

APPENDIX:

Optimist U18 (Boy's and Girl's)

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.

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.**

As outlined in Curling Alberta's Code of Conduct, competitors and coaches are prohibited from consuming alcohol or cannabis during Curling Alberta-sanctioned U15, U18, and U20 events. This prohibition applies for the entire duration of the event, beginning at the time of departure for the competition and continuing until arrival home following the conclusion of the sanctioned event.

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.

The draw and schedule for the Provincial Qualifiers and Provincial Championships will be supplied to all teams and posted on the Curling Alberta Website.

A. PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS

1. The details and format are described in Section 1 of the Curling Alberta Provincial Berth Policy.
2. Eight (8) Provincial berths are awarded in total, per gender. Seven (7) of these berths are standard berths earned through Provincial Qualifiers.
3. One (1) berth is awarded as a Provincial pre-Qualifier; see Berth Policy, Section 3(C). Note that a team who has accepted a pre-Qualifying berth to the Provincial Championship is ineligible to compete in a Provincial Qualifier but must register and pay the entry fee, including the Curling Canada Competitors' fee, prior to the registration deadline.
4. 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.
5. All games are eight (8) ends (no minimum number of ends).
6. Coaches will utilize Curling Canada's Coach Interactions Program for the U18 Category.
7. Game timing may occur, with no penalty assessed. Pace of play will be managed by the Chief Umpire.
8. Teams must have an eligible coach. Coaches at this competition are considered a team member and must abide by all relevant policies and team expectations (see the Competitors' Guide for details).

B. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The format is an 8-team full Round Robin (RR) with a four (4)-team Page- Playoff.
2. All games are eight (8) ends and are timed, (Game Duration refer to the Competitors' Guide).
3. Pre-event seeding shall occur using the Alberta Curling Tour (ACT) - U18 Division Points. When ACT points are not available for teams, teams will be given zero points. Ties in points will be broken by random draw. Curling Alberta reserves the right to amend the seeding procedure at the discretion of the Competitions Committee should the format of the Championship change.
4. 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.
5. Coaches will utilize Curling Canada's Coach Interactions Program for the U18 category.

6. Teams must have an eligible coach. Coaches at this competition are considered team members and must abide by all relevant policies and team expectations (see the Competitors' Guide for details).
7. Pre-Game Practice & Last Stone Draw (LSD) for LSFE (Last Stone First End)
 - i. During RR, each player on each team will deliver a minimum of two (2) LSD's. The 2 LSD's can be taken anytime during the Round Robin but not in the same game, and must be one (1) of each rotation. Based on the Original Team Lineup, the four (4) players must complete the minimum number of required LSD deliveries. Teams and/or coaches are responsible for tracking their players' rotations to ensure both rotations are thrown. Refer to Competitors' Guide for more information.
 - ii. Teams will name two (2) players that will deliver the LSD, indicating their respective turns before the team's first practice begins. Failure to do so will result in an assigned distance of 399.20cm.
 - iii. Coaches may NOT deliver stones in the pre-game practice.
 - iv. Speed traps are NOT allowed in pre-game practice.
 - v. The teams listed on the top/first in the draw will practice first and will be assigned dark-handled stones. The team throwing light-handled stones will have the same period of practice starting immediately following the dark-handled stone draws for Last Stone Advantage.
 - vi. Each team's pre-game practice will be nine (9) minutes. First practice will commence thirty (30) minutes prior to the posted draw time.
 - vii. Last Stone Advantage will be determined by the Last Stone Draws (LSD) before each Round Robin game and will be completed immediately following each team's pre-game practice.
 - viii. Following each team's pre-game practice, the two (2) different previously named players from the team will each throw a stone. There will be an announcement to deliver each Last Stone Draw. The first player will deliver the clockwise rotation, while the second delivers the counterclockwise rotation. The better (lower) distance of the two (2) draws between the two (2) teams will receive LSFE advantage.
8. 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).

9. PLAYOFFS:

Post-Round Robin:

- i. At the conclusion of the Round Robin, the Chief Umpire will notify each team of its playoff position. No post-Round Robin meeting will be held.
- ii. Teams advancing to the playoffs will receive playoff information directly from the Chief Umpire. Decisions regarding stone colour and/or Last Stone First End (LSFE/hammer) must be communicated to the Chief Umpire by text message or email.
- iii. Teams must communicate their decisions within 15 minutes of notification and should be prepared to select their stone colour and/or LSFE (hammer) immediately following their final Round Robin game.
- iv. Unless otherwise specified in the Team Meeting Document, the playoff format will be a four-team Page Playoff. Refer to Section 2(C)(5) of the Competitors' Guide for details.

C. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The team in each gender that wins the Provincial Championship will represent Alberta at the 2027 U18 Canadian Championships.
2. Alberta has been awarded a second berth per gender to the 2027 U18 Canadian Championships. Curling Alberta will award the second berth to the team that places second at the 2027 U18 Provincial Championships.