



COMPETITORS' GUIDE FOR ALL COMPETITIONS 2026-27

Updated August 12, 2026

Purpose

The **Curling Alberta Competitors' Guide** establishes the rules, procedures, and administrative requirements governing Curling Alberta-sanctioned competitions.

All competitors, coaches, alternates, and other accredited team personnel are responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with this Guide, the applicable Category Appendix, Curling Alberta policies, and any event-specific communications issued by Curling Alberta.

Participant Responsibilities

Competitors, coaches, alternates, and other accredited team personnel are responsible for:

- Reading, understanding, and complying with this Guide and the applicable Category Appendix.
- Complying with all Curling Alberta policies and competition requirements.
- Reviewing all event-specific communications issued by Curling Alberta.
- Ensuring they are using the current versions of all competition documents.
- Directing questions to Curling Alberta before the start of competition whenever possible.

How to Use This Guide

This Guide has been updated to reflect the policies, procedures, and rule changes for the current season. Significant changes are highlighted in **blue** for ease of reference.

Unless otherwise specified in a Category Appendix, the policies, procedures, and rules in this Guide apply to all Curling Alberta competitions.

The Guide is organized into the following sections:

Section 1 – Applies to all Curling Alberta competitions, including Provincial Qualifiers and Provincial Championships.

Section 2 – Applies only to Provincial Championships.

Additional policies, procedures, and Category Appendices are available on the Curling Alberta website at www.curlingalberta.ca.

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1. CRESTING POLICY
2. BERTH POLICY
3. POLICY MANUAL
4. SPECIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS:
 - Curling Alberta U15 Championships (Combined Boys and Girls)
 - Curling Alberta U18 Championships (Boys and Girls)
 - Curling Alberta U20 Championships, presented by Hec Gervais Academic & Curling Scholarship Foundation (Men and Women)
 - Curling Alberta U20 Mixed Doubles Championship
 - RME Alberta Women's Summit of Champions, presented by Sentinel Storage
 - RME Alberta Men's Summit of Champions, presented by Best Western
 - Curling Alberta Mixed Curling Championship
 - Curling Alberta Mixed Doubles Championship
 - Curling Alberta Senior Championships (Men and Women)
 - Curling Alberta Masters Championships (Men and Women)
 - Curling Alberta Club Championships, presented by Original 16 (Men and Women)
 - Curling Alberta Wheelchair Championship

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JURISDICTION

The Provincial Curling Championships governed by Curling Alberta are:

- Curling Alberta U15 Championships (Combined Boys and Girls)
- Curling Alberta U18 Championships (Boys and Girls)
- Curling Alberta U20 Championships, presented by Hec Gervais Academic & Curling Scholarship Foundation (Men and Women)
- Curling Alberta U20 Mixed Doubles Championships
- RME Alberta Women's Summit of Champions, presented by Sentinel Storage
- RME Alberta Men's Summit of Champions, presented by Best Western
- Curling Alberta Senior Championships (Men and Women)
- Curling Alberta Masters Championships (Men and Women)
- Curling Alberta Mixed Championship
- Curling Alberta Best Western Mixed Doubles Championship
- Curling Alberta Club Championships, presented by Original 16 (Men and Women)
- Curling Alberta Wheelchair Championship (Mixed)

This guide will also apply to other events sanctioned by Curling Alberta (any differences or exceptions will be listed in event-specific appendices, (i.e. team meeting documents or other documents)).

AUTHORITY

Curling Alberta administers all Curling Alberta-sanctioned competitions and the Alberta Curling Tour (ACT) points system.

The Executive Director, or delegate, has final authority over the administration and operation of Curling Alberta competitions, except where authority is assigned to an Official under the **Rules of Curling** or this Guide.

Questions regarding the interpretation or application of this Guide should be directed to Curling Alberta.

During competition:

- **Officials** are responsible for interpreting and enforcing the **Rules of Curling**, and for managing the conduct of games and all game-related procedures within their authority.
- **Curling Alberta** is responsible for administering and interpreting competition policies, procedures, eligibility, scheduling, competition format, and all other matters that are not directly related to the conduct of a game.
- Where circumstances arise that are not addressed by this Guide, a Category Appendix, supporting policies, or the **Rules of Curling**, the Executive Director, or delegate, may make any decision necessary to ensure the fair, safe, and orderly administration of the competition.

Competition decisions may be appealed only in accordance with Curling Alberta's **Appeals Policy**.

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Curling Alberta gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors, funding partners, and government partners. Their continued investment helps deliver provincial competitions and supports the growth of curling throughout Alberta.

Competitors are expected to respect sponsor recognition requirements and support Curling Alberta's partners throughout the competition season.

Current provincial sponsors and partners are published by Curling Alberta and may be updated throughout the season.

- Belairdirect
- Best Western Hotels & Resorts (exclusivity)
- Big Print Signs
- Curling Canada
- Dynasty Curling
- Elite Promotional Marketing
- Government of Alberta
- Hec Gervais Academic and Curling Scholarship Foundation
- hseQhr
- New Holland
- Original 16
- RME
- Sentinel Storage (exclusivity)
- UFA

SECTION 1: THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL CURLING ALBERTA COMPETITIONS.

1.A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. MEALS

Teams are responsible for their own meals. The Competition Coordinator or Host Committee will advise you of any functions provided (i.e. banquet, brunch, etc.).

2. TRAVEL EXPENSES

Travel expenses will be the responsibility of the team.

3. TEAM NAME & CLUB REPRESENTATION

Team names on all Provincial draws and sanctioned publications will be the last name of the skip (the person that calls the game). Teams must declare which member club they are representing; at least one player must be a member in good standing at that club. For the Club Championship, the team's name will be the curling centre that they are representing.

4. CONDUCT

Competitors and coaches are required to conduct themselves on and off the ice in an appropriate manner and abide by the rules of the competition. The Chief Umpire and Curling Alberta may intervene at any time if a team, player, or coach is displaying inappropriate behavior. Competitors and coaches agree to abide by the Curling Alberta Code of Conduct Policy as listed in the Curling Alberta Policy Manual available on our website.

Attendance at socials is not mandatory but is highly encouraged to show support to the Host Committee and sponsors. Failure to RSVP may result in disciplinary action. If requested by Curling Alberta, a competitor must participate in the voting procedure for any awards. Failure to do so may result in the competitor being dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary policy as posted on the Curling Alberta website.

Curling Alberta will require at least one parent/guardian of each player under 18 years of age to have completed the on-line [Safe Sport Program](#) for the minor to participate in any sanctioned event. Consult Section 4 for the related policy.

5. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of electronic devices to transmit information or instructions to a competitor, coach, alternate, or other accredited team personnel who is in the Field of Play during a game is prohibited.

This prohibition applies regardless of who initiates the communication or where it originates.

Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, smartwatches, tablets, computers, earbuds, headphones, radios, wearable technology, or any other device capable of sending, receiving, displaying, or transmitting information.

This policy does not prohibit the recording or live transmission of audio or video from the Field of Play in accordance with the Photography, Videography, and Media Access policy. However, no recording, livestream, microphone, or other electronic equipment may be used to transmit information or instructions electronically to a participant in the Field of Play during a game.

The Chief Umpire and appointed Officials have the authority to determine whether a participant is in breach of this policy. In exercising that authority, an Official may issue a warning or immediately remove a coach or competitor from the current game where, in the Official's judgment, the circumstances warrant.

The decision of an Official regarding the issuance of a warning or the immediate removal of a coach or competitor during a game is final and must be complied with immediately. Concerns regarding the decision may be addressed through Curling Alberta following the completion of the game and shall not delay or interrupt play.

Any coach or competitor removed from a game for an alleged breach of this policy will be subject to a review by Curling Alberta. Following its review, Curling Alberta may impose disciplinary measures on the individual, the team, or both.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- a warning
- game forfeiture
- removal from the event
- loss of eligibility
- suspension from future Curling Alberta competitions
- any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate
- Where warranted, sanctions may be applied to the entire team.

