

OFFICIAL GUIDE FOR QUALIFIER AND BC CHAMPIONSHIPS

This guide contains the information teams need to prepare their competitors, coaches and chaperones for a 2023 Qualifier or for a 2023 BC Curling Championship.

This document must be used in conjunction with the current version of the Curling Canada Rules for Officiated Play. Where the two documents differ, this guide will supersede the Curling Canada Rules for Officiated Play.

This guide contains the following sections:

1. Curl BC General Rules.
2. Curl BC Category Specific Rules.
3. Curl BC Competitor Guide.
4. Curl BC Team Briefing.



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to be added August 1st, 2022

Section 4: Team Briefing Document

to be added August 1st, 2022

Curl BC General Rules

2022-23

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

c. A Team Briefing (the "team briefing") and Competitors' Guide (the "competitor guide") is issued for each season as an appendix to the Curl BC General Rules and Category Specific Rules, the Team Briefing and/or Competitor Guide shall form an integral part of the Curl BC Rules for the event and shall be enforceable as part of the Curl BC General Rules. Where the Team Briefing or Competitor Guide contradicts the Curl BC General Rules, the Curl BC General 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.

"Competitor Guide" is the supplementary information that is in alignment with the Curl BC General rules. Competitors, coaches and chaperones must follow these during any Curl BC competitive event.

"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

"LSD" refers to Last Stone Draw which is used to determine hammer in preliminary round games

"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.

“Team briefing” is the document sent out by the chief umpire prior to each championship that must be in alignment with the Curl BC General Rules.

3. Playdown Eligibility

a. Curlers in good standing of a Member Facility that is in good standing may register and compete in a playdown competition leading to a BC Championship or Open BC Championship. If you are not a member of a facility in good standing with Curl BC, you will not be eligible to compete in a Curl BC competition.

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 (Women’s Men’s) 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 their 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 documents 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. Refer to: <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. 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 5j. The player who has withdrawn will not be permitted to rejoin the team.

i. If a team has a time or date conflict with two or more events, the team must withdraw from the playdown in which they have least advanced.

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

k. 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. In the Club Championship category, they must be members in good standing of the club the team represented during the season in which the BC Championship was held.

l. 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. Entry deadlines will be 2 months prior to the start of any Zone or Open BC Championship event.

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, open qualifier, provincial, national, world). 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 Curl BC General 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 cannot be submitted at events, they must be submitted electronically.

c. Teams may be comprised of any eligible player from any zone in the Province. The exception to this is the BC Winter Games where athletes all must reside in the same zone.

d. All members on a playdown team must be in good standing at an affiliated facility.

e. Last Stone Draw (LSD):

Two identified competitors from each team will deliver the LSD after each pre-game practice. The team who practices first will draw in the clockwise rotation and the team who practices second will draw in the counter clockwise rotation. If both teams tie with identical LSD totals after two stones have been delivered, the teams alternate 1 LSD per team until hammer is determined.

f. 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.

g. Multi Game Days:

Curlers should be prepared to curl more than two games per day if required. The Maximum games team will be required to play is three games per day.

h. 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. Matching Jackets with surname on the back must be worn at all BC Championships. Specific guidelines within the 2022-23 *competitors guide for all events* 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.

i. Fifth Players:

- If adding a 5th player, an additional fee of \$25.00 will be collected when registering via a separate curling i/o form.
- 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 (inclusive in the \$25.00 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, with the exception of the club championship category, where they must play lead.
- 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.

j. 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.
- Spares 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 (with the exception of the Club Championship category where spares or replacements must play lead at all times). 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.

k. 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).

l. The Chief Umpire must be advised a minimum 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 must follow Curl BC's Safe Sport policies, which are enacted to ensure that the curling experience for all participants is enjoyable and free from harm. Coaches are also required to take the NCCP Safe Sport online course that is available through *The Locker* at no charge. Curl BC's Safe sport policies create the conditions for a positive experience, and fosters positive behaviors. The policies can be found [here](#) as part of the *Policy Registry –Safe Sport Appendix B - Page 69 of 119*. In addition to this 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. must have 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
5. have 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.
6. be 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/>.

