

Competitor's Guide

for Provincial Championships



**2017 - 2018
CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON**

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2017/2018

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JURISDICTION

The Provincial Curling Championships governed by the Alberta Curling Federation are:

Women's Curling Championship
Men's Curling Championship
Mixed Curling Championship
Mixed Doubles Championship
Junior Men's and Junior Women's Curling Championship
Senior Men's and Senior Women's Curling Championship
Master Men's and Master Women's Curling Championship
Under 18 Men's and Under 18 Women's Curling Championship
Wheelchair Curling Championship
Travelers Curling Club Championship

The Alberta Curling Federation (ACF) has the authority to make decisions, as it considers necessary, to handle any situation not covered by the rules. This includes the authority to amend rules where emergency situations during competition so warrant.

LINES OF COMMAND

The ACF is the policy decision forum for Provincial Championships. ACF Board of Directors are from each of the three Regional Associations in the Province of Alberta (and Northeastern British Columbia). All matters that are of concern to a Host Committee should be directed to the ACF Championships Coordinator or Executive Director.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have just achieved a major accomplishment in the sport of curling; you are one step away from a National Championship. You are soon to enjoy the thrill and privilege of playing in the Provincial Championship.

There are many things you will need to know about between now and the time the Provincial Championship begins. This guide has been prepared to answer many of the questions you may have.

This guide has been prepared in four sections:

GENERAL INFORMATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS
NATIONAL CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS
APPENDICES

The Championship will be played under the “Rules 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 for Officiated Play” may be supplemented by rules in this Competitors Guide for a specific event.

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The sponsors of curling contribute substantially to the sport. There are currently many different sponsors at the national, provincial, regional, local and team levels. In addition, federal, provincial and local governments provide funds and funding opportunities to CC, ACF, Regional Associations and Clubs.

Our sponsorship agreements are continually evolving to meet both the needs of the sport and those of the sponsors. As curlers we ask that you recognize the importance of the support curling receives from sponsors and governments. Without the contributions of our corporate and government sponsors, the quality of our Provincial Championships would be greatly diminished.

Below is a list of our current national and provincial sponsors (current at time of publication):

Alberta Sport Connection	Jiffy Lube (exclusivity)
Best Western Hotels (exclusivity)	Kruger Products (exclusivity)
Boston Pizza (exclusivity)	Optimist Clubs of Alberta
Highwood Distillers (exclusivity)	SportsNet (exclusivity)
Jet Ice	Travelers
Runback	

GENERAL INFORMATION

Meals

You are responsible for your own meals. The Host Committee will advise you of any functions provided (i.e. banquet, brunch, etc.).

Accommodation

The Provincial Host Committee will provide you with hotel and booking details. Ensure you take note of the booking deadline and reserve your room as soon as possible.

Dress Standards - Team Sponsorship

Mandatory Dress code applies to ALL players AND coaches. Your team will be required to wear a matching outfit at all times when you are on the ice, including all ceremonies.

Your on-ice outfits includes:

- ♣ Matching jackets, sweaters or vests
- ♣ Shirts must be matching in color if they are worn without a jacket
 - If 2 or more players are only wearing a shirt, they MUST be matching in color
- ♣ Pants must be the same color
 - In women or mixed team events, if one woman wears a kilt all women on the team must wear a kilt of the same color
- ♣ Hats must be worn peak forward at all times and may only have Regional Association logo or Provincial Association logo or Member Curling Club logo or NO logo. It is not required that each member of a team wear a hat if the others do, however, all hats worn MUST be the same; baseball cap style only, no toques. Protective Head gear is allowed and team members are not required to match.
- ♣ Coaches (including mentor coaches) must have an exact matching garment OR a black garment with all ACF required cresting to be allowed ice access
- ♣ Partner logos are NOT allowed on pants/kilts/skirts

The ACF and Regional Associations team cresting policy became effective for the 2015/16 Championship Season. Details are as follows:

