

COMPETITOR'S GUIDE

2014

SHOPPERS HOME HEALTH CARE

WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIP



February 1, 2014

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NOCA WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIP

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COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

NOCA President:

Stephen Chenier schenier@curlnoc.ca

Head Umpires:

Bill Charlebois (807) 627-8684
(Regions 1-3) bcharlebois@curlnoc.ca

Claude Peloquin (705) 840-2985
(Regions 4-6) cpeloquin@curlnoc.ca

Competitions Committee:

Karen Saarimaki (807) 854-1739 (807) 854-8496 (cell)
 Chair ksaarimaki@curlnoc.ca
Ron Henderson rhenderson@curlnoc.ca
Ian Fisher ifisher@curlnoc.ca
Stephen Chenier schenier@curlnoc.ca
Joan Sheppard jsheppard@curlnoc.ca

Executive Director:

Leslie Kerr (807) 597-8730 (office)
 (807) 598-0051 (cell)

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Shoppers Home Health Care NOCA Wheelchair Provincials

This event is open to all wheelchair competitors who are a minimum of nineteen (19) years old as of December 31, 2013.

Your team has decided to participate in the 2014 Shoppers Home Health Care NOCA Wheelchair Provincials. This event will be held March 28-30, 2014 at the Fort William Curling Club.

This Championship will declare one Northern Ontario Champion to advance to the 2014 Canadian Wheelchair Championship April 28 – May 4, 2014 at the Centre de Curling Boucherville, QC.

The entry fee is \$260 per team.

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COMPETITION FORMAT:

The Northern Ontario Provincial Wheelchair Championship format will be:

Two teams – Double Round Robin

Three to Eight teams – Single Round Robin

In round robin draws of three or more teams, following the conclusion of the round robin competition, the top two (2) teams shall participate in a Championship FINAL game.

STONE SELECTION, PRACTICE & LAST STONE ADVANTAGE – ROUND ROBIN DRAWS

In each draw the team listed first shall have top of the scoreboard color and practice first for ten (10) minutes, beginning thirty (30) minutes prior to the posted draw time. The team listed second, shall have bottom of the scoreboard color and practice immediately following the first team's draw to the button for last stone advantage.

Last Stone Advantage:

Last stone advantage in the first end (hammer), will be decided by a draw to the button following each team's ten (10) minute pre-game practice. Within one (1) minute following the pre-game practice, a player from the team will deliver a stone (full sweeping allowed) and the closest draw to the button between the two teams will receive last stone advantage in the first end.

Each lead, second, third and skip on each team will deliver a minimum of one (1) draw shot for last stone advantage during the event. The draw to the button shall be played towards the home end. A team utilizing a fifth player must have a minimum of four (4) team members throw the draw for hammer during the event.

Ties in draw shot distance will be decided as follows:

- a) If the first team records a distance of 0.00 cm or 185.40 cm, a second player from that team will deliver a draw to the button. If the second player records a distance of 0.00 cm or 185.40 cm, a third player from that team will deliver a draw to the button.
- b) If the second team records the same first throw distance as their opposition, another player from that team will draw to the button. If the second stone distance is the same, a third player will deliver a stone.
- c) If following the second team practice, an identical distance is recorded for both teams (excluding a distance of 0.00 cm or 185.40 cm), a second (or more) player(s) from each team will deliver a stone to break the tie.

Umpires will assume that every team that wins the last stone draw will want the last stone in the first end. If there is any time that a team does not want the last stone if they win the last stone draw, then they must inform the Umpire before the start of their practice.

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Opposing teams must remain behind the scoreboard during their opponent's pre-game practice. If that is not feasible, then the opposition must stand as far behind the sheet as possible, so as not to distract or intimidate the other team.

Stones not delivered within the time allotted by the umpire will be assigned a distance of 185.40 cm (the stone must reach the nearer tee line before time expires).

A draw to the button for last stone advantage that is moved by a team member prior to the measure will be assigned the distance to the next defined circle away from the button.

Both teams will declare which player will deliver the last stone draw for last stone advantage prior to the start of the first team's practice. Failure to do so will result in a distance of 185.40 cm being assigned to the team(s).