[*Individuals found to be not in compliance will be subject to Curl BC's Policy Registry-Safe Sport Safe-5: Complains and Discipline policy that can be found on pg. 103 of the board policy *](#)

*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. A place will also be provided to provide the name of a team's substitute coach should they have one.

- 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 or competitors 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 (BC Winter Games, Women’s, Men’s)

- a. Playdowns to determine BC Championship qualifiers shall be completed at least 14 calendar days prior to the start of their respective BC championship.
- b. 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 categories with only one open qualifier, the berth will not be reallocated.
-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.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. 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 by the Curl BC office. The email’s purpose is to communicate the officiating system, rule enforcement and penalties. Any queries the curlers may have can be sent to the chief umpire or event manager by email or asked in person prior to the pre-event practice.
- 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, with a mandatory 5-minute break at the conclusion of 5 ends. (Exception – wheelchair teams will be allocated 38 minutes per team, with a mandatory 7-minute break at the conclusion of 4 ends. 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)
 - Thinking time allocated to complete an 8-end mixed doubles game shall be 22 minutes.

- 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 during preliminary round: Each team will be allowed a nine-minute warm-up before each game followed by one minute for teams to throw their two LSDs on the same sheet of ice on which they are about to play. Teams may throw as many rocks as they want during this time. 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. See competitor guide for all championships section to see the pre-game practice process for the playoff round.

f. If the schedule permits, Spares will practice during regular scheduled pre-event practice and will be available for selection by the team requiring a substitute. If there is a spare pool for an event, this will be communicated in the team briefing.

g. In categories with Open BC Championships, the Preliminary Round will be a triple knock-out format and the Playoff Round format will be based on the total number of entries received by the registration deadline. The below outlines the playoff formats based on the number of entries the category receives:

3 Teams-	Semi (if necessary) then final
4-7 Teams-	Semi and Final
8-15 Teams-	Page Playoff (1v1 & 3v4)
16-23 Teams-	Modified Page Playoff (1v2 & 3v6/4v5)
24-32 Teams-	Double Knockout to a Page Playoff (1v1 and 3v4)

h. No tie-breaker games will be played in Curl BC Championships because all categories of events are triple knockout.

9. Conduct and Discipline

a. In accordance with Curl BC Policies *Safe-1: Code of Conduct and Ethics* on Pg. 70 of this [link](#). Curl BC supports equal opportunity and prohibits maltreatment of all individuals involved with the sport of curling in B.C. Curl BC is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and fairness. The purpose of this above Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment for the conduct of curling (within Curl BC's programs, activities, and events) by setting the standards of appropriate behavior consistent with Curl BC's core values. 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.

Curl BC's Curlers' Code of Ethics

- I will play the game with a spirit of good sportsmanship.
- I will conduct myself in an honorable manner both on and off the ice.
- I will never knowingly break a rule, but if I do, I will divulge the breach.
- I will take no action that could be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate or demean opponents, teammates or umpires.
- I will interpret the rules in an impartial manner, always keeping in mind that the purpose of the rules is to ensure that the game is played in an orderly and fair manner.
- I will humbly accept any penalty that the governing body at any level of curling deems appropriate, if I am found in violation of the Code of Ethics or rules of the game.

**Curl BC's
Coaching Code of Ethics**

- The coach shall act with integrity in performing all duties owed to athletes, the sport, other members of the coaching profession and the public.
- The coach shall strive to be well prepared and current in order that all duties in their discipline are fulfilled with competence.
- The coach shall act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person.
- The coach shall accept both the letter and the spirit of the rules that define and govern the sport.
- The coach shall accept the role of umpires in providing judgment to ensure that competitions are conducted fairly and in accordance with the established rules.
- The coach's conduct toward other coaches shall be characterized by courtesy, good faith and respect.
- The coach shall maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and support the principles of Fair Play.

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.

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 [here](#).

