



**CURLING
ALBERTA**

COMPETITOR'S GUIDE 2018-19

Updated February 2, 2019

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 - Alberta Senior Curling Championships (Men and Women)
 - Alberta Masters Curling Championships (Men and Women)
 - Optimist Alberta U-18 Curling Championships (Men and Women)
 - Alberta Wheelchair Curling Championship
 - Travelers Alberta Curling Club Championships (Men and Women)

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JURISDICTION

The Provincial Curling Championships governed by Curling Alberta are:

- Jiffy Lube 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 U-18 Curling Championships (Men and Women)
- Alberta Wheelchair Curling Championship
- Travelers Alberta Curling Club Championships (Men and Women)

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

AUTHORITY

Curling Alberta is the policy decision forum for Provincial Championships, [and all of the provincial qualifiers leading to a Provincial Championship](#). All matters of concern to a Host Committee 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 subcommittee is comprised of the three appointees which are selected by the Board annually. If the subcommittee is required to deliver decision on an issue that cannot be addressed at the next Committee meeting, reasonable effort shall be made to contact

each member of the subcommittee. All decisions by the subcommittee will have a majority requirement. If only two of the three members are available for consultation, and if consensus is not achievable, the Committee Vice 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 shall act as his or her replacement.

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



The amalgamation of Alberta's three former regional associations (SACA, NACA and the PCA) and the former provincial body, the Alberta Curling Federation, became official on July 30, 2018. The new organization will be known as Curling Alberta.

SPECIAL NOTES

This guide has been the subject of substantial review, and has been amended to reflect a significant number of changes in policy and procedures since the previous season. These changes, where they have a noteworthy impact, are highlighted in **blue font** within this guide. Any sections of this guide identified by a gold star ★ apply to the provincial qualifier playdown(s) as well as the Provincial Championship(s).

It remains the responsibility of the players and coaches to read and adhere to all policies contained in this guide. Any questions should be directed to the Curling Alberta office.

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 funders, the quality of our competitions would be greatly diminished.

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

- Alberta Sport Connection
- Best Western Hotels (exclusivity)
- Boston Pizza (exclusivity)
- Jet Ice
- Jiffy Lube (exclusivity)
- Kruger Products (exclusivity)
- Optimist Clubs of Alberta
- Sportsnet (exclusivity)
- Curling Canada

SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION

Please be advised that it is the responsibility of the competitors and coaches to adhere to the most recent publication of this document on the Curling Alberta website.

1. MEALS

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



2. ACCOMMODATION

The event Host Committee will provide hotel and booking details. Ensure to take note of the booking deadline and reserve your room as soon as possible.

3. TRAVEL

Travel expenses will be the responsibility of the teams.



4. 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 (updated version published August 13, 2018). 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 not display any form of advertising, manufacturer identification, nor be embellished with pins. The only exceptions are the logos of Curling Alberta, or a Member Curling Club.** If baseball style hats are worn, peaks must be forward. If more than one team member wears headgear, the items must be identical. Protective head gear is permitted and team members do not require this head gear to match.
- e. Mentored coaches must have an identical garment or a black garment with Curling Alberta required cresting to be allowed access to the ice - see additional references to mentor requirements in section 12(h);
- f. **Only standard manufacturer logos of specific sizes can appear on any uniform or equipment (see Cresting Policy Appendix for details).**

5. 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:
 - 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);
 - Teams are not allowed to distribute or sell sponsor merchandise at championship venues or the host hotel.
 - Teams will be allowed to wear sponsor clothing in the off-ice area, including all areas of spectator seating;
 - 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;
 - Teams will be allowed to display a banner or hanging sign in a designated area; and
 - Host committees will provide team sponsors recognition in the event program while working within event-specific budgetary and production limitations. Sponsor recognition will occur in conjunction with the team photograph in the event program.

6. 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.



7. TEAMS' FORMAL OBLIGATIONS

The entire team, including mandatory coaches (U18 and Junior), but not including 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 special 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.

8. CONDUCT

Provincial Championships are the showcase events of curling in Alberta and are highly viewed. Players are required to conduct themselves on and off the ice in an appropriate manner. 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.