The use of electronic devices to transmit information or instructions to a participant in the Field of Play during a game is considered a serious breach of competition integrity and may result in significant sanctions.

6. PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY, AND MEDIA ACCESS

Curling Alberta reserves the exclusive right to produce, authorize, or designate the official photography, videography, livestream, or broadcast of any sanctioned event or featured game.

Coaches and competitors may not record or livestream any game designated by Curling Alberta as an official broadcast or featured game.

Teams may record or livestream games that are not designated as official broadcasts, provided that:

- all cameras and recording equipment, with the exception of microphones, remain on the warm side of the glass

- equipment does not interfere with the Field of Play, competitors, coaches, Officials, or spectators
- microphones may be used to capture audio from the Field of Play
- audio and video from the Field of Play may be recorded, livestreamed, viewed, heard, or monitored by persons outside the Field of Play
- no recording, livestream, microphone, or other electronic equipment is used to transmit information or instructions electronically to a participant in the Field of Play during a game
- all additional directions issued by the Chief Umpire or Curling Alberta are followed

Where Curling Alberta is livestreaming all sheets at an arena event, Curling Alberta may provide coaches with access to the official livestream.

If Curling Alberta or the Host Committee has retained an official photographer or videographer, no other photographer or videographer may enter the Field of Play unless authorized by the Chief Umpire.

Accredited media representatives may be granted access to the Field of Play with the approval of the Chief Umpire and the Host Committee. Media representatives must comply with all directions issued by Officials.

Where no official photographer has been retained, any person wishing to photograph or record video from within the Field of Play must obtain prior approval from the Chief Umpire.

The Chief Umpire and appointed Officials have the authority to regulate photography, videography, livestreaming, and media activity within and around the Field of Play. Officials may restrict, suspend, or prohibit any activity that, in their judgment, interferes with competition, compromises participant safety, disrupts the event, or conflicts with Curling Alberta's operational or broadcast requirements.

7. TEAM MEETING

- a. For Provincial Qualifiers, at least one team member or coach (as listed on the roster) from each team must attend a meeting with the Chief Umpire. For U15, U18 and U20 events, at least one team member and coach (as listed on the roster) from each team must attend a meeting with the Chief Umpire. The meeting is **one hour** prior to the team's first game unless otherwise stated in the official schedule of events. If a team fails to attend as required, the team will be penalized with loss of LSFE (hammer) in their first game. At that time, any questions regarding officiating or rule interpretation should be presented for clarification. The competitors will be advised at this time of the level of officiating that they may expect at the event.
- b. See Section 2(A)(2) for Provincial Championship Team Meetings.
- c. **Team Meeting documents supersede the Competitors' Guide and Appendices.**

8. COACHES

- a. For all categories, with the exception of U15 Boys and Girls, coaches must be at least 21 years of age. In the U15 category, all coaches must be 18 years or older; consult the U15 Appendix for additional coaching/age criteria specific to that

category.

- b. The same coaching requirements apply at all levels of competition (i.e., Provincial Qualifiers and Provincial Championships).
- c. Coaches should be named at least 10 days prior to the start of the Qualifier their team is registered for.
- d. With the exception of a mentored coach situation as described below, coaches must have the following category-specific qualifications and requirements:

Category	NCCP Qualifications	Other Requirements
Women's	Competition Coach – Certified or High-Performance Consultant	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
Men's	Competition Coach – Certified or High-Performance Consultant	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
Mixed	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
Mixed Doubles	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
U20	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
Seniors	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
Masters	None	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training (recommended) Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
U18	Competition Coach – Trained	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
U15	NCCP Make Ethical Decisions	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
Wheelchair	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
Club Championship	None	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver
U20 Mixed Doubles	None	Criminal Record Check plus CAC's Safe Sport Training. Curling IO Curler Profile & Waiver

- e. A coach who does not meet the necessary NCCP requirements can be designated as a 'mentored coach'. A mentored coach can apply for a one-year exemption of the applicable NCCP requirements provided that a Certified Competition Coach

accompanies him or her and is on site for the duration of the event. The 'mentored coach' must have completed the two-day course at minimum. The application to be mentored must be received by the Curling Alberta office at least ten (10) days prior to the start of the Qualifier their team is registered for. Contact the Curling Alberta office for application instructions.

- f. In U15, U18, U20, and U20 Mixed Doubles categories, a coach is mandatory and is considered a full team member. They are expected to follow all applicable guidelines, including team substitutions and replacements. A criminal record check is mandatory. For all other Provincial Championship categories, a coach is only considered a team member specific to dress standards, Cresting, and Code of Conduct Policies.
- g. A coach may only coach one team at a Provincial Qualifier and Provincial Championship (e.g., a coach may not coach both a men's and a women's team within the same category). A coach may coach teams in different categories, or coach in one category while competing in another, provided there are no conflicts in event dates from the Provincial Qualifiers through to and including the Provincial Championships.
- h. Coaches must comply with the dress standards outlined in Section 2(A) and adhere to the Curling Alberta Cresting Policy at all Provincial Championships. Where a coach is being mentored, the primary coach must meet the dress standards, while the mentoring coach must wear clothing of a similar colour or all black. Jeans are not permitted.
 - Both coaches may be on the ice during pre-game/pre-event practice and time-outs; however, the certified coach may participate only as an observer.
- i. Seating will be provided for all coaches as outlined at the team meeting. Coaches will not be allowed to reserve seating other than what has been designated by the organizer. In venues where coaches are offered restricted seating (i.e. away from the general population), only the designated and approved coaches are allowed in the restricted area. Where Curling Canada's Coach Interactions is in effect, coaches will have a designated on-ice seating as long as the space and facility permits. Refer to the Curling Canada's Coach Interactions document on Curling Alberta's website. Coach interactions apply to the U15, U18, U20, and U20 Mixed Doubles categories.
- j. Criminal Record Checks (CRC) will expire with Curling Alberta after three years. For example, if the check was completed prior to Sept 2024, you are required to submit a new one for this curling season (2026-27). To complete your Criminal Record Check online, visit myBackCheck.com.

9. POTENTIAL DATE CONFLICTS

Teams competing in a Curling Alberta Qualifying or Provincial event do so with the knowledge that they must continue to play at all levels, up to and including Provincials, until they are eliminated.

If a team member has a date conflict between a Curling Alberta Provincial Qualifier or Provincial Championship in one category, and a National or International competition where they are representing Alberta or Canada in a different category, that member can be replaced in the Curling Alberta playdown competition. If a team has entered a pre-qualifying berth for the Provincial Championship and conflicts with a National or International competition, they must maintain two (2) of three (3) or three (3) of four (4) players

listed on the pre-qualifying roster. If a Provincial Championship team cannot maintain a minimum of two (2) of three (3) or three (3) of four (4) of its original players, the team will become ineligible for advancement beyond the Provincial level and the runner-up will advance in their place.

If a Mixed Doubles team member has a date conflict because they are representing Alberta or Canada at a National or International level in another category, he/she may be replaced on the Mixed Doubles team in advance of any Curling Alberta playdown competition. A Mixed Doubles team cannot replace more than one player.

Replacements must meet the criteria established in Section 1(B)(1).

10. DRUG TESTING & ANTI- DOPING PROGRAM

Athletes must be aware that random drug testing may occur at Provincial Qualifiers and Provincial Championships. See Section 3 for more information. To identify what substances and recreational drugs are prohibited, please go to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport at <https://cces.ca/>. For more information, refer to Curling Canada's Website: <https://www.curling.ca/events/competitor-information/canadian-anti-doping-program>

1.B. TEAMS

Excluding Mixed Doubles and U20 Mixed Doubles, teams must register with a roster of four original players as of the registration deadline. Teams must maintain either two (2) of three (3) or three (3) of four (4) originally rostered players up to and including the competition. Teams must also have either two (2) of three (3) or three (3) of four (4) originally rostered players on the ice at all times during the event, including every end of every game. If a team names an alternate or replacement player, that player is not considered one of the four originally rostered players. The only exception to the requirement to maintain either two (2) of three (3) or three (3) of four (4) originally rostered players is in the event of illness, injury, or rare and extenuating circumstances deemed reasonable at the sole discretion of Curling Alberta.