- ♣ Teams must honor title and presenting exclusivity (plus distillery category in Men's and Women's)
- ♣ Top 40% of chest, plus shoulders, collar and nape of the neck are OFF LIMITS
- ♣ No team cresting on pants or skirts

Teams are now allowed the following in relation to their sponsors logos:

- ♣ Team sponsors on brooms (exclusivity still applies); player names acceptable
- ♣ Unlimited team sponsor crest/logos on sleeves and back (must be below the shoulders/collar/nape of the neck); no restriction on number or size
- ♣ Team sponsor crests/logos allowed on bottom 60% of front of shirt or jacket (measured from shoulder tip to bottom of the jacket)
- ♣ Numbers are allowed

Teams will not be allowed to compete at Provincial Championships unless the entire team (including coaches) complies with the cresting policy.

The Chief Umpire of a provincial event, along with the Alberta Curling Federation has the right to disqualify teams who do not conform to the cresting policy.

See ACF Cresting Policy for cresting format and diagrams.

The ACF has placed restrictions on the display of team sponsor commercial messages on team uniforms (as stated above) to protect the value of event properties. This decision recognizes that Provincial Championships are funded by dollars received from the whole curling community. The ACF recognizes the importance of team sponsors and values their participation in the sport. The ACF will review on an ongoing basis the treatment of team sponsors at Provincial Championships and revisions will be reflected in this guide annually.

What follows is the allowable commercial inventory (and restrictions) available to teams entering a Provincial Championship:

In case of a team sponsor that **is in conflict** with a category exclusivity agreement of an existing ACF sponsor (please see Sponsors and Supporters section, or contact ACF office if clarification is required):

- No commercial presentation of any kind **within the host site**. This includes, but is not limited to: clothing, signs, products, brochures and equipment.

In the case of team sponsors that **do not conflict** with a category exclusivity agreement of an existing ACF sponsor, commercial representations will be restricted in the following manner:

- No commercial representation of any kind 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).
- Teams will be allowed to wear sponsor clothing in the off-ice area including spectator seating.
- Signage - the maximum size will be 1 meter and 2.6 meters (3' x 8'). All signs and/or pull-up banners must be professionally designed and produced.
- Host committees will provide team sponsors recognition in the event program while working within event specific budgetary and production limitations. Sponsor recognition will occur in conjunction with the team photograph in the event program.

NOTE: Team name on all draws will be the last name of the skip. Teams are not allowed to distribute or sell merchandise at championship venues or host hotel. Teams will be allowed to display a banner or hanging sign in a designated area. You are allowed unlimited sponsors on your signage.

Team's Formal Obligations – includes ceremonies and event social(s)

The entire team must attend and are encouraged to participate. If teams do not attend these functions, loss of hammer for the entire event (includes playoffs) will result and, no subsidy allowance will be awarded. A member of each team may be called upon to offer special thanks to the Host Committee, the Sponsor and the ACF at different functions during the championship

Conduct

Provincial Championships are the showcases of curling in Alberta and are viewed by many spectators and the media. Players are required to conduct themselves on and off the ice in an appropriate manner. The Chief Umpire may intervene at any time, in any game, if a team, player or coach is displaying questionable behavior or using abusive language. Competitors agree to abide by the ACF Code of Conduct policy.

Electronic Devices

No electronic devices of any type (cell phones, iPods, smartwatches, etc.) are allowed in the playing area. Coaches &/or players are not allowed to videotape or livestream games or practice sessions at a Provincial Championship. Coaches are not permitted to use cellphones or laser pointers.

Media

Players are required to co-operate with the media and grant interviews when requested. Remember, there is no such thing as an “off the record” comment.

Team Meeting

All competitors and coaches will attend a meeting with the Chief Umpire as outlined in the official schedule of events. At that time, any questions you have regarding officiating or rule interpretation should be presented to the Chief Umpire for clarification. The competitors will be advised at this time of the level of officiating that they may expect at the Championship.

Coaches (All coaches must be at least 21 years of age)

Coaches must be a Certified Competition Coach. Coaches are allowed to coach only one team at the same Provincial Championship (example a coach cannot coach both a junior boys and junior girls team at a Provincial Championship). A coach who coaches multiple teams in different categories would be allowed to coach both teams providing there is no conflict in Provincial Championship dates. (Example an individual may coach both a Junior team and a Women's team.)

