

Curl BC Rules

2021-22



After COVID-19 shortened the 2020-21 curling season, we are thrilled to announce a full schedule of championships for the 2021-22 Season. Due to Covid-19, these rules are subject to change throughout the 2021-22 season. For the latest information on where we are at in the Restart Plan, visit:

<https://www.curlbc.ca/resources/covid-19-resources/>

In addition to these rules, team members shall adhere to the Curl BC Illness Policy for all Curl BC Events. Please review this policy prior to registering and before competing in any Curl BC competition:

<https://www.curlbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/APPENDIX-A-Curl-BC-Illness-Policy.pdf> .

**This policy will be updated for the 2021-21 season by August 15th, 2021. **

Suggested rule changes are welcome and will be considered by Curl BC's Competition Committee by completing the form at this link:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/1a44cdccbb8d4fe0688c41aa1ff57fc?r=use1>

**General and/or Category Specific rules change suggestions need to be submitted by September 1st, 2021 in order to be considered for implementation during the 2021-22 season. **

1. Application

a. These rules apply to:

All Curl BC zones (previously referred to as regions) and member facilities; and Curlers participating in competitions governed by Curl BC.

b. These Curl BC Rules (the "BC Rules") take precedence over the Curling Canada Rules for Officiated Play ("Curling Canada Rules").

c. If a Playdown Template (the "template") or Competitors' Guide (the "Guide") is issued for a specific event, the Template and/or Guide shall form an integral part of the BC Rules for the event and shall be enforceable as part of the BC Rules. Where the Template or Guide contradicts the BC Rules, the BC Rules shall take precedence.

2. Definitions

"Birthright player" means a curler who is eligible to play in a Member Association by virtue of having been born in the geographic boundaries of the Member Association and who is not primarily resident in the Member Association of his or her birthplace; a birthright player is only eligible to take part in the men's and women's categories in the geographic boundary they were born in.

"CEO" refers to the Curl BC Chief Executive Officer.

"Free Agent" is a member in good standing of any Member Association of Curling Canada competing as a non-resident player in the Tournament of Hearts and the Brier. Free Agents are allowed to compete in the Tournament of Hearts and the Brier only (at any level of play)

"Current curling season" means the duration of a league or practice membership for which a curler has paid dues for the current year (September-April).

"good standing" in reference to a curler means:

- The full payment of all Curl BC member facility dues and league fees, and Curl BC affiliation fees.
- Full compliance with all Curl BC member facility policies for membership; and
- The absence of sanctions imposed by Curl BC or by a Curl BC member facility on the curler, including, but not limited to, prohibition from curling.

"good standing" in reference to a Member Facility means:

- Full payment of Curl BC affiliation fees for all registered curlers at the facility
- Provision of a list of all registered curlers at the facility
- The absence of sanctions imposed by the Curl BC Board of Directors on the facility

“Inter-zone” refers to an event involving 2 or more Curl BC Zones.

“LSD” refers to Last Stone Draw which is used to determine hammer and break ties following the preliminary round of our open BC championships if head to head play is not able to break the tie between teams.

“Member Association” means a provincial sport organization that is the governing body for curling within an individual province.

“Member Facilities” means curling clubs in British Columbia which have paid affiliation fees and provided a list of registered curlers to Curl BC on or before a playdown registration deadline. The singular “Member Facility” is similarly defined; “on or before” means prior to 11:59pm of the date mentioned.

“Resident” means British Columbia residency which can be verified by providing a minimum of three of the following four items by September 1st if requested:

- Current BC Driver’s license (or current travel picture ID)
- Current BC Care Card
- Letter from an employer confirming employment within BC
- Statement from landlord (if renting residence) or bank (if own residence) confirming residency within BC

“Zones” means the geographical areas of British Columbia as set out in the Curl BC Bylaws. These were formerly known as “regions”.

“Replacement player” means a curler who is brought onto a team to replace an original player for the rest of the competition and at succeeding levels of competition.

“Skip” is the person calling the game, regardless of order in which the person delivers rocks.

“Spare” means a curler who is brought onto a team to replace an original player for one game only.

