



CURLING ALBERTA ANNOUNCES 2019-20 COMPETITIONS POLICIES & OPENS REGISTRATION

Registration for Curling Alberta competitions is set to open on Monday, October 7th at 4:00pm. The Wheelchair category is the only exception, which will open for registration on November 1st, 2019. Similar to past seasons, Curling Alberta's member clubs will have the opportunity to declare their intent to register a team for the Curling Club Championship provincial qualifiers. More information on Club Championship registration to come. The registration deadline for all categories is 12:00pm (noon) on the Wednesday that is three weeks before the first qualifier in that category. Mixed Doubles and Wheelchair are an exception as the deadline is the Wednesday 2 weeks prior to the first qualifier. Visit the Curling Alberta [website](#) to see all deadlines.

To register your team online, simply scroll to the bottom of the [Provincial Qualifier and Championships](#) page on the Curling Alberta website and click 'Register Now'.

Related, Curling Alberta is pleased to announce the policies governing its competitions for the 2019-20 season have been published. Please note that there are a number of notable changes in addition to those posted during the summer. The implemented changes are aimed to increase participation, highlight developmental opportunities, and promote fairness. These revisions are largely based on valuable stakeholder feedback collected over the course of last season and in the spring. Curling Alberta's Board and Competitions Committee sincerely thank everyone who responded to our call for comments and opinions on our rules and policies. We feel that the changes largely reflect the feedback and are a positive step to encourage more athletes to enjoy the thrill of competition for a lifetime.

Similar to last season, the Competitors' Guide, appendices and competitive policies will govern Curling Alberta's competitions. To be clear, each category will have an accompanying appendix, which will detail any specific or special rules. This season the Competitors' Guide has been broken into two key sections to enhance ease of understanding of the guide. The first section is to be referred to for all Curling Alberta competitions, while the second section applies to provincial championships only. All noteworthy changes of impact will once again be highlighted in blue.

Please also note that Curling Canada is still in the process of reviewing the policies related to the Curling Club Championship category. That updated eligibility will be released as soon as it is available.

While competitors and coaches are still responsible to read and be familiar with Curling Alberta's complete rules and policies, below is a short-listed summary of the most noteworthy changes coming for the 2019-2020 curling season:

Alternates, Substitutions, & Replacements

To add clarity to the policies related to alternates, substitutions, and replacements previously announced, please read below:

- Excluding Mixed Doubles and U21 Mixed Doubles, a team must register with a roster of four original players (prior to registration deadline). **Three (3) of those four (4) originally rostered players must be on the ice at all times during all levels of competition up to and including the provincial championship.**

- **An alternate (5th) or a replacement player is not considered as one of the four originally rostered players.**

- **Substitutes will be permitted at any time for any reason, providing that the requirements for eligibility and three of four originally rostered players to be on the ice at all times are met.**
- **Alternates and replacements must not have competed in any level of competition within that category as a registered player, and may only play for the team to which they are added.**
 - Subs, however, may play for more than one team and at different levels in a category as they are not considered registered players.
- An alternate player may be declared on the team’s entry form at registration or within 24 hours after receiving a qualifying berth. An alternate cannot be added during an event, except with Chief Umpire approval, which will be rare.
- Teams that name an alternate are expected to exhaust their lineup before adding a substitute or replacement.

Please read the related sections in the Competitor’s Guide for the complete policies as there are category-specific exceptions and applications.

Registration Information

This season, registration information for each competition will be published online in real time prior to the registration deadline and will be available publicly on the Curling I/O website. Follow these steps to stay up-to-date with the registrations:

- Visit <https://ab.curling.io/en/competitions>.
- Search for the event you are interested in and click on the event title (do not click ‘register’). For example, scroll down to 2019/20 Mixed Doubles Provincial Qualifier - Canmore Curling Club or search Mixed Doubles;
- Click on the event (red writing);
- Once in the event, click the ‘Registration’ tab on the top.

U21 Mixed Doubles Provincial Championship

Curling Alberta will pilot a U21 Mixed Doubles Provincial Championship, which will be hosted at the Calgary Curling Club this season. This event will be open registration (i.e. no provincial qualifiers) to a maximum of 24 teams who will register on a first come first serve basis.

Provincial Championship Formats

The formats for the provincial championships in the categories listed below will be amended as follows:

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP CATEGORY	AMENDED FORMAT
Men’s Championship	Twelve team championship, with two pools of six playing a full round-robin within each pool. Top two teams in each pool qualify for a four-team page playoff.
Women’s Championship	Eight team full round-robin championship, with a four-team page playoff.
Optimist U18 (Girl’s and Boy’s)	Eight team full round-robin championship, with “top 3” playoffs.
Mixed Doubles	Twenty-four team round-robin championship with four pools of six. Top two in each pool advance to 8-team playoff. Previous second option of thirty-three or more teams has been eliminated.
Curling Club Championship (Men’s and Women’s)	Twelve team championship in each gender, with two pools of six playing a full round-robin within each pool. Top two teams in each pool qualify for a four-team page playoff.

