



**CURLING
ALBERTA**

**COMPETITOR'S GUIDE
FOR ALL
COMPETITIONS
2019-20**

Updated October 4, 2019

HOW TO USE THE GUIDE

This guide has been amended to reflect a number of changes in policy and procedures since the previous season. Changes that have a noteworthy impact, are highlighted in **blue font** within this guide. Procedures contained within this guide apply except where amended within a specific category appendix.

The guide has been split into sections to clearly identify the policies and procedures that apply to each level of competition.

- Section 1 refers to **all** Curling Alberta competitions, including Provincial Qualifiers and Provincial Championships.
- Section 2 refers **only** to the Provincial Championship.

Additional policies and category specific appendices can be found on the Curling Alberta website: <http://www.albertacurling.ab.ca/>

It remains the responsibility of the competitors and coaches to read and adhere to all policies contained in the most recent publication of this document on the Curling Alberta website. Any questions should be directed to the Curling Alberta office.

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• Alberta Masters Curling Championships (Men and Women)	
• Optimist Alberta U18 Curling Championships (Boy and Girl)	
• Alberta Wheelchair Curling Championship	
• Alberta Curling Club Championships (Men and Women)	
• Alberta Curlers Corner U15 Curling Championships (Combined Boy and Girl)	
• Alberta U21 Mixed Doubles Championship	

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JURISDICTION

The Provincial Curling Championships governed by Curling Alberta are:

- Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts (Women's Championship)
- Alberta Boston Pizza Cup, presented by Best Western (Men's Championship)
- Alberta Mixed Curling Championship
- Alberta Mixed Doubles Curling Championship
- Alberta Junior Curling Championships (Men and Women)
- Alberta Senior Curling Championships (Men and Women)
- Alberta Masters Curling Championships (Men and Women)
- Optimist Alberta U18 Curling Championships (Boy and Girl)
- Alberta Wheelchair Curling Championship
- Alberta Curling Club Championships (Men and Women)
- Alberta Curlers Corner U15 Curling Championships (Combined Boy and Girl)
- Alberta U21 Mixed Doubles Curling Championships

This guide will also apply to other events sanctioned by Curling Alberta (any differences or exceptions will be listed in event-specific technical packages or other documents):

- U18 and U21 Excel Cups
- Alberta Winter Games and Qualifiers
- Arctic Winter Games

AUTHORITY

Curling Alberta has the authority to make decisions related to its competitions and Excel Points, as it considers necessary, to handle any situation not covered by its rules and policies.

Curling Alberta is the policy decision forum for Provincial Championships, all of the provincial qualifiers, as well as its other sanctioned events and Excel Points. All matters of concern should initially be directed to Curling Alberta's Championships Coordinator or Executive Director.

A subcommittee of Curling Alberta's Competitions Committee, known as the "Competitions Tribunal", is delegated the authority to make pre-event policy interpretations. This Tribunal is comprised of three appointees who are selected by the Board annually. All decisions by the Tribunal will have a majority requirement. If only two of the three members are available for consultation, and if consensus is not achievable, the Tribunal Chair shall hold the deciding vote. If any member of the Competitions Tribunal is in a position of conflict, that individual shall be recused, and the Vice Chair of the Competitions Committee shall act as his or her replacement.

During a championship or qualifier, policy interpretations are the responsibility of the event's Chief Umpire in consultation with at least one member of the Competitions Tribunal.

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

The sponsors of curling contribute substantially to the sport. There are currently many different sponsors at the national, provincial, regional, local, and team levels. In addition, the federal, provincial, and municipal governments provide funds to our sport.

At Curling Alberta, our sponsorship agreements are continually evolving to meet both the needs of the sport and those of the sponsors. We ask you, as curlers, to recognize the importance of the support curling receives from these partners. Without the contributions of our corporate and government partners, the quality of our competitions would be greatly diminished.

Below is a list of our current national and provincial sponsors and partners:

- Alberta Sport Connection
- Best Western Hotels (exclusivity)
- Boston Pizza (exclusivity)
- Jet Ice
- Kruger Products (exclusivity)
- Optimist Clubs of Alberta
- Sportsnet (exclusivity)
- Curling Canada
- Curlers Corner
- Belairdirect
- Great Western Brewing Company

SECTION 1: THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL CURLING ALBERTA COMPETITIONS.

1.A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. MEALS

Teams are responsible for their own meals. The Competition Coordinator or Host Committee will advise you of any functions provided (i.e. banquet, brunch, etc.).

2. TRAVEL EXPENSES

Travel expenses will be the responsibility of the teams.

3. TEAM NAME & CLUB REPRESENTATION

Team names on all provincial draws and sanctioned publications will be the last name of the skip (the person that calls the game). Teams must declare which member club they are representing; at least one player must be members in good standing at that club. Team names for the Club Championship will be the curling club that they are representing.

4. CONDUCT

Competitors and coaches are required to conduct themselves on and off the ice in an appropriate manner and abide by the rules of the competition. The Chief Umpire may intervene at any time if a team, player, or coach is displaying inappropriate behavior. Competitors and coaches agree to abide by the Curling Alberta Code of Conduct Policy as listed in the Curling Alberta Policy Manual available on its website.

With the exception of non-mandatory coaches and 5th players, attend any designated competition team meeting(s), ceremonies and any banquet/social held in conjunction with the competition. If a competitor must be absent from the team meeting, ceremonies or banquet because of illness, accident, or other extenuating circumstances, prior permission must be granted by Curling Alberta. If requested by Curling Alberta, a competitor must participate in the voting procedure for any awards. Failure to do so may result in the competitor being dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary policy as posted on the Curling Alberta website.