“Thinking time” is the allocated time for each team to complete a game. The time clocks will operate while a team deliberates about choice of shot. The clock will stop when the delivering team’s stone reaches the nearer tee-line.

3. Playdown Eligibility

a. Curlers in good standing from Member Facilities in good standing may register and compete in a playdown competition leading to a BC Championship.

b. Curlers are responsible for ensuring their individual status with their respective Member Facility or Member Facilities. Each curler shall meet the eligibility requirements of the individual competition as set out by Curl BC and Curling Canada.

c. A curler can only participate in one Member Association for playdown purposes, except for a Free Agent who is primarily resident in BC who is competing in one or more of the following categories within BC:

- Mixed
- Mixed Doubles
- Seniors
- Masters
- Club Championships
- Stick

d. Each curler shall be a primary resident in the province of British Columbia.

e. Teams competing for a berth in the Men’s (Brier) or the Women’s (Scotties) may have: one Free Agent as a team member; and Up to 5 curlers that have Birthright eligibility (originally born in BC)

- If a curler is seeking an exemption from the residency requirements, the curler shall submit an application to the CEO a minimum of 21 calendar days prior to the playdown registration deadline in which they are applying for.

- Residency exemption applications from curlers who are Free Agents or Birthright players must submit their application at least 30 days before the playdown registration deadline for the Men's or the Women's category respectively
- All document can be found at the Curl BC website in the "documents and forms for athletes" section of the Curl BC website as they are made available by Curling Canada. <https://www.curlbc.ca/resources/documents-forms-athletes/>

f. A curler who is granted a residency exemption is also exempted from the requirements set out in BC Rules 3d and 5c.

Refer to: <http://www.curlbc.ca/resources/rules/>

g. Curlers must meet the age requirements in any event category with such requirements and as set out in the category specific rules

h. A curler may not participate in more than one zone playdown (previously known as "regional playdown") in the same category during the current season, but may participate in a zone playdown or open playdown in a different category, unless otherwise stated in the category specific rules.

i. If a curler in two playdowns has a time or date conflict, the curler must withdraw from the competition in which he or she is least advanced. The team will be permitted to use a replacement in accordance with Rule 5h. The player who has withdrawn will not be permitted to rejoin the team.

j. If a team has a time or date conflict with two or more events, the team must withdraw from the playdown in which it is least advanced

k. If a curler is deemed to be ineligible to participate in a playdown prior to play in the inter-zone, zone or open playdown, the player's team may replace him/her with an eligible player in accordance with BC rule 5h.

l. If a BC Championship is held in one season and the National Championship is held in a following season, all team members of the BC Championship team must be members in good standing of a member facility in good standing in the season in which the National Championship is being held

m. A curler and/or team may be disqualified from competing further in a particular playdown category if the curler and/or team violates any of these eligibility provisions during and in succeeding levels of the competition.

4. Entries for Playdowns

a. Entries to Curl BC playdowns must be received by the Curl BC office on or before the entry deadline established annually by Curl BC. Entry forms and all necessary documents must be completed in full.

b. By submitting an entry to a Curl BC playdown, each of the two, four or five players on the team and coach is signifying his/her commitment, if successful, to continue to compete at each succeeding level of playdowns (zone, BC Championship, national) . In extreme circumstances, a request can be made to the Curl BC CEO (or designate) to change this roster, PRIOR to the start of each successive event, should a player be unable to continue onto the next level of competition.

c. Once you have qualified or the BC Champion has been determined, no more than one player of that team may be substituted for the next level of competition. In the case where a BC Champion cannot field a team, the runner-up team shall represent BC at the National Championship (adhering to only one player substitution). The Curl BC CEO may appoint a team for the National Championship comprised of members from the BC Champion and runner up if neither the Champion nor runner-up team is available.

d. Entry fees for playdowns will be determined annually by Curl BC.

e. Full payment of entry fees including competitor fees must accompany playdown entry.

f. Entry fees **WILL NOT** be refunded after the entry deadline, should the team withdraw. If a team withdraws from the competition before the registration deadline, a processing fee will be deducted from that team's original fee.