A Coach who is in the process of earning their certification, but will not be certified by the time of the Provincial Championship, will be allowed to apply for a ONE-TIME exemption of the coaching requirements, **provided** a Certified Competition Coach accompanies them. This Certified Competition Coach **MUST** be onsite for the duration of the event. This aligns with the Curling Canada rules allowing one-time only per person. Example, if Mr. Smith coaches in 2017-2018 and does not have his Competition Coach Evaluation completed he may apply for an exemption. If Mr. Smith coaches in 2018-2019 he must have completed his Competition Coach Evaluation as a second exemption would not be granted.

NOTE: Coaches **MUST** follow the same dress code and cresting guidelines as outlined in this guide (if provided, coaches must wear association/event sponsor crests to access ice surface). **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS ALLOWED.** In the instance where a coach is being mentored, one coach must follow the dress standards as outlined and the second coach must wear clothing of a similar color or all black. Seating will be provided for all coaches as outlined at the team meeting. **Coaches will not be allowed to reserve or use seating other than what has been designated.**

Substitution

When a participating team has been confirmed for a Provincial Championship, if a team member encounters a situation where they will be absent from a Championship (meeting the criteria as detailed below), the team will have the option of starting the competition with three players and having equitable access to the spare pool for the entire event. If a team plays the entire competition using the provided spare pool they will retain the right to name their permanent player for Nationals at the end of the competition, in the event they qualify for that Championship. If a team wishes to name a permanent replacement (as approved by the ACF) this replacement may join the team at any time during the competition. This permanent replacement CANNOT come from the spare pool provided by the Host Committee.

Circumstances that allow for a replacement prior to a competition or for a team to access the spare pool during a competition are as follows:

- Illness (letter from Doctor required)
- Injury (letter from Doctor required)
- Death or serious illness in the family
- Birth of a child
- Jury Duty
- Presence in a judicial matter, as required by law
- School examinations
- Employment commitments

Vacation **will not** be considered an acceptable reason for not participating in a provincial event. In the event a team from a regional association is unable to participate as a unit at the Provincial Championship for reasons deemed unacceptable (e.g. vacation) the entire team will be disqualified and the regional association will be able to name a replacement team as they see fit.

In the event that, after the start of competition one or two players on a team are unable to continue to play due to illness or other extenuating circumstances as deemed reasonable by the Chief Umpire, a temporary substitute or substitutes may be used. (Teams **MUST** have a minimum of two original team members participate in each game – otherwise the game(s) will be forfeited)

The skip or coach may select a substitute from the provided spare pool (a different substitute is allowed for each game). In the event more than one team requires access to the spare pool in any draw the order of selection will be drawn by choosing numbers from a hat.

Practice sessions for substitutes will be set up to allow coaches and teams the opportunity to view their skills. Substitutes should have bios available. All substitute(s) must meet the age requirement, be affiliated with a Member Club and must **not** have competed in the **current level** of the particular Championship. If a substitute(s) is used, the substitute may play any position. The substitute(s) shall deliver stones in each end.

MIXED TEAM the substitute(s) shall be the same gender as the missing player and play either position appropriate for their gender.

MIXED DOUBLES are not permitted a substitute and therefore would be disqualified if the original 2 players were unable to compete.

If a substitute is required after a game has started the substitute will be given 60 seconds to complete a warm up, including 2 practice slides.

The ACF rules stipulate that teams competing at a provincial level sign a waiver form **agreeing to represent Alberta at the subsequent National Championship if successful at the provincial level**. Players will not be given the opportunity of replacing team members for a national event unless the replacement is due to medical, family or other extenuating circumstances approved by the ACF Championship Committee. If a team member chooses to compete in another playdown or competition with a conflicting date (with the exception of representing Canada at the Olympics), the entire team will be disqualified and the runners up will be sent to the National Championship. For clarity, any player representing Canada at the Olympics, with a conflicting date, will be ineligible to compete at Provincials, however their whole team will not be disqualified. In the event a replacement request is approved, the substitute must be a member in good standing of a Member Club and not competing in a playdown or event with conflicting dates.