NOTE: Total Draw Distance is the cumulative total of all draw distances for last stone advantage (hammer), in each game, for each team (excluding tie-breakers and playoff games). Only the first draw attempt for last stone advantage will be recorded for the Total Draw Distance required at the end of round robins to break unsolvable ties.

STONE SELECTION, PRACTICE & LAST STONE ADVANTAGE – TIE-BREAKERS & PLAYOFFS

Following the conclusion of the round robin competition the top two (2) teams will participate in a Championship FINAL game.

Teams that complete the round robin with identical win/loss records are considered to be tied. Teams tied for a playoff position shall only be eliminated from the playoffs by playing a tie-breaker game(s).

The Chief Umpire will make all decisions with regard to the administration of tie-breakers. Additional information relative to tie-breakers and sheet assignments will be discussed by the Chief Umpire with the teams involved after the last game of the round robin. (see NOCA Tie Breaker Review Document)

Immediately after the three playoff positions have been determined and prior to each playoff game, each team involved shall be asked by the Chief Umpire to select their choice of stone handle color. Each team shall be allowed a maximum of 15 minutes to make its selection. Failure to comply shall result in a set of stones being assigned. Upon the conclusion of each playoff draw, the same process shall be implemented again. In all playoff games a complete set of rocks from any sheet must be chosen.

In the FINAL playoff game, if the team ranked first finished clearly ahead of the team ranked second, they will have last stone advantage **AND** choice of colour. If the win/loss records are identical, the higher ranked team will have the choice of last stone advantage **OR** choice of colour **but not both**. The team

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delivering the last stone in the first end will practice first. A team is allowed to throw its own stones during practice and not those of the opposition.

Tie-Breaking Process

When teams are tied for a playoff position, the win/loss record of those teams against each other shall be used to determine their ranking and therefore how the teams are positioned in the playoff draw or tie-breaker game(s).

If a complete ranking of the tied teams cannot be established by a single comparison of the win/loss record of all tied teams, and ties still remain, a second comparison for ranking shall be made utilizing the win/loss records of only the remaining tied teams.

When ranking of tied teams eligible for the playoffs cannot be established by successive comparisons of win/loss records, i.e. unsolvable ties, only those teams that remain tied after such comparisons shall be ranked by implementing the ranking based on the Total Draw Distance of pre-game draw shots to the button for last stone advantage. The least accumulated distance shall receive the highest ranking until the ranking has been completed.

In all tiebreaker games, the higher ranked team shall have choice of hammer **OR** color **but not both**.

All tiebreakers shall be played with the stones from the sheet assigned. Stone handles shall not be changed from one set of stones to another.

SCHEDULE FOR EVENT:

The schedule will be posted on the NOCA website at <http://curlno.ca/competitions/wheelchair>

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

ACCOMMODATIONS:

It is your team's responsibility to reserve your own rooms at one of the host venues.

DRESS STANDARDS:

Teams are required to wear appropriate curling apparel. Any clothing that is inappropriate as deemed by the Umpire will need to be replaced.

As a reminder please ensure all footwear is clean and free of any loose debris. The ice-team has spent countless hours preparing the surface and it is unfortunate to lose rocks to something that is totally under your control.

CRESTING/SPONSOR IDENTIFICATION

1. A team participating in a NOCA competition shall be allowed to wear non-competing sponsors' crests. If NOCA sponsor provided clothing is supplied, players are asked to wear such clothing either during games or off-ice.
2. The NOCA cresting rules allow for all teams to wear non-competing sponsors' crests. Any competing sponsors' crest will be deemed non-conforming and you will be asked to remove or cover it for the duration of the event.

OFFICIAL OBLIGATIONS:

A member of each team may be called upon to offer special thanks to the Committee, the sponsor and the NOCA at different functions during this event. You are encouraged to co-operate and participate.

MEDIA RELATIONS:

The media may be represented at this event. They will be located in the building but will not be allowed access to the dressing rooms. They will have access to you through the host committee who will approach you with any request for interviews. We ask that you co-operate with the media by granting interviews and answering questions when requested. However a word of caution is offered – make certain that you do not make reference to anything that you do not want quoted. Also, if you have any problems or complaints, express them to the appropriate umpire and not the news media. There is no such thing as an "off the record" comment.