Curling Alberta will require at least one parent/guardian of each player under 18 years of age to have completed the on-line Respect in Sport – Parent Program in order for the minor to participate in any sanctioned event. Consult Section 4 for related policy.

5. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In the playing area, no electronic devices of any type (e.g.- cell phones, iPods, smartwatches, [speed traps](#) etc.) are allowed, except for stopwatches which are approved at the discretion of the Chief Umpire. Coaches and/or competitors are not allowed to videotape or livestream games or practice sessions at a sanctioned event. However, coaches are permitted to use any electronic device during timeouts.

6. TEAM MEETING

At least one team member or coach (as listed on the roster) from each team must attend a meeting with the Chief Umpire. [The meeting is one hour prior to the team's first game unless otherwise stated in the official schedule of events.](#) If a team fails to attend as required, the team will be penalized with loss of hammer in their first game. At that time, any questions regarding officiating or rule interpretation should be presented for clarification. The competitors will be advised at this time of the level of officiating that they may expect at the event.

7. COACHES

- a. For all categories, with the exception of U15 Boy's and Girl's, coaches must be at least 21 years of age. In the U15 category, all coaches must be 18 or older; consult the U15 Appendix for additional coaching/age criteria specific to that category.
- b. [The same coaching requirements apply at all levels of competition \(i.e., Provincial Qualifiers and Provincial Championships\).](#)
- c. [Coaches should be named at least 10 days prior to the start of the qualifier their team is registered for.](#)
- d. [With the exception of a mentored coach situation as described below, coaches must have the following category-specific qualifications and requirements:](#)

Category	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

- e. A coach who does not meet the necessary NCCP requirements can be designated as a 'mentored coach'. A mentored coach can apply for a one-year exemption of the applicable NCCP requirements provided that a Certified Competition Coach accompanies him or her, and is onsite for the duration of the event. [The application to be mentored must be received by the Curling Alberta office at least ten \(10\) days prior to the start of the qualifier their team is registered for. Contact the Curling Alberta office for application instructions.](#)
- f. In U15, U18, U21 Mixed Doubles and Junior categories, a coach is mandatory and is considered a full team member. They are expected to follow all applicable guidelines, including team substitutions & replacements. A criminal record check is mandatory. For all other Provincial Championship categories, a coach is only considered a team member specific to dress standards, and the Cresting and Code of Conduct Policies.
- g. Coaches may only coach one team at a Provincial Championship (e.g. a coach may not coach both a male and female team at the same category). A coach may coach teams in different categories, or coach in some categories and compete in others. However, the key stipulation here is that there can be no conflict(s) in event dates among these categories from Provincial Qualifiers through to and including Provincial Championships.
- h. Coaches must follow all dress standards, as per Section 2(A) and must adhere to the Curling Alberta Cresting Policy at all Provincial Championships. However, in the instance where a coach is being mentored, one coach must follow the dress standards as outlined and the second coach must wear clothing of a similar color or all black. Both coaches would be allowed on-ice for time-outs and pre-game/pre-event practice; the certified coach as an observer only.
- i. Seating will be provided for all coaches as outlined at the team meeting. Coaches will not be allowed to reserve seating other than what has been designated. In venues where coaches are offered restricted seating (i.e. away from the general population), only the designated and approved coaches are allowed in the restricted area.
- j. Criminal Record Checks (CRC) will expire with our organization in three years. For example, if the check was completed prior to Sept 2016, you are required to submit a new one for this curling season (2018-19). To complete your Criminal Record Check on-line, visit myBackCheck.com.

8. POTENTIAL DATE CONFLICTS

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 four 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.

[Replacements must meet the criteria established in section 1\(B\)\(1\).](#)

9. DRUG TESTING AND ANTI-DOPING PROGRAM

Athletes must be aware that random drug testing may occur at Provincial Qualifier and Provincial Championships. See Section 3 for more information. To identify what substances and recreational drugs are prohibited, please go to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport at <https://www.cces.ca/>. For more information, refer to Curling Canada's Website: <https://www.curling.ca/about-the-sport-of-curling/high-performance/canadian-anti-doping-program/>

1.B. TEAMS

Excluding Mixed Doubles and U21 Mixed Doubles, a team must register with a roster of four original players (as of the registration deadline). Three (3) of those four (4) originally rostered players must be on the ice at all times during the event. This means at every end of every game. If a team chooses to also name an alternate or a replacement, that player is not considered as one of the four originally rostered players. The only exception to this requirement to maintain three of four originally rostered players would be due to **extremely rare** events of illness, injury, or rare and extenuating circumstances as deemed reasonable at the sole discretion of the Chief Umpire at an event.

Teams may also name an alternate for all categories, except U15, U21 Mixed Doubles, Mixed Doubles, and Mixed. Coaches must be identified and are considered a member of the team for U15, U18, U21 Mixed Doubles and Junior competitions as per section 1(A)(7) of this guide.

1. ALTERNATES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND REPLACEMENTS

- Alternates, substitutes, and replacements must:
 - meet eligibility requirements as per section 1(B)(1); specifically age, gender and residency;
 - be affiliated with a Curling Alberta member club; and
 - **must not have competed in any level of competition within that category as a registered player. That is, subs may play for more than one team and at different levels in a category as they are not considered registered players. Alternates and replacements may not have competed as a registered player at any level within that category.** It is the team's responsibility to ensure eligibility is met.
- The Curling Alberta office must be notified of any changes to the roster by email, including addition of an alternate, coach, or replacement. Changes are subject to an administration fee and must follow the procedure noted below in point 6.
- Once competition has begun, it is the team's responsibility to inform the Chief Umpire of any substitute or roster change prior to stepping onto the ice. Changes are subject to an administration fee and must follow the procedure noted below in point 6.

a. Alternates (5th Players)

Alternates are not permitted in U15, U21 Mixed Doubles, Mixed Doubles and Mixed team competitions.