Teams may name an alternate for all categories, except U15, U20 Mixed Doubles, Mixed Doubles, and Mixed. Coaches must be identified and are considered a member of the team for U15, U18, U20, and U20 Mixed Doubles competitions as per Section 1(A)(7) of this guide. Coaches must be registered with the team prior to the registration deadline.

1. ALTERNATES, SUBSTITUTES, AND REPLACEMENTS

- a. Alternates, substitutes, and replacements must:
 - i. Meet the eligibility requirements in Section 1(D)(1), including age, gender, and residency;
 - ii. Be affiliated with a Curling Alberta member club in good standing; and
 - iii. Alternates, substitutes, and replacements must not have competed as registered players in the same category at any level, unless one of the following category-specific exceptions applies:
 - **Masters (Men and Women):** applies to alternates, substitutes and replacements. See the Masters category Appendix for category-specific information.
 - **U15:** Alternates are **not** permitted. Substitutes and replacements may compete at another level of competition. For example, a curler eliminated in a Provincial Qualifier may later play as a substitute or

replacement.

- iv. Substitutes are not registered players and may play for more than one team or at more than one level within a category, where permitted by this policy. Teams are responsible for confirming eligibility.
- b. The Curling Alberta office must be notified of any changes to the team by email at info@curlingalberta.ca including the addition of an alternate or a substitute or replacement of a coach or a curler. Changes are subject to an administration fee and must follow the procedure noted below in Section 1.B.6 Registration and Rosters.
- c. Once competition has begun, it is the team's responsibility to inform the Chief Umpire of any substitute or roster changes prior to stepping onto the ice.
- d. Alternates (5th Players)
 - i. Alternates are not permitted in U15, U20 Mixed Doubles, Mixed Doubles, and Mixed team competitions.
 - ii. Alternates are considered team members for the purposes of dress standards, cresting, and the Code of Conduct. Alternates are not subject to the team obligations listed in Section 2(A)(3).
 - iii. An alternate may be named on the team's entry form at registration or within 24 hours of receiving a qualifying berth. After that time, adding an alternate is subject to an administration fee. An alternate may not be added during an event unless approved by Curling Alberta.
 - iv. Teams that name an alternate are expected to use their available rostered players, including the alternate, before requesting a substitute or replacement.
 - v. Alternates may play in any game and in any position.
 - vi. Expenses of the alternate player shall be the responsibility of the team; and
 - vii. Teams advancing to national events are subject to the alternate rules of the national governing body.

Note: Although alternates are permitted in U18 and U20, Curling Alberta does not encourage their use wherever possible. Players are encouraged to compete on teams where they can gain regular playing experience.

- e. Substitutes
 - i. A substitute is a temporary player who replaces a rostered player on a game-by-game basis. A substitute may play in any position unless otherwise stated in the category Appendix. The original player may return in any subsequent game at any level of competition.
 - ii. A substitute may be used at any time and for any reason, provided the substitute is eligible and is not a member of another registered team, including as an alternate, at any level within the same category. A substitute may not compete for more than one team at the same time.
 - iii. In Mixed Doubles or U20 Mixed Doubles competitions, a substitute is not permitted. If one Mixed Doubles player is unable to compete, the team must replace that player before the start of competition. If both original players are absent, the team will be disqualified.
 - iv. In Mixed competitions, a spare pool will be provided at the Provincial Championship. The substitute or replacement player must be the same gender as the missing player and may play either position assigned to that gender. The spare pool will be further defined in the Mixed Appendix.

f. Replacements

- i. A replacement is a permanent substitution, and the original team member being replaced will no longer be eligible to compete in this competition category. This action is considered a roster change and is subject to an administration fee (Section 6 Registration and Rosters below). The amended roster will be used for any subsequent team recognition (e.g., banners).
- ii. For Mixed Doubles and U20 Mixed Doubles, and only prior to any Qualifying or Provincial competition, a replacement will be granted if one team member is representing Alberta or Canada at a National or International competition in another category with a conflicting date.
- iii. A Mixed Doubles team cannot replace more than one player.
- iv. Replacement players are considered registered players but are not considered to be originally rostered members.

2. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Curling Alberta will supply the official draw, rosters, and schedule for all sanctioned Provincial Qualifiers and Championships.

The registration deadline for all event categories is listed on the Curling Alberta website, <https://curlingalberta.ca/competitions/provincial-qualifiers-championships>. These deadlines are subject to change, which will be communicated through email, the Curling Alberta website, and/or social media.

3. WITHDRAWALS AND REFUNDS

- a. Teams may withdraw from an event prior to the registration deadline by emailing Curling Alberta (subject to an admin fee of 20% of the team's total entry costs).
- b. Withdrawals after the registration deadline will not receive a refund, unless approved by Curling Alberta.
- c. Teams may amend the Qualifier location they are registered for only prior to the registration deadline and must do so by emailing the Curling Alberta office (subject to a \$40 administration fee).

4. TEAM FILL GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will be applied for all Curling Alberta sanctioned events in the case where one (1) or more teams withdraw or become ineligible.

- a. Prior to the commencement of a Qualifier:
 - i. The spot will first be filled with any waitlisted teams at the time of entry. A team should email their lineup to info@curlingalberta.ca prior to the registration deadline in order to join a waitlist.
 - ii. If there is no waitlist, and the team to be replaced is in a seeded position in the draw, every effort will be made to remake the draw as appropriate if time allows, and as per Curling Alberta's sole discretion. If time does not allow for the draw to be adjusted, a bye will be inserted into the vacancy.
- b. Prior to the commencement of a Provincial Championship:

- i. Curling Alberta will apply at its discretion when naming any replacement teams. However, it will utilize the following guidelines in an effort to apply consistent logic. The berth will be offered to:
 - The last losing team in the Qualifier where the berth originated.
 - If there is a tie for the berth, a playoff will be scheduled where time permits and is mutually agreed upon by the teams. If time or other logistics do not permit for a playoff to take place (at the discretion of Curling Alberta), a coin toss will decide the replacement team.
 - Consideration will go to the team or teams that lost the final berth game at the same Qualifying event as the team that has withdrawn. The berth will remain in the Provincial Qualifier where the withdrawn team originated from. In the case where there is no other qualifying team, the berth will go to the Qualifier with the next largest number of registrants. See Curling Alberta Provincial Berth Policy for more details.

5. SEEDING POLICY & DRAW PLACEMENT PROCEDURE

Teams will be placed in the draw based on their seeded order. Refer to Appendices for full category specific seeding.

- a. Provincial Qualifiers & Provincial Championships:
 - i. The following points will be used to place teams into the draw for the following categories: The berth will be offered to:
 - Seeding will be determined using the points two (2) weeks prior to the start of the competition. Where the relevant points aren't available, teams will be given zero (0) points. Ties in points will be broken by random draw:
 - For **U15**, U18 and U20 categories, pre-event seeding shall occur using the Alberta Curling Tour (ACT) in their respective divisions.
 - The Men's and Women's categories will be seeded based on the World Curling Team Rankings (WCTR). Points earned during the Provincial Qualifiers will not be included.
 - See Mixed Doubles Appendix for related seeding policy.
 - ii. The Wheelchair & Club Championship categories will be placed in the draw by random selection. A random selection will be conducted by Curling Alberta staff using a digital randomizer (ChatGPT or number wheel) and will be video recorded. The recording will be available at written request.
 - iii. All other Qualifiers and Round Robins will be randomly drawn. Other Championship formats, including pool play, will be self-seeded.

