last-Stone Draw

- a. Two (2) different players will deliver LSD's prior to each game, with the combined distance determining which team has hammer in the first end. The teams that practices first will throw both LSD's with the clockwise rotation, while the team that practices second will throw both LSD's with the counter-clockwise rotation. Please note that each player on the team must deliver at least (1) LSD during the Preliminary Round, and that all six (6) draws (i.e., 3 games x 2 draws per game) will be included in the aggregate LSD calculation noted within the tie-breaking protocols.

5. Spare Pool

- a. A Spare Pool will be established by January 15 thereby ensuring that substitute curlers can be registered and available for the AWG. This Spare Pool will consist of a maximum of 4 male and 4 female curlers who meet the necessary age and residency requirements for the AWG. Furthermore, to ensure that they are readily available as needed at the AWG, all curlers in this Spare Pool will need to live within approximately one (1) hour of Cold Lake. Please note that all spares must be drawn from this Spare Pool.

6. Coach Requirements

- a. All coaches must be **Competition Coach – Certified** to coach at the Alberta Winter Games. No exceptions will be made to this rule.
- b. All coaches must also complete Safe Sport Training (within the last 3 years), and a Criminal Record Check (within the last 3 years).

7. Coach Interactions

- a. Coaches will utilize Curling Canada's Coach Interactions Rules – U15 category rules. Two (2) interactions will be allowed per end.

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8. 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.

Updated November 2025