[Curling Alberta is pleased to announce 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 the U18 and Junior Appendices for related policies.](#)



9. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In the playing area, no electronic devices of any type (e.g.- cell phones, iPods, smartwatches, 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.

10. 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.

11. 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 as outlined 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.

12. COACHES

- a. All coaches must be at least 21 years of age.
- b. For qualifying playdowns, all coaches must be a minimum of Club Coach "Trained".
- c. With the exception of a mentored coach as described below, all coaches at a Provincial Championship must be a Certified Competition Coach or who hold a current Chartered Professional Coach designation, recognized by Curling Alberta and the Coaching Association of Canada.
- d. A coach who is in the process of earning his or her certification, but who will not be certified by the date of a Provincial Championship can be designated as a mentored coach. A mentored coach can apply for a one-time exemption (of the certification requirements) provided a Certified Competition Coach accompanies him or her, and is onsite for the duration of the event. The application to be a mentored coach must be received by the Curling Alberta office at least (10) ten days in advance of the start of the Competition. Contact the Curling Alberta office for application instructions.
- e. Teams are allowed a maximum of one coach, except in an approved mentor situation.
- f. In U18 and Junior Championships, a coach is mandatory and is considered a team member. They are expected to follow all applicable guidelines, including team substitutions & replacements (see section 13). A criminal record check is mandatory.
- g. For all other Provincial Championship categories, a coach is only considered a team member specific to Cresting and Code of Conduct Policies.
- h. Coaches may only coach one team at a Provincial Championship (e.g.- a coach may not coach both a junior boys and junior girls team at the same Provincial Championship). A coach may coach multiple teams in different categories, or coach in one category and be a competitor in another, only if there is no potential conflict in event dates (from qualifying playdowns through to and including Provincial Championships).
- i. Coaches must follow all dress code and cresting guidelines (coaches must comply with section 4(e) to access the ice surface). However, in the instance where a coach is being mentored, and both do not require ice access, one coach must follow the dress standards as outlined and the second coach must wear clothing of a similar color or all black.
- j. 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.



13. SUBSTITUTIONS & REPLACEMENTS

a. Criteria:

With the exception of mixed doubles competition, a team cannot start a playdown or championship with less than three (3) of its original team members. After a participating team has been confirmed for either a qualifier or a Provincial Championship, only the following circumstances shall permit a team member to be replaced permanently (replacement) or temporarily (substitution):

- i. Illness (letter from doctor required)
- ii. Injury (letter from doctor required)
- iii. Death or serious illness in the family
- iv. Birth of a child
- v. Jury duty
- vi. Presence in a judicial matter as required by law



- vii. School examinations, or other school commitments with prior Curling Alberta approval
- viii. Employment commitments
- ix. For mixed doubles, and only prior to any qualifying or provincial competition, a replacement will be granted when one team member is representing Alberta or Canada at national or international competition in another category with a conflicting date. A mixed doubles team cannot replace more than one player.
- x. Special, rare, and extenuating circumstances may be considered upon application on a case-by-case basis to be reviewed by the Competitions Tribunal.

Note that all circumstances require appropriate documentation at the request of Curling Alberta. In the event a team is unable to participate as a unit for reasons deemed unacceptable by Curling Alberta (e.g. vacation), the entire team will be disqualified and a replacement team will be named in accordance with the appropriate policy.

b. Options:

In the event a team member is absent, teams may choose one or more of the following options.

- i. Compete without a substitute or replacement player. Should a team choose to play with three players, the first two players shall deliver three stones each in every end – no additional sweepers are allowed. For Mixed play, a substitute or replacement player must be employed. Not applicable to Mixed Doubles.
- ii. Compete using a spare pool substitute, as per s.13(c). Not permitted in Mixed Doubles.
- iii. Compete using a replacement player, as per s.13(d).

Special Note: No player, with the exception of a spare pool substitute, can compete for more than one team in the same category at the current level of competition. A spare pool substitute cannot be a member of another registered team at the same or higher level of playdown or championship. For clarity, a team proceeding on to a Provincial Championship may pick up a player who was eliminated from a qualifying event. A team still in a qualifying event may not pick up a player still participating or already eliminated from one of the other three qualifiers.

c. Substitution (via “Spare Pool”):

All substitute(s) must be eligible (that is, meet the age, gender and residency requirements and be affiliated with a member club).

