



**CURLING
ALBERTA**

PROVINCIAL BERTH POLICY

Summary of key revisions for the 2018-19 season

- General clarification and re-wording
- Updated to include “open borders” and the process to award standard qualifier berths
- CTRS point accumulation eligibility period, effective Dec. 1, 2017
- Updated to include the addition of the U18 pre-qualifying berths

1. STANDARD QUALIFYING BERTHS

Policy Statement: Each season, Curling Alberta will sanction three Provincial Qualifiers in each event category and award a minimum of two provincial berths per qualifier playdown. Any additional berths will be awarded in a pro-rated manner based on the number of entries. The following policies apply to Section 1.

A. GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRICTIONS

- As much as it is reasonably possible, Curling Alberta will award the three Provincial Qualifiers to host communities which are geographically spread within the bounds of the organization.
- The dates for these three qualifiers may be different, however the entry deadlines and entry fees will be identical. A participant may only enter one qualifier, and teams must choose which qualifier they will enter at initial registration.
- Eligible participants may reside anywhere within the boundaries of Curling Alberta, and teams may be comprised of players from any member club.
- All participants must be members of Curling Alberta and meet residency requirements. For men’s and women’s competitions only, non-resident “Free Agents” can be exempted from the residency requirement as per Curling Canada and Curling Alberta guidelines.

B. NUMBER OF BERTHS

- A minimum of two provincial berths will be awarded at each of the Provincial Qualifiers.
- In the event any qualifier does not award two berths (e.g. lack of entries, disqualification, etc.) any unclaimed berths will be awarded as per the same pro-rated process based on entries as described in section B(iii) below.
- In all events (except Wheelchair, U18, and Mixed Doubles) there will be a minimum of two additional berths available. Those additional berths will be assigned among the qualifiers on a pro-rated basis based on the remaining number of entries after the mandatory berths have been allocated and subtracted from the total number of entries.

C. QUALIFYING PLAYDOWN FORMAT

- i. Qualifiers may use either a double or triple knockout format. Draws will be approved by Curling Alberta in advance of competition.
- ii. Seeding will not occur; teams will be placed randomly within the draw.

2. PRE-QUALIFYING PROVINCIAL BERTHS

Policy Statement: Each season, Curling Alberta will award four pre-qualifying berths into Women's Provincials Championships (Jiffy Lube Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts), four pre-qualifying berths into Men's Provincial Championships (Alberta Boston Pizza Cup), and two pre-qualifying berths into U18 Provincial Championships under the following guidelines.

"CTRS" means the Canadian Team Ranking System as administered by Curling Canada.

A. CURLING ALBERTA PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - ALBERTA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Berths will be awarded in the order listed below:

- i. The defending champion will receive berth #1
 - a. For the defending champion team to claim this berth, they must retain a minimum of three of four team members from the previous year's championship roster.
 - b. If for any reason the defending champions do not qualify, decline to participate, or become Team Canada, this berth will be awarded to the highest ranked team from the CTRS standings that meets the residency criteria. Points will be collected from the same eligibility period as described in section ii(a) below.
- ii. The highest ranked team from CTRS standings will receive berth #2
 - a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include the entire year from December 2nd to December 1st annually (ending the Dec 1st immediately prior to the applicable Provincial Championships).
 - b. For a team to claim this berth, they must retain a minimum of three of four members as registered with the CTRS.
- iii. The first and second ranked teams from the Alberta Tour standings will receive berth #3 and #4
 - a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include the entire year from December 2nd to December 1st annually (ending the Dec 1st immediately prior to the applicable Provincial Championships date).
 - b. The qualifying events/bonspiels for Alberta Curling Tour inclusion must meet the following guidelines, in addition to those as defined in CTRS policy related to gender, the number of entries and prize values.
 - They must occur within the bounds of the Curling Alberta and will not include Grand Slam or district, regional, provincial, national or world championship playdown events.