- i. 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.

- ii. Alternates are considered team members and are expected to follow all guidelines with the exception of team obligations referenced at section 2(A)(3). Note, dress standards, cresting, and code of conduct policies will be strictly applied to alternate players.
- iii. Teams that name an alternate are expected to exhaust their lineup before adding a substitute or replacement.
- iv. Alternates may play in any game, at any position on the team;
- v. Expenses of the alternate player shall be the responsibility of the team; and
- vi. Teams continuing on to national events will be subject to the rules of the body governing the national event regarding alternates.

Note: Although it is permitted, Curling Alberta does not encourage the use of an alternate at the younger categories (U18 and U21) wherever possible. Rather, players are encouraged to find a team on which they can gain regular playing experience.

b. Substitute

- i. A substitute is a temporary player, replacing a player on a game by game basis. The original player may return to any game at any level of competition; and
- ii. A substitute may be utilized at any time for any reason provided he/she is eligible, and is not a member of another registered team (including alternates) at any level of competition within that category. Substitutes cannot compete for more than one team at the same time.
- iii. In Mixed Doubles or U21 Mixed Doubles competition, a substitute is not permitted. In the event any one mixed doubles competitor becomes unable to compete, the team would be required to replace the player prior to the start of competition. If both original players are absent, the team is disqualified.
- iv. In Mixed competition, a spare pool will be provided at the Provincial Championship. The substitute or replacement player must be the same gender as the missing player and play either position appropriate for his/her gender. Spare pool will be further defined in the Mixed Appendix.

c. Replacement

- i. A replacement is a permanent substitution, and the original team member being replaced will no longer be eligible to compete. This action is considered a roster change and is subject to an administration fee (point 6 below). The amended roster will be used for any subsequent team recognition (eg. banners);
- ii. For Mixed Doubles and U21 Mixed Doubles, and only prior to any qualifying or provincial competition, a replacement will be granted if one team member is representing Alberta or Canada at national or international competition in another category with a conflicting date.
- iii. A Mixed Doubles team cannot replace more than one player.
- iv. Replacement players are considered registered players, but are not considered to be an originally rostered member.

2. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Curling Alberta will supply the official draw, rosters, and schedule for all sanctioned provincial qualifiers and championships.

The registration deadline for all event categories is listed on the Curling Alberta website, <http://www.albertacurling.ab.ca/content/provincial-qualifiers-amp-championships>. These deadlines are subject to change which will be communicated through email, website, and/or social media.

3. WITHDRAWALS AND REFUNDS

- a. Teams may withdraw from an event prior to the registration deadline by emailing Curling Alberta (subject to an admin fee of 20% of the team's total entry costs).
- b. Withdrawals after registration deadline will not receive a refund, unless approved by Curling Alberta.
- c. Teams may amend the qualifier location they are registered for only prior to entry deadline, and must do so by emailing the Curling Alberta office (subject to a \$40 administration fee).

4. TEAM FILL GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will be applied for all Curling Alberta sanctioned events in the case where one (1) or more teams withdraw or become ineligible.

- a. Prior to the commencement of a qualifier:
 - i. The spot will first be filled with any waitlisted teams based on the time of entry;
 - ii. If there is no waitlist, and the team to be replaced is in a seeded position in the draw, every effort will be made to remake the draw as appropriate if time allows, and as per Curling Alberta's sole discretion. If time does not allow for the draw to be adjusted, a bye will be inserted into the vacancy.
- b. Prior to the commencement of a provincial championship:
 - i. Curling Alberta will apply its discretion when naming any replacement teams. However, it will utilize the following guidelines in an effort to apply consistent logic. The berth will be offered to:
 - The last losing team in the qualifier where the berth originated;
 - If there is a tie for the berth, a playoff will be scheduled where time permits and is mutually agreed by the teams. If time or other logistics do not permit for a playoff to take place (at the discretion of Curling Alberta) a coin toss will decide the replacement team.
 - Consideration will go to the team or teams that lost the final berth game at the same qualifying event as the team that has withdrawn. The berth will remain in the Provincial Qualifier where the withdrawn team originated from. In the case that there is no other qualifying team, the berth will go to the qualifier with the next largest number of registrants. See Curling Alberta Provincial Berth Policy for more details.

5. SEEDING POLICY

- a. Provincial Qualifiers:
 - i. The following categories will be seeded based on the Excel Points Race where available; Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, U18 and Juniors (U21).
 - ii. As the remaining categories are not included in the Excel Points Race, they will be placed in the draw by random selection.

- b. Provincial Championships:
 - i. All categories with Excel Points (Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, U18 and Juniors (U21)), will be seeded based on a hybrid system of points and self-seeding, weighted at 50% each.
 - ii. All categories not included in the Excel Points Race, will be self-seeded.

Although Curling Alberta will make every effort to follow this policy, publication deadlines may change due to unforeseen circumstances in which case, Curling Alberta will rectify the issue and publish the draw as soon as possible.