For qualifying playdowns, and only if there is no designated spare pool provided, the “spare pool” will include any eligible player who is not competing in the same event category.

- i. Teams will have equitable access to the spare pool for the entire event. In the event more than one team requires access to the spare pool at the same time, the Chief Umpire will determine the order of selection by random draw.
- ii. The skip or coach may select a substitute from the spare pool (a different substitute is allowed for each game).
- iii. After the start of competition, if one or two members of a team are unable to continue to play due to illness or other extenuating circumstances as deemed reasonable by the Chief Umpire, a temporary substitute or substitutes may be used.
- iv. Teams must have a minimum of two original team members participate in each game; otherwise the game(s) will be forfeited.
- v. If a team plays the entire competition using the spare pool they will retain the right to

name their permanent player for Provincials/Nationals at the end of the competition, in the event they do qualify for that Championship.

- vi. [Substitutes are encouraged to wear similarly matching team apparel.](#)

If there is a designated spare pool, practice sessions for substitutes may be scheduled to allow coaches and teams the opportunity to view these potential competitors. If a substitute(s) is employed, the substitute may play any position. The substitute(s) shall deliver stones in each end. If a substitute is required after a game has started, the substitute will be given 60 seconds to complete a warm up, including two practice slides.

d. Replacement:

- i. [A replacement is a permanent substitution, and the original team member being replaced will no longer be eligible to compete.](#)
- ii. [An application for a replacement team member must be submitted to the Curling Alberta office at the earliest opportunity. It must include the reason a replacement is required and related proof if necessary, as per section 13\(a\), as well as the eligibility credentials of the requested replacement player \(described in s. 13\(d\)\(iv\) below\).](#)
- iii. [If a permanent replacement is approved by Curling Alberta, this replacement member may join the team at any time before or during the competition.](#)
- iv. [This permanent replacement cannot come from the spare pool nor can they have already competed at the **current** level within the same category. **They must also meet the age, gender and residency requirements and be affiliated with a Member Club.**](#)

e. Additional Notes:

- i. [In Mixed Competition, the substitute or replacement player must be the same gender as the missing player and play either position appropriate for his/her gender.](#)
- ii. [In Mixed Doubles Competition, a substitute is not permitted. **In the event any one mixed doubles competitor becomes unable to compete, the team would be disqualified unless a replacement player is approved as per s. 13\(d\). If both original players are absent, the team is disqualified.**](#)

14. 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. Teams will not be given the opportunity to replace team members unless it is due to any of the circumstances listed previously in s. 13\(a\). Beyond the provincial level, if a team member has a potential conflict in playdown or competition dates, that member can be replaced if they are representing Alberta or Canada at National or International 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 competition. A mixed doubles team cannot replace more than one player.](#)

[Replacements must meet the criteria established in section 13\(d\).](#)

15. 5TH PLAYERS

- a. Teams may only add a 5th player in the Women's, Men's and Wheelchair categories. If a 5th player is added, teams must first use their 5th before access to the spare pool will be permitted.
- b. The 5th player must meet the age, gender and residency requirements, be affiliated with a Member Club and must not have competed in the current level of the particular Championship.
- c. The deadline to request the addition of a 5th player is 10 days prior to the start of the competition. Requests must be directed to the Curling Alberta office.
- d. 5th players are considered team members and are expected to follow all guidelines with the exception of s. 7. Of note, dress standards, cresting, and code of conduct policies will be strictly applied to 5th players.



16. DRUG TESTING:

Athletes must be aware that random drug testing may occur at Provincial Championships.

SECTION B: 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 and qualifier events will be played under the "Rules 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 for Officiated Play" may be supplemented by rules in this Competitors Guide and/or the related Appendix for a specific event.



2. UMPIRES

Chief Umpire - The Chief Umpire shall be approved by Curling Alberta and is responsible for rule enforcement and interpretation in all areas covered by the Curling Canada Rules of Curling for Officiated Play. Additionally, during a competition, the Chief Umpire assumes responsibility to interpret and administer the Curling Alberta Competitor's Guide and Appendices, and Curling Alberta's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policies.