The landscape has changed in terms of the way players, fans, and the media interact, and it's recognized that the various forms of social media represent a valuable opportunity for communication. Competitors are encouraged to embrace these social media as they present avenues to promote the game of curling as well as their own teams; however, there are certain responsibilities attached to the use of these social media outlets.

NOCA has a Social Media Policy that all competitors and coaches are encouraged to read. It is located on the NOCA website on the About page.

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ATTENDANCE AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP:

All players must arrive at the Championship at the designated time, attend all functions and remain at the event until they are eliminated. Any player leaving the competition without prior authorization will be suspended from NOCA competitions for the following year.

CONDUCT:

Curling is based on a code of ethics, good sportsmanship and personal integrity. Inappropriate behaviour including inappropriate language will not be tolerated at any time. Display of emotion, broom banging, etc., which results in damage to any areas or part of the playing surface, players' dressing rooms or any other area of the curling club or hotel will result in suspension for one game. Subsequent infractions will result in suspension for the remainder of the championship. You are expected to follow this tradition and the rules of the game throughout the competition.

The consumption or use of alcoholic beverages by any player or coach at any time during a Junior or Bantam competition is strictly prohibited. This rule shall extend from the start of the first day of play to the end of the final day of play.

PENALTIES AND RULE ENFORCEMENT:

The CCA Rulebook has a number of different sections. You should be familiar with the section titled Rules of Curling for Officiated Play (Sept. 2012 – Sept. 2014).

The Head Umpire is responsible for rule enforcement and interpretation in all areas covered by the Rules of Curling for Officiated Play, Board policy or precedent. The Head Umpire's decision will be final except in matters involving disciplinary action.

The NOCA Board shall be responsible for all matters involving disciplinary action and such matters should be referred to the NOCA Executive Director and Competitions Committee Chair. In emergency situations the Head Umpire may have to act immediately in areas outside of rules, policy or precedent. In these situations, the Head Umpire is the final authority.

Every rule has an enforcement procedure that will be followed at this Northern Ontario Playdown or Championship. **It should be noted that there are no warnings for any infraction unless it is stated in the rulebook or brought to your attention by the Umpire prior to the start of the competition.**

Players and coaches should be familiar with the NOCA SPECIAL RULES.

ATHLETE DOPING:

The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport may conduct unannounced doping tests.

If you have any medical issues and/or are on any medications that may cause you to fail a drug test it is your responsibility to notify the organization prior to the start of competition. **"I did not know" is not a viable answer. It is your responsibility to know what you are taking.**

The Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP) became effective on January 1, 2009 and details can be reviewed or downloaded at www.cces.ca/en/antidoping/cadp and www.wada-ama.org/

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NOCA – SPECIAL RULES

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

The Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA) requires that athletes who wish to represent Northern Ontario at any National Championship must be Canadian Citizens, bona fide residents and domiciled within Northern Ontario. Each athlete must also be a fully paid member of a member facility within Northern Ontario and have paid their annual NOCA per capita fee.

ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

1. A player shall be eligible to play in an NOCA competition whether or not it leads to a Canadian Championship provided he/she has paid the approved NOCA per capita fee and is a member of a NOCA member facility immediately prior to and at all times during the competition, and meets the following criteria:

- a) Is a bona fide resident within the defined geographical jurisdiction of the NOCA on September 1st, 2013 and at all times thereafter to the end of the competition. (A bona fide resident is defined as one who lives in a house or dwelling within the jurisdiction of the NOCA and is a resident or citizen of Canada). The NOCA reserves the right to verify residency of any athlete competing.

The only exception to this clause shall be members of the Canadian Forces, or University/College students who are attending school on a full time basis outside their Province of permanent residence as well as others who apply for and receive an exemption from the NOCA Board of Directors.

- b) If you are residing in one province/territory and are requesting an exemption to participate in another province/territory based on one of the following circumstances please contact the NOCA office for an Application for Exemption of Residency Form:

- You are living within a short distance of a provincial/territorial border
- You are based in two locations due to your employment situation
- You are a full-time student wishing to compete in the province/territory where you are attending school versus your province/territory of your permanent residence.

Applications must be received by the Provincial/Territorial Member Association office the applicant is wishing to compete in, a minimum of 21 days prior to the entry deadline of the competition(s) the applicant wishes to compete in.