- c. Smoking or vaping of tobacco or marijuana by competitors, coaches or officials anywhere in the host facility at any time is prohibited.
- d. Competitors and coaches may be subject to fines if they do not conduct themselves in an appropriate manner as follows:

1. On-ice conduct, including:

- i. Use of inappropriate language to the point that it is offensive.
- ii. Making an obscene gesture that is deemed inappropriate by the Chief Umpire.
- iii. Being abusive to anyone involved with the event.
- iv. Refusing to talk to an accredited member of the media.
- v. Refusing to wear an RF microphone. (Broadcast games only)
- vi. Refusing to cooperate with the televising network. (Broadcast games only)
- vii. Dress code violation. (including the use of unapproved logos or sponsorship on clothing or equipment)

1st Offence: Fine from \$150 – \$500

2nd Offence: Fine from \$500 – \$1000

3rd Offence: Fine up to \$1000 and suspension

2. Refusing to take a directive given by a Curl BC Official.

1st Offence: Fine from \$300 – \$600

2nd Offence: Fine from \$600 – \$1000

3rd Offence: Fine up to \$1000 and suspension

3. Conceding a game before the time frame designated by Curl BC without permission.

1st Offence: Fine from \$500 – \$1000 for each member of the team on the ice

4. Off-ice activity: Any conduct considered to be inappropriate by Curl BC.

1st Offence: Fine from \$300 – \$600

2nd Offence: Fine from \$600 – \$1000

For additional information on conduct and fines please click below: <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.

h. 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 SAFE 7: APPEALS policy**. This Policy may be used to appeal decisions made through the process outlined in Curl BC's Complaints and Discipline Policy on Pg. 111 of the below link:

<https://www.curlbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Curl-BC-Board-Policies-2022-June-15-2022.pdf>

11. Other

a. Curl BC reserves the right to amend or repeal any of the Curl BC General 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 for officiated play.

2023 CURL BC CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES

WHEELCHAIR

The BC Championship shall be an open entry event taking place in Richmond from December 9th-11th, 2022. The format for the preliminary round will be a triple knockout format and the playoff round format will be based on the total number of entries (see chart under rule 8G of the 2023 Curl BC General Rules). Games will be 8 ends in length. The successful team will represent BC at the 2023 Canadian Wheelchair Championships, February 20th-25th, 2023 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Rules:

- Teams may be comprised of eligible players from any zone in the province.
NOTE: In the event that BC cannot field a team for a national competition from within the province, Curl BC can now request an exemption to the residency rule in this category.
- Teams shall have at least one member of each gender.
- no team shall be required to play more than two games per day
- If a game is tied after the eight ends allotted, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.
- Each team will receive 38 minutes of thinking time.
- During an eight-end game, a mandatory break of five minutes will take place at the conclusion of the fourth end.
- Fifth players are permitted at all levels of play up to and including national events.
- Seeding of teams for preliminary round will only be done for teams who made the playoffs in the 2020 BC Wheelchair Championships and are returning with 3 of 5 players for the 2023 BC Wheelchair Championships
- All other teams shall be seeded in preliminary round draw by double blind draw.
- Each team will receive 38 minutes thinking time.
- During an 8 end game, a mandatory break of seven minutes will take place at the conclusion of the fourth end
- When extra ends are required, the clocks will be reset, and each team shall receive six (6) minutes of playing time

U18

The BC U18 Championships shall be an open girls' and open boys' event in Richmond from December 27th- December 31st, 2022. The format will be a triple knockout preliminary round and the playoff format will be based upon the total number of entries (see chart under rule 8H of the 2023 Curl BC General Rules). Games will be 8 ends in length. The successful boys' and girls' teams will represent BC at the 2023 U18 Nationals, February 5-11th, 2023 in Timmons, Ontario.