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

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

3. EQUIPMENT

- a. All brush heads 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.
- 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 during a game 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.**



SECTION C: 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, and residency requirements, and must be a member* of a Curling Alberta affiliated curling club but not necessarily the same club (**this includes free agents**). **Teams can participate in any one provincial qualifier per category.**

Men	No Age Restriction (4 male players/team)
Women	No Age Restriction (4 female players/team)
Seniors	50 years of age as of & including June 30, 2019 (4 male or 4 female players per team) Must be born on or before June 30, 1969
Masters	60 years of age as of December 31, 2018 (4 male or 4 female players per team)
Mixed	No Age Restriction (2 male and 2 female players per team, male and female must play in alternate positions)
Mixed Doubles	No Age Restriction (1 male and 1 female player per team)
Juniors	20 years or under as of June 30, 2018 (4 male or 4 female players and a coach per team)
Under 18	17 years or under as of June 30, 2018 (4 male or 4 female players and a coach per team)
Wheelchair	No Age Restriction (any combination of 4 male and female players)
Travelers	19 years or older as of November 1, 2018 (4 male or female players per team)



* A "Member" within the bounds of the Curling Alberta is defined as follows:

A.) 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.

B.) A curler who is exempt from paying a fee identified in Section A above by virtue of a life membership or award offered by an Curling Alberta affiliated curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent.

C.) A curler who has paid league dues or similar registration fees to an 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.

And further, that for the purpose of defining a "curler" as described above:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



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 competition without a parent or legal guardian who has completed the program will be contacted and given explicit instruction 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 or she will be removed from that competition and will remain ineligible until the RiS Parent Program is completed by his or her parent/guardian.

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.

2. GAME DURATION

a. Timing:

All games may be timed (exceptions: see Masters, Travelers). The penalty for violation will be enforced as per the Curling Canada Rulebook.

- i. 10 end games are 38 minutes thinking time.
- ii. 8 end games are 30 minutes thinking time (exceptions: see Mixed Doubles, Wheelchair).
- iii. The between-end break shall be to a maximum of 60 seconds [beginning when the score of the end has been determined, and ending when the first stone of the next end crosses the nearer tee line](#). In the event of a televised game, teams will be informed of between-end breaks and fifth-end breaks.

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. Thinking time allotted to each team to complete each extra end shall be 4 minutes and 30 seconds. If extra ends are required, each team will be given one (1) timeout per extra end. Timeouts cannot be carried over.

d. Minimum Length of Game:

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

3. PRE-COMPETITION PRACTICE

Prior to the start of a competition, [when available](#), the host committee will schedule ice time for all teams in the competition, giving each team equal time on each sheet of ice. [If practice is sanctioned as part of the competition, Curling Alberta or the Host Committee will provide a schedule to all teams prior to the event.](#)

4. PRE-GAME PRACTICE (EXCEPTION: MIXED DOUBLES)

- a. Prior to the start of a game, teams are permitted a **nine (9)** minute practice with their stones.
- b. For non-round robin competition formats, a flip of the coin will determine stone colour or practice session.
- c. For 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. After the second practice, the ice may be cleaned.
- g. Practice is not allowed after round robin games (including evenings), except as noted below.
- h. Any team competing in the playoff round which has a bye to a final game, 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.



5. LAST STONE DRAW (LSD): (EXCEPTION: MIXED DOUBLES, TRAVELERS)

- a. Prior to each non-playoff game, last stone advantage (hammer) in the first end will be decided by a draw to the button following each team's **nine (9)** minute 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.
- 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 measureable distance will be used **(except if triangulation measurements are done with a laser).**
- h. 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 (if needed) and the first stone measurement will be used for the team's cumulative total for ranking purposes, known as the Draw Shot Challenge (DSC).
- i. 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.
- j. The least favorable (longest distance) will be eliminated from the team's final DSC total; the remaining LSD's for the team determine the final team ranking (DSC).