- c) A player may only compete for one CCA curling Member Association in any competition in the same curling season. (Note: Mixed Nationals held in November are considered to be part of the previous season). A player representing more than one region or Province may face suspension.
- d) All competitors in events leading to a National Championship must be residents and/or citizens of Canada. Exception: Men's and Women's Championships, all competitors must be residents AND citizens of Canada.
- e) Teams may be formed of any players from across the entire NOCA regions/jurisdiction. One member of the team must belong to the member facility in which the team is registered and actually have a domicile in that Region. All teams are responsible to have the member facility sign their registration form accepting the affiliation of their team. The definition of a team for this purpose is "A team consists of four players and does not include the fifth or coach".

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2. For competitive play, it is the responsibility of the team to complete and submit the following forms to the NOCA office, one (1) week prior to the start of the event:
 - a) Team Member Registration and Member Facility Certification Form
 - b) Participation Agreement (Youth or Adult or Mixed Doubles)
 - c) Consent form and proof of age for athletes under the age of 18
3. A team advancing to the next level of competition **must** retain three (3) of the original team members as shown on their team and member facility certification form.
 - a) Teams may only add one (1) player who has played in a previous level of the competition, including fifth players. (see notwithstanding below)
 - b) Teams may declare a fifth player prior to the start of any level of competition.

Exception for Mixed Doubles – A team advancing to the next level of competition must retain both original team members as shown on their team and member facility certification form.

Notwithstanding rule 3 (a), the Competitions committee may allow a second substitution under extenuating circumstances only. Teams may apply for special consideration to the Competitions committee and the decision of the committee is final.

COMPETITION ENTRY

1. For all levels of competitions, each NOCA member facility is allowed unlimited entries at the first level of competition.
 - a) **Entry deadline is 12:00 pm (NOON) on the stated closing date as per the competition schedule.** Entries to all competitions shall be submitted by the respective teams via the online registration system (NOCA website) prior to the entry deadline. It is the teams' responsibility to verify that their entry fee has been received. Team personnel need to be declared on the team entry registration.
 - b) Online entries will be paid for at the time of entry and require a signed NOCA Team Registration and Member Facility Certification and Participation Agreement to be sent to the NOCA office one (1) week prior to the start of the competition.
 - c) The NOCA Executive Director will not accept entries after the stated deadline (no exceptions).
 - d) Request for refund of entry fees will be reviewed on an individual basis, but as a standard policy, no refunds will be issued after the entry deadline.
 - e) An administrative fee will be assessed on any approved refunds.
2. An annual CCA Competitor Fee must be paid to be eligible for participation in Men's, Women's, Mixed, and Senior competitions. This fee is included in the entry fee for the first level of competition. If a player participates in more than one type of event (ie. Men and Mixed) he/she will only pay the CCA Competitor Fee once annually.
3. All competitors of minor age must submit a parental consent form and proof of age with their official team competitive entry form.
4. At all levels of competition, prior to the start of the first game, the Head Umpire may ask for proof of age.

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LATE TEAM ARRIVALS:

If a team fails to arrive on time to play its first game or any subsequent games in this competition, the team will forfeit the game(s). Illness, accident or extenuating circumstances will not be considered unless the number of teams involved makes it impossible for the competition to continue. If a team arrives too late to participate in the scheduled pre-event practice they will forfeit that right. All issues of late arrival shall be reviewed by the Head Umpire in consultation with the Competition Chairman or delegate prior to final determination. The only exception to the above rules will be severe weather that was not predicted. (i.e. Freezing rain or severe snowstorm)

DEFAULTS:

1. Where a qualifying team in a Region, Qualifier, or Challenge Round is unable or unwilling to continue in a competition, the team representative shall notify the NOCA Executive Director to this effect, within twenty-four (24) hours after qualifying for the next level of competition. That team will not be entitled to the position, rights, privileges and awards as it has defaulted and may be suspended. A runner-up team from that competition shall be entitled to the position, rights, privileges and awards of the team that has defaulted.
2. Each member of a team that defaults during any level of competition, subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 below, may be suspended. The length of the suspension will be determined by the NOCA Competition Committee on a case-by-case basis.
3. The NOCA Executive Director shall notify each member of a defaulting team in writing of such suspension and the method of appealing the suspension. A suspension may be appealed in writing and/or in person to the Board of Directors within a period of two (2) weeks from notification of suspension and in such event the suspension shall be lifted until the appeal is heard.
4. The suspension shall not apply to the level of competition in which the default occurred if, in the opinion of the Head Umpire of the NOCA, the team in question has a reasonable explanation for a default.