Curling Alberta reserves the right to amend the seeding procedure at the discretion of the Competitions Committee, should self-seeding bios and/or results not be submitted, for unforeseen circumstances or to place teams at key times in the draw.

6. REGISTRATION AND ROSTERS

- a. Registrations for Provincial Qualifiers or Open Provincial Championships will close immediately following the registration deadline.
- b. Registration information for each event prior to the registration deadline will be published online and available publicly, where technology allows. Rosters are not

considered official until they are validated by Curling Alberta.

- c. Late team registrations will only be accepted in the case of an administrative/technical error by Curling Alberta.
- d. The official rosters will be created as per the information submitted by the teams through the online registration process. The official rosters will be posted online within three days of the start of the competition. These rosters will carry forward through each level of competition unless a change is submitted to Curling Alberta by email and confirmed (i.e. teams will no longer be required to accept a Provincial berth by completing paperwork and confirming their roster upon qualification).
- e. Teams are responsible for completing and verifying their registration, which is confirmed by receipt of the email from Curling IO Support with the subject of 'Order Submitted - Curling IO'. If you have received this confirmation, there is no need to contact the Curling Alberta office. Once this confirmation is received, all team members must ensure that they have signed the waiver for the current season and have an up-to-date curler profile in Curling IO. For clarity, players who already have a curler profile created in the previous season should not create a new one.
- f. Curling Alberta must be notified of any changes to the roster with the addition of a coach, alternate, or replacement by email. To clarify, the office does not need to be notified if there is a position change within the originally registered roster. It is the team's responsibility to ensure eligibility. Roster or registration changes are not considered valid until verified by the Curling Alberta staff.
 - i. It is the team's obligation to ensure the coach is listed on the official roster prior to the start of the event. If the coach is NOT listed, the Chief Umpire or Curling Alberta staff should be notified immediately. When time does not permit to confirm coaching eligibility, the coach and skip are required to sign the eligibility declaration.
 - ii. When requested, coaches are required to show proof of their NCCP number and Criminal Record Check. When time is not permitted, the coach signs a declaration and may be required to provide proof to Curling Alberta after the event.
- g. Roster changes are subject to the following administration fees:

If submitted prior to registration deadline	\$0
If submitted between the registration deadline and event completion	\$40
If submitted within 1 business day after winning a Provincial berth	\$0
If submitted after the period described above	\$100

- h. If there are no Qualifiers prior to the Provincial Championship, roster changes are subject to the following administration fees:

If submitted prior to registration deadline	\$0
If submitted between the registration deadline and 10 days before the start of the event	\$40
If submitted within 9 days of the start of the event	\$100

- i. Official roster changes are not permitted during an event, except in special

circumstances as approved by the Chief Umpire. Rather, if an injury or illness occurs during an event, teams must first utilize a substitute if an alternate is not already named.

7. PRE-COMPETITION PRACTICE

- a. Provincial Qualifiers:
 - i. Practice ice may be available before the competition. Teams should plan directly with the host. Note that teams are expected not to practice on the ice surface where they are scheduled to play their first game. Any team that practices on the sheet assigned to their team for game one (1) of the competition the day before the competition will forfeit Last Stone First End (LSFE) in their first game, and the sheet assignments for draw one (1) will be moved by the Chief Umpire. Instructions will be emailed to the entire team, including coaches. Dual events are considered one event (i.e. U18 Boy's may start a day earlier than the Girl's (based on entries), but the Girls' practice must take place prior to the Boys' event starting).
- b. Provincial Championships:
 - i. When pre-event practice is sanctioned, the schedule will be provided by Curling Alberta.
 - ii. The use of speed traps is permitted during the PRE-COMPETITION practice as long as it does not delay the practice schedule.

8. DRAW-MAKING

Draws will be created based on the formats stated in the specific category Appendices and the Provincial Berth Policy.

- a. Draws will be created and approved by Curling Alberta.
- b. The official draw and roster will be emailed to the entire team at least one (1) week prior to the start of the competition. The Host Committee and Chief Umpire will receive the official draw and roster at this time as well.
- c. The draw and roster will also be published on the Curling Alberta website three (3) days prior to the start of competition. If there are any delays due to unforeseen/unavoidable circumstances, Curling Alberta will advise affected teams of the reason for the delay and the estimated time of completion.
- d. The official draw, including draw times, is subject to change after being published. If any changes are made, teams and the Host Committee will be notified by email.
- e. The Chief Umpire will be responsible for allocating ice during the competition after the first draw (which will be assigned by Curling Alberta). This information will be posted publicly at the host club, and not on the online scoring. Any issues or concerns should be brought to the attention of the Chief Umpire, whose decision will be final and unappealable. Once the draw is posted at the host club, changes may be made by the Chief Umpire in consultation with the Qualifier/Championship Coordinator.

Although Curling Alberta will make every effort to follow this policy, publication deadlines may change due to unforeseen circumstances in which case, Curling Alberta will rectify the issue and publish the draw as soon as possible.

1.C. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL

Curling is based on a [code of ethics](#), good sportsmanship, and personal integrity. Players and coaches are expected to follow this tradition and the rules of the game throughout the competition.

All Provincial events will be played under the “Rules of Curling for Officiated Play” as specified in the latest edition of the rulebook published by Curling Canada (CC), including all subsequent rule changes and interpretations adopted by CC as of the start of the competition. “Rules of Curling for Officiated Play” may be supplemented by rules in this Competitors’ Guide and/or the related Appendix for a specific event.

2. OFFICIATING

Chief Umpire - The Chief Umpire shall be named by Curling Alberta and is responsible for rule enforcement and interpretation. During a competition, the Chief Umpire assumes responsibility to interpret and administer the Curling Alberta Competitors’ Guide, Appendices, Code of Conduct, and Disciplinary Policies as listed on the Curling Alberta website.

Timers – A Time Clock Operator may be assigned to each sheet of ice and is responsible for the timing of that game.

Officiating Provincial Championships are further defined in Section 2(B)(1).

3. EQUIPMENT

- a. All brush heads, including 'target' brooms, must be WCF compliant. It is the responsibility of the players and coaches to ensure compliance. Hair brooms and corn brooms are banned as sweeping devices. Visit the WCF website for the up-to-date code list, and for more details visit: <https://worldcurling.org/competitions/brushes/>
- b. Each person must declare their one (1) sweeping device that will be used for the entire game, and only that player may use that sweeping device. This declaration must take place prior to the first pre-game practice (brooms may be marked).
- c. **Broom checks will be done by the Chief Umpire and/or Game Umpires prior to ALL competitions, including Provincial Qualifiers to ensure broom handle, fabric, and broom foam compliance.**
- d. A player may only change a brush head during game play with approval from the Chief Umpire.
- e. A sweeping device broken during the game cannot be replaced, except at the sole discretion of the Chief Umpire.
- f. A substitute entering a game must use the sweeping device of the player they are replacing.
- g. All equipment is subject to random inspection.
- h. Equipment penalties:
 - i. If a player uses an illegal brush head, the game is forfeited AND:
 - For a 1st offense, the offending player is removed from the game and cannot continue in the specific competition - they cannot be replaced
 - For a 2nd or subsequent offense, the entire team is disqualified from the specific competition and suspended from any Curling Alberta competition for

365 days.

- ii. If a player uses another player's legal brush head, the stone is removed from play.
- i. Delivery sticks may be used in the Wheelchair, Curling Club Championship, and Masters Categories. Please reference Curling Canada Rule book page 22.17 for all rules for curling with delivery sticks.

1.D COMPETITION

The rules and procedures contained within this Section apply to all competitions except where amended within a specific Category Appendix.

