



## CURLING ALBERTA INTRODUCES THE EXCEL CUPS

Curling Alberta is pleased to announce the creation of two new events - the Excel U18 Cup and the Excel U21 Cup. "We're excited to add the Excel Cups to our 2019-2020 schedule," says Curling Alberta Executive Director, Jill Richard. "Our organization is proud to demonstrate its commitment to innovative thinking, and we hope to see these events develop and inspire our young athletes for many years to come."

Both the Excel U18 Cup and the Excel U21 Cup will feature small and elite fields, with six male and six female teams competing in each. These teams will include the top four Alberta-based teams on the Excel Points Race, plus one team representing Saskatchewan and another representing British Columbia.

"One of our goals with these events was to make it possible for more U18 and U21 teams to experience inter-provincial competition," says Excel Program Director, Rob Krepps. "The Excel Cups accomplish that without asking our teams travel outside of Alberta." Enhanced competition opportunities are beneficial to any curler's development, but are particularly important for those producing consistent, high-level results.

Both Excel Cups will run from November 29 to December 1, 2019, with the U18 event held at the Saville Community Sports Centre and the U21 held at the Okotoks Curling Club. Each competition will feature a five-game round robin on Friday and Saturday, and wrap up with a three-team playoff (i.e., 2nd place vs. 3rd place in semi-final, winner vs. 1st place in final) on Sunday.

A \$3,000 purse will be up for grabs in each division (i.e., \$1,500 champions, \$1,000 runners-up, and \$500 semi-finalists), with a \$400 entry fee assessed to all teams. Substantial Excel Points will also be awarded (i.e., U21 = 60 champions, 40 runners-up, 30 semi-finalists, and 6 per win for non-playoff teams; U18 = 30 champions, 20 runners-up, 15 semi-finalists, and 3 per win for non-playoff teams).

Fittingly, the Excel Points Race will also determine the Alberta-based teams that qualify for the Excel Cups (i.e., four U18 male teams, four U18 female teams, four U21 male teams, and four U21 female teams). However, it should be noted that only points earned between September 1, 2019 and November 19, 2019 will factor in to Excel Cup qualification.

With this said, the Excel Points Race will continue for the rest of the season, and will determine other important berths. "We are excited that the Excel Points Race will determine one berth each into the U21 and U18 Provincials," says Excel Points Race Coordinator, Renee Sonnenberg. "With December 2, 2019 being the cut-off date to determine these berths, the Excel Cups will be pivotal in who earns them."

To find out more about the Excel Cups, please [CLICK HERE](#). For more information about the Excel Points Race, please [CLICK HERE](#).