TEAM MEETING:

Prior to the start of all competitions, a team meeting will be scheduled. At least one member of your team must attend the team meeting with the Umpire, other NOCA Umpires, and the host committee as scheduled and before play commences. At this time any questions your team may have on the draw, officiating or rule interpretation will be discussed.

At least one player or coach from your team must attend the team meeting, otherwise your team will forfeit last rock advantage (or choice of positioned stones in Mixed Doubles) for subsequent non-playoff games.

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PRACTICE:

1. All events will have a pre-competition practice session of ten (10) minutes per team per competition sheet as scheduled. Each game shall also have a pre-game practice session of ten (10) minutes per team which starts thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled draw time.
Exception: Mixed doubles pre-competition practice is six (6) minutes, which starts twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled draw time.
2. A team receiving a bye due to default will be permitted to practice on the sheet of ice that they would have played on for the length of time that the game would have taken.
3. Teams participating in a provincial event will not be permitted to practice at the provincial event host club within 24 hours of the start of the event unless a pre-event practice is included in the schedule of events.

COACHING:

1. At all levels of competition, coach training will be required. All coaches must have paid the NOCA per capita fee and be trained as per the table below. Only qualified coaches will be granted access to the ice surface, team meetings and any other integrated events at any point during the competition. Coaches must provide their NCCP number on the team entry form.
 - a) A coach accompanying a team to a Canadian Championship must have a minimum of Competition Coach Certified or equivalent for curling and shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
 - b) A coach is permitted to coach only one (1) team during any competition. This restriction includes any competitions that are run simultaneously at the same place, such as Junior Men and Women. A coach will not be permitted to coach a team in both competitions until such time as one team is eliminated.

NOCA coaching requirements:

Level	Regionals/Challenge	Provincial	Ontario Winter Games	Canada Winter Games
Bantam	Club Coach Trained / Competition Coach Trained	Club Coach Trained with MED / Competition Coach Trained with MED	Competition Coach Certified	Competition Coach Certified with CWG PD Unit
Level	Regional	Provincial	National	World
Junior	Competition Coach Trained	Competition Coach Trained with MED	Competition Coach Certified	Competition Coach Certified
Men's / Women's	Competition Coach Trained	Competition Coach Trained with MED	Competition Coach Certified	Competition Coach Certified

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2. All current coaching certification (Level I or II) will qualify for conversion to the new NCCP certification. Coaches may confirm their status on the CCA website at the following link: <http://www.curling.ca/programs-and-services/high-performance-programs-and-services/national-coaching-certification-program/old-to-new-transfer-policy/> and/or check with NOCA Technical Coordinator Dick Henderson: dickhenderson@curlnoc.ca (807) 621-4259
3. All coaches coaching youth under the age of 18 must have a Criminal Records Check (CRC) and a Vulnerable Sector Check. Coaches applying for a CRC for the first time must apply for the Vulnerable Sector Check. Coaches who currently have a CRC, will be required to apply for a Vulnerable Sector Check when it is due for renewal (every three years).
4. Any team with a coach who is under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a chaperone who is over the age of 21.
5. A team may only have one Official Coach who has access to the team during pre-competition and pre-game practices, timeouts, and 4th (or 5th) end breaks. An alternate coach may be registered for all junior/bantam events leading up to and including the provincial championship. The alternate coach must meet all of the coaching requirements. The alternate coach will be allowed access to the team ONLY when the coach is absent for an entire game. The coach and alternate coach are NOT interchangeable during any one game.

ALTERNATES/SUBSTITUTES

1. The NOCA strongly endorses the utilization of four (4) player teams. In extenuating circumstances, a team shall be permitted to begin play with three (3) players as ruled by the Head Umpire.
2. The Head Umpire must be advised of any changes to the original team registration. These changes must have been approved by the Executive Director. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that the appropriate paperwork for any changes has been submitted to the NOCA office before the competition begins.
3. The NOCA permits the use of fifth players at all levels of play except for Mixed and Mixed Doubles. Each team must declare their fifth player prior to each level of competition. A team who does not declare a fifth player before the start of the competition must use players from the players' pool only.