5. General Competition Rules

- a. Curling Canada Rules for Officiated Play shall apply except when superseded by the BC Rules.
- b. Any changes to team personnel after submission of the entry but prior to the start of the competition must be communicated to the Curl BC staff member in charge of competitions. Replacement or substitute players must submit all required documentation to the Curl BC Office prior to the competition. Forms should not be submitted at events, as a last resort documentation can be supplied to the chief umpire or Curl BC representative on site as long as the replacement player has been approved by the Curl BC Competitions Manager.
- c. All members on a playdown team must be in good standing at affiliated facilities, but not necessarily in the same zone (exception BC Winter Games):

For Inter-Zone Event Categories (Formerly Regional Events):

Teams may be comprised of any eligible player from any zone in the province;

- On teams of four, if two or more members of the team affiliate in one zone, the team must compete in that zone playdown;
- On teams with a fifth, if the majority of team members, including the 5th affiliate in one zone, the team must compete in that zone;
- On teams where two or more team members affiliate in different zone or if a four-person team represents two zones equally the team will compete in the playdown the skip (person who calls the game) resides in;
- if a zone event has two or fewer entries, the zone berth will be prorated amongst the remaining zone events.
- the exception to the above rule is the BC Winter Games, where if one team enters the zone event, direct entry to the BC Winter Games is awarded due to the BC Games General Rules and the stage of athlete development this category is intended to serve.

**Changes in team members that affect inter-zone/zone representation will only be approved under extreme circumstance by the Curl BC CEO.

For Open Event Categories:

Teams may be comprised of any eligible player from any zone in the Province.

- d. Last Stone Draw (LSD):

Two identified competitors will deliver the LSD after each pre-game practice in the clockwise or counter clockwise rotation. If both teams tie with identical LSD totals after two stones have been delivered, the teams alternate 1 LSD until hammer is determined.

- e. Time outs:

Each team may request two time-outs per game and one time-out during each extra end

- The time-out will be 90 seconds in length. This includes travel time by the coach or alternate to access the field of play. Additional time may be added at events at the discretion of the Chief Umpire
- The Coach or alternate (not both) whose team requested the time-out may access the end boards at the playing end but shall not access the playing surface unless walking to the back boards. The coach or alternate of the team who did not call the time-out will be allowed to meet with their team on the backboard at the home end only at the discretion of the Chief Umpire.

- f. Multi Game Days:

Curlers should be prepared to curl more than two games in one day if required.

- g. Uniforms:

Participants at all playdown competitions shall be permitted to wear the advertising of their team sponsor(s), provided that such advertising is in good taste and does not conflict with Curl BC sponsors. Specific guidelines within the event templates will detail team attire. Curl BC crests (if provided) must be affixed to the upper left arm or upper left chest of the outer garment of each member of a team, in the same position for all members of the team. BC Championship sponsors' crests (if provided) are to be affixed to the upper right chest of the outer garment of the team uniform. Team sponsor advertising should not be placed in these locations and cannot be in conflict with Curl BC's sponsor categories who have exclusivity (Best Western, Belair Direct, Kruger, Connect Hearing, and Original 16, unless approved by the Curl BC CEO).

h. Fifth Players:

- The inclusion of a fifth player is at no cost to Curl BC or the host committee.
- A curler may be a fifth player on any team for which he or she is eligible but if that curler has already competed at the same level of competition, he or she may only accompany a team as a fifth player to a more advanced level of competition;
- A fifth player may be declared on the team's entry form at registration or after any of the qualifying events, fifth players will pay the current Curling Canada competitor's fee, and remain with the team until completion of that Curl BC competition;
- Fifth players may play in any game, at any position on the team;
- The expenses of the fifth player shall be the responsibility of the team
- Teams continuing on to national events will be subject to all costs related to bringing a fifth player to the national championships with the exception of the wheelchair category.

i. Substitution:

- Should a competitor be unable to play due to injury, illness or extenuating circumstances, spares or replacements are permitted during playdowns leading to BC Championship events.
- Spare: a temporary player, replacing a player for one game, on a game by game basis.
- Spares who are selected from a spare pool provided by the host committee and who play in one or more games at that playdown event will not be required to pay the Curling Canada competitor's fee unless they continue to the next level of play with the team. A spare must be an affiliated member of a club in good standing, and meet all eligibility requirements for the competition. Spares should be available to all teams in the event during a competition based on their availability.
- Replacement player: replaces a player for the remainder of an event, or if the player cannot rejoin the team, for subsequent levels of competition.
- A replacement player must be a member of an affiliated facility in good standing, must meet all eligibility requirements for the competition, and must pay the current Curling Canada competitor's fee.
- A spare or replacement may play any position on the team as long as they have not competed in the same level of competition in the same category in the current season. However, a spare or replacement that played at the zone/ interzone level may be selected to play at a subsequent level of competition.
- If a spare or replacement comes into a game during an end in progress they will deliver the stones of the player they are replacing. At the completion of that end the team can redefine their team lineup.
- A team may choose to play with three players with the first two players each delivering three stones in each end. Under no circumstance may a team play with fewer than three players delivering stones. Exception: Mixed curling must always have four players on the ice with two men and two women alternating delivery of stones. Mixed Doubles must always have 2 players of opposite genders on the ice.

j. Mixed Team Makeup:

- The Player delivering last stone and the player acting as vice skip must be opposite genders.
- The following are the two (2) accepted team position/delivery rotations for 4-person mixed competitions:
 - Option A-** Male Lead (first thrower and sweeps delivered stones 3-8), female second (second thrower and sweeps stone 1-2 and 5-8) male third (third thrower and sweeps delivered stones 1-4) female skip (fourth thrower)
 - Option B-** Female lead (first thrower and sweeps delivered stones 3-8), male second (second thrower and sweeps stones 1-2 and 5-8) female third (third thrower and sweeps stones 1-4) male skip (fourth thrower)

k. The Chief Umpire must be advised 30 minutes before a game if a spare or replacement will be playing.

6. Coaches

a. To be eligible to coach at a playdown or BC Championship, a coach:

1. Shall be Certified Competition Coach at a minimum
2. Shall be at least 21 years old as of Dec. 1 of the year prior to the national championship to accompany a U21/ Junior team to a Curl BC competition.
3. be at least 21 years old as of Dec. 1 of the year prior to the BC championship to accompany a U18 team to a Curl BC competition.
4. Challenge Cup, BC Winter Games, U18 and U21/Junior Teams shall have a coach who:
 - has completed the NCCP Safe Sport Training in the past 5 years, or a refresher course in the past 5 years if the NCCP Safe Sport Module was completed more than 5 years ago; and
 - has submitted a valid, current criminal record check. The criminal record check shall be on file with Curl BC, or if submitting for the first time, be submitted by the registration deadline of the event(s) in which the coach is coaching.

- Is committed to following the “rule of 2” at all times while fulfilling the role of coach. Information on the Rule of 2 is available on Curl BC’s Safe Sport page at <https://www.curlbc.ca/resources/safe-sport/>

*NCCP numbers for coaches and chaperones shall be provided during online event registration, so compliance can be checked by the Curl BC office no later than two weeks prior to the start of the event. *

The chaperone and listed coach shall be responsible for the team both on and off the ice during the entire competition

- b. A team shall declare the name of its coach on the playdown entry form. Teams can declare **one** coach on an event registration form
- c. If a change in coach is required during an event, the change shall be communicated by the team to the Chief Umpire at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the game. The replacement coach is responsible for ensuring that their NCCP number, Valid Criminal Record Check and current Safes Sport Training is on file with the Curl BC office a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the event taking place.
- d. Only the declared coach and 5th player can go out for pre-event practice, pre-game practices and be involved in fifth-end (or fourth-end) breaks
- e. The declared coach or 5th player (not both) can be involved in time-outs.
- f. Any team with a coach under 21 years of age, or a team under the age of majority (19 years old) participating in an adult event, shall also be accompanied by a chaperone over 21 years of age. All expenses relating to the chaperone shall be the responsibility of the chaperone/team. The chaperone shall not receive any awards, prizes or acknowledgment, chaperones shall complete the online NCCP Safe Sport Module, have submitted a valid criminal record, and be committed to following the “rule of 2” at all times while fulfilling their role as chaperone. Valid Criminal Record Checks must be submitted to the Curl BC office no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the competition. The chaperone shall be responsible for the team both on and off the ice during the entire competition. NCCP numbers for chaperones shall be provided during online event registration so compliance is checked by the Curl BC office.
- g. Devices that send or receive a signal cannot be used by the registered coach in the field of play. This includes behind the sheet of play while observing. If using a device to track performances like “Curl Coach”, the device needs to be set to airplane mode during the game.

