

COMPETITOR'S GUIDE

2017



CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONS

Jan. 12, 2017



Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

NOCA Championship Committee	3
2017 Travelers CCC Regions	
Overview	4
Eligibility	5
Competition Format	6
Stone Selection, Practice, Last Stone Advantage (Round Robin)	6
Stone Selection, Practice, Last Stone Advantage (Tiebreakers)	7
Tie-breaker process	7
Schedule & Location	7
General Information:	
Accommodations	9
Dress Standards	9
Cresting/Sponsor Identification	9
Official Obligations	9
Media Relations	9
Attendance at event	10
Conduct	10
Penalties and Rule Enforcement	10
Athlete Doping	10
NOCA Special Rules:	
Eligibility and Registration	11
Competition Entry	12
Late Team Arrivals	12
Defaults	12
Team Meeting	13
Practice	13
Coaching	14
Alternates/Substitutes	16
Draws and Games	16
Game Time Operation	17
Time Outs	17
Delivery Stick	17
Officiating	17
Brushes and Equipment	18
Competition Forms	18

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships
NOCA Regions

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Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships NOCA Regions

TRAVELERS CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP NOCA REGIONS:

Your team has decided to participate in one (1) of the six (6) Regional playdowns being held Feb. 17 – 19, 2017. Each of the six (6) regions will advance one (1) Men's and one (1) Women's teams to the field of twelve (12) teams competing in the Travelers Curling Club NOCA Championships at the North Bay Granite Club in North Bay on Mar. 30 – Apr. 2, 2017.

The total entry fee for this event is \$300 per team. (no competitor fee required)

The title sponsor of this event is Travelers, a great supporter of curling both in Northern Ontario and across Canada.

NOTE: If a Region does not have any teams entered in either the men's or women's events then the following will be used to fill in the six team round robin -

- The Host Region shall be granted a second entry
- If the Host Region only has one club entered, then the Region that won the previous year shall be granted an extra entry

If neither of these options works, then the Provincial shall be a five team round robin.

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships NOCA Regions

Travelers Curling Club Championship - Eligibility Requirements 2017

We trust that all participants will respect the intent of this championship which is for curling clubs to engage their members to participate in a club championship to declare a club champion to represent the curling club. The event is formulated for true club championship teams, not elite, past or present. The objective is to support the development of curling across Canada. We keep this objective in mind as we set our eligibility requirements and on-ice rules, including the CCA Rules of Curling for General Play. Travelers reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to exclude any team that violates this spirit and intent as it pertains to the rules below.

1. The curling club, represented by the team, must be affiliated with its Provincial/Territorial curling association and all dues must be paid in full. The players of any club champion team must be members in good standing of the affiliated curling club. Any player can be a member of more than one affiliated curling club, but shall declare one "home club" for this competition.
2. Each club will declare a men's team and women's team of FOUR (4) players to represent their club through either their normal league or club championship process or through a designated Travelers Curling Club Championship competition within the club. The declared teams, through either process, MUST have at least three players that have played together in a sanctioned club league during the current season. A replacement fourth player (i.e., a player who did not play regularly on that team throughout the season) MUST play lead. Players who play exclusively in a major/super league without playing in another sanctioned club league are ineligible to compete. Clubs that only have mixed or open leagues (i.e., no men's and women's leagues) must contact their Association for approval to participate.
3. Each team will be allowed only one player who has played in a Juniors', Men's (Brier), Women's (Scotties) or Seniors' provincial/territorial event in the current or previous four curling seasons or participated in a Grand Slam event in the current or previous four curling seasons (2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17).^{*} No player on the team can have played in a Canadian Juniors, Men's, Women's or Senior's Canadian Championship for those years (i.e. national competitors are excluded as regular or replacement players on the team).

^{*}Exception – Provinces/Territories with an open provincial/territory event will be permitted 1 player who has placed top 25% in a Juniors', Men's (Brier), Women's (Scotties) or Seniors' provincial/territory event in the current or previous 4 curling seasons, or participated in a Grand Slam event in the current or previous 4 curling seasons.

