



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.

It is important to note that for the mixed doubles category, Curling Alberta has added three Provincial Qualifiers to our schedule of events, leading up to the Provincial Championship (which is the same process as for most other categories). However, if there is a lower than expected turnout (less than 32 teams), the teams will proceed directly to the Provincial Championship. This will be considered a pilot approach which is intended to ensure that the three qualifiers do not serve to only eliminate a small handful of teams. Please read the FAQ below for more information on the mixed doubles.

Curling Alberta encourages you to read the updated Competitor's Guide (and appendices) and the FAQ section 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 #1: 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: What are the changes to the mixed doubles category this season?

Three Provincial Qualifiers have been added leading up to the Provincial Championship. What's different relative to most other categories, is that for mixed doubles, IF the qualifying events do not attract at least 32 teams, all registered teams will proceed directly to the Provincial Championship.

EXAMPLE #1: If the total number of teams registered for all three qualifiers falls between 24 and 32, all registered teams will go directly to the Provincial Championship.

EXAMPLE #2: If the total number of teams registered for all three qualifiers is more than 32, the qualifiers will be played to establish a championship field of 24 teams.

A notice will be sent to each team following the registration deadline to inform them of the status of the qualifiers.

Q: Why were these changes to the mixed doubles category made?

The three Provincial Qualifiers were added to capitalize on the growth of the mixed doubles category and to allow fair access to the Provincial Championships. In previous seasons, the Alberta Mixed Doubles Provincials has been an open registration, with no playdowns, and has been oversubscribed. This means many teams have unfortunately not been able to compete to represent Alberta at the national level. These new qualifiers were added to ensure an equitable opportunity for all teams wishing to enter.

Curling Alberta is piloting the procedure that may send all registered teams will proceed directly to the Provincial Championship IF the qualifying events do not attract at least 32 teams, to ensure that the three qualifiers are meaningful events (i.e.- that they do not serve to only eliminate a small handful of teams).

Q: Where and when will the Mixed Doubles Provincial Qualifiers and Provincial Championship be held?

The Provincial Qualifiers:

- Highwood Curling Club, High River, AB- Dec 14 to 16, 2018
- Beaumont Curling Club, Beaumont, AB- Nov 30 to Dec 2, 2018
- Dawson Creek Curling Club, Dawson Creek, BC- Dec 28 to 30, 2018

Provincial Championships

- Dawson Creek Curling Club, Dawson Creek, BC- Feb 15 – 18, 2019

Note that the registration deadline for all three Provincial Qualifiers for mixed doubles is November 14th at noon.

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: Curling Alberta is proud to announce the partnership with Respect Group and the adoption of the Respect in Sport (RiS) Parent Program. Respect in Sport is a powerful, proactive educational program that empowers parents, leaders, and coaches with the tools to ensure the game is safe, enjoyable and respectful for themselves, their children, and all other stakeholders in the sport.

Curling Alberta requires at least one parent/guardian of every curler under the age of 18 to complete the Respect in Sport (RiS) Parent Program in order to participate in any Curling Alberta event, effective as of the 2018 – 2019 season. This program will only take 1 hour and costs \$12. Visit our [Competitor's Guide & Policies](#) page of our website for program access & more information, or click here to [register now](#).

Q: How do I register my team for Provincial Qualifiers this year?

A: This season, Curling Alberta is using an online registration and competition management system called Curling I/O. To register for any Provincial Qualifier, your team will visit Alberta's Curling I/O website (ab.curling.io) where you can simply click on the event of your choice to complete your team registration and payment online. Teams can also find this link on the bottom of our Provincials & Qualifiers page of our website.

One team representative will register and pay for your team. 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. Once you have completed the online registration, the page will be redirected to a confirmation page which will include a link to be sent to your teammates so they can accept the mandatory waiver and create a curler profile if they haven't already done so.

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

A: Registration is now OPEN for most competitions. 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. But there's one exception... **the mixed doubles registration deadline will be on the Wednesday two weeks before the first event, which is November 14th.**

Q: When registering online, I noticed that there is a "Curling Canada Competitors Fee" that is included in my team's registration fee. What is this?

A: As in past years, these fees flow through the point of registration to Curling Canada and the funds support the National Championships. It may appear to be new as in some regions which handled the registrations, it was never disclosed specifically (rather, it was simply included in the registration fees as a bundle). Curling Alberta has chosen to illustrate these fees separately. Note that the fees are payable for each category entered by each player (i.e. if an athlete enters both the men's and mixed events, the fee is paid twice).

Categories that are subject to the \$45 CC Competitor's Fee:

- Juniors
- Men's
- Women's
- Senior
- Mixed

Other national competition fees are as follows:

- U18 category - teams pay \$7.50/competitor which is added to the team registration fee on Curling I/O. These fees also flow through Curling Alberta to Curling Canada.
- Masters – teams pay a \$25/competitor "Assessment Fee". Curling Alberta forwards these funds to the host of the Canadian Masters Championships.

For Wheelchair, Curling Club Championships, and Mixed Doubles there is no additional fee paid.