- k. This final team ranking will be used for unresolvable ties in playoff scenarios (when head to head records result in a tie or ties).
- l. In round robin competition formats, each team member may deliver a maximum of two LSD's during the games prior to playoffs.
- m. In a triple or double knockout format there are no requirements per player (i.e. the same player could deliver all LSDs).
- n. 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. 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. Tie-Breakers – only the stones on the assigned sheet are used.
- c. Playoffs - see Playoff Stone Selection at section 9.

7. TEAMS TIED (AFTER A ROUND ROBIN)

- a. Tiebreakers:
 - 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 tiebreaker or playoff game](#).
 - iii. Tiebreaker 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. Tiebreaker Games:
 - i. Following the ranking process described above, the Chief Umpire shall decide the tie-breaking game(s) as required. In doing so, the procedures shall follow those used for National competitions.
 - ii. If there is a four-way tie for third place, or second and third place, this will result in two tie-breaking games. These four teams will be ranked using the process described above, and the two games will be Team 1 vs. Team 4, and Team 2 vs. Team 3.
 - iii. A five-way tie for 1st place will see the 4th and 5th ranked teams play in a tiebreaker game, then follow the playoff format described in s. 8(a)(ii) below.
 - iv. A five-way tie for 2nd place will see the overall 5th and 6th ranked teams play in a tiebreaker game, then follow the playoff format described in s. 8(a)(iii) below.
 - v. In the unlikely event of a five-way tie for 3rd place, tie-breakers will occur amongst these tied teams as follows (referenced placings are only amongst these tied teams).
 - Draw TB1 – 4 vs 5
 - Draw TB2 – winner 4/5 vs 1 AND 2 vs 3 (with no stone selections)
 - Draw TB3 – the winners of games TB2 will play each other (with no stone selections) to determine the 3rd ranked team proceeding to the playoffs

- vi. 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.

8. PLAYOFFS

- a. Round Robin Formats (Mixed, Juniors, Seniors, Masters and Wheelchair):
 - The top three teams will participate in a playoff round.
 - Round robin competition will have a sudden death elimination draw with the first place team advancing to the final; and the second and third placed teams playing in a semi-final with the winner advancing to play the first place team for the championship.
 - i. A four-way tie for first place will result in two playoff semis. The teams will be ranked using the process described in s. 7(a) above, and the two games will be Team 1 vs. Team 4, and Team 2 vs. Team 3. Should this scenario occur, there will be no stone selection for the semi-finals. Teams will use the stones on the assigned sheets. Stone selection will be allowed for the final game. The team with the highest ranking will have choice of stone color or practice session and the teams will draw for hammer.
 - ii. A five-way tie for 1st place will see the 4th and 5th ranked teams play in a tiebreaker game. The winner of the tiebreaker will play the 1st ranked team in one semi-final with the 2nd and 3rd ranked teams playing in the other semi-final. The winners of the semi-final games will play in the final. Stone selection process will be the same as a four-way tie for first place.
 - iii. In the event of a five-way tie for 2nd, the 1st place team (overall) will receive a bye to the final. The 5th and 6th overall ranked teams play in a tiebreaker game with the winner playing the 2nd overall ranked team in a quarterfinal; the 3rd and 4th ranked teams will compete in a 2nd quarterfinal. The two quarterfinal winners compete in the only semi-final.
 - iv. In the event of a five-way tie for 3rd place, the overall 1st and 2nd place teams will receive a bye into the final and semi-final respectively. Tiebreakers will occur amongst the tied 3rd place teams as per s. 7(b)(v) above, with the eventual tie-breaker winner earning the second semi-final berth.
- b. Round Robin Formats (any other categories using round-robin formats):
 - Consult specific Appendices for details
 - c. Double or triple knockout formats:
 - Consult specific Appendices for details

9. 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. If a team has a clear better W/L record they will receive both hammer and choice of stone colour in the playoffs.

- b. If teams have the same W/L record, the team that won the round robin game will have choice of hammer or stone colour.
- c. 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)

10. PENALTIES AND RULE ENFORCEMENT

Provincial Championships are played under these rules, those contained in category appendices and the “Rules 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 playdown competition.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED 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 IF NOT ADHERED TO.



SECTION D: 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

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 www.cces.ca.