1. ELIGIBILITY

Each player must meet all age, gender, policy, and residency/citizenship requirements, and must be a member of a Curling Alberta affiliated Curling Club, but not necessarily the same club (this includes free agents). Any team to be found with an ineligible member on a roster or on the ice will be disqualified and subject to further disciplinary action. Teams can participate in any one Provincial Qualifier per category.

It is the team's responsibility to cross reference Curling Canada's Residency and Eligibility Policy at <https://www.curling.ca/events/competitor-information/residency-exemption-application/> and Curler Age Eligibility at <https://www1.curling.ca/youthcurling/curler-age-eligibility/>

U15	Born January 1 st , 2012, or later. (Any combination of 4 male and female players and one coach per team.)
U15 Rockfest	Minimum age: Curlers must be 11 years of age as of December 31 st , 2026 (born 2015, 2014, 2013, or 2012.) Maximum age: 15 years of age as of December 31 st , 2026 (born January 1 st 2012, or later)
U18 Boys & Girls	17 years of age maximum on December 31 st , 2026, born January 1 st 2009*, or later. (4 male or 4 female players per team.)
U20	20 years of age maximum on June 30, 2026, born July 1, 2006, or later. (4 male or 4 female players and one coach per team). NOTE: No over-age players will be permitted.
U20 Mixed Doubles	20 years of age maximum on June 30, 2026, born July 1, 2005, or later (1 male and 1 female player and a coach per team)
Women's	No age restriction (4 female players per team)
Men's	No age restriction (4 male players per team)
Mixed	No Age Restriction (2 male and 2 female players per team, male and female must play in alternating positions)
Mixed Doubles	No Age Restriction (1 male and 1 female player per team)
Seniors	50 years of age or older as of June 30, 2027, born June 30, 1977, or earlier. (4 male or 4 female players per team)
Masters	60 years of age or older as of December 31, 2026, born December 31, 1966, or earlier. (4 male or 4 female players per team)
Wheelchair	No age restriction (any mixed gender combination of players)
Club Championship	A minimum of two (2) players must be a minimum of nineteen (19) years of age or over as of December 31 st immediately prior to the national championship

*Note: year updated after originally published

a. **1.1 Membership Requirement**

To be eligible to participate in any Curling Alberta sanctioned championship or qualifying competition, every athlete must be a member of a curling club in **Good Standing** of Curling Alberta.

Membership in Curling Alberta connects individual curlers, affiliated clubs, and the provincial sport organization in a shared commitment to growing and strengthening curling across Alberta. While affiliated clubs provide local opportunities to participate, the Curling Development Fee supports the provincial programs, competitions, athlete development, coaching, officiating, governance, and services that benefit curlers and clubs alike. Together, clubs and Curling Alberta provide a connected pathway that supports participation and competition for all ages, abilities, and disciplines—from grassroots and recreational curling through youth, adult, senior, wheelchair, mixed doubles, and provincial championships, to national, international, and Olympic competition.

1.2 Member in Good Standing

A **Member in Good Standing** is an individual who:

- a. Meets the definition of a **Regular Curler**, as adopted by Curling Alberta and aligned with Curling Canada participation definitions;
- b. Has paid the required **Curling Development Fee (CDF)** through a Curling Alberta affiliated curling club, curling centre, curling association, or other approved registration process;
- c. Is not under suspension or otherwise ineligible to participate in Curling Alberta sanctioned activities; and
- d. Meets any additional eligibility requirements established by Curling Alberta or Curling Canada for the applicable competition.

Payment of club membership fees, league fees, practice fees, rental fees, or any other fees charged by an affiliated curling club does not, on its own, establish membership with Curling Alberta. Membership in Curling Alberta is established through payment of the Curling Development Fee.

Individuals who hold a complimentary or lifetime membership with an affiliated curling club remain responsible for payment of the Curling Development Fee unless specifically exempted by Curling Alberta.

An individual may belong to more than one affiliated curling club but will only be recognized once as a Member of Curling Alberta.

1.3 Curler Participation Definitions *(Aligned with Curling Canada)*

Curling Alberta adopts the following participation definitions established by Curling Canada for the purposes of membership, participation reporting, and eligibility.

Regular Curler

A **Regular Curler** is an individual registered with a Member Club or Facility who participates in recognized curling activities **four (4) or more times** during a membership year (July 1 to June 30).

Participation may include:

- Regular league participation (standard or rental usage);

- Regular facility use for training or competition; or
- Other recognized curling activities.

Regular Curlers are required to pay the Curling Development Fee and, upon payment and while remaining in good standing, become Members of Curling Alberta.

Casual Curler

A **Casual Curler** is an individual who participates in programs, services, or recognized curling activities **up to three (3) times** during a membership year.

Examples include:

- Bonspiels or competitions (a multi-day event is considered one participation);
- Try Curling or Open House events;
- Private rentals; and
- School or youth group programs.

Casual Curlers are not considered Members of Curling Alberta unless they subsequently meet the definition of a Regular Curler and pay the required Curling Development Fee.

Regular Contributor

A **Regular Contributor** is an individual affiliated with or registered through a Member Club or Facility who is employed, contracted, or volunteers to support the delivery of recognized curling activities four (4) or more times during a membership year.

2. SAFE SPORT

Curling Alberta is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants. As part of this commitment, Curling Alberta has adopted the Alberta Safe Sport Complaint Mechanism (ABSSCM), and all participants and Curling Alberta stakeholders are subject to its policies and processes. All participants, and parents of participants under 18 are required to complete the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) Safe Sport Training and comply with the Safe Sport requirements outlined in Section 4 and in specific category appendices.

3. GAME DURATION

Game duration for Provincial Championships is further defined in Section 2(C)(1).

- a. Timing:
 - i. All games may be timed. Consult specific Appendices for details. The penalty for violation will be enforced as per the Curling Canada Rulebook. If games are NOT timed, the Umpire will enforce 'pace of play' per the rulebook to assist with keeping the games on schedule.
 - ii. The between-end breaks shall be to a maximum of 60 seconds.
 - iii. Where Curling Canada's Coach Interactions are in effect, timing may vary slightly, however it is the responsibility of the team to ensure the pace of play is maintained.
- b. Timeouts:
 - i. Every adult category that leads to a National Championship (excluding Masters)

may request one (1) timeout per game (unless using Coach Interactions. See Coach Interactions Documentation on the Curling Alberta website.

- ii. Each timeout will be 60 seconds in length and travel time may be added for the coach or alternate to access the playing area.
 - iii. The coach or alternate player of the team who requested the timeout may access the playing area adjacent to or at the end of the sheet but shall not access the playing surface.
 - iv. The team that did not request the timeout may communicate for the same amount of time as the coach who called the timeout, however, they must stay at the home end. They shall not cause any delay to the stone being delivered.
 - v. Umpires may call a timeout at any time. If a player is allowed to replay a stone, the time clock will not operate. When an end is replayed, the clock is reset to the time recorded at the completion of the previous end.
- c. Extra Ends:
- i. If extra ends are required, each team will be given one (1) timeout per extra end. Timeouts cannot be carried over. Consult specific Appendices for details.

4. SLOW PLAY

- a. Curling Canada Rules for General Play:
 - i. Delivery - Players shall be ready to deliver when their turn comes. Delay of a game in progress by a player for any reason (excluding accident or illness) shall not exceed three (3) minutes.
- b. Curling Canada Rules for Officiated Play:
 - i. Game Duration - that a team is unnecessarily delaying a game, the umpire notifies the skip of the offending team and, after that notification, if the next stone to be delivered has not reached the tee line at the delivering end within forty-five (45) seconds, the stone is removed from play immediately.

