



**CURLING  
ALBERTA**

# PROVINCIAL BERTH POLICY

## SUMMARY OF KEY REVISIONS FOR THE 2019-20 SEASON:

- The minimum number of berths awarded at each Provincial Qualifier (PQ) is reduced to one.
- The number of PQ's in both Women's and Masters Women's (if required) categories is reduced to two.
- The number or type of provincial berths in these specific categories has been amended:
  - Women's – reduced to eight provincial berths in total; now including only three pre-qualifying berths
  - U18 – the former “berth bonspiel” has been eliminated; and one “Excel Points” pre-qualifying berth, per gender, is now being awarded.
  - Junior (U21) - one “Excel Points” pre-qualifying berth, per gender, is now being awarded.
  - Mixed Doubles – confirmed 24 provincial berths in total; added three new pre-qualifying berths
  - Club Curling Championship – increased provincial berths to 12 teams per gender.
  - U15 – new/expanded category – 20 provincial qualifiers with three PQ's
  - U21 Mixed Doubles – new category – open entry provincial championship (no PQ's), maximum 24 teams
- Amended CTRS and Excel Points Race accumulation eligibility periods; for pre-qualifying provincial berth awards in all applicable categories.
- All teams earning pre-qualifying provincial berths are now required to pay the same entry fees as that paid by teams earning berths through PQ's.
- Men's, Women's, U18, U21 and Mixed Doubles PQ's will now be seeded.

## 1. POLICIES APPLYING TO ALL PROVINCIAL BERTHS:

- A. All participating teams are required to read and understand the Curling Alberta Competitors' Guide, and the applicable category appendix.
- B. All participants must be members of Curling Alberta and meet age, gender and residency requirements as defined by Curling Canada and/or Curling Alberta. For the Men's and Women's categories only, one non-resident “Free Agent” per team may be exempted from the residency requirement by application and approval as per Curling Canada and Curling Alberta guidelines. Refer to links at <https://www.curling.ca/residency-eligibility-rules/> and <https://www.curling.ca/free-agent-rules/>.
- C. In the event of a potential or actual date conflict between Curling Alberta playdown categories, consult the current Competitors' Guide (see excerpt below).

*“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. If a team member has a date conflict between a Curling Alberta Provincial Qualifier or Provincial Championship in one category, and a National or International competition where they are representing Alberta or Canada*

*in a different category, that member can be replaced in the Curling Alberta playdown competition. If a provincial championship team cannot maintain a minimum of three 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 date 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 Curling Alberta playdown competition. A mixed doubles team cannot replace more than one player.”*

## **2. STANDARD QUALIFYING BERTHS:**

**Policy Statement:** Each season, Curling Alberta will sanction a maximum of three Provincial Qualifiers (PQ's) in each event category and award a minimum of one provincial berth per PQ. Any additional berths will be awarded in a pro-rated manner based on the number of entries.

The following policies apply to Section 2, Standard Qualifying Berths.

### **A. GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS & ENTRY CRITERIA**

- i. As much as it is reasonably possible, Curling Alberta will award the Provincial Qualifiers (PQ's) to host communities that are geographically spread within the bounds of Curling Alberta.
- ii. The dates for these qualifiers may be different, however the entry deadlines and entry fees will be identical. A participant may only enter one qualifier, and teams must finalize their choice of which qualifier they will enter prior to deadline. Note: teams can amend their original line-up and/or choice of location only if it is done prior to deadline (an additional administrative fee may apply to any amendment).
- iii. Eligible participants may reside anywhere within the boundaries of Curling Alberta, and teams may be comprised of players from any member club.

### **B. DISTRIBUTION OF STANDARD QUALIFYING BERTHS**

- i. A mandatory minimum of one standard provincial qualifying berth will be awarded at each of the Provincial Qualifiers (PQ's). If only one team enters a specific PQ, that team will be offered the mandatory qualifying berth by default.
- ii. In all categories, there will be additional berths available. Those additional berths will be distributed among the PQ's on a pro-rated basis; that is, specifically based on the remaining number of entries after the mandatory berths have been allocated and subtracted from the total number of entries.
- iii. In the event of a withdrawal or disqualification, refer to the Team Fill procedure.
- iv. In the event that any PQ does not award a berth (e.g. lack of entries, disqualification, etc.), this unclaimed berth (or berths) will be distributed or redistributed on a pro-rated basis as per the process described in section B(ii) above.
- v. In the event that standard berths cannot be evenly distributed to PQ's having the same number of entries (e.g. if they are tied for a single extra berth), the following tie-breaking procedure will be used, in order as below:

- a. Excel Points (only in Men's, Women's, U18, Junior (U21) and Mixed Doubles categories) will be used to calculate the event strength of field, and subsequently the PQ with the highest strength of field will be awarded the extra berth;
- b. If necessary, in categories without Excel Points, or in the rare circumstance the strength of field is tied, the extra berth will be awarded to the PQ with more participants who had attended the previous season's provincial championships in the same category.