Rules

- Each player entering the U18 competition shall be 17 years of age or less on June 30, 2022.
- If a game is tied after the eight ends allotted, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.
- Each team will receive 30 minutes thinking time
- During an eight-end game, a mandatory break of five minutes shall take place at the conclusion of the fourth end.
- Teams may designate a fifth player for BC Competitions. Fifth players are permitted at National events.
- All teams shall have a coach that meets the competition coach certification [requirements](#)
- The coach must have submitted a valid, current criminal record check with the Curl BC office, a minimum 2 weeks prior to the start of the event
- The coach shall follow and implement the "Rule of 2" when in the role of coach.
- The coach shall have completed the NCCP SafeSport Module through the NCCP Locker in the past 5 years.
- Fair Play Time-Outs are permitted.
- Members of teams, including coaches, shall refrain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages and marijuana at any time during a competition.
- Teams shall be in their accommodation by midnight, unless attending an official provincial championship function. The first violation of this curfew will result in a one game suspension to the player(s). The second violation will result in suspension from the remainder

of the championship. The coach will be immediately notified by the Curl BC Championship Event Manager or Board Liaison of the disciplinary action, and further action can be taken by Curl BC following the event. A warning to this effect will be given within the team briefing.

- Seeding of teams for preliminary round will only be done for teams who made the playoffs in the 2022 BC U18 Championships and are returning with 3 of 5 players for the 2023 BC U18 Championships
- All other teams shall be seeded in preliminary round draw by double blind draw.

WOMEN

The Women's BC Championship (Scotties) shall be a 6-day event in Chilliwack from January 10-15th, 2023 consisting of 8-teams competing in a triple knockout preliminary round and a 4-team page playoff. The A and B qualifiers will advance to the 1V2 playoff game and the 2 C qualifiers will advance to the 3V4 playoff game. Games will be 10-ends in length, 38 minutes thinking time.. The successful team will qualify to represent BC at the 2023 Tournament of Hearts, February 17th-26th in Kamloops, BC. The 8 teams shall qualify for the BC Championships as follows:

- Seed 1 The defending champion (as long as 3 of 5 players are returning from the 2022 BC Championship lineup.)
- Seed 2-3 The top two teams on the Canadian Team Ranking System, as determined by points accrued from September 1st, 2022 to December 12th, 2022, provided that the team plays in a minimum of two out of province CTRS events.
- Seed 4-5 The top two BC Tour teams as determined by points accrued from September 1st, 2022 to December 12th 2022, provided teams have competed in a minimum of three BC Tour events.
- Seed 6 The one winner from the BC Curling Tour Berth Spiel being held in Kamloops
- Seed 7-8 The A and B qualifiers at the open qualifier taking place December 9th-11th, 2022.

Notes:

* points from zone, open, provincial and national events do not go towards the BC Tour berths or the CTRS berth.

**If a CTRS or BCCT berth isn't earned by teams within the top 100 on the CTRS standings, the berth(s) will be added to the open qualifying event

*** If the berth spiel is won by a team who is not eligible for the berth (i.e. out of province entry, women's entry in a men's event, etc.) the berth will be added to the open qualifying event

Rules:

- Individuals shall be bona fide residents of BC prior to September 1st of the year preceding the championship season. For the 2022-23 season this would be Sept. 1, 2022, With the exception of permitting from any other Canadian location to be part of the team as a "Free Agent" and any player who has moved away from the province or territory they were born in can be part of the team due to their "Birthright" status.
- Up to date residency eligibility rules for the tournament of hearts can be found here:
<https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/canadian-team-ranking-system/residency-rules/residency-eligibility-rules/>
- Fifth players are permitted at all levels of play up to and including national events.
- If a game is tied after the ten ends allotted, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.
- During a ten-end game, a mandatory break of five minutes shall take place at the conclusion of the fifth end.
- In televised or streamed games teams shall play a minimum of eight ends unless permission to concede is granted by the network and Chief Umpire.

