

COMPETITOR'S GUIDE

2020

CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONS

Dec. 10, 2019



Competitor's Guide – 2020 Curling Club Championships
NOCA Regions

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Please review the Rules Supplement for additional rules and information. The Rules Supplement is common to all competitions.

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CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP NOCA REGIONS:

Your team has decided to participate in one (1) of the six (6) Regional playdowns being held Feb. 7 – 9, 2020. 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 Curling Club NOCA Championships at the Community First Curling Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, March 26 – 29, 2020.

The total entry fee for this event is \$320 per team. (no competitor fee required)

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.

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Curling Club Championship Eligibility Requirements

November 2019

For the 2019 - 2020 season and the national championships scheduled for November of 2020, the Curling Club Championships Rules have been updated allowing Member Associations flexibility in staging their championships and reducing any interpretation of eligibility.

The principles of this event target non-elite teams (grassroots club curlers) who regularly compete in their clubs. Teams, however, are no longer limited to being the club champion to be considered eligible.

The changes will allow Member Associations to control the number of entries in their jurisdictions. For example, Curl Sask prefers to allow any eligible team to enter the regional playdowns. Or, Curl ON prefers to restrict the number of entries per club to a maximum of one. Either is acceptable.

Curling Club Championship Eligibility Requirements – effective November 1, 2019

We trust all curling rinks will respect the intent of the spirit of the Curling Club Championships by engaging their members to participate and to represent their curling club in any process leading to the provincial / territorial championships and ultimately, leading to the Canadian Curling Club Championships. The event was created for true club-based teams. The objective is to support the development of grassroots curling across Canada.

Here are the eligibility requirements for events leading to the national Curling Club Championships scheduled for November 22-28, 2020. Curling Canada reserves the right to exclude any team that violates the spirit and intent of this event as it pertains to the rules below.

- 1) Participating curling clubs **must be** affiliated with its Provincial / Territorial Curling Association. They must be in good standing with all applicable dues to the Association paid in full.
- 2) Any competitor (including 5th players and spares) **must be** members in good standing of an affiliated curling club.
- 3) A competitor **is not** required to be a Canadian citizen.

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- 4) A **5th player** may compete at any level of competition including the Canadian Championships. If they play, they must play the traditional 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.
- 5) A team may recruit **one (1) spare** (or replacement player) at any level of competition including the Canadian Championships. The spare must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8. **No exceptions.** A team with a registered 5th player **may not** add a spare or replacement player.
- 6) Once a four-person team enters the club championships playdowns, a maximum of one (1) spare from the club is allowed **at any level of competition.** A team can use an eligible spare for **any game** played assuming the spare is eligible based on Rule 2). The spare may be a different player each game. The spare must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8.
- 7) **Prime directive**
 - (a) 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.
 - (b) If any team had only three players all year or in the special qualifying event, the team may pick up an eligible spare who must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8..
 - (c) If a team has four players, they are good to go.
 - (d) If a team has five players during the season, one player must be designated the "5th" who, if added to the line-up, must play lead and sweep stones 3-8. **Or,** they may choose four (4) players from the 5-person team to participate as a four-player **only** team in the competition.

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- (e) If they have six or more players during the season, the team must declare four (4) players for the competition. They can pick up an eligible spare at any level and the spare must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8. **Or** they can choose five players to advance but one player must be designated the "5th" who must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8.
- 8) All four (4) competitors and any 5th or spare player **must be** bona fide residents within the geographical area of the Member Association they are intending to represent (unless granted an exception by the Member Association).
- 9) A competitor can participate for only one affiliated curling club in one season. If you lose out while playing for one club, you cannot then play for another club unless the Member Association accepts the competitor as an 5th player or spare player.
- 10) Each Member Association reserves the right to determine the number of teams qualifying from each club.
- 11) Teams must qualify under one of the following conditions:
- (a) Regular league players, or;
 - (b) A formal club championship process, or;
 - (c) A special event to determine your Curling Club champions for your club that is not part of your formal club championships.
- 12)
- (a) In each of Rule 11)(a)(b)(c), teams must have three (3) or more players who have played together in a sanctioned club league during the current curling season.
 - (b) Clubs that **only have** mixed or open leagues (i.e., no men's only leagues and / or no women's only leagues) **may be granted an exemption to Rule 12)(a)** allowing players to form teams for this special event. They must receive permission from their provincial / territorial Member Association.

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- 13) The use of the delivery stick by any competitor (and any 5th player or spare) **is acceptable** subject to the Curling Canada rules under **Rule 19. Curling With A Delivery Stick**.
- 14) Teams who play **exclusively** in leagues where teams from different clubs compete and whose players may not be members of the club where the league is hosted, **are ineligible to compete** for the Curling Club Championships. For example, teams playing only in a city-wide super league or major league but not curling in a regular club league. **Please** contact your Member Association if you have any concerns.

15) **EXEMPTIONS**

Each four-person team is allowed to have one (1) player who, during the previous **three (3) curling seasons (2018-2019 / 2017-2018 / 2016-2017)**, has participated in the Canadian Mixed; 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, the Canadian Seniors; and/or, the Canadian Mixed Doubles; 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 may have played in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Grand Slam event in the previous three (3) curling seasons **(2018-2019 / 2017-2018 / 2016-2017)**.

For example:

- Craig Savill plays in a Wednesday night league with three friends.
- Craig also represented Ontario last season at the Brier with his elite team.
- Therefore, Craig would be eligible for the Club Championships.

