

NOCA RULES SUPPLEMENT 2021-22

ALL COMPETITIONS



October 6, 2021

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CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

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GENERAL INFORMATION: (Common to all Competitions)

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 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: [Social Media Policy](#)

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 U21 or U18 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 Curling Canada Rulebook has a number of different sections. You should be familiar with the section titled Rules of Curling for Officiated Play (Sept. 2018 – Sept. 2022).

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 NOCA SPECIAL RULES (below, page 6).

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.**

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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. cces.ca/canadian-anti-doping-program and [2021 Prohibited List](#).

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 Eligibility for National Championships 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's Residency Rules and Exemption Applications](#)
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 each team member on the team to complete and submit player profiles and agree to the participant waiver. The person registering the team will receive an email confirming the registration with a link to provide to the team to create profiles and agree to the waivers. If a player already has a profile, they will simply have to agree to the 2021-22 waiver.

It is also the responsibility of the team to submit the following form electronically, one (1) week prior to the start of the event.

[Member Facility Verification Form](#)

NOTE: If player profiles/waiver and the Member Facility Verification Form are not completed prior to one week before the start of the event the team registration will not be considered valid and complete and may result in the team being removed from the competition.

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.
***** Notwithstanding** rule 5 (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.

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Exception for Mixed Doubles – A team advancing to the next level of competition must retain both original team members.

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 12:00pm (NOON) eastern time on the stated closing date as per the competition schedule.**
 - b) Please read the instructions on the event page prior to starting your team registration. [How to Register for an Event](#)
 - c) Entries to all competitions shall be submitted by the respective teams via the online registration system (NOCA website) prior to the entry deadline. Team personnel need to be declared on the team entry registration.
 - d) Credit Card payment is the only accepted payment method for registration. Online entries will be paid for at the time of entry and it is the team's responsibility to verify that their entry fee has been received.
 - e) No entries will be accepted after the stated deadline (no exceptions).
 - f) Request for refund of NOCA entry fees will be reviewed on an individual basis, but as a standard policy, no refunds will be issued after the entry deadline.
 - g) Refunds will be granted prior to the registration deadline but will be subject to 1 (i).
 - h) Under special circumstances, written application for refund can be made to the NOCA Finance Committee for consideration.
 - i) An administrative fee of \$50 will be assessed on any approved refunds.
2. An annual Curling Canada Competitor Fee must be paid to be eligible for participation in U18, U21, Men's, Women's, Club Championships, Mixed, Wheelchair, and Senior competitions. This fee is part of the registration fee process 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:

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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.

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 Chief 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.

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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.
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. **Any infraction of this rule by any players will result in his/her team losing hammer for the duration of the event.**
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. If the team advances to the Canadian Championship, they must have a coach who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
2. If an adult team (men, women, mixed, mixed doubles, club championships, wheelchair) has a player under the age of 18, that team must have a chaperone over the age of 21 who will be responsible for the underage player.
3. All coaches coaching at youth events (U18, U21) must have a Criminal Records Check which is to be renewed every three years, as per NOCA's screening policy.. A coach may obtain a Criminal Records check through [MyBackcheck](#), a company that NOCA has partnered with to assist coaches with securing a Criminal Records check in a timely and affordable manner (\$25.00 + Tax). Should a coach choose not to use this service, the Ontario Curling Council (on behalf of NOCA) will provide a letter to any coach indicating that they require a CRC to provide to their municipality or OPP detachment. Requests for such a letter must be sent to safesport@ontcurl.com.
4. 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 meet Curling Canada's On-Ice Credentials for National Championships for their respective event 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 U21 Men and Women. A coach will not be permitted to coach a team in both competitions until such time as one team is eliminated.

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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 U18 and U21 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.

NOCA / Curling Canada / Ontario Curling Council Coaching Requirements:				
Level	Regionals	Provincial	National	OWG Qualifiers and Provincial
U18	Competition Coach Trained* See exemption section if not trained	Competition Coach Trained See exemption section if not trained	Competition Coach Trained Minimum age 21	Competition Coach Trained **
U21 Mixed Doubles				Competition Coach Certified RENEWED STATUS
Wheelchair	Competition Coach Certified RENEWED STATUS	Competition Coach Certified RENEWED STATUS	Competition Coach Certified RENEWED STATUS	Competition Coach Certified RENEWED STATUS
Level	Regional	Provincial	National	
U21	Competition Coach Certified RENEWED STATUS	Competition Coach Certified RENEWED STATUS	Competition Coach Certified Minimum age 21 RENEWED STATUS	
Men's /Women's/Mixed Doubles	Certified Competition Development or; Certified Competition Coach and Competition Development "In-Training**" or; Approved Curling Canada "High Performance consultant" or;	Certified Competition Development or; Certified Competition Coach and Competition Development "In-Training**" or; Approved Curling Canada "High Performance consultant" or; Mental Performance Consultant with one	Certified Competition Development or; Certified Competition Coach and Competition Development "In-Training**" or; Approved Curling Canada "High Performance consultant" or; Mental Performance Consultant with one of the following qualifications; - Licenced member of the Canadian Psychological Association. - Graduate degree in sport and performance psychology or related field, - Member of the Canadian Sport Psychology Association, - Member of the Applied Association for Sport Psychology,	