MEN

The Men's BC Championship shall be a 6-day event in Chilliwack from January 10th-15th, 2023 consisting of 12 teams competing in a triple knockout preliminary round format and a 4-team page playoff format. The A and B qualifiers will advance to the 1V2 playoff game and the 2 C qualifiers will advance to the 3V4 playoff game. Games will be 10 ends in length, 38 minutes thinking time. The successful team will represent BC at the 2023 Brier, March 3-12th, 2023 in London, Ontario. The 12 teams shall qualify for the BC Championships and be seeded into the draw as follows:

- Seed 1: The defending champion (3 of 5 players must be returning from 2022 BC championship lineup).
- Seeds 2-4: The top three teams on the Canadian Team Ranking System as determined by points accrued from September 1st, 2022 to December 12th, 2022, provided that the team plays in a minimum of two out of province CTRS events.
- Seeds 5-7: The top three BC Curling Tour teams as determined by points accrued at events within BC from September 1st, 2022 to December 12th, 2022, who have competed in a minimum of three (3) BC tour events.
- Seeds 8-9: The two winners from the BC Curling Tour Berth Spiels being held in Dawson Creek and Kamloops.
- Seeds 10-12: The A, B and C qualifiers at the open qualifier taking place December 9th-11th, 2022.

Notes

* Points from zone, provincial and national events do not count towards the CTRS Berths or the BC Tour Berths.

** If a CTRS or BCCT berth is earned by teams outside of the top 100 on the CTRS standings, the berth(s) will be added to the open qualifying event.

*** If the berth spiels are won by teams who are not eligible for the berth (i.e. out of province entry, women's entry, etc.) the berth(s) will be added to the open qualifying event.

Rules:

- Individuals shall be bona fide residents of BC prior to Sept. 1 of the year preceding the championship season. For the 2022-2023 season this is Sept. 1, 2022. (With the exception of now permitting players from any other Canadian location to be part of the team as a "Free Agent" and any player who has moved away from the province or territory they were born in can be part of the team due to their "Birthright" status)
- Updated residency eligibility rules for the Brier can be found here:
<https://www.curling.ca/team-canada/canadian-team-ranking-system/residency-rules/residency-eligibility-rules/>.
- Fifth players are permitted at all levels of play up to and including national events.
- If a game is tied after the ten ends allotted, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.
- During a ten-end game, a mandatory break of five minutes shall take place at the conclusion of the fifth end. In televised games teams shall play a minimum of eight ends unless permission to concede is granted.

Under 21

The BC Under 21 Championships shall be open entry women's and men's championships running from January 24th-29th, 2023 with a triple knockout preliminary round format and a playoff format that is based upon the total number of entries (see chart under rule 8G of the 2023 Curl BC General Rules for an explanation of the playoff formats based on the open event field sizes). The successful teams will represent BC at the 2023 Under 21 National Championships, March 25th-April 2nd, 2023 in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec.

Rules:

- Each player shall be born on or after Jul 1, 2002.
- Team may have one overage athlete (21 years of age or less on June 30, 2023).
- 10 end games will be played in this championship.
- Each team will receive 38 minutes thinking time.
- If a game is tied after the ten ends allotted, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.
- During a ten-end game, a mandatory break of five minutes shall take place at the conclusion of the fifth end.
- In televised and streamed games teams shall play a minimum of eight ends unless permission to concede is granted by the network/curl bc and the Chief Umpire.
- Teams may designate a fifth player for BC competitions. Fifth players are permitted at national events but at the team's expense.
- All teams shall have a coach who meets the competition coach certification [requirements](#).
- The coach shall have submitted a valid, current criminal record check with the Curl BC office, a minimum 2 weeks prior to the start of the event.

- The coach shall follow and implement the “Rule of 2” when in the role of coach.
- The Coach shall have completed the NCCP SafeSport Module through the NCCP Locker in the past 5 years.
- Fair Play Time-Outs are permitted at junior events.
- Members of junior teams, including coaches, shall refrain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages or marijuana at any time during a competition.
- Juniors shall be in their accommodation by midnight, unless attending an official provincial championship function. The first violation of this curfew will result in a one game suspension to the player(s). The second violation will result in suspension from the remainder of the championship. The coach will be immediately notified by the Curl BC Championship Event Manager or Board Liaison of the disciplinary action, and further action may be taken by Curl BC following the event.
- Seeding of teams for preliminary round will only be done for teams who made the playoffs in the 2022 BC U21 Championships and are returning with 3 of 5 players for the 2023 BC U21 Championships.
- Teams will then be seeded based upon their standing on the BC Curling Tour as of December 1st, 2022.
- All other teams shall be seeded in preliminary round draw by double blind draw.

