



Notice of Changes to Competition Policies & FAQ

On July 30th, 2018 the amalgamation of the Southern Alberta Curling Association, Northern Alberta Curling Association, Alberta Curling Federation, and the Peace Curling Association became official and Curling Alberta was formed. The Board acknowledges that the messaging leading up to the amalgamation indicated to stakeholders that competitions would remain status quo for this season. However, the incorporation occurred significantly ahead of schedule, which presented an unexpected opportunity to initiate positive change for our clubs and curlers for this season.

Curling Alberta encourages you to read the updated **Competitor's Guide** (and appendices) and the **FAQ** below to become familiar with the changes. Please note that some appendices are still under construction, but they will be published as soon as possible in priority order according to upcoming event dates. There has been a tremendous amount of work done by our volunteers and staff to make these changes a reality for this season, so we appreciate your patience and support as we work to develop a complete document. The Competitors Guide is formatted to clearly highlight policies that are new or have changed in a material way. Please be advised that Curling Alberta has also published a revised **Cresting Policy** and **Provincial Berth Policy**, which you can view [here](#).

We understand that not all changes will be supported, however we are confident that our focus on providing opportunities for development in the sport will have a positive return. We encourage continued discussions as we move forward and will be interested in hearing from you.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Jeff Ginter, Chair of the Competitions Committee (vicepresident@curlingalberta.ca), or Jill Richard, Curling Alberta's Executive Director (jill.richard@curlingalberta.ca).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Now that we are one association, can I enter a qualifying event anywhere in the province?

A: YES! Since we are now Curling Alberta, teams can choose to compete at any provincial qualifier held within our boundaries. Opening the boundaries creates more options, expands opportunities, and creates more flexibility.

Q: How many qualifying events are there for each category, and how many provincial berths are available at each location?

A: Curling Alberta will sanction three provincial qualifiers for each category across the province. These locations will be distributed geographically to allow for as much access as possible for the curlers within our boundaries. 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 below.

In all events (except Wheelchair, U18, and Mixed Doubles) there will be a minimum of two additional berths available (for a total of eight berths). Those additional berths will be assigned among the qualifiers on a pro-rated basis based on overall entries.

Example: If qualifier A has four entries, and qualifiers B and C have 10 entries each, then qualifier A would receive two berths, and qualifiers B and C would each receive three berths.

Q: Why were the substitution and replacement rules changed?

A: A change was made that allows players who were eliminated at a previous qualifying stage, to compete on teams who are legitimately in need of a replacement player or substitute at a higher level of competition. This creates a larger pool of players available for substitution or replacement, and increases the likelihood that the player is of an appropriate skill level to compete at the higher level.

Q: Why will Curling Alberta allow teams to play in an event if there is known or potential conflict at the national or international level in another category?

A: This change was made to allow for teams or players to compete in more than one category even when there is a conflicting date in future competitions at the national or international level. This will provide players with greater access to developmental opportunities and subsequently create more competitively relevant opportunities.

In the case that a team is not able to compete beyond the Provincial Championships due to another competition, the runner up will represent Alberta. We are anticipating this will see a growth in entries in events and more opportunities for club members.

Q: Why does the Competitors Guide now include Provincial Qualifiers?

A: Because all competition is now governed by a single organization, there will be one guide for all levels of competition. This will allow for consistent rules and regulations across the province, and the competitive player will now only need to look in one place for information.

Q: Why are the provincial travel subsidies gone?

A: Travel subsidies were previously applied inconsistently across the regional associations. We recognize that this was appreciated and assisted in offsetting costs, however, in researching other sports, providing travel subsidies is not a common practice. Instead, Curling Alberta will redirect that funding into a range of developmental initiatives.

Q: What is the Respect in Sport Program and why are parents or guardians of participants under 18 years of age required to complete it?

A: Respect in Sport is a powerful, proactive educational program that empowers parents, leaders, and coaches with the tools to ensure the game is enjoyable and respectful for themselves, their children, and all other stakeholders in the sport. This prevention program addresses on-line bullying, abuse, harassment, and neglect prevention program for parents, coaches, and community leaders. It is a program that it currently being utilized by Hockey Canada, Calgary Minor Soccer Association, and many others. More information and instructions will be made available as soon as possible.

Q: How do I register my team for provincial qualifiers this year?

A: For all qualifiers as well as the Provincial Championships that are open (e.g.- wheelchair), Curling Alberta will use an online registration and competition management system, called Curling I/O. On our website, you will find a link to register for each event option. Simply click on the link and you will be taken here: ab.curling.io. This page will soon contain a list of all Curling Alberta's Provincial Qualifiers. Once registration is open, click on the qualifier of your choice and proceed to add your team information and pay the registration fee using a credit card.

One team representative will register your team. To make this process quicker and easier for your team rep, every team member should visit ab.curling.io in advance to create a curler profile in the system. Every team member will need a curler profile, coaches too, in order to complete registration. So visit the site today and create your profile! Simply click here: ab.curling.io and find 'Login' in the upper right corner. You will either use your gmail account (if you have one) or ask for a Login Link to be emailed to your email address to get started. Don't forget to share this link with your team mates so they can do the same!

Q: I'm eager to compete! When can I register?

A: Registrations will open at least seven weeks in advance of the first provincial qualifier in each category. None of the events will limit registration, so you don't have to worry that your team won't get a spot (as long as you complete your registration before the deadline). Please note that there will be one registration deadline for all three qualifiers in each category, which will be at noon on the Wednesday three weeks before the date of the first event.