- c. For a team to claim this berth, they must retain a minimum of three of four members as registered with the CTRS.
 - d. There is no limit to the amount of AB Tour events eligible in collecting AB Tour points. A team can play in an unlimited amount of Alberta Tour events and all accumulated points will count toward their total.
- iv. CTRS points will be obtained from Curling Canada, and will be awarded according to Curling Canada CTRS Guidelines found at <http://www.curling.ca/team-canada/canadian-team-ranking-system/canadian-team-ranking-system-ctrs-2014-2018/>.
- v. Curling Alberta will follow CTRS substitution policy in the accumulation of CTRS points.
- vi. Once a berth is accepted, that team is registered with Curling Alberta as a provincial competitor. After that time, the substitution or replacement of players may only be considered upon application and only according to relevant Curling Alberta policy. A minimum of three original team members (from the team earning the berth) must remain on the active roster at all times.
- vii. To qualify for a berth, a team must meet the current gender and residency eligibility (including the free agent policy) as determined by Curling Alberta and Curling Canada.
- viii. The deadline date for residency declaration is September 1st annually. The deadline for both free agent declaration and CTRS team registration is October 31st annually.
- ix. Berth teams are required to read and understand the Curling Alberta Competitor's Guide.
- x. An eligibility change, effective July 30, 2018, applies to team members with a potential competition date conflict. The following is an excerpt from section 14 of the Competitor's Guide:

"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. Teams will not be given the opportunity to replace team members unless it is due to any of the circumstances listed previously in s. 13(a). Beyond the provincial level, if a team member has a potential conflict in playdown or competition dates, that member can be replaced if they are representing Alberta or Canada at National or International competition. If a provincial championship team cannot maintain a minimum of 3 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 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 competition. A mixed doubles team cannot replace more than one player.

Replacements must meet the criteria established in section 13(d) of the Competitor's Guide."

B. CURLING ALBERTA PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - ALBERTA U18 PROVINCIALS

- i. Curling Alberta will award one U18 Provincial berth to the winning women's team and one U18 Provincial berth to the winning men's team from a pre-selected juvenile or U18 bonspiel.
 - a. Curling Alberta, in consult with at minimum the Competitions Committee Chair and the Alberta Junior Curling Tour, will select and advertise the berth bonspiel, in consideration of the criteria listed in section B (ii).
 - b. For a team to claim this berth, they must retain a minimum of three of four team members as were registered with the bonspiel committee and as participated in the bonspiel event itself. The team must also meet the current age, gender and residency eligibility as determined by Curling Alberta and Curling Canada.
 - c. If for any reason the bonspiel champions (or any team subsequently offered the berth), are not eligible or decline this berth, the berth will be awarded to the next highest ranked and eligible team from the same bonspiel. A playoff may result where the next highest ranked team is not reasonably definable.
 - d. Once a berth is accepted, the team is registered with Curling Alberta as a provincial competitor. After that time, the substitution or replacement of players may only be considered upon application and only according to relevant Curling Alberta policy. A minimum of 3 original team members (from the team earning the berth) must remain on the active roster at all times.

- ii. The criteria to select the host of the Curling Alberta U18 Berth Bonspiel are described as follows:
 - a. The bonspiel must be registered with the AB Junior Curling Tour.
 - b. It must be an existing event with a proven successful history.
 - c. The bonspiel must facilitate gender specific events (it cannot allow competition between genders).
 - d. Consideration will be given to location, as compared to the Provincial U18 Championship in the same season (i.e.- the event will preferably be hosted in a community which is distant from the Provincial Championship host site, in an effort to better equate travel for U18 teams across the bounds of Curling Alberta).
 - e. Bonspiel organizer must be prepared to work with Curling Alberta to create a draw which is fair and allows for a minimum of three games per participating team. No one team should be eliminated with only one loss unless that loss occurs in a playoff scenario.
 - f. Entries must be restricted to those participants who meet the same eligibility age and gender criteria as the Provincial U18 Championship in the same curling season.
 - g. It is understood that bonspiel entries can include teams which are clearly not eligible for the Curling Alberta provincial berth, by reason of residency.

- xi. Berth teams are required to read and understand the Curling Alberta Competitor Guide.

- xii. Special NOTE - An eligibility change, effective July 30, 2018, applies to team members with a potential competition date conflict. The following is an excerpt from section 14 of the Competitor's Guide:

"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. Teams will not be given the opportunity to replace team members unless it is due to any of the circumstances listed previously in s. 13(a). Beyond the provincial level, if a team member has a potential conflict in playdown or competition dates, that member can be replaced if they are representing Alberta or Canada at National or International competition. If a provincial championship team cannot maintain a minimum of 3 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 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 competition. A mixed doubles team cannot replace more than one player.

Replacements must meet the criteria established in s. 13(d)."