5. PRE-GAME PRACTICE

PRE-GAME PRACTICE – PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. Prior to the start of a game, teams are permitted a nine (9) minute practice with their stones.
- b. Speed traps are not permitted in pre-game practice.
- c. Pre-game practice will remain consistent for the entirety of the competition and will not change for playoffs.
- d. For Triple Knockout and Pool Play formats, a coin toss will determine stone colour OR practice session. First practice will begin 30 minutes before the draw.
- e. For full Round Robin competition formats, the team listed first (or on top) will be assigned dark-coloured handles and will begin practice 30 minutes before the draw. The team assigned light-coloured handles will begin their practice following the completion of the first practice and delivery of Last Stone Draw(s).
- f. Teams are allowed to throw an **unlimited number** of stones in all pregame practices.
- g. Practice sliding after completion of the practice is not permitted.
- h. Practice is not allowed after Round Robin games (including evenings), except as noted below.

- i. If a playoff team has a bye to the final game, they may access a 30-minute practice before and/or after the semi-final, depending on draw times.

Note: this time is not a practice or select rocks, it is an opportunity for curlers to stay loose with a prolonged time between games. Team(s) will not be utilizing the the rocks or sheet used in the final game. The scheduling decision of the Chief Umpire will be final.

PRE-GAME PRACTICE – PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS

- a. A coin toss will determine stone colour OR practice session. First practice will begin 30 minutes before the draw.
- b. Teams are allowed to throw an unlimited number of stones in all pregame practices.
- c. Practice sliding after completion of the practice is not permitted.

PRE-GAME PRACTICE – MIXED DOUBLES & U-20 MIXED DOUBLES

- a. Prior to the start of the game, teams are permitted a seven (7) minute pre-game practice.
- b. A coin toss will determine stone colour OR practice session. First practice will begin 20 minutes before the draw.
- c. Teams can throw all eight (8) stones in pre-game practice and then select five (5) stones to deliver for the game play. Teams may deliver an unlimited number of stones during their pre-game practice.
- d. The non-delivered stones or pre-positioned stones will be identified. Identifiers will be provided by the Chief Umpire

6. LAST STONE DRAW (LSD)

All Formats

- a. LSD's will be delivered toward the home end only.
- b. A maximum of one (1) minute will be given to deliver the LSD. Each player delivers a stone with a broom holder and full sweeping to the home end. Stones not delivered within the one (1) minute will be assigned a distance of 185.4 cm (or 199.6 cm if a laser is used).
- c. All stones finishing in the rings will be measured. Stones that do not finish in the rings are recorded as 185.4 cm (6 ft. 1 in) (or 199.6 cm if a laser is used).
- d. A stone that is moved by a team member, prior to the measure, will be assigned the distance of the next defined circle away from the button.
- e. Stones that finish so close to the center pin that they cannot be measured are recorded as 0.0 cm. If the measuring device can be placed in the pinhole but no measurement is possible, half the value of the lowest measurable distance will be used (except if triangulation measurements are done with a laser).
- f. The team with the lesser LSD distance has the choice of delivering the first or second stone in the first end. It is assumed that the team winning the LSD will want the last stone in the first end and therefore deliver second. If at any time, a team does not want the last stone if they win the LSD, they must inform the Umpire before the start of the first practice.
- g. The two least favorable (longest distances) will be eliminated from the team's final Draw Shot Challenge (DSC) total; the remaining LSD's for the team determine the

final team ranking (DSC).

- h. This final team ranking will be used for unresolvable ties in playoff scenarios (when head-to-head records result in a tie or ties).
- i. There may be a predefined per-player delivery requirement(s). Consult specific event Appendix.
- j. In the event a team covers the center pin hole or does not finish in the rings, then a second team member will be required to deliver a second stone. This format is only applicable when tape measures are being used. When laser measurers are used, the stones covering the center pin, triangulation will be used, if a stone does not finish in the rings, it will be measured at 199.6 (or 185.4 if tape measure is being used) and a second stone must be delivered for hammer. This scenario is only applicable to events where only one (1) last stone draw is being delivered (i.e. TKO). If your event requires multiple LSD's to be thrown to determine hammer, point C does not apply.
- k. Coaches and fifths are not allowed to stand on the ice during the delivery of the LSD. The opposing team should remain behind the glass or scoreboard until after the LSD has been delivered (applies to both practice sessions).
- l. If an alternate is used, they may deliver LSD(s) for the player they are replacing. Teams may use an Alternate player's LSD(s) for only one player.

Round Robin or Pool Play

- a. Last Stone Advantage in the first end will be decided by two (2) draws to the button following each team's pre-game practice. Teams must declare the players delivering the Last Stone Draws - specifying the turn for each - prior to the start of the first team practice and inform the Chief Umpire. Failure to do so will result in the assignment of the maximum distance.
- b. Coaches may NOT deliver stones in the pre-game practice.
- c. Speed traps are NOT permitted in pre-game practice.
- d. Each team's pre-game practice will be nine (9) minutes for four (4) player categories, and seven (7) minutes for two (2) player categories.
- e. First practice will commence 30 minutes prior to the posted draw time.
- f. 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.
- g. The first player will deliver the clockwise rotation while the second player will deliver the counterclockwise rotation. If a team delivers the wrong rotation, they receive a maximum distance of 185.4 cm (or 199.6 cm if a laser is used).

Knockout Play (Double/Triple Knockout)

- a. Last Stone Advantage (hammer) in the first end will be decided by one draw to the button following each team's pre-game practice.
- b. Teams with first practice will deliver the clockwise rotation, and teams that practice second will deliver the counterclockwise rotation.

7. PENALTIES AND RULE ENFORCEMENT

All competitions are played under these rules, those contained in category Appendices and the "Rules of Curling for Officiated Play" as specified in the latest edition of the

rulebook published by Curling Canada (CC), including all subsequent rule changes and interpretations adopted by Curling Canada or Curling Alberta as of the start of competition.

NOTE: THERE ARE NO WARNINGS FOR ANY INFRACTION UNLESS IT IS STATED IN THE RULEBOOK OR BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION BY THE CHIEF UMPIRE OR CURLING ALBERTA PRIOR TO THE START OF COMPETITION. THE CHIEF UMPIRE MAY SUSPEND A PLAYER OR COACH FROM PLAY.

SECTION 2: THIS SECTION REFERS ONLY TO PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. SECTION 1 SHOULD BE CONSULTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FOLLOWING.

2.A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. DRESS STANDARDS

Note that teams will not be allowed to compete at Provincial Championships unless they comply with the current Cresting Policy and sign the waiver on Curling IO. Refer to the Cresting Policy on the Curling Alberta website. Note, a **\$500 fine** may be issued for noncompliance. Curling Alberta and the Chief Umpire have the right to disqualify teams who do not conform to this policy.

A mandatory dress code applies to all players and coaches as described below. Curling Alberta will provide the final approval. Teams will be required to always wear matching outfits when on the ice, including all ceremonies and pre-event practice. On-ice outfits include:

- a. Matching jackets, sweaters, or vests. Hoods are no longer required to be concealed. A plain, black jacket can be used if a team cannot find a matching jacket;
- b. Name bars on the back of jackets are optional, and although discouraged, spares may wear a jacket with a mis-matched name bar;
- c. Shirts must match in colour if they are worn without a jacket. They do not have to be the same style, only the same 'like' colour(s);
- d. Pants of the same colour (with respect to Women's or Mixed team events, if one woman wears a kilt, all women on the team must wear a kilt of the same colour);
- e. Headwear may be worn if it matches the team uniform or is plain black. Headwear may display only one (1) logo on the front; that logo can be a sponsor, a curling club, or a curling association. It may not be embellished with pins. If baseball style hats are worn, peaks may be worn backwards. If more than one team member wears headgear, the items must be the same colour. Protective headgear is permitted, and team members do not require protective headgear to match.
- f. Coaches (including mentor coaches) must have identical team jacket/uniform or a black garment and comply with dress standards and cresting policies; see additional references to mentor coach requirements in Section 1(A)(7)(h).
- g. Coaches are permitted to wear a parka on the coach bench. Parkas must be removed when coaches enter the Field of Play for a Team Time Out. (Arena Events).
- h. Dress standards and Cresting Policies are strictly applied to alternate players.
- i. Jeans are not acceptable in the Field of Play in **any** category.