Berth Policy

Curling Alberta will sanction three provincial qualifiers in each event category where qualifiers are scheduled, except women's and master women's, as previously announced. A minimum of one provincial berth per qualifier will be awarded, contrary to last season's two berth minimum. Similar to last season, any additional berths in each qualifier will be allocated in a prorated manner based on the remaining number of entries after the mandatory berths have been allocated and subtracted from the total number of entries.

In addition, the number of provincial berths for the women's category will be reduced from twelve to eight. This change is intended to maintain the significance of qualifying for a provincial championship, and to ensure that the provincial draw is filled for planning and sponsorship purposes.

Excel Points Race & Prequalifying Berths

Each of the categories listed below will receive pre-qualifying berths into their respective provincial championships. Where a prequalifying berth is determined by the Excel Points Race, August 1st of the current season will be the start date of the points accumulation. As stated above, the berths remaining after the prequalifying berths are awarded will be applied among the provincial qualifying events on a prorated basis.

Women's

Three prequalifying berths total, awarded in the following order:

1. One to the defending champion. If the defending champion does not or cannot accept the berth, this berth will be offered last and to the highest ranked remaining team on the Excel Points Race;
2. One to the highest ranked, Alberta-based team on the Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) as at December 3, 2019;
3. One to the highest ranked team on the Excel Points Race as at December 3, 2019.

Note: Since the number of women's qualifiers is reduced to two this season, and the number of provincial berths has been reduced from twelve to eight, there is a reduced number of pre-qualifying berths. The Excel Points Race pre-qualifying berth will replace the berth previously decided by the Alberta Curling Tour (ACT) standings.

Men's

Four prequalifying berths total, awarded in the following order:

1. One to the defending champion. If the defending champion does not or cannot accept the berth, this berth will be awarded last (4th) to the remaining highest ranked team from the CTRS standings that meets the residency criteria.
2. One to the highest ranked, Alberta-based team on the Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) as at December 16, 2019;
3. Two to the highest ranked teams on the Excel Points Race as at December 16, 2019.

Note: The Excel Points Race prequalifying berth will replace the berths previously decided by the Alberta Curling Tour (ACT) standings.

Mixed Doubles

Three (3) pre-qualifying provincial berths total, awarded in the following order:

1. The defending Alberta Mixed Doubles provincial champions will receive berth #1.
2. 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.
3. The first ranked team from the current Mixed Doubles Excel Points Race will receive berth #3.

U18 and Junior (U21)

One prequalifying berth, in both categories and genders, awarded to the highest ranked team on the Excel Points Race immediately following the Excel U18 Cup and the Excel U21 Cup (as at December 2, 2019). If offered, teams must participate in the Excel Cup in order to be eligible to accept the prequalifying berth.

Click here to read more on the U18 and U21 Excel Cups. More information on the Excel Points Race and how your team can earn points can be found here.

Coaching Requirements

Quality and trained/certified coaches benefit children and adult athletes in countless ways. By setting standards for coach education, Curling Alberta is demonstrating a commitment to the safety, well-being, and developmental interests of its athletes.

Curling Alberta's coaching requirements have been updated as described in the table below:

CATEGORY	MINIMUM NCCP QUALIFICATIONS	OTHER REQUIREMENTS
WOMEN'S	Competition Coach – Certified or Chartered Professional Coach	Criminal Record Check
MEN'S	Competition Coach – Certified or Chartered Professional Coach	Criminal Record Check
MIXED	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check
MIXED DOUBLES	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check
JUNIOR	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check
SENIORS	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check
MASTERS	None	Criminal Record Check
U18	Competition Coach – Trained	Criminal Record Check, plus Making Ethical Decisions or Respect in Sport – Sport Activity Leader/Coach Program
U15	None	Criminal Record Check, plus Respect in Sport – Sport Activity Leader/Coach Program*
WHEELCHAIR	Competition Coach – Certified	Criminal Record Check
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS	None	Criminal Record Check
U21 MIXED DOUBLES	Competition Coach – Trained	Criminal Record Check, plus Making Ethical Decisions or Respect in Sport – Sport Activity Leader/Coach Program

**if a coach in this category is 18 - 20 years of age, at least three references must be provided for additional screening.*

All coaches must be 21 years of age or older except in the U15 category, for which coaches may be 18 and older. In addition, the same coaching requirements apply at all levels of competition within the event category (i.e., qualifiers and provincial championships) to promote fairness in all Curling Alberta competitions. All coaches, except a mentored coach, must have the above category-specific qualifications and requirements. A coach who does not meet the necessary NCCP requirements as listed may be designated as a 'mentored coach', subject to Curling Alberta approval. A mentored coach can apply for a one-year exemption to the applicable NCCP requirement(s) provided that a Certified Competition Coach accompanies him or her and is on site for the duration of the event.

If you are planning on coaching this season, but do not have the requirements listed here or would like more information, please visit the Curling Alberta [website](#). Check out the course schedule to find out where a course is being held near you.

The complete versions of the Competitors' Guide, policies, and category-specific appendices can be found on the Curling Alberta website: <http://www.albertacurling.ab.ca/>. Any questions should be directed to Curling Alberta's Competition Coordinators.