

Curling Alberta

Operational Parameters & Guiding Principles: Competitions

Mandate & Authority

Executive Director

Final authority for all operational competitions decisions rests with the Executive Director or delegate, within the parameters established in this document.

The Executive Director has authority to manage complaints, rule interpretations, and operational disputes related to competitions, recognizing that formal appeals will be managed in accordance with Curling Alberta's approved Appeals Policy.

Decisions of the Executive Director are final unless appealed through the formal Appeals Policy.

Competitions Committee members, including any appointed Chairs, are accountable to the Executive Director.

The Executive Director may consult the Board Executive Committee to address any potential or identified gaps in this Board-approved document.

Competitions Committee

The Competitions Committee supports the Executive Director in achieving Curling Alberta's strategic objectives related to competitive structure, as established by the Board of Directors.

The Competitions Committee is responsible for developing and recommending policies, procedures, rules, and enhancements related to the competitive structure within Curling Alberta, in alignment with the parameters described in this document.

The Competitions Committee does not have independent decision-making authority.

Details related to the operation of the Competitions Committee, including governance, composition, meeting schedule, primary tasks, role assignments, and recruitment, will be established and documented in the Terms of Reference, as approved by the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors establishes strategic direction and approves the Competitions Committee Terms of Reference.

The Board of Directors does not participate in or adjudicate operational competitions decisions.

A designated Board representative may participate in Competitions Committee meetings in a non-voting, observational capacity to support alignment and communication between governance and operations. This role does not extend to participation in operational competitions decisions or influence over individual competitions decisions.

Officials

Officials have authority over the conduct of games and the application of rules for all game-related procedures under their direction, including those occurring immediately prior to the start of play and through to the conclusion of the game.

This authority includes:

- pre-game procedures directly tied to a specific game. This includes pre-game activities such as rock selection and hammer, equipment inspection, and ice allocations which are not already assigned by Curling Alberta or other procedures required to initiate a game. Any changes related to ice allocations which are pre-assigned must be approved by Curling Alberta.
- rule enforcement and interpretation during play
- conduct of players and team members on the field of play
- timing, game flow, and application of playing conditions
- resolution of in-game situations as they arise
- immediate post-game procedures (e.g., confirming the result)

Curling Alberta retains authority over all matters not directly tied to the conduct of a specific game, including:

- eligibility and roster decisions
- competition structure and format
- scheduling and draws
- policy interpretation and application
- discipline, complaints, and dispute resolution

Officials do not have authority to amend, override, or make exceptions to Curling Alberta policies or competition rules outside of standard rule application within a game or game-related procedure.

Where a matter spans both in-game and competition-level considerations, officials will rule on the immediate game-related issue, and Curling Alberta will determine any broader competition or policy implications.

In all cases where a matter falls outside the defined scope of game-related officiating, final authority rests with Curling Alberta.

Reporting

- The Executive Director or designate shall report to the Board on competitions activities as requested by the Board.
- The Board will be informed of any significant public announcements or decisions with as much notice as possible, with a target of at least one business days' notice where feasible.
- Any urgent announcements that need to be made without advance notice to the full Board should be shared with the Executive.

Guiding Principles for Decision-Making

1. Alignment with Purpose and Strategy

Decisions will align with Curling Alberta's mission, vision, strategic priorities, and the Long-Term Curler Development model, while upholding Curling Alberta's core values - particularly Safety and Integrity. Each competition will be governed according to its intended purpose, with an appropriate balance between performance pathways and sport-for-life participation.

2. Competitive Integrity First

Decisions will prioritize the legitimacy and fairness of competition outcomes. Structures and qualification pathways must be credible, ensuring that performance is appropriately rewarded while maintaining accessibility, inclusivity, and fairness.

3. Accessibility and Participant Experience

The competition system will provide meaningful and relevant opportunities across age groups, ability levels, and geographic regions. Decisions will consider barriers such as cost, travel, and inclusivity, while maintaining competitive standards.

4. Consistency and Precedent

Decisions will be applied consistently over time and within the intended purpose of each competition. One-off exceptions that create unintended precedent will be avoided. Where issues arise, they will be addressed through policy review rather than ad hoc, in-event decisions.

5. System Over Situation

Decisions will be made in the best interest of the overall competition system, not individual teams, events, or circumstances. Event-level challenges will not drive decisions that weaken system-wide fairness, integrity, or sustainability.

6. Transparency and Defensibility

Decisions must be clear, explainable, and able to withstand scrutiny from participants and stakeholders. Where competing objectives exist, decisions will reflect the intended purpose of the competition, and the associated trade-offs will be acknowledged.

7. Operational Feasibility

Decisions must be practical and implementable within the realities of facilities, volunteers, and timelines. Solutions that introduce undue complexity, cost, or disruption will be avoided.

8. Risk Awareness and Organizational Stewardship

Decisions will protect the interests of Curling Alberta, its member clubs, partners, and the long-term health of the sport. Financial, reputational, operational, and participation-related risks will be considered and mitigated wherever possible.

9. Timing and Stability

Competition structures and rules should not be materially changed once a competition has begun, except where required to correct a clear error or uphold competitive integrity. System improvements will be addressed through structured, off-season review.

Approved By Curling Alberta's Board of Directors on May 23, 2026

Next scheduled review will be conducted after the 2027 championship season.