The other three (3) team members of Craig's Wednesday team, however, CANNOT have played in the following:

- (a) Any Tier 1 Grand Slam event in the previous three (3) seasons. They **could** have played in a Tier 2 Grand Slam.
- (b) Any **provincial / territorial championship** leading to 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, the Under-18; and/or, the Canadian Wheelchair; and/or, any Canadian Trials or Pre-

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Trials event **in the previous three (3) seasons (2018-2019 / 2017-2018 / 2016-2017 and regardless of finish)**; **OR**, unless their final ranking is less than the threshold established by the respective Member Association (see chart). **Note: any player can have played in any of these events prior to 2016-2017 (regardless of finish) and not affect their eligibility for the Curling Club Championships.**

Threshold: Therefore, if you **are not the 'one'** player on the team without any restrictions, you and/or the other three players and any 5th players and any spares may have competed in any provincial / territorial championship **in the previous three (3) seasons (2018-2019 / 2017-2018 / 2016-2017)** and still allowed to play in the Curling Club Championships, as long as you don't match or surpass the thresholds set by your province (see chart).

As example, if you competed in the **provincial** Tournament of Hearts in Manitoba and you finished 8th or better You **cannot** play in the Curling Club Championships based on this chart. If you had finished 9th or worse, you would be cleared to play.

Member Association	You are ineligible if.....
Alberta	You qualified for the playoffs in the men's, women's, junior, senior, or mixed doubles provincial championships. This does <u>not include the U21 mixed doubles</u>
British Columbia	You competed in any provincial championship (not including 9 th or lower in the Mixed Doubles)
Manitoba	You finish 8 th or better at any provincial
New Brunswick	You finish in the championship round at provincials OR you finish 3 rd or better at open provincial events.
Newfoundland & Labrador	You finish 3 rd or better at provincials
Northern Ontario	You finish 2 nd or better at provincials
Northwest Territories	You win a territorial championship
Nova Scotia	You finish 3 rd or better at provincials
Nunavut	You win a territorial championship
Ontario	You finish 8 th or better at any provincial
Prince Edward Island	You win a provincial championship
Quebec	You finish 3 rd or better at provincials
Saskatchewan	You finish 8 th or better at any provincial
Yukon	You win a territorial championship

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- 8) 5th players at the Canada Cup; and/or, the Under-21; and/or, the Tournament of Hearts; and/or, the Brier; and/or, the Canadian Seniors; and/or, the Under-18; and/or, the Canadian Wheelchair; and/or, any Canadian Trials or Pre-Trials event are considered as **not to have played** in those events.
- 9) Competitors (**as individuals or as a team**) who competed in the **previous season's** national Curling Club Championships are **ineligible** to compete the following season **at any level** including as 5th players or spares. For example, if you were a participant at the **2018 national curling club championships in Miramichi, NB**, then you cannot participate at any level to compete in **2019 in Leduc**. Or, if you have won the right to represent your province or territory at the 2019 event in Leduc, you cannot play at any level for the right to play in 2020.
- 10) A minimum of three (3) players must be a **minimum of nineteen (19) years of age** or over as of June 30th, 2019.
- 11) Any team is allowed **one (1) player** under nineteen (19) years of age whom shall be considered a "minor". They must be accompanied by a legal guardian (or a chaperone identified by the legal guardian) for the duration of the event including departure from home and return to their home. A legal guardian can be a parent on the team. The team is responsible for all costs associated with legal guardian who is not a team member.
- 12) Curling Canada has the sole authority to grant exceptions to these rules in extraordinary circumstances. Any request must be submitted by the Provincial / Territorial Member Association. Curling Canada will consult with the Provincial / Territorial Member Association and will notify them within five (5) business in writing of any decision. The Curling Canada decision may not be appealed.

- end -

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COMPETITION FORMAT:

The 2020 Curling Club (both male and female) Region format will be:

- Two teams – Best Three out of Five
- Three to Four teams – Double Round Robin
- Five to Seven teams – Single Round Robin
- Eight or more teams – modified Triple Knockout

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.

In the triple knockout draw, three qualifiers will advance to the playoffs with one (1) 'A', one (1) 'B' and one 'C' qualifier. 'B' will play 'C' with the winner to play 'A'.

In all triple knockout draws, teams will be randomly assigned a place in the draw.

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

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.

Triple Knockout Draws:

In each draw the teams shall flip a coin, for choice or rock color or first/second practice, a minimum of forty (40) minutes prior to the scheduled draw time.

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, one player must hold the target broom) 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). Stones not delivered within the time

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allotted by the umpire will be assigned a distance of 185.40 cm (the stone must reach the nearer tee line before time expires).

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.

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.

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.

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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).

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 OR second practice**, and the teams will draw to the button for last stone advantage.

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.

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STONE SELECTION, PRACTICE & LAST STONE ADVANTAGE – TRIPLE KNOCKOUT PLAYOFF

In the triple knockout draw, three (3) qualifiers will be declared with one (1) 'A', one (1) 'B', and one (1) 'C' qualifiers.

Following the conclusion of the triple knockout qualifier competition, the 'B' and 'C' qualifiers will play in a semi-final game with the winner then playing the 'A' qualifier in the final game.

Immediately after the final three playoff positions have been determined and prior to each playoff game, each team involved in the next scheduled playoff game 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 chose.

In the semi-final game, the 'B' qualifier will have last stone advantage (hammer) **or** choice of color. In the final game, the 'A' qualifier will have last stone advantage **and** choice of stones from all stones used in the event.

The 'A' qualifier's access to practice ice will be at the discretion of the Chief Umpire. All practice sessions will be supervised and the length of the practice will be at the discretion of the Chief Umpire.

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.

Please review the Rules Supplement for additional rules and information. The Rules Supplement is common to all competitions.