6. REGISTRATION AND ROSTERS

- a. Registrations for provincial qualifiers or open provincial championships will close immediately following the registration deadline.
- b. Registration information for each event prior to the registration deadline will be published online in real time and available publicly, where technology allows. Rosters are not considered official until validated by Curling Alberta.
- c. Late team registrations will only be accepted in the case of an administrative/technical error by Curling Alberta.
- d. The official rosters will be created as per the information submitted by the teams through the online registration process. The official rosters will be posted on the online within three days of the start of competition. These rosters will carry forward through each level of competition unless a change is submitted to Curling Alberta by email and confirmed (i.e. teams will no longer be required to accept a provincial berth by completing paperwork and confirming their roster upon qualification).
- e. Teams are responsible to properly complete and verify their registration, which is confirmed by receipt of the email from Curling I/O Support with the subject of 'Order Submitted - Curling I/O'. If you have received this confirmation, there is no need to contact the Curling Alberta office. Once this confirmation is received, all team members must ensure that they have signed the waiver for the current season and have an up-to-date curler profile in Curling I/O. For clarity, players who already have a curler profile which was created in a previous season should not create a new one.
- f. As noted in the Competitors' Guide, Curling Alberta must be notified of any changes to the roster (i.e. addition of a coach or alternate) by email. Roster or registration changes are not considered valid until verified by the Curling Alberta staff or Chief Umpire in writing.
- g. Roster changes are subject to the following administration fees:

If submitted prior to registration deadline	\$0
If submitted between the registration deadline and event completion	\$40
If submitted within 1 business day after winning a provincial berth	\$0
If submitted after the period described above	\$100

- h. If there are no qualifiers prior to the provincial championship, roster changes are subject to the following administration fees:

If submitted prior to registration deadline	\$0
If submitted between the registration deadline and 10 days before the start of the event	\$40
If submitted within 9 days of the start of the event	\$100

- i. Official roster changes are not permitted during an event, except in special circumstances as approved by the Chief Umpire. Rather, if an injury or illness occurs during an event, teams must first utilize a substitute if alternate is not already named.

7. PRE-COMPETITION PRACTICE

- a. Provincial Qualifiers:
- Practice ice may be available prior to competition. Arrangements are to be made by the teams directly with the host. Instructions will be emailed to the skip and/or coach.
- b. Provincial Championships:
- When pre-event practice is sanctioned, the schedule will be provided by the Host Committee and teams. Sanctioned practice is mandatory at all Provincial Championships, unless otherwise stated.

8. DRAW-MAKING

Draws will be created based on the formats stated in the specific category appendices and the Provincial Berth Policy.

- Draws will be created and approved by Curling Alberta.
- At minimum, the official draw and roster will be emailed to the skip and/or coach (U15, U18 and Junior (U21) events) of each team at least one week prior to the start of competition. The draw and roster will also be published on the Curling Alberta website three (3) days prior to the start of competition. If there are any delays due to unforeseen/unavoidable circumstances, Curling Alberta will advise affected teams of the reason for the delay and the estimated time of completion.
- The official draw, including draw times, is subject to change after being published. If any changes are made, teams and the host committee will be notified by email.
- The Chief Umpire will be responsible to allocate ice during the competition after the first draw (which will be assigned by Curling Alberta). This information will be posted publicly at the host club. Any issues or concerns should be brought to the attention of the Chief Umpire, whose decision will be final and unappealable. Once the draw is posted at the host club, changes may be made by the Chief Umpire in consultation with the Competition/Championship Coordinator.

9. DRAW PLACEMENT PROCEDURE

- a. Provincial Qualifiers:
 - i. A random selection will be conducted by a Curling Alberta staff to determine draw placement for categories without Excel Points. The selection will be witnessed by a third party and video recorded.
- b. Provincial Championships:
 - i. For all categories with Excel Points (Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, U18, and Juniors) teams will be seeded using a hybrid system of points and self-seeding weighted at 50% each.
 - Qualifying teams, including pre-qualifiers, are required to complete the provided Team Bio Form and return it to the Curling Alberta office within two business days of the last qualifying event.
 - The completed Team Bio Forms will be sent to all teams in the provincial field to assist teams with the self-seeding process.
 - Should a team not return a Team Bio Form, an average will be applied in place by taking the total number of rankings the team received and dividing it by the number of teams.
 - The office will compile the self-seeding results and combine it with the Excel Points Race rankings to get the final seeding results.
 - ii. For all categories without Excel Points:
 - Self-seeded
 - The Team Bio Form will be sent to all qualifying teams to provide background information on the team and assist other teams with self-seeding. Teams will self-seed based on this information and return it to the office by the deadline stated by email and/or on the form.
 - The office will compile the self-seeding results to get the final seeding results.

1.C. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL

Curling is based on a code of ethics, good sportsmanship and personal integrity. Players and coaches are expected to follow this tradition and the rules of the game throughout the competition.

All Provincial events will be played under the "Rules of Curling for Officiated Play" as specified in the latest edition of the rulebook published by Curling Canada (CC) including all subsequent rule changes and interpretations adopted by CC as of the start of the competition. "Rules of Curling for Officiated Play" may be supplemented by rules in this Competitors' Guide and/or the related Appendix for a specific event.

2. OFFICIATING

Chief Umpire - The Chief Umpire shall be named by Curling Alberta and is responsible for rule enforcement and interpretation. During a competition, the Chief Umpire assumes responsibility to interpret and administer the Curling Alberta Competitors' Guide, Appendices, Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policies as listed on the Curling Alberta Website.

Timers – A Time Clock Operator may be assigned to each sheet of ice and is responsible for the timing of that game.

Officiating for Provincial Championships is further defined in section 2(B)(1).