SECTION E: CURLING ALBERTA CHAMPIONSHIPS CODE OF CONDUCT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE CURLING ALBERTA TO EXPECT THAT EVERY COMPETITOR AND COACH CONDUCT HIMSELF OR HERSELF IN A MANNER THAT RESPECTS THE CURLING ALBERTA, OTHER COMPETITORS, COMPETITION SPONSORS, UMPIRES, THE HOST COMMITTEE AND CURLING FANS.

1. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Curling Alberta** – Curling Alberta including its Board of Directors, Championship Liaison Representatives, Staff, Umpires and any other appointed representatives.
- b. **Competitor** – Any person (athlete or coach) who is participating in, or who has participated as a member of any team in any competition or event sponsored, promoted, endorsed or supported by Curling Alberta.
- c. **Decision** – Any decision or rule interpretation made, or disciplinary measure taken, by Curling Alberta or its delegates.
- d. **Competition** – Any Provincial Championship [or a qualifying playdown leading to a provincial championship](#) which is promoted, endorsed or supported by Curling Alberta. A competition shall include the timeframe covered from departure to the competition through to and including arrival at home from the endorsed event.



2. OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS AND COACHES

Each Competitor shall comply with all reasonable directions and instructions given to them (including the Competitors Guide) by Curling Alberta, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, each competitor is obligated to:

- a. avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to reflect adversely upon Curling Alberta and its athletes, teams, coaches, umpires, employees, officers, directors, members or sponsors and to conduct themselves in a manner which will bring credit to Curling Alberta;
- b. rely upon and utilize the appeal procedures established hereunder to resolve any issues, rulings, complaints or conflicts that may arise during any competition and to exhaust all such appeal procedures before making public any disputed issues, rulings, complaints or conflicts;
- c. avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to significantly disrupt or interfere with a competition or the preparation of any Competitor for a competition; avoid alcohol consumption to a level that would cause a Competitor to behave in a disruptive manner during any competition. Note: consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during a Junior or Under 18 event sanctioned by Curling Alberta. Prohibition shall include the entire timeframe from departure to the competition through to and including arrival at home from the endorsed event;
- d. avoid the use of prohibited drugs, other than those prescribed by a Medical Doctor;
- e. during stays in hotels/motels, etc., be subject to all provisions of this policy. If members

- of the team incur any damage to the hotel/motel, the player(s) involved shall be solely responsible for restitution to the hotel/motel. Curling Alberta may also administer disciplinary action in accordance with section 4 of this policy;
- f. abide by the rules of the competition;
 - g. with the exception of non-mandatory coaches and 5th players, attend the designated competition team meeting, 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 section 4 of the policy.

3. AUTHORITY

- a. Curling Alberta will name a Chief Umpire for each Provincial Championship.
- b. The Chief Umpire has the general supervision of and shall rule on all infractions of the rules of curling arising on-ice at the Competition. His/her decision on the rules of curling shall be final and cannot be appealed. (Please see Curling Alberta Disciplinary Procedure Policy)
- c. The Chief Umpire is authorized to make decisions on matters not covered by the rules of curling and may directly intervene at any time in any game and give such directions concerning conduct of the game, as he/she considers proper. The Chief Umpire may remove a competitor from the game or competition area for what he/she considers to be abusive or unacceptable behavior. (Please see Curling Alberta Disciplinary Procedure Policy)
- d. The Chief Umpire is also authorized to suspend a competitor for a portion or the remainder of the competition if he/she deems this action necessary. This ruling can be based in relation to behavior (on and off the ice), cresting/clothing violations or the failure to participate in requested competition functions or procedures. (Please see Curling Alberta Disciplinary Procedure Policy)

4. APPEAL PROCESS – DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

- a. Curling Alberta may investigate at its discretion any infractions to the Code of Conduct Policy by a Competitor(s), and must investigate any infractions that reach the physical abuse or second offense stage as outlined in the Curling Alberta Disciplinary Procedure Policy. The procedure shall be as follows:
 - 1. The President of Curling Alberta shall appoint a Review Committee to review the incident. The Review Committee will consist of three members and may be chosen from current or past Board Members of Curling Alberta, current or past Curling Alberta staff, current or past Curling Alberta Player Representatives or past Curling Alberta provincial competitors.
 - 2. The appointed Review Committee will review the reports of the Chief Umpire (and Alternate or Mentor Chief Umpire if applicable) and will also consider witness statements provided by other stakeholders at the event in question. The Competitor(s) in question will be advised of the Review Committee and will be given 7 days to provide written information for review by that committee.
 - 3. The appointed Review Committee will review all of the information relevant to the issue and will make a written ruling within 21 days of the Review Committee meeting.