7. Playdowns Leading to BC Championships

- a. Curl BC shall determine the number of berths available at the BC Championship in each category annually. Berths may be allocated to zone events and/or to open events based on the number of registrations in a playdown competition. Curl BC reserves the right to allocate berths to support playdown registrations in any one event and/or to encourage zone representation at the BC Championship event.
- b. It shall be the responsibility of the Curl BC Staff to arrange playdowns for all non-open category events in the Curl BC zones on behalf of Curl BC.
- c. Playdowns to determine BC Championship qualifiers shall be completed at least 14 calendar days prior to the start of their respective BC championship.
- d. Reallocation of Qualifying Berths:
 - In the case where there are insufficient entries in a qualifying event to produce the required number of qualifying teams the CEO will reallocate the qualifying spot(s) to the other qualifying events in an equitable manner.
 - In the case where a qualified team withdraws from a BC Championship the CEO will reallocate the championship berth in an equitable manner. If qualifying events are still to be held, the berth shall be awarded to the remaining qualifying event with the most entries. If all events have been held, the berth shall be awarded based on the teams records in qualifying events.
- e. Pre-game Practice: Whenever possible, as time permits, each team will be allowed a 10-minute pre-game practice before each game, where the team may deliver a maximum of 16 rocks total on the same sheet of ice on which they are about to play.
- f. Prior to the pre-game practice, teams will toss a coin with the winner having the choice of first or last practice OR rock color.
- g. Teams may use only the stones they are assigned for that game.

8. BC Championships

- a. Curl BC will provide the official draw and determine the schedule of play at a BC Championship event.
- b. A team briefing will be communicated to all teams by email prior to the first draw. The email's purpose is to communicate the officiating system, rule enforcement and penalties. Any queries the curlers may have can be addressed by email and in person prior to the pre-event practice to the chief umpire for the event or competitions manager.
- c. Game Time Operation:
- Thinking time allocated to each team to complete a ten-end game shall be 38 minutes per team.
 - Thinking time allocated to each team to complete an eight-end game shall be 30 minutes per team. (Exception – wheelchair teams will be allocated 38 minutes per team, masters will be given 32 minutes.
 - Thinking time allocated to each team to complete an extra end shall be 4.5 minutes per team. (Exception - wheelchair teams will be allocated six minutes per team.)
 - When the first stone of the game comes to rest, the delivering team's game clock will begin once the opposing team has relinquished control of the house and all sweepers have moved to the side of the sheet. The clock will stop when the delivering team's stone reaches the nearer tee-line.
 - No clocks are running when a stone is in motion after the near tee-line.
 - At the conclusion of each end, both time clocks are stopped for a period of time (30-45 seconds) as determined by the rules of the competition or the Chief Umpire. Each team may request two time-outs per game and one time-out during each extra end (see Rule 6.e)
- d. Pre-event practice: A practice session will be scheduled for all teams prior to the start of the first draw of the championship. Teams will be permitted to practice for a determined amount of time on each sheet of ice on which they will play during the event.
- e. Pre-game practice: Each team will be allowed a nine-minute warm-up before each game followed by one minute for teams to throw their two LSD's. on the same sheet of ice on which they are about to play and may throw as many rocks as they want during this time. Teams listed on the left of the draw or the top position on the draw sheet will practice first using only the stones assigned to them for that game. Teams practicing first will use the color of stones in the top position on the scoreboard.
- f. The host committee will provide a spare pool of curlers who meet all eligibility requirements. Spares will practice during regular scheduled pre-event practice and will be available for selection by the team requiring a substitute. If there is no spare pool for an event, this will be communicated in the team briefing.
- h. In categories with Open BC Championships, the Preliminary Round and Playoff Round formats will be based on the total number of entries received by the registration deadline. The below link outlines the potential preliminary and playoff round formats at Curl BC's 2021-22 Open BC Championships, based on the total number of entries in each category:
<https://www.curlbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Open-BC-Championship-Preliminary-and-Playoff-Round-Formats.pdf>
- i. No tie-breaker games will be played in Open BC category events, which is reflected in the total number of teams advancing to the play-offs/championship round.