For Mixed Provincials only:

- a) If there is a spare pool available, you must take a player from the Spare Pool.
- b) If a player has to leave a game, or is unable to play a game, then the player of the same gender will throw the stones of the missing player, in the missing player's position.
Example: If the missing player was the third, then the lead will throw their stones at the lead position, and then throw the stones at the third position.
- c) You may then change your rotation of play at the start of the next end, but the Skip and Vice-Skip must be of different gender.

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4. **ONLY IN THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHALL THE FIFTH PLAYER ADVANCE TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.**
5. Eliminated players may not be used during the same level of competition. *Interpretation:* At any level of competition a player may not become an alternate or spare until that level of competition is completed.
6. Eliminated players may enter the provincial players' pool as required by the host organizing committee. The pool is only open to non-participating and eliminated players from the host region, with the exception of the NOCA Women's provincial where the players pool is province-wide. A player in the players' pool does not have to pay a competitor fee and may not advance to the next level unless said fee is paid. The players' pool shall be posted and closed prior to the start of the Provincial Championship.

DRAW AND GAMES

1. The NOCA Executive Director and/or Competitions Chair shall be responsible for all draws for the Regions, Qualifiers, Challenge Rounds, or Provincials. All draws will be provided to each team in a timely manner and within five (5) days of the entry deadline.
2. Three (3) games per day may be scheduled for all competitions with the following exceptions:
 - a) Seniors -- three (3) games cannot be scheduled for two (2) consecutive days.
 - b) Masters -- maximum of two (2) games per day may be scheduled.
3. Men's, Women's, Seniors, Juniors will play ten (10) end games. Masters, Bantams, Wheelchair, Dominion Club, and Mixed Doubles will play eight (8) end games. In Round Robin Events a minimum of five (5) ends in a ten (10) end game, or four (4) ends in an eight (8) end game must be played if the round robin game will impact the standing/position of any team in the competition.
4. The compulsory fourth/fifth end break shall be a maximum of five (5) minutes. Beverages and small quantities of prepared fruit and vegetables shall be permitted provided they are in a non-breakable container.
5. In all games extra ends shall be continuous play.
6. Time clocks are mandatory at all Provincials and are strongly recommended for all other levels of competition.

GAME TIME OPERATION: (timing is based on Thinking time, not Playing time as per new CCA Rules)

- a) Bantam, Masters, Dominion Curling Club Championships - 8 ends, 32 minutes thinking time
- b) Wheelchair – 8 ends, 36 minutes thinking time
- c) Juniors, Men, Women, Seniors, Mixed – 10 ends, 40 minutes thinking time
- d) Mixed Doubles – 8 ends, 24 minutes thinking time

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TIME OUTS:

- a) Each team will be ALLOWED to call two (2) time-outs per game and one (1) time-out for each extra end.
- b) Each time-out will last 90 seconds which includes travel time.
- c) Coaches running or jogging during the time-out will not be tolerated. The game clock will start if this occurs.
- d) Additional time can be added at club-based events at the discretion of the Chief Umpire.
- e) Coach or 5th (but not both) can meet with the team anytime during the 90-second time-out.
- f) The Coach or 5th of the team NOT calling the timeout will be allowed to meet their team on the backboard at the home end only.

BRUSHES & EQUIPMENT

Any team equipment which may possibly come into contact with the playing surface is subject to inspection by an umpire prior to or during competitions. If the umpire determines that the equipment/clothing is unacceptable and in conflict with the integrity of fair play, the player or team will be directed to remove the equipment from the playing surface.

DELIVERY STICK:

The use of a curling aid commonly referred to as a “delivery stick” is allowed only in Masters and Travelers Curling Club Championship competitions. For more information about rules regarding the delivery stick, please refer to The Rules of Curling for General Play (2012-14 edition), Rule 18.

COMPETITION FORMS:

All forms that are required to be completed by teams and member facilities MUST be delivered via fax, email, or regular post at least one week prior to the start of the competitions. The forms that are required are available for download at

<http://curlnoc.ca/competitions/competition-forms-required/>