MIXED DOUBLES

The BC Mixed Doubles Championship shall be an open entry event taking place at McArthur Island in Kamloops from February 7th-12th, 2023. The format for the 2023 preliminary round will be a triple knockout format and the playoff format based upon the total number of entries (see chart under rule 8G of the 2023 Curl BC General Rules). Games will be 8 ends in length. The successful team will qualify for the 2023 Canadian Mixed Doubles Championships, March 21st-26th, 2023 in Sudbury Ontario.

Rules:

- Teams may be comprised of eligible players from any zone in the province.
- A team shall be comprised of two players, one male and one female.
- Alternate or spare players are not allowed. A team shall forfeit any game(s) in which it fails to have both athletes playing for the entire game.
- Each team will receive 24 minutes of thinking time.
- Each team shall deliver five stones per end. The player delivering the team’s first stone of the end shall also deliver the team’s last stone of that end. The other team member shall deliver the team’s second, third and fourth stones for that end. The player delivering the first stone can change from end to end.
- The last stone advantage is determined by each player delivering one stone (each with the same turn) – meaning that one team will deliver clockwise and one team will deliver counter clockwise each game.

STICK (OPEN AND WOMEN’S)

The BC Open and BC Women’s Stick Championships are open entry BC Championships taking place in Armstrong from February 17th-19th, 2023. The format for the 2023 preliminary round will be a triple knockout. The playoff format in both events will be based upon the total number of entries (see chart under rule 8G of the 2023 Curl BC General Rules). A consolation round will occur for those teams not advancing to the championship playoff round.

Rules:

- Each team is comprised of two curlers with no sweeping or brushing between the hog lines, each curler is always occupied, either delivering or skipping.
- One member of each team stays at each end of the rink, and shall not cross center ice except during timeouts.
- The two delivering curlers alternately deliver six stones each per end, while their teammates skip that end. Then roles are reversed.
- Each stone shall be delivered with a curling or delivery stick, from a standing or sitting (in a wheelchair) position. This provides equity for those physically unable to attain the sliding position.
- A stone is in play when it reaches the hog line at the delivering end. A stone that has not reached the hog line at the delivering end may be returned to the player and redelivered. The player will redeliver the same called shot and ice.
- Sweeping/brushing is not allowed between the hog lines. This provides fairness to those unable to sweep/ brush. It also increases the challenge, not having the advantage of sweeping/brushing to affect either line or weight in the initial travel of the stone.
- The first three stones delivered in an end may not be removed from play before delivery of the fourth stone of that end. If that happens, the delivered stone is removed from play and all other stones are returned to their original position. With fewer stones used, and fewer ends, the stick game tends to be more defensive than the regular game. This rule helps make the game more offensive. The “in play area” is the area from the hog line to the back line.
- TIME-OUTS: Each team may call a maximum of two 90 second time-outs (the team calling the time out can meet in the house in play, the team not calling shall meet at center ice). During an extra end, one time-out per team is allowed. Whenever a time-out is

called, the opposing team may consult near center ice at the same time. This allows for team member consultation during a game in a timely manner.

- In case of a tie, an extra end is played, with each player delivering 3 stones. The curlers then exchange roles at the midpoint of an extra end to complete the end. In the event the extra end is a blank, another end is played using the extra end format with each player continuing from the end of the rink where they finished the previous extra end.
- If delivering from a stationary position the competitor must remain within 18 inches of the Centerline at all times.
- There is a chief umpire and event manager on site. Curlers will do their own measuring and are asked to mark the scoreboard promptly at the conclusion of each end so that online scoring can be updated timely.
- Rule enforcement and unresolvable on-ice situations are to be directed to the chief umpire and their decision will be final.
- Curl BC will adopt the same rules as the Canadian Stick Curling Association for this event. Curl BC applies the Rules of Curling for General Play, as approved by Curling Canada.