9. Conduct and Discipline

- a. In accordance with Curl BC Policies Curl BC: Competitors and coaches are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner on and off the ice, and avoid any action or conduct that disrupts or interferes with events, or reflects adversely upon Curl BC
- b. The Curl BC Event Manager in charge of a competition is empowered to oversee the competition and resolve disputes, including having the authority to implement necessary disciplinary measures on an emergency basis to preserve the safety and/or integrity of the other curlers, coaches, chaperones, officials, host committee members, where, due to time or distance or other constraints, the Curl BC CEO cannot effectively approve necessary disciplinary measures; The Curl BC chief umpire is responsible for all on-ice disputes.

*Curl BC is working to update our suite of Safe Sport policies, including our complaints and discipline policy. Once approved by the board, those policies will come into effect during the 2021-22 season.

** please visit Curl BC's Safe Sport page to stay up to date on compliance and best practices from a safe sport lens for athletes, coaches, chaperones, volunteers and administrators participating in Curl BC events**

<https://www.curlbc.ca/resources/safe-sport/>

c. Smoking or vaping of tobacco or marijuana by competitors, coaches or officials anywhere in the playing area at any time is prohibited.

d. Competitors and coaches may be subject to fines if they do not conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. See Curl BC's suite of Safe Sport Policies, The Curlers and Coaches code of ethics, and the Category Specific Competitors' Guides for guidance. All the information can be found on this page:

<https://www.curlbc.ca/resources/rules/>

e. Curlers shall abide to the strict ban on the use of illegal substances in sport as set out in applicable rules by the World Curling Federation, Sport Canada, Curling Canada, and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (the "Anti-Substance Rules").

f. If a curler is found in possession of a banned, or otherwise illegal, substance, or to have used a banned, or otherwise illegal, substance during the competition in violation of the Anti-Substance Rules, the curler will be subject to a ban from curling for a specified period of time, and a monetary fine.

g. If a curler is found in possession of a banned, or otherwise illegal, substance, or to have used a banned, or otherwise illegal, substance during the competition in violation of the Anti-Substance Rules, the curler may also be subject to other civil and/or criminal penalties. A list of banned substances may be obtained from the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) at 1-800-672-7775. For further details refer to www.cces.ca.

i. Athletes on the ice cannot wear devices that receive signals and or text messages (including apple/ smart watches) or otherwise shall be vetted and approved by the Curl BC office a minimum 2 weeks prior to the start of the competition.

10. Appeals

a. Appeals concerning disciplinary measures and process arising out of matters set out in **rule 9** above, shall be made in accordance with the below **Curl BC policy**, any appeal of the fines or suspension imposed, are to be forwarded to the Curl BC, CEO. The appeal must include full details of the identified infraction. If the CEO is directly involved in the decision made relating to the rule 9 infraction, the appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate person(s) as per Curl BC policy.

<https://www.curlbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Curl-BC-Board-Policies-2021-02-11Feb.pdf>

11. Other

a. Curl BC reserves the right to amend or repeal any of the BC Rules.

b. The Curl BC operational staff has the power to make decisions it considers necessary to handle any situation not covered by the rules including the authority to amend the rules where emergency situations so warrant. All decisions shall be final and binding. The Curl BC Board of Governors will be consulted when appropriate.

c. Any matter not covered in these rules shall be governed by the Curling Canada Rules of Curling.