3. EQUIPMENT

- a. All brush heads, including `target` brooms must be WCF compliant. It is the responsibility of the players and coaches to ensure compliance. Hair brooms and corn brooms are banned as sweeping devices. Visit the WCF website for the up to date code list and for more details: <https://worldcurling.org/competitions/brushes/>
- b. Each person must declare their one (1) sweeping device that will be used for the entire game and only that player may use that sweeping device. This declaration must take place prior to the first pre-game practice (brooms will not be marked).
- c. A player may only change a brush head with approval from the Chief Umpire.
- d. A sweeping device broken during the game cannot be replaced, except at the sole discretion of the Chief Umpire.
- e. A substitute entering a game must use the sweeping device of the player they are replacing.
- f. All equipment is subject to random inspection.
- g. Equipment penalties:
 - i. If a player uses an illegal brush head, the game is forfeited AND:
 - For a 1st offense, the offending player is removed from the game and cannot continue in the specific competition - they cannot be replaced.
 - For a 2nd or subsequent offense, the entire team is disqualified from the specific competition and suspended from any Curling Alberta competition for 365 days.
 - ii. If a player uses another player's legal brush head, the stone is removed from play.

1.D. COMPETITION

The rules and procedures contained within this section apply to all competitions except where amended within a specific category appendix.

1. ELIGIBILITY

Each player must meet all age, gender, policy and residency/citizenship requirements, and must be a member* of a Curling Alberta affiliated curling club but not necessarily the same club (this includes free agents). Any team to be found with an ineligible member on a roster or on the ice will be disqualified and subject to further disciplinary action. Teams can participate in any one provincial qualifier per category.

It is the team's responsibility to cross reference Curling Canada's Residency and Eligibility Policy at <https://www.curling.ca/residency-eligibility-requirements/>

Women's	No Age Restriction (4 female players/team)
Men's	No Age Restriction (4 male players/team)
Mixed	No Age Restriction (2 male and 2 female players per team, male and female must play in alternating positions)
Mixed Doubles	No Age Restriction (1 male and 1 female player per team)
Junior	20 years or under as of June 30, 2019 (4 male or 4 female players and a coach per team). Must be born after June 30, 1998
Seniors	Minimum 50 years of age as of June 30, 2020 (4 male or 4 female players per team). Must be born on or before June 30, 1970
Masters	Minimum 60 years of age as of December 31, 2019 (4 male or 4 female players per team). Must be born on or before December 31, 1959
U18	17 years or under as of June 30, 2019 (4 male or 4 female players and a coach per team). Must be born after June 30, 2001
U15	14 years or under as of June 30, 2019 (any combination of 4 male and female players and a coach per team). Must be born after June 30, 2004
Wheelchair	No Age Restriction (any mixed gender combination of 4 players)
Club Championships	Three (3) of the four (4) players must be a minimum of nineteen (19) years of age and older on November 1st prior to the year of the championship; these three must be born on or before November 1, 2000. (4 male or female players per team)
U21 Mixed Doubles	20 years or under as of June 30, 2019 (1 male and 1 female player per team). Must be born after June 30, 1998

- a. A "Member" within the bounds of the Curling Alberta is defined as follows:
 - i. A curler who has paid a fee known as a "Membership Fee" or equivalent to a Curling Alberta affiliated organization known as a curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent.
 - ii. A curler who is exempt from paying a fee identified in point (i) above by virtue of a life membership or award offered by a Curling Alberta affiliated curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent.
 - iii. A curler who has paid league dues or similar registration fees to a Curling Alberta affiliated curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent, within which is included a membership fee or an inferred membership privilege in such curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent.
- b. And further, that for the purpose of defining a "curler" as described above:
 - i. A "curler" means a regular curling participant who plays, on average, biweekly or more. A "curler" does not include a participant who only curls in a bonspiel, a private event or on sporadic occasion where they are not individually registered with the curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent.
 - ii. A "curler" does include participants in playdowns who may or may not play in a regular scheduled league but who are fully paid members, representing a

curling club, curling centre or curling association at Curling Alberta sanctioned competition.

- iii. A “curler” can be a member of more than one curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent, but will only be identified as a member once within Curling Alberta.

2. RESPECT IN SPORT

Curling Alberta is pleased to continue its partnership with the Respect Group Inc. to provide an educational tool that will further our commitment to fostering a safe and fun environment for all participants. Curling Alberta will require at least one parent/guardian of each player under 18 years of age to have completed the on-line Respect in Sport – Parent Program in order for the minor to participate in any sanctioned event. Consult Section 4 for “Respect in Sport” Policy.

3. GAME DURATION

Game duration for Provincial Championships is further defined in section 2(C)(1).

- a. **Timing:**
 - i. All games may be timed. Consult specific Appendices for details. The penalty for violation will be enforced as per the Curling Canada Rulebook. If games are NOT timed, the Umpire will enforce ‘pace of play’ per the rule book to assist with keeping the games on schedule.
 - ii. The between-end break shall be to a maximum of 60 seconds.
- b. **Time-outs:**
 - i. Each team may request two (2) timeouts per game.
 - ii. Each timeout will be 90 seconds in length and will include any travel time for the coach or alternate to access the playing area.
 - iii. The coach or alternate player who requested the timeout may access the playing area adjacent to or at the end of the sheet but shall not access the playing surface.
 - iv. The team that did not request the timeout may communicate for the same amount of time as the coach who called the timeout, however, they must stay at the home end. They shall not cause any delay to the stone being delivered.
 - v. Umpires may call a timeout at any time. If a player is allowed to replay a stone, the time clock will not operate. When an end is replayed, the clock is reset to the time recorded at the completion of the previous end.
- c. **Extra Ends:**
 - i. If extra ends are required, each team will be given one (1) timeout per extra end. Timeouts cannot be carried over. [Consult specific Appendices for details.](#)

4. PRE-GAME PRACTICE (exception: Mixed Doubles & U21 Mixed Doubles)

- a. Prior to the start of a game, teams are permitted a nine (9) minute practice with their stones.
- b. For all competition formats that are not a full round-robin, including pool play, a flip of the coin will determine stone colour or practice session.
- c. For full round robin competition formats, the team listed first (or on top) will be assigned dark colored handles and will begin practice 30 minutes before the draw.