2. TEAM MEETINGS

Youth Categories

Unless otherwise stated, in-person team meetings will only be held for youth categories - U15, U18, U20, and U20 Mixed Doubles.

At least one (1) team member and coach (as listed on the roster) from each team must attend the meeting. If a team fails to attend as required, the team will be penalized with loss of [Last Stone First End \(LSFE\)](#) in their first game. At that time, any questions regarding officiating or rule interpretation should be presented for clarification. The competitors will be advised at this time of the level of officiating that they may expect at the event. In addition to this, the team meeting script will be emailed to each team, and the Chief Umpire will be available at least 30 minutes prior to the first game for any additional questions.

Adult Categories

A team meeting will no longer be held for adult categories, unless otherwise stated (Men's, Women's, Seniors, Masters, Mixed Doubles, Mixed, and Wheelchair). Instead, the team meeting script will be emailed directly to each registered team and will be posted at the competition site. It is the players' responsibility to ensure they read the Team Meeting document so they are familiar with the competition prior to the start of competition.

3. TEAM SPONSORSHIP

Curling Alberta has placed restrictions on the display of team sponsor and commercial messages on team uniforms to protect the value of its event properties. At the same time, Curling Alberta recognizes the importance of team sponsors and values their participation in the sport. Curling Alberta will review the prominence of team sponsors at Provincial Championships, and revisions will be reflected in this guide annually.

The following are commercial opportunities (and restrictions) available to teams entering a Provincial Championship. Contact the Curling Alberta office for further clarification.

- a. If a team sponsor is in conflict with an existing Curling Alberta category-exclusive sponsor, there shall be no commercial presentation of any kind within the host site. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Clothing;
 - Signs;
 - Products;
 - Equipment;
- b. If team sponsors do not conflict with an existing Curling Alberta category-exclusive sponsor, commercial representations must comply to the following:
 - i. No commercial representation of any kind will be allowed in the ice area, including but not limited to, signage or equipment (flexibility will be allowed for media interviews involving photographs and TV after games);
 - ii. Teams are not allowed to distribute or sell sponsor merchandise at Championship venues or the host hotel;
 - iii. Teams will be allowed to wear sponsor clothing in the off-ice area, including all areas of spectator seating;
 - iv. Signage - the maximum size will be 1 meter by 2.6 meters (3' x 8'). Teams are allowed unlimited, non-conflicting sponsors on their signage. All signs and/or pull-up banners must be professionally designed and produced;
 - v. Teams will be allowed to display a banner or hanging sign in a designated area; and; Host Committee will provide team sponsors recognition in the event program while working within event-specific budgetary and production limitations. Teams are to email team sponsors to the Championship Coordinator within

one (1) business day of receiving a Provincial berth. Sponsor recognition will occur in conjunction with the team photograph in the event program. If sponsor names are not received within this time, there is no guarantee that they will be included in the event program.

- vi. Teams/players eligible in the U18 category or younger cannot display advertising representing companies that are in the alcohol, cannabis, or tobacco industries.

4. TEAMS' FORMAL OBLIGATIONS

The entire team, including mandatory coaches (U15, U18, U20, and U20 Mixed Doubles), are required to RSVP their attendance for all event functions. Attendance is highly encouraged to pay respect to the Host Committee and sponsors. A member of each team may be called upon to speak or offer thanks to the Host Committee, event sponsors, volunteers and/or officials at different functions during the Championship. Your cooperation is expected as a show of sportsmanship. Failure to RSVP may result in disciplinary action.

5. MEDIA

Players are required to cooperate with the media and grant interviews when requested. Players must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner with the media at all times and recognize that the media can be a valuable instrument in positive sport marketing and promotion.

6. ALTERNATES, SUBSTITUTIONS & REPLACEMENTS

The Curling Alberta office must be notified of any changes to the roster by email, including the addition of an alternate, coach, or replacement. Refer to Section 1(B) for more information on alternates, substitutions, replacements, how to change rosters, and associated administrative fees.

2.B. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. OFFICIATING

In addition to the Chief Umpire and Timers, identified in Section 1(C)(2), Provincial Championships may see the addition of the following officials.

Game Umpires – The Game Umpire may be responsible for all game measurements and may accept any rule-related questions or refer the same to the Chief Umpire.

Game Observers (On-Ice Observers) may be positioned at the end of each sheet to monitor play and update the scoreboards. When Game Observers are not used, teams are responsible for posting their own scores, based on agreement between both teams at the conclusion of each end.

If two (2) stones are so close to the pin that a micrometer cannot be used, umpires will use a visual measurement to determine which stone is closer to the pin

2.C. COMPETITION

1. GAME DURATION

There are no minimum ends required in eight (8) end games.

In ten (10) end games, a minimum of five (5) ends must be played (unless otherwise stated and is dependent upon live streaming contract restrictions).

- a. In all playoffs, semifinal, and final games, a minimum of eight (8) ends must be played in a ten (10) end game (or as adjusted by a Chief Umpire, e.g. for streamed games).

2. PRE-COMPETITION PRACTICE

Prior to the start of a competition, when available and in conjunction with the host, Curling Alberta will sanction and schedule practice ice time for all teams, giving each team an equal amount of time on relevant sheets of ice. A schedule will be provided to all teams prior to the event.

3. STONE SELECTION

- a. When the colour of handle has been predetermined, the team assigned dark-handled stones practices first.
- b. When the handle colour is not predetermined, teams will conduct a coin toss and will select either a practice session OR the stone handle colour.
- c. Playoffs - see Playoff Stone Selection in Section 2(C)(6).

4. TIE BREAKERS

- a. Tie breaker games will no longer be played.
- b. Teams tied for a playoff position shall be ranked first by their head-to-head results and then by Draw Shot Challenge (DSC).
- c. Ties are not considered across pools and only 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).

5. PLAYOFFS

a. 8-Team Round Robin – 3 Team Playoffs

- i. **Better W/L record:** The team with the better W/L record will have LSFE (hammer) **and** choice of stone handle colour.
- ii. **Same W/L record:** If the win/loss records **are identical**, the winner of the RR game will have the choice of LSFE **or** stone handle colour.
- iii. **If DSC used:** If DSC has been used to determine ranking, then the higher ranked team based on DSC has choice of colour **or** practice. And LSD will be used to determine LSFE. Once DSC ranking is used, it is the only ranking factor and head-to-head results are not used.

b. 8 Team Round Robin – 4 team playoffs

- i. **Better W/L record:** The team with the better W/L record will have LSFE (hammer) **and** choice of stone handle colour.
- ii. **Same W/L record:** If the win/loss records **are identical**, the winner of the RR game will have the choice of LSFE **or** stone handle colour.

- iii. **If DSC used:** If DSC has been used to determine ranking, then the higher ranked team based on DSC has choice of colour **or** practice. And LSD will be used to determine LSFE. Once DSC ranking is used, it is the only ranking factor, and head-to-head results are not used.

c. **12 Team Triple Knockout – 4 Team Page Playoff (30-minute practice to A winner)**

- i. **Playoffs** - The two C Qualifiers will playoff using stones from the assigned sheet. They will conduct a coin toss for practice **or** stone handle colour. LSD will determine LSFE. The winner advances to the semi-final; the loser is eliminated.

The A and B Qualifiers will playoff using stones from the assigned sheet. The A Qualifier will have **both** LSFE and stone handle colour and will have first practice. The winner advances to the Championship final and the loser drops to the semi-final.

- ii. **Semi Final** - The loser of the A/B game will have LSFE, stone handle colour, and first practice. Stones may be selected from all 4 sheets.
- iii. **Final** - If the A Qualifier wins the A/B game, they will have **both** LSFE and stone handle colour.