Should the team choose to play at the Provincial level with three players, the first two players shall deliver three stones each end – no additional sweepers are allowed. **For Mixed play, a substitute must be used.**

Drug Testing

Athletes must be aware that random Drug Testing may occur at Provincial Championships. It should also be noted that testing for banned substances does occur at National Championships. A list of banned substances may be obtained from the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport at 1-800-672-7775.

RULES AND REGULATIONS**General**

Curling is based on a code of ethics, good sportsmanship and personal integrity. You are expected to follow this tradition and the rules of the game throughout the competition.

Umpires

Chief Umpire - The Chief Umpire shall be approved by the ACF and is responsible for rule enforcement and interpretation in all areas covered by the CC Rules of Curling for Officiated Play the ACF Hosting and Competitor Guides and the ACF Championship Code of Conduct Policy.

Game Umpires – A Game Umpire is positioned at each end of the arena and for the most part is the immediate line of communication between the umpires and the players. The Game Umpire will be responsible for all measures, if so indicated at the team meeting with the Chief Umpire.

Hog-line Umpires for playoffs only - A total of four (4) will be used (one positioned on each side of each hog line) and are responsible for ensuring all stones have been delivered in accordance with the current CC rules.

Other Umpires

Game Observers (On-ice Observers) – If used, the game observers are positioned at the end of each sheet of the ice for the main purpose of observing all play.

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

Equipment (Travelers, under review)

All brush heads **MUST be WCF compliant**. It is the responsibility of the players and coaches to ensure compliancy. Each person must declare their **one (1) sweeping device** that will be used for the entire game. ONLY that player may use that sweeping device. This declaration must take place prior to the first pre-game practice. Hair brooms and corn brooms are banned as a sweeping device. A player may not change a brush head during a game without approval from the Chief Umpire. A substitute entering a game MUST use the sweeping device of the player they are replacing.

COMPETITION

Eligibility

Each player must be a member of an affiliated curling club but not necessarily the same club. Each club must be must be affiliated with the Regional Association they represent – with the exception of Wheelchair)

Men	No Age Restriction (4 male players/team)
Women	No Age Restriction (4 female players/team)
Seniors	50 years of age as of & including June 30, 2017 (4 male or 4 female players/team)
Masters	60 years of age as of December 31, 2017 (4 male or 4 female players/team)
Mixed	No Age Restriction (2 male and 2 female players/team, male and female must play in alternate positions)
Mixed Doubles	No Age Restriction (1 male and 1 female players/team)
Juniors	20 years or under as of June 30, 2017 (4 male or 4 female players and a coach/team)
Under 18	17 years or under as of June 30, 2017 (4 male or 4 female players and a coach/team)
Wheelchair	No Age Restriction (male and female players on-ice for all games)
Travelers	19 years or older as of November 1, 2017 (4 male or female players/team)

Game Duration

All games will be timed (with the exception of Masters and Travelers) and the penalty for violation will be enforced as per the Curling Canada Rulebook.

10 end games are 38 minutes thinking time

8 end games are 30 minutes thinking time (exceptions: Mixed Doubles, Wheelchair)

Game Time-outs - Each team may request two (2) timeouts per game. The timeout will be 90 seconds in length and will include any travel time for the coach or alternate to access the playing area. The coach or alternate player 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. 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

Extra Ends - Thinking time allotted to each team to complete each extra end shall be 4 minutes 30 seconds. If extra ends are required, each team will be given one (1) timeout per extra end. Timeouts cannot be carried over.

The between-end break for all ACF competitions shall be to a **maximum of 60 seconds** when the first stone of the end crosses the nearer tee line. In the event of a televised game – teams will be informed of between-end breaks and fifth-end breaks.

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.

Minimum Length of Game

In ten (10) end games, a minimum of five (5) ends must be played.