The team assigned light colored handles will begin their practice 20 minutes before the draw.

- d. Pregame practice will consist of a team delivering a maximum of eight stones up and all eight stones back during a nine minute practice. Each stone is delivered twice only.
- e. Practice sliding after completion of the practice is not permitted.
- f. Practice is not allowed after round robin games (including evenings), except as noted below.
- g. If a playoff team has a bye to the final game, they may access a 30-minute practice before and/or after the semi-final, dependent on draw times and tiebreaker scenarios. The scheduling decision of the Chief Umpire will be final.
- h. [For Mixed Doubles categories, consult specific appendix.](#)

5. LAST STONE DRAW (LSD)

- a. Last stone advantage (hammer) in the first end will be decided by a draw to the button following each team's pre-game practice.
- b. LSDs will be delivered toward the home end only.
- c. First practice teams deliver the LSD stone in the clockwise rotation and the second practice teams deliver the LSD stone in the counterclockwise rotation. [If a team delivers the wrong rotation, they receive maximum distance of 185.4 cm.](#)
- d. A maximum of one minute will be given to deliver the LSD. One player delivers a stone with a broom holder and full sweeping to the home end. Stones not delivered within the one (1) minute will be assigned a distance off 185.4 cm.
- e. All stones finishing in the rings will be measured. Stones that do not finish in the rings are recorded as 185.4 cm (6 ft. 1 in).
- f. A stone that is moved by a team member, prior to the measure, will be assigned the distance of the next defined circle away from the button.
- g. Stones that finish so close to the tee that they cannot be measured are recorded as 0.0 cm. If the measuring device can be placed in the pinhole but no measurement is possible, half the value of the lowest measurable distance will be used (except if triangulation measurements are done with a laser).
- h. The team with the lesser LSD distance has the choice of delivering first or second stone in the first end. It is assumed that the team winning the LSD will want the last stone in the first end and therefore deliver second. If there is any time that a team does not want the last stone if they win the LSD, then they must inform the Umpire before the start of the first practice.
- i. The least favorable (longest distance) will be eliminated from the team's final Draw Shot Challenge (DSC) total; the remaining LSD's for the team determine the final team ranking (DSC).
- j. This final team ranking will be used for unresolvable ties in playoff scenarios (when head to head records result in a tie or ties).
- k. [There may be a predefined per player delivery requirement\(s\). Consult specific event appendix.](#)
- l. In the event a team covers the center pin hole or does not finish in the rings, then a second team member will be required to deliver a measurable stone. The second stone will be used for LSD (hammer) purposes only. (unless triangulation measures are used).
- m. Coaches and fifths are not allowed to stand on the ice during the delivery of the LSD. The opposing team should remain behind the glass or scoreboard until after the LSD has been delivered (applies to both practice sessions).

6. PENALTIES AND RULE ENFORCEMENT

All competitions are played under these rules, those contained in category appendices and the “Rules of Curling for Officiated Play” as specified in the latest edition of the rulebook published by Curling Canada (CC), including all subsequent rule changes and interpretations adopted by CC or Curling Alberta as of the start of competition.

NOTE THERE ARE NO WARNINGS FOR ANY INFRACTION UNLESS IT IS STATED IN THE RULEBOOK OR BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION BY THE CHIEF UMPIRE PRIOR TO THE START OF COMPETITION. THE CHIEF UMPIRE MAY SUSPEND A PLAYER OR COACH FROM PLAY.

SECTION 2: THIS SECTION REFERS ONLY TO PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. SECTION 1 SHOULD BE CONSULTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FOLLOWING.

2.A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. DRESS STANDARDS

Note that teams will not be allowed to compete at Provincial Championships unless they comply with the current Cresting Policy and sign the waiver. Refer to the Cresting Policy on the Curling Alberta website. The Chief Umpire and Curling Alberta have the right to disqualify teams who do not conform to this policy.

A mandatory dress code applies to all players and coaches as described below. Chief Umpires provide final approval. Teams will be required to wear matching outfits at all times when on the ice, including all ceremonies. On-ice outfits include:

- a. Matching jackets, sweaters, or vests;
- b. Shirts (must be matching in color if they are worn without a jacket);
- c. Pants of the same color (with respect to women's or mixed team events, if one woman wears a kilt, all women on the team must wear a kilt of the same color);
- d. Headwear may be worn if it matches the team uniform or is plain black. [Headwear may display only one logo on the front; that logo can be a sponsor, a curling club or a curling association. It may not be embellished with pins.](#) If baseball style hats are worn, peaks must be forward. If more than one team member wears headgear, the items must be identical. Protective headgear is permitted and team members do not require protective head gear to match.
- e. Coaches (including mentor coaches) must have an identical team garment, [or a black garment](#), and comply with dress standards and cresting policies; see additional references to mentor coach requirements in section 1(A)(7)(h).
- f. [Dress standards and cresting policies are strictly applied to alternate players.](#)

2. TEAM SPONSORSHIP

Curling Alberta has placed restrictions on the display of team sponsor and commercial messages on team uniforms to protect the value of its event properties. At the same time, Curling Alberta recognizes the importance of team sponsors and values their participation in the sport. Curling Alberta will review the prominence of team sponsors at Provincial Championships, and revisions will be reflected in this guide annually.