## C. QUALIFYING PLAYDOWN FORMAT

- i. Provincial Qualifiers (PQ's) may use either a double or triple knockout format. In PQ's where more than two standard qualifying berths are being awarded, triple knockout formats are recommended. In PQ's where only one berth is being awarded, a true double knockout format is recommended. Draws will be approved by Curling Alberta in advance of competition.
- ii. Seeding of PQ's will occur using only "Excel Points Race" standings (as defined in Section 2 below) in Men's, Women's, U18, Junior (U21) and Mixed Doubles categories. In the event teams are tied in Excel Points, a standardized random procedure (amongst those tied only) will be used to rank those teams into the draw. In all other PQ categories, teams will be placed in the draw utilizing a standardized random procedure.

## 3. PRE-QUALIFYING PROVINCIAL BERTHS

**Policy Statement:** Curling Alberta will award pre-qualifying provincial berths into the Women's, Men's, Mixed Doubles and both genders of the U18 and Junior (U21) Alberta Provincial Championships.

The following policies apply to Section 3, Pre-Qualifying Provincial Berths.

### Definitions:

- i. "CTRS" means the Canadian Team Ranking System as administered by Curling Canada. See link at <https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/canadian-team-ranking-system/canadian-team-ranking-system-ctrs-2018-2022/>.
- ii. "Excel Points Race" means a standardized ranking system, specific to each event category, whereby teams accumulate points from competitions held only within established Curling Alberta boundaries. In the Men's and Women's categories, it will replace the previously existing Alberta Curling Tour standings.

### Policies applying to all categories of pre-qualifying berths:

- In both the Women's and Men's categories, for a team to earn applicable points or claim a pre-qualifying CTRS berth, they must retain a minimum of three of four members as registered with the CTRS.
- For a team to earn applicable points or claim a pre-qualifying Excel Points berth in any category, except Mixed Doubles, they must retain a minimum of three original team members as registered with the CTRS and/or Curling Alberta's Excel Points Race.
- Once a berth is accepted, and the entry fee is paid, that team is considered registered with Curling Alberta as a provincial competitor. After that time, the substitution or replacement of players must meet Curling Alberta policy.

- 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.

## A. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - MEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In Men's competition, four (4) pre-qualifying provincial berths will be awarded in the order listed below:

- i. The defending Alberta Men's provincial 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. If for any reason the defending champions do not qualify, decline to participate, or become Team Canada, this berth will be awarded last (4th) to the remaining highest ranked team from the CTRS standings that meets the residency criteria.
- ii. The highest ranked team from the Men's CTRS standings will receive berth #2.
  - a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include an entire year from December to December annually (ending the December immediately prior to the applicable Provincial Championships). For the 2019-20 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining this berth, the eligibility period for the accumulation of CTRS points is Dec. 2, 2018 to and including Dec. 16, 2019.
  - b. CTRS points will be obtained from Curling Canada, and will be awarded according to Curling Canada CTRS Guidelines found at <https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/canadian-team-ranking-system/canadian-team-ranking-system-ctrs-2018-2022/>.
  - c. Curling Alberta will follow CTRS substitution policy in the accumulation of CTRS points.
- iii. The first and second ranked teams from the current Excel Points Race standings will receive berths #3 and #4.
  - a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include only the current season from August 1st to approximately mid-December annually. For the 2019-20 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of Excel Points is August 1, 2019 to and including Dec. 16, 2019.
  - b. The qualifying events/bonspiels for Excel Points eligibility 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 Curling Alberta and will not include Grand Slam, Canada Cup, or Provincial Qualifier, Provincial, National or World Championship playdown events.
  - c. There is no limit to the number of events eligible in collecting Excel Points. A team can play in an **unlimited amount** of eligible events and all accumulated points will count toward their total.

## **B. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY - WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

In Women's competition, three (3) pre-qualifying provincial berths will be awarded in the order listed below:

- i. The defending Alberta Women's provincial 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. If for any reason the defending champions do not qualify, decline to participate, or become Team Canada, this berth will be awarded last (3rd) to the remaining highest ranked team from the Excel Points Race standings that meets the residency criteria.
- ii. The highest ranked team from the Women's CTRS standings will receive berth #2.
  - a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include an entire year from December to December annually (ending the December immediately prior to the applicable Provincial Championships). For the 2019-20 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining this berth, the eligibility period for the accumulation of CTRS points is Dec. 2, 2018 to and including Dec. 3, 2019.
  - b. CTRS points will be obtained from Curling Canada, and will be awarded according to Curling Canada CTRS Guidelines found at <https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/canadian-team-ranking-system/canadian-team-ranking-system-ctrs-2018-2022/>.
  - c. Curling Alberta will follow CTRS substitution policy in the accumulation of CTRS points.
- iii. The first ranked team from the Excel Points Race will receive berth #3.
  - a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include only the current season from August 1st to December annually. For the 2019-20 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of Women's Excel Points is August 1, 2019 to and including Dec. 3, 2019.
  - b. The qualifying events/bonspiels for Excel Points eligibility 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 Curling Alberta and will not include Grand Slam, Canada Cup or Provincial Qualifier, Provincial, National or World Championship playdown events.
  - c. There is no limit to the number of events eligible in collecting Excel Points. A team can play in an unlimited amount of eligible events and all accumulated points will count toward their total.