In eight (8) end games a minimum of four (4) ends must be played.

All playoff, semifinal and final games will be a minimum of six (6) ends.

Pre-Competition Practice

Prior to the start of the competition, the host committee will schedule ice time for all teams in the competition, giving each team equal time on each sheet of ice.

Pre-Game Practice

Prior to the start of a game, teams are permitted a 10 minute practice with their color stones.

For non-round robin competition format, a flip of the coin will determine stone colour or who practices first (U-18, Mixed Doubles, Men's and Women's). The team assigned dark colored handles will begin practice 30 minutes before the draw. The team assigned light colored handles will begin their practice 20 minutes before the draw.

Pregame practice will consist of a team delivering a maximum of 8 stones up and all 8 stones back during a 10 minute practice. Each stone is delivered twice only.

Teams are allowed a one (1) minute warm-up and then must begin throwing stones. Practice sliding after completion of the practice is not permitted. After the second practice, the ice will be cleaned (will be confirmed at the team meeting). Practice is not allowed after round robin games (including evenings). Any team competing in the playoff round which has a bye to a final game, may access a 30-minute practice before and/or after the semi-final, dependent on draw times and tiebreaker scenarios. – The decision of the Chief Umpire will be final.

Last Stone Draw (LSD) (excluding Masters)

For each (non-play off) game Last Stone advantage (Hammer) in the first end will be decided by a draw to the button following each team's ten (10) minute pre-game practice (a maximum of one minute will be given to deliver the LSD). One player delivers a stone with a broom holder and full sweeping to the tee at the home end.

The team with the lesser LSD distance has the choice of delivering 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 there is any time that a team does not want the last stone if they win the LSD, then they must inform the Game Umpire before the start of the first practice.

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).

Stones that finish so close to the tee 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 measureable distance will be used.

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 measurable stone. The second stone will be used for LSD (hammer) purposes only (if needed) and the first stone measurement will be used for the team's cumulative total for ranking purposes (Draw Shot Challenge DSC).

Each team member may deliver a maximum of two (2) LSDs during the games prior to playoffs. The six (6) best LSDs for the team will be used for the final team ranking, [(Draw Shot Challenge

(DSC)] with the least favorable (longest distance), being eliminated from the team's final total.

This final team ranking will be used for unresolvable ties in playoff scenarios (when head to head records result in a tie or ties).

First practice teams (dark stones) deliver the LSD stone in the clockwise rotation and the second practice teams(light stones) deliver the LSD stone in the counterclockwise rotation.

A draw to the button for the last stone advantage 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.

Stones not delivered within the one (1) minute will be assigned a distance off 185.4 cm (the stone must reach the nearer tee-line before time expires).

Coaches and fifths are not allowed to stand on the ice during the delivery of the LSD.

LSD will be delivered towards the home end only.

STONE SELECTION (excluding Men's and Women's)

Round Robin – the color of handle will be predetermined. The team listed on top in the draw delivers dark handled stones and practices first.

Tie-Breakers – only the stones on the assigned sheet are used.

Playoffs - please see Playoff Stone Selection section (next page)

TEAMS TIED AFTER ROUND ROBIN PLAY

Teams that complete the round robin with identical win/loss records are considered to be tied.

Teams tied for a playoff position can only be eliminated from the playoffs by playing a tiebreaker game.

Tiebreaker games will only be played to determine the final playoff positions.

Teams tied for a playoff position shall be ranked by first considering the round robin win/loss records of those teams against each other. If more than two teams are involved, and this process establishes a higher and/or lower ranked team(s), it will then be repeated to rank the remaining teams. When teams cannot be ranked by their win/loss records, the ranking shall be determined by the Draw Shot Challenge (lowest cumulative last stone draws).

TIEBREAKER GAMES

Following the ranking process described in C above, the Chief Umpire shall decide the tie-breaking games as required. In doing so, the procedures shall follow those used for National competitions.

The Chief Umpire shall ensure the tie-breaking competition has equity as to practice time, stones used and the sheet assigned.