What follows is the allowable commercial opportunities (and restrictions) available to teams entering a Provincial Championship. Contact the Curling Alberta office for further clarification.

- a. If a team sponsor is in conflict with an existing Curling Alberta category exclusive sponsor, there shall be no commercial presentation of any kind within the host site. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Clothing;
 - Signs;

- Products;
 - Equipment;
- b. If team sponsors do not conflict with an existing Curling Alberta category exclusive sponsor, commercial representations must comply to the following:
- i. No commercial representation of any kind will be allowed in the ice area, including but not limited to, signage, or equipment (flexibility will be allowed for media interviews involving photographs and TV after games);
 - ii. Teams are not allowed to distribute or sell sponsor merchandise at championship venues or the host hotel.
 - iii. Teams will be allowed to wear sponsor clothing in the off-ice area, including all areas of spectator seating;
 - iv. Signage - the maximum size will be one metre by 2.6 metres (3' x 8'). Teams are allowed unlimited (non-conflicting) sponsors on their signage. All signs and/or pull-up banners must be professionally designed and produced;
 - v. Teams will be allowed to display a banner or hanging sign in a designated area; and;
 - vi. Host Committee will provide team sponsors recognition in the event program while working within event-specific budgetary and production limitations. Team are to email team sponsors to the Championship Coordinator within one (1) business day of receiving a provincial berth. Sponsor recognition will occur in conjunction with the team photograph in the event program.

3. TEAMS' FORMAL OBLIGATIONS

The entire team, including mandatory coaches (U15, U18, Junior and U21 Mixed Doubles), but not including alternates (5th players) where applicable, are requested to attend and participate in event ceremonies and social events. A member of each team may be called upon to speak or offer thanks to the Host Committee, event sponsors, volunteers and/or officials at different functions during the championship. Your cooperation is expected as a show of sportsmanship and failure to attend may result in disciplinary action.

4. MEDIA

Players are required to cooperate with media and grant interviews when requested. Players must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner with the media at all times, and recognize that the media can be a valuable instrument in positive sport marketing and promotion.

5. ALTERNATES, SUBSTITUTIONS & REPLACEMENTS

The Curling Alberta office must be notified of any changes to the roster by email, including addition of an alternate, coach or replacement. Refer to section 1(B) for more information on alternates, substitutions and replacements, how to change rosters and associated administrative fees.

2.B. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. OFFICIATING

In addition to the Chief Umpire and Timers, identified in section 1(C)(2), Provincial Championships may see the addition of the following officials.

Game Umpires – The Game Umpire may be responsible for all game measurements and may accept any rule related questions, or refer the same to the Chief Umpire.

Game Observers (On-ice Observers) – Game observers may be positioned at the end of each sheet of the ice for the main purpose of observing all play and updating scoreboards.

2.C. COMPETITION

1. GAME DURATION

Minimum Length of Game:

- a. In ten (10) end games, a minimum of five (5) ends must be played.
- b. In eight (8) end games a minimum of four (4) ends must be played.
- c. In all playoff, semifinal, and final games, a minimum of six (6) ends must be played (or as adjusted by a Chief Umpire, e.g. for TV games).

2. PRE-COMPETITION PRACTICE

Prior to the start of a competition, when available and in conjunction with the host, Curling Alberta will sanction and schedule practice ice time for all teams, giving each team an equal amount of time on relevant sheets of ice. A schedule will be provided to all teams prior to the event.

3. STONE SELECTION

- a. Round Robin format – the color of handle will be predetermined. The team listed on top in the draw delivers dark handled stones and practices first.
- b. Non-Round Robin format - the teams will conduct a coin toss and will select either practice session of stone handle color.
- c. Tie-Breakers – only the stones on the assigned sheet are used.
- d. Playoffs - see Playoff Stone Selection at section 2(C)(6).

4. TIE BREAKERS (After a Full Round Robin)

- a. Tie-breakers:
 - i. Teams that complete a round robin with identical win/loss records are considered tied.
 - ii. Teams tied for a playoff position can only be eliminated by losing a tie-breaker or a playoff game.
 - iii. Tie-breaker games will only be played to determine the final playoff positions.

- iv. Teams tied for a playoff position shall be ranked by first considering the round robin win/loss records of those teams against each other. If more than two teams are involved, and this process establishes a higher and/or lower ranked team(s), it will then be repeated to rank the remaining teams.
 - v. When teams cannot be ranked by their win/loss records, the ranking shall be determined by the Draw Shot Challenge (lowest cumulative last stone draws).
- b. Tie-breaker Games:
- i. Following the ranking process described above, the Chief Umpire shall **determine the participants and schedule the tie-breaking game(s)** as required. In doing so, the procedures shall follow those used for National competitions, found at <https://www.curling.ca/championships/page-playoff-tiebreaker-scenarios/> and <https://www.curling.ca/three-team-tiebreaker-scenarios/>
 - ii. Unless noted otherwise, teams ranked higher will have a choice of stone color or practice and a draw to the button will determine hammer using the same procedure as pre-game practice.