## C. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY — JUNIOR (U21) AND U18 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In both the Junior (U21) and U18 competitions, one (1) pre-qualifying provincial berth in each gender will be awarded to the leading team in their category-specific Excel Points Race.

- i. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include only the current season from August 1st to December annually. For the 2019-20 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of both Junior and U18 category-specific Excel Points is August 1, 2019 to and including December 1, 2019.
- ii. All events/bonspiels must occur within the established Curling Alberta boundaries.
- iii. For the purpose of determining these berths, U18 teams will be ranked based on their accumulation of points from the following events, and using the criteria identified below.
  - a. U18 Excel Cup – champion-30, finalist-20, semi-finalist-15 or 3/win
  - b. A team's combined top **5 point** totals from the following events:
    - U18 AJCT bonspiels – champ-15, finals-10, semi-finals-7.5, quarters-5 or 1/win
    - Junior (U21) AJCT bonspiels – champ-30, finals-20, semi-finals-15, quarters-10 or 2/win
    - WCT Bonspiels – champ-60, finals-45, semi-finals-30, quarters-20 or 4/win
- iv. For the purpose of determining these berths, Junior (U21) teams will be ranked based on their accumulation of points from the following events, and using the criteria identified below.
  - a. Junior (U21) Excel Cup – champion-60, finalist-40, semi-finalist-30 or 6/win
  - b. A team's combined top **5 point** totals from the following events:
    - Junior (U21) AJCT bonspiels – champ-30, finals-20, semi-finals-15, quarters-10 or 2/win
    - WCT Bonspiels – champ-60, finals-45, semi-finals-30, quarters-20 or 4/win

## D. PRE-QUALIFYING BERTH POLICY — MIXED DOUBLES PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

In Mixed Doubles competition, three (3) pre-qualifying provincial berths will be awarded in the order listed below:

- i. The defending Alberta Mixed Doubles provincial champions will receive berth #1.
  - a. For the defending champion team to claim this berth, they must retain both players from the previous year's championship roster. If for any reason the defending champions do not qualify, decline to participate, or become Team Canada, this berth will not be awarded and will be re-allocated as a standard qualifying berth.
- ii. The highest ranked Alberta team from the Canadian Mixed Doubles Ranking (CMDR), at <https://www.curling.ca/mixeddoubles/canadian-mixed-doubles-rankings/> will receive berth #2.
  - a. In order to qualify for this berth, both members of this team must meet Alberta residency and membership requirements.

- b. For the 2019-20 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining this berth, the end date for the accumulation of CMDR points is January 21, 2020.
  - c. CMDR points will be obtained from Curling Canada, and will be awarded according to Curling Canada Guidelines found at <https://www.curling.ca/mixeddoubles/cmdr-explained/>.
  - d. Curling Alberta will follow CMDR substitution policy in the accumulation of CMDR points.
- iii. The first ranked team from the current Mixed Doubles Excel Points Race will receive berth #3.
- a. The eligibility period for points accumulation will include only the current season from August 1st to approximately mid-January annually. For the 2019-20 Championship season, and for the purpose of determining these berths, the eligibility period for the accumulation of Mixed Doubles Excel Points is August 1, 2019 to and including January 21, 2020.
  - b. The qualifying events/bonspiels for the Excel Points must occur within the bounds of Curling Alberta and will not include Provincial Qualifier, Provincial, National or World Championship playdown events.
  - c. For a team to earn applicable points or claim a pre-qualifying Excel Points berth, they must first register for the Excel Points Race or Curling Canada's CMDR prior to playing any events. In addition, both players must be competing together in the majority of games at any event from which Excel Points are earned.
  - d. For the purpose of determining these berths, mixed doubles teams will be ranked based on their total accumulation of points from the following events, and using the criteria identified below.
    - i) Tier 1 – Curling Canada Sanctioned Mixed Doubles Events – Qualico Communities Mixed Doubles Classic, Others TBD
      - Champion-40, finalist-32, semi-finalist-26, quarters-22 or 2.5 pts./win
    - ii) Tier 2 – Event entry fee greater than or equal to \$400. Minimum 16 team field.
      - Champion-28, finalist-22, semi-finalist-18, quarters-14 or 2.0 pts./win
    - iii) Tier 3 – Event entry fee greater than or equal to \$250. Minimum 16 team field.
      - Champion-22, finalist-18, semi-finalist-14, quarters-10 or 1.5 pts./win
    - iv) Tier 4 – Event entry fee greater than or equal to \$100. Minimum 16 team field.
      - Champion-16, finalist-12, semi-finalist-9, quarters-6 or 1.0 pts./win
  - e. There is no limit to the number of events eligible in collecting Excel Points. A team can play in an **unlimited amount** of eligible events and all accumulated points will count toward their total.