If there is a four-way tie for third place, or second and third place, this will result in two tie-breaking games. The teams will be ranked using the process described in C above, and the two games will be Team 1 vs. Team 4, and Team 2 vs. Team 3.

Teams ranked higher will have a choice of stone color or practice and a draw to the button will determine hammer using the same procedure as pre game practice.

PLAYOFFS (excluding Men, Women & U-18)

The top three (3) teams will participate in a playoff round.

Round robin competition will have a sudden death elimination draw with the first place team advancing to the final; and the second and third placed teams playing in a semi-final with the winner advancing to play the first place team for the championship.

A four-way tie for first place will result in two semis. The teams will be ranked using the process

described above, and the two games will be Team 1 vs. Team 4, and Team 2 vs. Team 3. Should this scenario occur, there will be NO STONE SELECTION for the semi-finals. Teams will use the stones on the sheets the semi-finals are assigned to. Stone selection will be allowed for the final game. Team with the highest ranking will have first choice of stone color.

A five-way tie for 1st place will see the 4th and 5th ranked teams play in a tiebreaker game. The winner of the tiebreaker will play the first ranked team in one semi-final with the 2nd and 3rd ranked teams playing in another semi-final. The winners of the semi-final games will play in the final. Stone selection process will be the same as a four-way tie for first place.

In the event of a five-way tie for 2nd, the 4th and 5th ranked teams play in a tiebreaker game with the winner playing the #1 ranked team in the 1st quarterfinal and the 2nd and 3rd ranked teams will compete in the 2nd quarterfinal.

In the event of a five way tie for 3rd place the schedule will be as followed: Saturday afternoon – 4 vs 5
Saturday night – Winner 4/5 vs 1 and 2 vs 3 (no stone selection process permitted)

Sunday 8:30 AM – Saturday evening winners (no stone selection process permitted)

Sunday 11:45 AM – Sunday 8:30 AM winner vs 2nd place (2nd place has first choice of stone color)

Sunday 3:00 PM – 1st Place vs semifinal winner (1st place has first choice of stone color)

PLAYOFF STONE SELECTION

Stone selection shall take place at the discretion of the Chief Umpire, within one (1) hour after the final round robin or tiebreaker games. For subsequent games, selection for the next draw will take place immediately following the draw at hand.

During each selection phase, the team having first choice of stones shall select eight stones from the eligible sheets (no handles will be changed), and their opponent will select eight stones of the opposite color from the eligible sheets. Each team will be permitted 15 minutes to make their selection. Failure to comply will result in the Chief Umpire assigning a set of stones. Teams will also select one reserve stone to be used in the event a stone must be removed from play during a game.

If a team has a clear **better** W/L record they will receive **both** hammer and choice of stones in the playoffs.

Dual events (Seniors, Juniors, Under 18 and Masters); men will choose stones from sheets 1 – 4 (A-D) and women from sheets 5 – 8 (E-H). If a 6-sheet draw is used, men will choose stones from sheets 1 – 3 (A-C) and women from sheets 4 – 6 (D-F). (May change as outlined prior to competition by Chief Umpire)

PENALTIES AND RULE ENFORCEMENT

Provincial Championships are played under these rules and the “Rules 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 playdown competition.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THERE ARE NO WARNINGS FOR ANY INFRACTION UNLESS IT IS STATED IN THE RULEBOOK OR BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION BY THE CHIEF UMPIRE PRIOR TO THE START OF COMPETITION. THE CHIEF UMPIRE MAY SUSPEND A PLAYER OR COACH FROM PLAY IF NOT ADHERED TO.

NATIONAL CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The winner of the Provincial Championship (exception: Masters) will represent Alberta at the National Curling Championships as sanctioned by the Curling Canada (CC). All teams participating in the national championships lose their identity as a club team or representative of any regional association and become a provincial team representing Alberta. National event paperwork **MUST** be completed **IMMEDIATELY** following the closing ceremonies.