If the B Qualifier wins the A/B game and plays the A Qualifier in the final, the B Qualifier will have **choice** of LSFE **or** stone handle colour.

If the B Qualifier plays a C Qualifier in the final, the B Qualifier will have **both** LSFE **and** stone handle colour.

d. **32 Team Triple Knockout – 8 Team Single Elimination Playoff (30-minute practice to A winner)**

Playoffs: Teams are ranked by the event they qualify from, and the higher ranked team will have **choice** of LSFE **or** stone handle colour. The team with LSFE will have first practice. If teams qualified from the same event, teams will conduct a coin toss to determine stone colour **or** practice session. LSD will be delivered to determine LSFE.

e. **Triple Knockout – 6 Team Single Elimination Playoff (30-minute practice to A winner)**

Playoffs: Teams are ranked by the event they qualify from, and the higher ranked team will have **choice** of LSFE **or** stone handle colour. The team with LSFE will have first practice. If teams qualified from the same event. teams will conduct a coin toss to determine stone colour **or** practice session. LSD will be delivered to determine LSFE.

f. **Pool Play**

- i. If two (2) teams are tied for first place in their pool, the winner of the RR game will determine 1st place.
- ii. If three (3) teams are tied for first place in their pool, head-to-head results will be used first. If one team beats the other two teams, they will be awarded 1st place. The head-to-head ranking of the remaining two teams will be used to determine 2nd and 3rd place.
- iii. If three (3) teams are tied for 1st place in their pool and they all beat each other, DSC will be used to determine ranking. The team with the lesser (best) DSC will be placed

in 1st place, the next best DSC 2nd place and the 3rd best DSC will be in 3rd place.

iv. When teams are from the **same pool**:

- If a team has a better W/L record, they will receive **both** LSFE and choice of stone colour in the playoffs.
- If teams have the same W/L record, the team that won the Round Robin game will have **choice** of LSFE **or** stone colour.
- If teams have the same W/L record and the DSC was used to rank teams, the team ranked higher will have **choice** of stone colour **or** practice session and LSD will be delivered to determine LSFE. Once DSC ranking is used, it is the only ranking factor, and head-to-head results are not used.

v. When teams are **not from the same pool**:

- If a team has a better W/L record they will receive **both** LSFE and stone colour.
- If teams have the same W/L record, and the DSC was used to rank teams, the team ranked higher will have **choice** of stone colour or practice session and LSD will be delivered to determine LSFE.

6. PLAYOFF STONE SELECTION

- a. In Mixed Doubles competition, stones are used from the assigned game sheet.
- b. In all other events, immediately following the final Round Robin or Triple Knockout Qualifier, teams must provide stone handle colour to the Chief Umpire within 15 minutes. Teams will then provide the Chief Umpire with a list of eight selected stones (if competition allows) 60 minutes prior to the game they are going to play. The Chief Umpire will assign stones in the event of non-compliance.
- c. Stone selection session is 15 minutes and teams may only use the colour they've chosen for the next game. This session is NOT on the Championship sheet.

Dual events (unless otherwise stated):

- a. If an 8-sheet facility is used, Men may choose stones from sheets 1 – 4 (A-D) and Women from sheets 5 – 8 (E-H).
- b. If a 6-sheet facility is used, Men may choose stones from sheets 1 – 3 (A-C) and Women from sheets 4 – 6 (D-F). (Subject to change as outlined prior to competition by a Chief Umpire)

SECTION 3: NATIONAL CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. TEAM DECLARATION

The winner of the Provincial Championship will be given 36 hours to accept their right to represent Alberta at their respective National Curling Championships, unless they are deemed ineligible. These representatives choose to represent Alberta at these championships knowing the associated costs (travel, accommodation, meals, etc.) are the responsibility of the team. These Champions, or the replacement team, become a Provincial team representing Alberta, rather than representing their local club. National event paperwork must be completed immediately following the closing ceremonies.

Should the Provincial Champions decline their berth to their respective National Curling Championship, Curling Alberta will apply its discretion when naming replacement teams. However, it will utilize the following guidelines to apply consistent logic.

1. The runner-up at the provincial championship will advance in their place.
2. If the runner-up declines, the team that finished in the next best placing at the provincial championships will advance in their place.
 - a. If there is a tie in placing (i.e. two semi-finalists), the team that was ranked higher moving into the playoff round would be next in line for advancement.

2. DRUG TESTING AND ANTI-DOPING PROGRAM

Athletes proceeding to a National Championship are reminded that mandatory drug testing may occur. Athletes must be aware that random drug testing may occur at Provincial Qualifiers and Provincial Championships. See Section 3 for more information. To identify what substances and recreational drugs are prohibited, please go to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport at <https://cces.ca/>. For more information, refer to Curling Canada's Website: <https://www.curling.ca/events/competitor-information/canadian-anti-doping-program>

3. CURLING CANADA'S RESIDENCY POLICY

It is the team's responsibility to reference Curling Canada's Residency and Eligibility Policy. Visit the Curling Canada website to view the policy:
<https://www.curling.ca/events/competitor-information/residency-exemption-application/>

SECTION 4: CURLING ALBERTA SAFE SPORT POLICY

4.1 Commitment to Safe Sport

Curling Alberta is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants. Safe Sport is a shared responsibility and is fundamental to creating positive experiences for athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators, and all members of the curling community.

Participation in Curling Alberta sanctioned events is conditional upon compliance with Curling Alberta's Safe Sport policies, procedures, education requirements, and participant declarations.

4.2 Safe Sport Requirements

As a condition of participation in Curling Alberta sanctioned competitions, participants must:

- a. Complete all required Safe Sport education and training applicable to their role, including the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) Safe Sport Training where required and when noted in the category specific appendix;
- b. Complete all required registration declarations, waivers, and participant agreements, including acknowledgement of and agreement to be bound by the Alberta Safe Sport Complaint Mechanism (ABSSCM), the Alberta Universal Code of Conduct (AB UCC), and other applicable Curling Alberta policies;
- c. Comply with Curling Alberta's Safe Sport Policy and all applicable Safe Sport requirements throughout the competition season; and
- d. Meet any additional Safe Sport requirements established by Curling Alberta, Curling Canada, or applicable legislation.

Failure to satisfy these requirements may result in an individual being deemed ineligible to participate until the requirements have been fulfilled.

4.3 Athletes Under the Age of Majority

Where required by Curling Alberta, a parent or legal guardian of a participant under the age of majority must complete all required participant declarations, waivers, acknowledgements, and Safe Sport requirements before the athlete is eligible to participate.

4.4 Additional Information

Safe Sport requirements may vary depending on an individual's role within curling (e.g., athlete, coach, official, volunteer, board member, or club representative). Participants are responsible for ensuring they have completed all applicable education, certifications, declarations, and acknowledgements prior to participation.

Current Safe Sport requirements and resources are available on the Curling Alberta website.

The most current Safe Sport requirements, education modules, participant declarations, and related policies are available at www.curlingalberta.ca/safe-sport. Where there is any inconsistency between this Guide and the Curling Alberta Safe Sport Policy, the Safe Sport Policy shall prevail.

SECTION 5: CURLING ALBERTA CHAMPIONSHIPS CODE OF CONDUCT

Refer to Curling Alberta's Code of Conduct in the Curling Alberta Policy Manual. The latest version of the Policy Manual can be found on the Curling Alberta website:
<http://www.curlingalberta.ca/competitions/competitors-guide-policies/>

SECTION 6: CURLING ALBERTA DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE POLICY

Refer to Curling Alberta's Discipline and Complaints Policy and Event Discipline Procedure in the Curling Alberta Policy Manual. The latest version of the Policy Manual can be found on the Curling Alberta website:
<http://www.curlingalberta.ca/competitions/competitors-guide-policies/>