4. Players/Teams who competed in the 2016 Travelers Curling Club Championship national event are ineligible to compete in the 2017 play downs.
5. All games will be 8 ends with ties being decided by a full extra end.
6. Once a four person team has been declared a club champion, a maximum of 1 replacement/substitute player from the club can play lead. It is at the discretion of each curling club to determine their replacement/substitute rules throughout their process to declare their club champions.
7. Each team must be comprised of 4 players aged 19 or over, as of November 1st, 2017.

Travelers has the sole authority to grant exceptions to these rules in extraordinary circumstances. Before exercising this discretion, Travelers will consult with the relevant Provincial/Territorial curling association, and will notify the Provincial/Territorial association in writing of any decisions regarding exceptions that are granted.

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

COMPETITION FORMAT:

The 2017 Travelers Curling Club (both male and female) Region format will be:

Two teams – Double Round Robin (i.e. best two out of three)

Three to Four teams – Double Round Robin

Five to Eight teams – Single Round Robin

In round robin draws when one team is advancing to provincials no playoff is required as the team with the top record will advance. Tie-breakers will be utilized to break any ties to declare a region winner.

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 nine (9), 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.

A team is allowed to throw its own stones during practice and not those of the opposition.

Last Stone Advantage:

Last stone advantage in the first end (hammer), will be decided by a draw to the button following each team's nine (9) minute pre-game practice. Within one (1) minute following the pre-game practice and the Umpire's announcement, 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.

The team practicing first will deliver the clockwise turn. The team practicing second will deliver the counter clockwise turn. Failure to throw the correct turn will result in a distance of 185.4 cm being assigned. Teams must notify the Umpire prior to the first practice of the names of the players delivering stones. Failure to do so will result in a distance of 185.40 cm being assigned to the team(s).

If the first team records a distance of 0.00 cm or 185.40 cm with their first stone, a second player from that team will deliver a second stone with the same clockwise turn. If that player records a distance of 0.00 cm or 185.4 cm, the first team shall leave the ice and the second team will practice. If the second team records the same first throw distance as the first team, then another player from the second team will deliver a second stone with the same counter clockwise turn. If the teams are still tied, the teams will alternate players delivering one (1) stone until the tie is broken (using the same assigned turn). Any player on the team can deliver the third and any subsequent stone if necessary.

Only the four 'game' players are allowed on the ice surface during the determination of hammer.

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. The highest draw will NOT be counted in the Total Draw Distance (unless there are only two teams playing in the event).

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

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.

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.

Opposing teams must remain behind the glass 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.

- In or touching the button = 15.24 cm (subject to change if the bottom diameter is more than one (1) foot)
- In or touching the four foot = 60.96 cm
- In or touching the eight foot = 121.91 cm
- In or touching the twelve foot = 182.88 cm

If a member of the non-delivering team or an external force moves a stationary stone or causes it to be moved before the Umpire completes the measurement, the stone is replaced to as close to its original position by the delivering team.

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

No playoff is required. If there are teams tied for either first place (one team advancing) or second place (two teams advancing) or third place (three teams advancing), then tie-breaker(s) will take place. Teams that complete the round robin with identical win/loss records are considered to be tied. Teams tied for a qualifying position shall only be eliminated 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)

Tie-Breaking Process

When teams are tied for a qualifying 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 any tie-breaker game(s).

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

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 tie-breaker(s) 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 highest draw shot will NOT be counted unless there are only two teams in the event). The least accumulated distance shall receive the highest ranking until the ranking has been completed (this will also apply to any teams that split their round robin games, after a double round robin).

In any tiebreaker game, the team that won the game between the two during the round robin shall have choice of either last stone **OR** stone colour **UNLESS** their ranking has been determined by the Total Draw Distance, then those results shall provide **choice of color AND second practice**. In this situation the draw to the button for hammer shall be used.