4. The Competitor(s) may appeal the decision of the Review Committee to the Curling Alberta Board of Directors by filing a Notice of Appeal within 7 days of the ruling. The Notice of Appeal shall concisely state the reasons and grounds for the appeal and shall be delivered in writing to the Curling Alberta Executive Director at 11759 Groat Road, Edmonton, Alberta (T5M 3K6). A cheque in the amount of \$50 payable to Curling Alberta must accompany the Notice of Appeal.
 5. Once an appeal is received, the Curling Alberta President will form an Appeals Committee that will consist of 3 members. This committee will be chosen from current or past Curling Alberta Board Members, current or past Curling Alberta staff, current or past Curling Alberta Player Representatives or past Curling Alberta provincial competitors. The Appeal Committee will conduct a Hearing De Novo and the decision of that committee shall be final and binding on both Curling Alberta and the Competitor(s). It is understood that the Appeal Committee will not have any member who was on the Review Committee. In the event a ruling is made in favor of the complainant(s) the \$50 fee will be refunded.
- b. Curling Alberta shall have the right to administer disciplinary measures as determined by the Curling Alberta Review Committee and Curling Alberta Appeals Committee. Such disciplinary measures may include, but are not limited to:
1. Formal reprimand (written) – copies will be supplied to the offender(s), Regional Association they represent, coach and Chief Umpire;
 2. Disqualification for a one year period from the event where the offenses occurred;
 3. Disqualification for a one year period from all Curling Alberta events;
 4. Permanent suspension from Curling Alberta events for repeat offenders;
 5. Removal of Provincial Champion status.

SECTION F: CURLING ALBERTA DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE POLICY

This document is meant to provide direction and detail that will allow all competitors and coaches of Curling Alberta Championships, and events leading to these Championships, to be treated in the same manner. This will also ensure that a set policy on “progressive” discipline is in place. [It applies to all Curling Alberta sanctioned events up to and including provincial Championships.](#)

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse or violence of any type is not acceptable by any competitor or coach towards any other stakeholder (participant, coach, volunteer, media, staff, spectator or umpire). Any behavior of this type will result in automatic suspension from the event and an advisory that information and recommendations will be forwarded to Curling Alberta.

Verbal Abuse – Unacceptable Language

Participants and coaches are not allowed to verbally abuse other stakeholders or use unacceptable language. The following order should be followed in instances where this type of behavior is exhibited:

1. **First** offense - Warning (In the event the unacceptable language includes discriminatory



racial, religious or lifestyle comments the Chief Umpire will have the option to act as noted below under second offense)

2. **Second** offense - Suspension from current game and next game and offender(s) will be informed that the incident(s) will be reported to the Curling Alberta President and Review Committee for potential further reprimand.
3. **Third** offense - Suspension from the remainder of the competition and offender(s) will be informed that the incident(s) will be reported to the Curling Alberta President and Review Committee for potential further reprimand.

Unacceptable Actions with Equipment/Other

Participants and coaches are not allowed to act inappropriately during a competition. These actions include (but are not limited to) broom banging, violent kicking of stones, throwing of clothing, causing undue delays during championships or interfering with umpires in any manner. The following order should be followed in instances where this type of behavior is exhibited:

1. **First** offense - Warning (In the event damage is sustained to the playing surface, stones, scoreboards or other equipment, the Chief Umpire will have the option to act as noted below under second offense)
2. **Second** offense - Suspension from current game and next game and offender(s) will be informed that the incident(s) will be reported to the Curling Alberta President and Review Committee for potential further reprimand.
3. **Third** offense - Suspension from the remainder of the competition and offender(s) will be informed that the incident(s) will be reported to the Curling Alberta President and Review Committee for potential further reprimand.