Drug Testing

Athletes proceeding to a National Championship must be aware that mandatory drug testing may occur. **To identify what substances and recreational drugs are prohibited, please go to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport at www.cces.ca.**

ACF CHAMPIONSHIPS CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the policy of the Alberta Curling Federation to expect that every competitor and coach conduct himself or herself in a manner that respects the ACF, other Competitors, Competition Sponsors, Umpires, the Host Committee and Curling Fans.

1. DEFINITIONS

- a) **ACF** – Alberta Curling Federation including its Board of Directors, Championship Liaison Representatives, Staff, Umpires and any other appointed representatives.
- b) **Competitor** – Any person (athlete or coach) who is participating in, or who has participated as a member of any team in any competition or event sponsored, promoted, endorsed or supported by the ACF.
- c) **Decision** – Any decision or rule interpretation made, or disciplinary measure taken, by the ACF.
- d) **Competition** – Any Provincial Championship promoted, endorsed or supported by the ACF. A competition shall include the timeframe covered from departure to the competition through to and including arrival at home from the endorsed event.

2. OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS AND COACHES

Each Competitor shall comply with all reasonable directions and instructions given to them (including the current Competitors Guide) by the ACF, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, each competitor is obligated to:

- a) avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to reflect adversely upon the ACF and its athletes, teams, coaches, umpires, employees, officers, directors, members or sponsors and to conduct themselves in a manner which will bring credit to the ACF;
- b) rely upon and utilize the appeal procedures established hereunder to resolve any issues, rulings, complaints or conflicts that may arise during any competition and to exhaust all such appeal procedures before making public any disputed issues, rulings, complaints or conflicts;
- c) avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to significantly disrupt or interfere with a competition or the preparation of any Competitor for a competition; avoid alcohol consumption to a level that would cause a Competitor to behave in a disruptive manner during any competition, (Note: Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during a Junior or Under 18 event sanctioned by the ACF. Prohibition shall include the entire timeframe from departure to the competition through to and including arrival at home from the endorsed event)
- d) avoid the use of prohibited drugs, other than those prescribed by a Medical Doctor;

- e) during stays in hotels/motels, etc., be subject to all provisions of this policy. If members of the team incur any damage to the hotel/motel, the player(s) involved shall be solely responsible for restitution to the hotel/motel. The ACF may also administer disciplinary action in accordance with section 4 of this policy;
- f) abide by the rules of the competition;
- g) attend the designated competition team meeting, ceremonies and any banquet/social held in conjunction with the competition. If a competitor must be absent from the team meeting, ceremonies or banquet because of illness, accident or other extenuating circumstances, prior permission must be granted by the ACF. If requested by the ACF 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 section 4 of the policy.

3. AUTHORITY

- a) The Regional Association the Provincial Championship is being held in will name a Chief Umpire for each Provincial Championship. The ACF will approve this umpire.
- b) The Chief Umpire has the general supervision of and shall rule on all infractions of the rules of curling arising on-ice at the Competition. His/her decision on the rules of curling shall be final and cannot be appealed. *(Please see ACF Disciplinary Procedure Policy)*
- c) The Chief Umpire is authorized to make decisions on matters not covered by the rules of curling and may directly intervene at any time in any game and give such directions concerning conduct of the game, as he/she considers proper. The Chief Umpire may remove a competitor from the game or competition area for what he/she considers to be abusive or unacceptable behavior. *(Please see ACF Disciplinary Procedure Policy)*
- d) The Chief Umpire is also authorized to suspend a competitor for a portion or the remainder of the competition if he/she deems this action necessary. This ruling can be based in relation to behavior (on and off the ice) cresting/clothing violations or the failure to participate in requested competition functions or procedures. *(Please see ACF Disciplinary Procedure Policy)*

4. APPEAL PROCESS – DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

- a) The ACF shall investigate at its discretion any infractions to the Code of Conduct Policy by a Competitor(s) that reach the physical abuse or second offense stage as outlined in the ACF Disciplinary Procedure Policy. The procedure shall be as follows:
 - 1) The President of the ACF shall appoint a Review Committee to review the incident. The Review Committee will consist of three members and may be chosen from current or past Board Members of the ACF, current or past ACF

staff, current or past ACF Player Representatives or past competitors at an ACF Provincial Championship(s).