When last stone has not been determined by a draw to the button, the team delivering the last stone in the first end will practice first.

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 & LOCATION FOR EVENT:

The schedule and location of this event will be posted on the NOCA website.

NOTE: If the NOCA deems that due to circumstances that have developed that it is in the best interest of the competition to change the hosting venue, then the venue may be changed.

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships NOCA Regions

GENERAL INFORMATION: (this section is common to all Competitor Guides)

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. At a provincial event there will be a banquet/luncheon/social event at which sponsors may be present. Sponsor relations are integral to running a successful event so team attendance at this function(s) is required.

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 here: [Policy Directory](#)

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

ATTENDANCE AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP:

All competitions are considered to have started one hour prior to the scheduled pre-competition practice or team meeting. 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 may 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 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. 2014 – Sept. 2018).

The Chief 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 Chief 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 Chief Umpire may have to act immediately in areas outside of rules, policy or precedent. In these situations, the Chief 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 Centre for Ethics in Sport manages the Anti-Doping Program (CADP) in Canada in partnership with the World Anti-Doping Agency. Please review both sites and the list of prohibited substances. <http://cces.ca/canadian-anti-doping-program> and www.wada-ama.org/

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships NOCA Regions

NOCA – SPECIAL RULES

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, is a member of a NOCA member facility immediately prior to and at all times during the competition (exception Men's & Women's Curling Championships), and meets the criteria in [Curling Canada's Residency Policy](#).
2. Exemption Request Applications must be received by the NOCA office a minimum of 30 days prior to the entry deadline of the competition(s) the applicant wishes to compete in. Please review the following documents prior to requesting a residency exemption:
[Curling Canada Residency Policy and Whereabouts Program](#)
[Member Association Application for Residency Exemption](#)
3. 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 (exemption Men's and Women's Curling Championships). All teams are responsible to have the member facility sign the Member Facility Verification 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".
4. 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) Member Facility Verification Form
 - b) Participant Form (Youth or Adult depending on event)[Competition Forms](#)
5. 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.

Notwithstanding rule 4 (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.

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

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 team's 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 Member Facility Verification Form and Participant Agreement (one agreement per team member) 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 Curling Canada Competitor Fee must be paid to be eligible for participation in Juniors, Men's, Women's, Mixed, Wheelchair, 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 pay the Curling Canada Competitor Fee for each event.
3. At all levels of competition, prior to the start of the first game, the Chief Umpire may ask for proof of age.

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 Chief Umpire in consultation with the Competitions Chair 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:

Games in an Event:

1. Teams must play all games unless both teams have been eliminated from qualifying for playoffs or the next level, and there is no impact on the standing which affects the ranking of teams for qualifying positions when advancing to the next level. Failure to play a game which affects a qualifying team's ranking may result in the offending team's elimination from further competition for the balance of the current season and the next.

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

After qualifying for next level of competition:

1. Where a qualifying team in a Region or Qualifier 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 Competitions 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 Chief Umpire of the NOCA, the team in question has a reasonable explanation for a default.

TEAM MEETING:

Prior to the start of the first draw, 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.

PRACTICE:

1. All events will have a pre-competition practice session of ten (10) minutes per team per competition sheet as scheduled.
2. Each game shall also have a pre-game practice session of nine (9) minutes per team which starts thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled draw time.
Exceptions:
Mixed doubles pre-game practice is six (6) minutes, which starts twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled draw time.
Wheelchair pre-game practice is ten (10) minutes, which starts thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled draw time.
3. 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.

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships NOCA Regions

4. Practice before the pre-competition practice shall not be allowed for 24 hours prior to the start of the competition unless player(s) are members of the host club and are scheduled to play in a regularly scheduled league game.
5. No practice other than pre-game or pre-competition practice will be allowed including practice on a sheet by either team just having conceded a game early. The only exception is possible practice given to a first place team when a semi-final and final are scheduled. This is at the discretion of the Chief Umpire.