5. PLAYOFFS

In all Round Robin events, teams are ranked according to their results in their respective pool, as follows:

- Firstly, by overall win/loss records;
 - Secondly, and if necessary, by head-to-head records; and
 - Lastly, if necessary, by draw shot challenge totals (cumulative LSD's)
- a. **Full Round Robin formats, qualifying only the top three teams for playoffs:** (In 2019-20, this includes the Optimist U18, Juniors (U21), Mixed, Seniors, Masters and Wheelchair categories)
- i. The 1st place team advances directly to the final. The 2nd and 3rd place teams play a semi-final with that winner advancing to play the 1st place team for the championship.
 - ii. Tied teams will be ranked using the process described in section 2(C)(4) above, and subsequently the appropriate draw will be scheduled by the Chief Umpire, based on the format used in National championships, found at <https://www.curling.ca/three-team-tiebreaker-scenarios/>.
- b. **Full Round Robin formats, qualifying only the top four teams for playoffs:** (In 2019-20, only the Women's Scotties Tournament of Hearts Provincial Championship)
- i. Playoffs will utilize a 4-team true Page Playoff format.
 - ii. See specific information within the 2019-20 Women's Appendix.
 - iii. Tied teams will be ranked using the process described in section 2(C)(4) above, and subsequently the appropriate draw will be scheduled by the Chief Umpire, based on the format used in National championships, found at <https://www.curling.ca/championships/page-playoff-tiebreaker-scenarios/>.
- c. **Round Robin formats, utilizing multiple pool play:** (In 2019-20, this includes the Men's Boston Pizza Cup, U15, Mixed Doubles, U21 Mixed Doubles and the Curling Club Provincial Championships).
- i. Playoffs vary by category, however in general will award the top team in each pool (or two teams in most cases), a berth into the championship playoff event.
 - ii. Consult each category Appendix for full details.

6. PLAYOFF STONE SELECTION

In Mixed Doubles competition, there are no playoff stone selections. Consult the Mixed Doubles Appendix for rules respecting color choice or hammer selection.

For other categories, within 15 minutes after the final round robin or tie breaker game, teams must determine stone handle colour. Teams will then provide the Chief Umpire with a list of eight selected stones one hour prior to the game they are playing. The Chief Umpire will assign stones in the event of non-compliance.

- a. In a round-robin event, and if competing teams are from the same pool:
 - i. If a team has a better W/L record they will receive BOTH hammer and choice of stone colour in the playoffs.
 - ii. If teams have the same W/L record, the team that won the round robin game will have CHOICE of hammer or stone colour.
 - iii. If teams have the same W/L record and the DSC was used to rank teams, the team ranked higher will have choice of stone colour or practice session and teams will draw for hammer.
- b. In a round-robin event, and if competing teams are not from the same pool:
 - i. If a team has a better W/L record they will receive CHOICE of hammer or stone colour.
 - ii. If teams have the same W/L record, and the DSC was used to rank teams, the team ranked higher will have CHOICE of stone colour or practice session and teams will draw for hammer.

Dual events:

If an 8-sheet facility is used, men may choose stones from sheets 1 – 4 (A-D) and women from sheets 5 – 8 (E-H). If a 6-sheet facility is used, men may choose stones from sheets 1 – 3 (A-C) and women from sheets 4 – 6 (D-F). (Subject to change as outlined prior to competition by a Chief Umpire)

SECTION 3: NATIONAL CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The winner of the Provincial Championship will represent Alberta at their respective National Curling Championships, unless they are deemed ineligible. These champions, or the replacement team, become a provincial team representing Alberta rather than representing their local club. National event paperwork must be completed immediately following the closing ceremonies.

1. DRUG TESTING AND ANTI-DOPING PROGRAM

Athletes proceeding to a National Championship are reminded that mandatory drug testing may occur. To identify what substances and recreational drugs are prohibited, please go to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport at <https://www.cces.ca/>. For more information, refer to Curling Canada's Website: <https://www.curling.ca/about-the-sport-of-curling/high-performance/canadian-anti-doping-program/>

2. CURLING CANADA'S RESIDENCY POLICY

It is the team's responsibility to reference Curling Canada's Residency and Eligibility Policy. Visit the Curling Canada website to view the policy: <https://www.curling.ca/residency-eligibility-requirements/>

SECTION 4: CURLING ALBERTA RESPECT IN SPORT POLICY

Policy Statement: Curling Alberta requires at least one parent/legal guardian of every curler under the age of 18 to complete the online Respect in Sport (RiS) Parent Program in order to participate in any Curling Alberta sanctioned event.

Competitors who register for a Curling Alberta U15 qualifier without a parent/legal guardian who has completed the program will be contacted and given explicit instructions to do so before registering for their next event. This warning applies only once; if a player in non-compliance registers for a second event, he/she will be removed from that competition and will remain ineligible until the RiS Parent Program is completed by his or her parent/guardian. There will be no warning for other categories.

Parents/guardians who have completed the RiS Parent Program with another sport are not required to complete the program again but can transfer their certification to the Curling Alberta database by following the online instructions. Families only need to complete the course once but must list all children who are curling and under the age of 18 to ensure they are all RiS certified.

Access to the Curling Alberta's RiS Parent Program registration and FAQ's: <https://curling-canada-parent.respectgroupinc.com/>.

The RiS program is Canada's leading on-line bullying, abuse, harassment, and neglect prevention program for parents, coaches, and community leaders. 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 game.

SECTION 5: CURLING ALBERTA CHAMPIONSHIPS CODE OF CONDUCT

Refer to Curling Alberta's Code of Conduct in the Curling Alberta Policy Manual. The latest version of the Policy Manual can be found on the Curling Alberta website: <http://www.albertacurling.ab.ca/>

SECTION 6: CURLING ALBERTA DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE POLICY

Refer to Curling Alberta's Discipline and Complaints Policy and Event Discipline Procedure in the Curling Alberta Policy Manual. The latest version of the Policy Manual can be found on the Curling Alberta website: <http://www.albertacurling.ab.ca/>