- 2) The appointed Review Committee will review the reports of the Chief Umpire (and Alternate or Mentor Chief Umpire if applicable) and will also consider witness statements provided by other stakeholders at the Championship in question. The Competitor(s) in question will be advised of the Review Committee and will be given 7 days to provide written information for review by that committee.
 - 3) The appointed Review Committee will review all of the information relevant to the issue and will make a written ruling within 21 days of the Review Committee meeting.
 - 4) The Competitor(s) may appeal the decision of the Review Committee to the ACF Board of Directors by filing a Notice of Appeal within 7 days of the ruling. The Notice of Appeal shall concisely state the reasons and grounds for the appeal and shall be delivered in writing to the ACF Championships Coordinator at 11759 Groat Road, Edmonton, Alberta (T5M 3K6). A cheque in the amount of \$50 payable to the ACF must accompany the Notice of Appeal.
 - 5) Once an appeal is received the ACF President will form an Appeals Committee that will consist of 3 members. This committee will be chosen from current or past ACF Board Members, current or past ACF staff, current or past ACF Player Representatives or past Competitors at an ACF Provincial Championship(s). The Appeal Committee will conduct a Hearing De Novo and the decision of that committee shall be final and binding on both the ACF and the Competitor(s). It is understood that the Appeal Committee will not have any member who was on the Review Committee. In the event a ruling is made in favor of the complainant(s) the \$50 fee will be refunded.
- b) The ACF shall have the right to administer disciplinary measures as determined by the ACF Review Committee and ACF Appeals Committee. Such disciplinary measures may include, but are not limited to:
- 1) Formal reprimand (written) – copies will be supplied to the offender(s), Regional Association they represent, coach and Chief Umpire;
 - 2) Disqualification for a one year period from the Provincial Championship where the offenses occurred;
 - 3) Disqualification for a one year period from all other Provincial Championships;
 - 4) Permanent suspension from Provincial Championships for repeat offenders;
 - 5) Removal of Provincial Champion status

ACF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE POLICY

This document is meant to provide direction and detail that will allow all competitors and coaches of ACF Championships to be treated in the same manner. This will also ensure that a set policy on “progressive” discipline is in place.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse or violence of any type is not acceptable by any competitor or coach towards any other stakeholder (participant, coach, volunteer, media, staff, spectator or umpire) at a Provincial Championship. Any behavior of this type will result in automatic suspension from the championship and an advisory that information and recommendations will be forwarded to the ACF.

Verbal Abuse – Unacceptable Language

Participants and coaches are not allowed to verbally abuse other stakeholders or use unacceptable language during a Provincial Championship. The following order should be followed in instances where this type of behavior is exhibited:

1. **First** offense - Warning (In the event the unacceptable language includes discriminatory racial, religious or lifestyle comments the Chief Umpire will have the option to act as noted below under second offense)
2. **Second** offense - Suspension from current game and next game and offender(s) will be informed that incidents will be reported to ACF President and Review Committee for potential further reprimand.
3. **Third** offense - Suspension from the remainder of the competition and offender(s) will be informed that incidents will be reported to the ACF President and Review Committee for potential further reprimand.

Unacceptable Actions with Equipment/Other

Participants and coaches are not allowed to act inappropriately during the competition. These actions include (but are not limited to) broom banging, violent kicking of stones, throwing of clothing, causing undue delays during championships or interfering with umpires in any manner. The following order should be followed in instances where this type of behavior is exhibited:

1. **First** offense - Warning (*In the event damage is sustained to the playing surface, stones, scoreboards or other equipment the Chief Umpire will have the option to act as noted below under second offense*)
2. **Second** offense - Suspension from current game and next game and offender(s) will be informed that incidents will be reported to ACF President and Review Committee for potential further reprimand.
3. **Third** offense - Suspension from the remainder of the competition and offender(s) will be informed that incidents will be reported to the ACF President and Review Committee for potential further reprimand.