

PROVINCIAL BERTH POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a fair, transparent, and operationally practical framework for the allocation of provincial qualifying berths.

In the administration of provincial qualification systems, Curling Alberta seeks to balance:

- proportional fairness,
- geographic access,
- competition integrity,
- operational practicality,
- and athlete experience.

SUMMARY OF KEY REVISIONS

The following revisions have been made to the Provincial Berth Policy for the 2026–2027 season:

- Transition from a “minimum berth first” allocation model to a proportional allocation model using the Largest Remainder Method
- Addition of a formalized berth allocation and tie-breaking process
- Clarification of registration deadlines and eligible entries
- Addition of operational flexibility regarding qualifier viability, cancellation, and restructuring
- Clarification of random draw procedures and ranking calculations

1. POLICIES APPLYING TO ALL PROVINCIAL BERTHS

A. Acceptance of Berths

Provincial berths must be accepted in the order they are offered by Curling Alberta. If a team declines or fails to accept a berth within the prescribed timeframe, the berth will be offered to the next eligible team in accordance with the applicable qualification process.

2. STANDARD QUALIFYING BERTHS

Curling Alberta may sanction up to three Provincial Qualifiers (“PQ’s”) per category.

Provincial qualifying berths will be allocated proportionally based on eligible entries, while maintaining flexibility to address operational realities, geographic considerations, and competition integrity.

A. DISTRIBUTION OF STANDARD QUALIFYING BERTHS

i. Allocation of Standard Qualifying Berths

Provincial qualifying berths will be allocated proportionally based on the total number of eligible entries across all PQ’s within a category, using the Largest Remainder Method.

Each PQ’s proportional allocation will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Number of teams entered in the PQ}}{\text{Total number of teams entered across all PQ's}} \right) \times \text{Total number of available berths}$$

For the purposes of this policy, “eligible entries” refers to teams that:

- Have completed all registration requirements
- Have paid all required fees
- Remain in good standing at the close of registration

ii. Largest Remainder Method

Berths will first be assigned using the whole number portion of each PQ’s calculated allocation.

Any remaining berths will then be distributed one at a time to the PQ’s with the largest fractional remainders until all berths have been assigned.

iii. Minimum Berth Provision

Each Provincial Qualifier with at least one eligible entry will be allocated a minimum of one provincial qualifying berth.

Where a Provincial Qualifier would otherwise receive zero berths through the proportional allocation process, Curling Alberta will assign one berth to that qualifier.

Following the application of the minimum berth provision, any remaining berths will be allocated using the Largest Remainder Method described above.

If only one team enters a specific PQ, that team will be offered a qualifying berth by default.

iv. Registration Cut-Off for Allocation

Berth allocations and tie-breaking calculations will be based on eligible entries at the close of registration unless otherwise determined by Curling Alberta.

v. Withdrawal, Disqualification & Post-Registration Adjustments

In the event of a withdrawal or disqualification, the Team Fill Procedure outlined in the Competitors' Guide will apply.

Curling Alberta reserves the right to:

- Adjust berth allocations
- Combine qualifiers
- Modify qualification structures
- Relocate qualifiers
- Cancel qualifiers
- Advance teams directly to Provincial Championships

where withdrawals or other circumstances materially impact viability, fairness, operational practicality, financial sustainability, or competitive integrity.

vi. Redistribution of Unclaimed Berths

If a PQ does not award a berth due to:

- Lack of entries
- Disqualification
- Cancellation
- Withdrawal
- Or other exceptional circumstances

the unclaimed berth(s) will be redistributed using the Largest Remainder Method described above.

vii. Tie-Breaking Procedure

If standard berths cannot be evenly distributed due to identical fractional remainders, the following tie-breaking procedure will apply in order:

a. Greater Number of Entries

The PQ with the greater number of entered teams will receive the berth.

b. Average Team Ranking (Strength of Field)

If still tied, the berth will be awarded to the PQ with the higher average team ranking at the time of registration.

The following ranking systems will be used where applicable:

- World Curling Ranking (WCR) points — Men's and Women's
- Canadian Mixed Doubles Ranking (CMDR) points — Mixed Doubles
- Alberta Curling Tour (ACT) points — U18 and U20

Average ranking will be calculated as the mean ranking points of all entered teams within the PQ.

Teams without an applicable ranking will be assigned zero points for calculation purposes.

c. Random Draw

If a tie still remains after all previous steps, the berth allocation will be determined by random draw conducted by Curling Alberta.

The random draw will be recorded and will include at least one witness external to Curling Alberta.

viii. Qualifier Viability and Cancellation

Curling Alberta reserves the right to modify, combine, relocate, or cancel PQ's where:

- Registration numbers
- Travel considerations
- Financial viability
- Scheduling constraints
- Operational concerns
- Competitive integrity concerns
- Or other reasonable circumstances

make the originally planned qualifier structure impractical or not in the best interests of the competition.

Where a qualifier is cancelled, Curling Alberta may:

- Advance all registered teams directly to Provincials
- Implement an alternate qualification structure
- Redistribute berths as necessary

All decisions regarding Qualifier structure, viability, berth allocation, and redistribution shall be final except through Curling Alberta's formal appeal process.

ix. Policy Interpretation

Curling Alberta retains final authority regarding the interpretation and application of this policy, subject only to Curling Alberta's formal appeal process.

x. Annual Review

Curling Alberta reserves the right to review and amend this policy annually based on operational experience, participation trends, competitive outcomes, and/or organizational priorities

B. QUALIFYING PLAYDOWN FORMAT

i. Competition Format

PQ's may utilize:

- Double knockout
- Triple knockout
- Round robin
- Pool play
- Or other formats approved by Curling Alberta

Curling Alberta reserves the right to determine the most appropriate format based on number of entries, available berths, scheduling, venue and host considerations, or competitive integrity.

All draws must be approved by Curling Alberta prior to competition.

ii. Seeding

Seeding will utilize:

- WCR — Men's and Women's
- ACT — U18 and U20
- CMDR — Mixed Doubles

If teams are tied in points, a random draw conducted by Curling Alberta will be used among tied teams only. Teams without applicable ranking points will be assigned zero points.

In categories without ranking systems, teams will be placed into the draw by random draw conducted by Curling Alberta.

3. PRE-QUALIFYING PROVINCIAL BERTHS

Policy Statement

Curling Alberta may award pre-qualifying provincial berths in designated categories as determined annually.

The number and distribution of pre-qualifying berths will be communicated prior to the season.

Definitions

- **WCR** — World Curling Rankings
- **CMDR** — Canadian Mixed Doubles Rankings
- **ACT** — Alberta Curling Tour

B. Pre-Qualifying Berth Eligibility

All teams seeking eligibility for a pre-qualifying provincial berth must register for a Provincial Qualifier by the published registration deadline (not the points deadline). Failure to register by the deadline may result in forfeiture of eligibility for a pre-qualifying berth, as all teams are subject to all related registration and eligibility policies.

Roster Continuity

Except in Mixed Doubles, teams earning points toward pre-qualifying berths must retain a minimum of three original team members as registered within the applicable ranking system.

Declaration Deadlines

- Residency declaration deadline: September 1
- Free agent declaration and WCR registration deadline: October 31

4. CATEGORY-SPECIFIC PRE-QUALIFYING BERTHS

Specific berth distributions, timelines, and ranking procedures for:

- Men's
- Women's
- U18
- U20
- Mixed Doubles

are published annually by Curling Alberta [as category-specific appendices](#).