

APPENDIX:

Curling Club Championships (Men's and Women's)

This appendix outlines competition-specific rules and procedures for the Curling Club Championships category. The rules and details contained in the main body of the Competitors' Guide apply to these competitions. In the event there is a perceived conflict between the Competitors' Guide and this Appendix, this Appendix takes precedence.

This Appendix is reviewed annually and is subject to updates.

Safe Sport Compliance

All participants are required to comply with Safe Sport Training requirements. Full details, including training expectations, deadlines, and compliance procedures, are outlined in the Competitor's Guide and on Curling Alberta's website. **Failure to comply may result in the participant being deemed ineligible to participate in competition.**

Purpose of the Club Championship

The Curling Club Championships have been designed for curling club teams consisting of curling club members, who support curling club leagues, at the same curling club.

This championship is an opportunity for those curlers that support curling clubs and mostly do not have the time or resources to chase the dream of representing Canada at a World Championship or Olympic Games but still enjoy competitive play and representing their province or territory at a championship.

Curling Alberta and Curling Canada reserve the right to exclude any team that violates the spirit and intent of the event as it pertains to the rules attached. The offending club will also be suspended from sending a team to the Club Championships for the following season.

A. FOR ALL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS:

- a. These rules will relate to all levels of the club championship category, up to and including the November 2027 Canadian Curling Club Championships.
- b. Clubs with 250 or more members will have the option to enter two (2) teams per gender into Provincial Qualifiers. Clubs with less than 250 members may only register one (1) team per gender.
- c. The curling club represented by each team must be affiliated with Curling Alberta and must be in good standing with all applicable dues paid in full during all levels of competition.

- d. All four (4) competitors and any alternate or substitute must be members in good standing of the club they are representing in the competition during all levels of competition and must be members of the same club in both years if the provincial is held in a separate season than the nationals.
- e. The curling club will register their representatives for the provincial qualifiers. Individual teams may not register themselves.
- f. A club must register a team for the first stage of the competition with a minimum of four (4) curlers. Should an incomplete team be registered, their registration may be denied by Curling Alberta.
- g. All team members, including alternates and substitutes, must be registered and playing in a league that is affiliated with the team's designated curling club. Players are not required to play on the same team.
- h. A competitor can participate for only one (1) affiliated curling club in one season. If you lose out while playing for one club, you cannot then play for another club.
- i. It is the responsibility of the designated curling club to provide accurate verification if requested by Curling Alberta.
- j. Each four-person team must consist of players who, during the previous season, did NOT participate in the Canadian Curling Club Championships.
- k. Every curler must meet the following requirements for Club Championship eligibility:
 - did NOT participate in a Curling Canada national championship leading to a World Championship (U20, Women's, Men's, Seniors), an Olympic qualifying event (Pre-Trials, Trials), or a Grand Slam of Curling event (Tier 1 or Tier 2) during the previous three (3) seasons, did NOT qualify for the playoffs in the Men's, Women's, U20, Seniors, or Mixed Doubles provincial championships. This does not include the U20 Mixed Doubles.

The definition of the curling seasons as follows:

- Provincial championships to be completed March 2027 (2026-27 season)
- The events noted above include the previous three (3) seasons being 2025-2026, 2024-2025, and 2023-2024
- Competitive seasons defined as August 1st to July 31st
- l. Any category where the provincial championship is held following the Club Championship **date to declare intent (February 1)** will pertain to next season's eligibility. For example, if a Senior's team qualifies for the playoffs in the 2026-2027 season, they will not be eligible for the 2027-2028 season as the championship is held after February 1st. If a Men's or Women's team qualifies for the playoffs in January, they will not be eligible for the 2026-27 season as the championship is held before February 1st.

- m. The use of the delivery stick by any competitor is acceptable. Wheelchairs may also be used. Curling Alberta should be notified of wheelchair usage so appropriate accommodations can be made.
- n. The substitute may be a different player each game, but an alternate needs to be the same person throughout the entire event.
- o. A team with a registered alternate player may not add a substitute. A maximum of one (1) alternate from the team's club is allowed at any level of competition.
- p. A team must always maintain two (2) of three (3) OR three (3) of four (4) original rostered players on the ice during the event. Alternates are not considered one of the four (4) originally rostered players.
- q. A minimum of two (2) players must be a minimum of nineteen (19) years of age or over as of December 31st immediately prior to the national championships.
- r. Players under the age of nineteen (19) shall be considered a "minor". They must be accompanied by a legal guardian (or a chaperone identified by the legal guardian) for the duration of the event including departure from home and return to their home. A legal guardian can be a parent on the team.
- s. Clubs that are closed due to extenuating circumstances may be granted an exemption to form teams by written request to Curling Alberta which must be done prior to the February 1st deadline.

B. PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS:

- a. All competitors must abide by policies laid out in Sections 1 and 2 of the Curling Alberta Provincial Berth Policy. A maximum of three (3) separate Provincial Qualifiers (PQs) will be offered.
- b. 12 teams of each gender will be awarded Provincial berths. All these berths are "standard berths". There are no pre-qualifying berths in the Club Championship category.
- c. Seeding of PQs will not occur. Teams will be randomly drawn.
- d. The draw and schedule for the Provincial Qualifiers will be supplied to the registered clubs and posted on the Curling Alberta website. Note, the clubs are responsible for sharing the draw and schedule with their teams.
- e. All games are 8 ends (no minimum # of ends). Ties are decided by an extra end(s) if required. The pace of play will be managed by the Chief Umpire.
- f. Teams will deliver one (1) Last Stone Draw (LSD) for Last Stone First End (LSFE) immediately following their pre-game practice (no per-player requirement).
- g. NO TICK RULE will apply.
- h. **Broom checks will be completed by the Chief Umpire and/or Game Umpires prior to all competitions, including Provincial Qualifiers, to ensure broom handle, fabric and broom foam compliance.**

C. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- a. The event will be a twelve-team championship in each gender, with two (2) pools of six (6) teams playing a Round Robin within each pool. The top three (3) teams in each pool will qualify for a six-team single elimination playoff. The final draw and schedule will be pre-approved by Curling Alberta.

- b. Regional representation will be equally distributed between the two (2) pools. Curling teams from the northern, central, and southern regions will be as evenly distributed as possible, between the two pools, ensuring balanced regional representation across both Pool A and Pool B.
- c. All Round Robin (RR) games are 8 ends (no minimum # of ends) and **may be timed. Thinking time is 30 minutes and 4 minutes 30 seconds for each extra end. The mid-game end break is 5 minutes. Each team will be given 1 (one) 60-second timeout per game. Travel time may be added.**
- d. During the RR, each player on each team will deliver a minimum of two LSD's. The two LSD's per player 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, the four players must complete the minimum number of LSD deliveries. Teams and/or coaches are responsible for tracking their players' rotations to ensure both rotations are thrown.
- e. Round Robin game ties are decided by a full extra end or ends if required.
- f. 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). Ties are not considered across pools, and DSC must be used (i.e. a 3-2 record in Pool A is NOT tied with a 3-2 record in Pool B – DSC must be used).
- g. NO TICK RULE will apply.
- h. Pre-game practice:
 - i. Prior to the start of a game, teams are permitted a nine (9) minute practice with their stones.
 - ii. Speed traps are not permitted in pre-game practice.
 - iii. A coin toss will determine stone colour OR practice session. First practice will begin 30 minutes before the draw.
 - iv. Teams are allowed to throw an unlimited number of stones in all pre-game practices.
 - v. Practice sliding after completion of the practice is not permitted.
- i. Last Stone Draw (LSD):
 - i. Teams will throw two (2) draws for Last Stone First End (LSFE), immediately following their pre-game practice.
 - ii. Each player must deliver two (2) LSD's, during the Round Robin, one (1) clockwise and one (1) counterclockwise, during pool play.
 - iii. All LSD procedures are identified in Section 1(D)(6) of the Competitor's Guide.
- j. Although teams are encouraged to wear matching uniforms, dress standards noted in Section 2(A)(1) of the Competitors' Guide do not apply. Curling appropriate attire is expected. Jeans are not acceptable in the Field of Play, at any time, in any category.
- k. 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. The 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 stone colour or Last Stone Advantage will be communicated to the Chief Umpire via text or email.

- ii. Teams must be prepared to make their stone colour and/or LSFE within 15 minutes of notification and communicate those decisions to the Chief Umpire.
- iii. Teams must be prepared to select colour of stone and/or LSFE (hammer) following their last Round Robin game.

I. PLAYOFFS – the 6-team elimination format shall be as follows:

- i. After the Round Robin, the teams ranked 2nd and 3rd in each pool will advance to the quarter-finals.

Game #1: 2nd place in Pool B vs 3rd place in Pool A. Winner advances to the semi-final.

Game #2: 2nd place in Pool A vs 3rd place in Pool B. Winner advances to the semi-final.

- ii. The teams ranked 1st in each pool will advance directly to the semi-final round. 1st place in Pool A will play the winner of game #1. 1st place in Pool B will play the winner of game #2.
- iii. The winners of the semi-finals will compete in the final to determine a champion.

D. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1. The team in each gender category that wins the Provincial Championship will represent Alberta at the 2027 Canadian Club Championships.
 - i. Immediately after the final game, the Championship team (Team Alberta) will complete the necessary National registration paperwork and be fitted for Team Alberta uniforms.
 - ii. If released by Curling Canada, the team will also receive a National Competitors' Guide, which includes essential information for preparing for the Canadian Club Championship.