MASTERS

The BC Master Championships shall be an open entry Women's and open entry Men's Championship taking place in Parksville from February 21st-26th consisting of a triple knockout preliminary round format and a playoff format based upon the total number of entries (see chart under rule 8G of the 2023 Curl BC General Rules). All games will be 8 ends in length. The successful teams will represent BC at the 2023 Canadian Masters Championships scheduled for April 3rd-9th 2023.

Rules:

- Players wanting to compete in the 2023 BC Masters will be born on or before Dec 31st, 1962.
- If a game is tied after the eight ends allotted, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.
- Each team will receive 30 minutes thinking time.
- During an eight-end game, a mandatory break of five minutes will take place at the conclusion of the fourth end.
- The use of the delivery stick at Masters Competitions is permitted and its use shall be in accordance with Curling Canada Rules for General Play Section 18.
- Teams may designate a fifth player for BC Competitions only. Fifth players are permitted at National events
- Team are responsible for 100% of the cost to participate in National Championships.
- Seeding of teams for preliminary round will only be done for teams who made the playoffs in the 2022 BC Masters Championships and are returning with 3 of 5 players for the 2023 Masters.
- All other teams shall be seeded in preliminary round draw by double blind draw.

MIXED

The BC Championship shall be an open entry championship taking place in Penticton from February 28th- March 5th, 2023 consisting of a triple knockout preliminary round format and a playoff format based on the total number of entries (see chart under Rule 8G). Each game will be 8 ends in length. The successful team will represent BC at the Canadian Mixed Championships, November 5th-11th, 2023.

Rules:

- Team shall be made up of two male and two female players and the male and female players shall play alternate positions. The player delivering last stone and the player acting as vice skip shall be opposite genders.
- The following are the two (2) accepted team position/delivery rotations for 4-person mixed competitions:
 - (1) 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)
 - (2) 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).
- Each team will receive 30 minutes thinking time.
- If a game is tied after the 8-ends allotted, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.
- a mandatory break of five minutes shall take place at the conclusion of the fourth end.
- teams are not permitted to have a fifth player.
- Seeding of teams for preliminary round will only be done for teams who made the playoffs in the 2022 BC Mixed Championships and are returning with 3 of 5 players for the 2023 Mixed.
- All other teams shall be seeded in preliminary round draw by double blind draw.

SENIOR

The BC Senior Championships shall be an open women's and open men's championship taking place from March 21st-26th, 2023 with a triple knockout preliminary round format and a playoff format that is based upon the total number of entries (see chart under rule 8G of the 2023 Curl BC General Rules). Games will be 8 ends in length. The successful teams will represent BC at the 2023 Canadian Seniors, November 27th-December 2nd, 2023.

Rules:

- Players wanting to compete in the 2023 BC Seniors will be born on or before June 30, 1973.
- If a game is tied after the eight ends allotted, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.
- Each team will receive 30 minutes thinking time.
- During an eight-end game, a mandatory break of five minutes shall take place at the conclusion of the fourth end.
- Teams may designate a fifth player for BC Competitions. Fifth players are permitted at national events at the team's expense.
- Seeding of teams for preliminary round will only be done for team who made playoffs in the 2022 BC Seniors and are returning with 3 of 5 player for the 2023 BC Seniors.
- All other teams shall be seeded into the preliminary round draw by double blind draw.

BC WINTER GAMES

Girls and Boys zone qualifiers will take place in Curl BC's 8 zones from January 20th-22nd, 2023. Each Zone will qualify 1 girl's and 1 boys' team for the 2023 BC Winter Games (BCWGs) in Vernon BC from March 23rd-26th, 2023. The BCWG's format shall consist of two pools of four teams with the top two in each pool advancing to a semi-final. The winner of each pool plays the second-place team in the other pool with the winner advancing to the final. All round-robin games will be 8 ends. Teams that do not qualify for the semi-finals will be re-formed to play mixed doubles. This event does not lead to a national championship. For playdowns, the province shall be divided in accordance with BC Winter Games boundaries, which are currently eight zones. Each curler and coach shall compete only for the zone in which they make their permanent residence.