COACHING:

1. All U18 and U21 teams must be accompanied by a coach. 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.
2. All coaches coaching youth under the age of 18 must have a Criminal Records Check which is to be renewed every three years. A coach may obtain a Criminal Records check through Sterling Backcheck, a company that NOCA has partnered with to assist coaches with securing a Criminal Records check in a timely and affordable manner. Should a coach choose not to use this service, the NOCA office will provide a letter to any coach indicating that they require a CRC to provide to their municipality or OPP detachment.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships NOCA Regions

NOCA coaching requirements:

Level	Regionals	Provincial	Ontario Winter Games	Canada Winter Games
U18 2016-17	Competition Coach Trained **	Competition Coach Trained		
Level	Regional	Provincial	National	World
U21 2016-17	Competition Coach Trained	Competition Coach Trained	Competition Coach Certified	Competition Coach Certified
Men's / Women's 2016-17	Competition Coach Trained	Competition Coach Trained	Competition Coach Certified	Competition Coach Certified

**** Competition Coach Trained** = Coach has taken the Competition Coach Course plus the MED Training

Competition Coach Certified = Coach has successfully passed the Competition Coach Evaluation and the MED Evaluation

5. All current coaching certification (Level I or II) have been converted to the new NCCP certification. Coaches may confirm their status on the CCA website at the following link: <https://nccp.coach.ca/> and/or check with NOCA Technical Coordinator Andrea Ronnebeck (807) 466-8351 andrearonnebeck@curlnoc.ca

6. Exemptions: A coach must be in-training and must apply to the NOCA Technical Coordinator for a one (1) time only exemption which will be for one season only. This exemption will allow in-training coaches access to their teams and functions as required. All coaches must have taken the minimum training to be either completely trained or certified as required. For confirmation of your status please contact the NOCA Technical Coordinator: Andrea Ronnebeck (807) 466-8351 andrearonnebeck@curlnoc.ca

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

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 Chief Umpire.
2. The Chief 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, Mixed Doubles, and Travelers Curling Club. 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.

4. ONLY IN THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 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, 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.

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

3. Men, Women, and U21 will play ten (10) end games. Seniors, Masters, U18, Wheelchair, Travelers Club, Mixed 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 (except for Mixed Doubles - 4 minutes, Wheelchair - 7 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)

- a) U18, Masters, Seniors, Mixed, Travelers Club - 8 ends, 30 minutes thinking time
- b) Wheelchair – 8 ends, 36 minutes thinking time
- c) U21, Men, Women – 10 ends, 38 minutes thinking time
- d) Mixed Doubles – 8 ends, 22 minutes thinking time

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. (exception: Mixed Doubles – one (1) timeout)
- 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.

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 (2014-18 edition), Rule 18.

OFFICIATING:

Chief Umpires for all NOCA provincials and Qualifiers shall be assigned by the Head Official (East and West) of NOCA. Chief Umpires for all Region events may be obtained by host clubs but **must** be approved by the Head Officials of NOCA.

Competitor's Guide – 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championships

NOCA Regions

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.

NOCA will implement the sweeping moratorium on brush head technology, in compliance with the recent WCF & Curling Canada brush moratorium statements.

NOCA will require that all teams competing in events operated directly by NOCA i.e. Region events, Qualifiers, and Provincial Championships, to comply with the moratorium. The ONLY exception to this will be the U18 and Travelers Curling Club Region events for the 2016-17 season.

- The penalties and infractions for players and teams that do not obey the sweeping regulations will be implemented. Please have a look at the moratorium for penalty details.
- Ensure to read the moratorium carefully as it is the duty of the player to be aware of the changes and new rulings within the document.

[NOCA Statement on Brushing](#)

[Curling Canada Sweeping Moratorium](#)

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Each player (and coach) must complete and sign and return to the NOCA office:

- **Youth Participant Agreement (if applicable)**
- **Adult or Coach Participant Agreement**
- **Member Facility Verification Form.**

The forms that are required are available for download at [Competition Forms Required](#)