Rules

- Each player entering this competition shall be **16 years of age or under as of Dec. 31, 2022** and shall not be younger than 11 years of age as of the first day of the BC Winter Games, whichever applies. Players shall meet BC Games Society Eligibility Rules in BC Games Years.
- Seeding of teams for preliminary round will be done by double blind draw.
- If a game is tied after the eight ends allotted, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.
- Each team will receive 30 minutes thinking time.
- A mandatory break of five minutes will take place at the conclusion of the fourth end.
- A mandatory break of two minutes will take place at the conclusion of the second and sixth ends. Coaches will be allowed access to their teams.
- For BC Winter Games the sponsorship rules of the BC Games Society will supersede Curl BC rules regarding cresting and team sponsors.
- Fifth players are permitted at all levels of competitions, up to and including the BC Winter Games.
- All teams shall have a coach that meets the [certification requirements](#) and has completed a [criminal record check](#).
- If a zone or zones do not provide a representative(s), the replacement team(s) shall be from the host zone first. Following this it will be allocated to the zone(s) with the most entries. If an equal number of entries in two or more zones prevent a clear choice, the extra berth(s) shall be decided by coin toss.
- Members of BCWGs teams, including coaches, shall refrain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages and marijuana at any time during a competition.
- All teams shall have a coach that meets the certification requirements.
- The coach shall have submitted a valid, current criminal record check with the Curl BC office, a minimum 2 weeks prior to the start of the event.
- The coach shall follow and implement the "Rule of 2" when in the role of coach.
- The Coach shall have completed the NCCP SafeSport Module through the NCCP Locker in the past 5 years.
- Athletes shall be in games accommodation sites (scanned in) by BC Games curfew (11:00pm), unless attending an official provincial championship function. The first violation of this curfew will result in a one game suspension to the player(s). The second violation will result in suspension from the remainder of the championship. The coach will be immediately notified by the Curl BC Championship Provincial Advisor (PA) of the disciplinary action, and. A warning to this effect will be given at the team briefing.

- Coaches and adult supervisors shall be in games accommodation sites (scanned in) by BC Games curfew (11:00pm), Violation of curfew will be reviewed by the Curl BC Provincial Advisor and BC Winter Games Staff, and disciplinary actions will follow.
- Violation of curfew may also be reviewed by the BC Games Society.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The BC Club Championships shall be a 6-day open entry Women's and Men's championship taking place in Abbotsford from March 28th-April 2nd, 2023 consisting of a triple knockout preliminary round format and a playoff format that is based upon the total number of entries (see chart under rule 8G of the 2023 Curl BC General Rules for playoff formats based on field sizes). Teams will play 8-end games, 30 minutes thinking time. The successful teams will represent BC at the 2023 Club Championship Nationals November 19th-26th, 2023.

- The curling club represented by each team shall be affiliated with Curl BC, in good standing, and all applicable dues paid in full.
- Each four-person team is allowed to have one (1) player who, during the previous three (3) curling seasons, has participated in; and/or, the Canada Cup; and/or, the Continental Cup; and/or, the Under-21; and/or, the Tournament of Hearts; and/or, the Brier; and/or; and/or, the Under-18; and/or, the Canadian Wheelchair; and/or, any Canadian Trials or Pre-Trials event; or any provincial / territorial event leading to these events. This same player can have played in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Grand Slam event in the previous three (3) curling seasons.
- A team must field three of the four original players for each game played at any level of the Curling Club Championships. "Original" means signed up and registered for league play in their club, OR signed up and registered for a special curling club championship qualifying event created within their club (with the permission of their Member Association). If an "Original" team only has three players, then those three players must be on the ice at all times up to and including the national championships.
- In this category only a 5th player may compete at any level of competition including the National Championships. They shall play the lead position throwing the first two stones of any and all ends for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8. No exceptions. Any 5th player costs will be the responsibility of the team.
- Please refer to the national rules for detailed eligibility requirements, which are appendices to this document as of August 1st, 2022.