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	Mental Performance Consultant with one of the following qualifications; - Licenced member of the Canadian Psychological Association. - Graduate degree in sport and performance psychology or related field, - Member of the Canadian Sport Psychology Association, - Member of the Applied Association for Sport Psychology	of the following qualifications; - Licenced member of the Canadian Psychological Association. - Graduate degree in sport and performance psychology or related field, - Member of the Canadian Sport Psychology Association, - Member of the Applied Association for Sport Psychology	Note**: A coach may use this status for a maximum of one Curling Trials and a maximum of two Canadian Men's /Women's Championships. Curling Canada's position is that an individual coaching at this level should be working towards achieving a Certified Competition Development status.
Seniors, Mixed, Club	Minimum Standard: Competition Coach (Competition Introduction) Certified RENEWED STATUS or; Approved Curling Canada "High Performance Consultant"	Minimum Standard: Competition Coach (Competition Introduction) Certified RENEWED STATUS or; Approved Curling Canada "High Performance Consultant"	Minimum Standard: Competition Coach (Competition Introduction) Certified RENEWED STATUS or; Approved Curling Canada "High Performance Consultant"

DEFINITIONS:

Competition Coach Trained = Competition Coach Workshop + Make Ethical Decisions Workshop

Competition Coach Certified = Successful completion of Competition Coach Practice Evaluation (+/- Competition Coach Workshop) + Making Ethical Decisions Workshop.

Renewed = Coach has maintained certification by earning the appropriate number of professional development credits within a specific 5 year cycle. Coaches transferred from the old "levels" system must complete the Make Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation as part of their Professional Development Credits before January 1, 2021.

Competition Development - In-Training = Has begun the Competition Development Training Program and has taken at least one Sport Specific Competition Development Course.

Competition Development - Certified = Has completed all training and evaluation components of the Curling Canada lead Competition Development Program.

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HP Consultant = A designation awarded by Curling Canada to past competitive players who have met specific criteria.

6. Exemption Request for Coaches who are Not Trained (U18 only) or Do Not have a Certified Renewed Status

* Coaches coaching in NOCA/OCC competitions can apply for a one season exemption status for one of two reasons:

- They would like to coach a U18 team in playdowns but do not have a “Competition Coach Trained” Status
- They would like to coach in any event requiring a “Certified - Renewed” status - but have not Maintained their Certification by acquiring sufficient professional development credits. NOTE: must have Make Ethical Decisions online evaluation regardless of exemption request

Exemption requests must be made for each event the coach intends to coach in and must be received before the registration deadline of the event.

7. NEW for 2021-2022

Coaches must complete NOCA/OCC’s “Proof of Coaching Qualification and Safe Sport Requirements” which includes applicable Safe Sport Training and Screening

Proof of Coaching Qualification and Safe Sport Requirements for Coaches Coaching in YOUTH events

Proof of Coaching Qualification and Safe Sport Requirements for Coaches Coaching in ADULT Events

ALTERNATES/SUBSTITUTES

1. 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 **except** for Mixed Provincials where teams cannot play with fewer than four (4) players.
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 NOCA before the competition begins.
3. NOCA permits the use of alternate players at all levels of play except Mixed Doubles. Each team must declare their alternate player prior to each level of competition. A team who does not declare an alternate player before the start of the competition must use players from the players’ pool only.
4. Alternate players, if allowed by Curling Canada, may travel with a team to a national event **at the expense of the team.**

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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.
3. Men, Women, and U21 will play ten (10) end games. Seniors, Masters, U18, Wheelchair, Curling Club Championship, 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. Consequences for not complying with this rule will be discussed at the team meeting.**
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, Curling Club Championship - 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, 24 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.

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- 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 Curling Club Championship competitions. For more information about rules regarding the delivery stick, please refer to The Rules of Curling for General Play (2018-2022 edition), Rule 19.

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.

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 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 Brush Head Moratorium](#)

COMPETITION FORMS:

For competitive play, it is the responsibility of each team member on the team to complete and submit player profiles and agree to the participant waiver. The person registering the team will receive an email confirming the registration with a link to provide to the team to create profiles and agree to the waivers. If a player already has a profile, they will simply have to agree to the updated 2021-22 waiver.

It is also the responsibility of the team to submit the following form to NOCA, one (1) week prior to the start of the event:

[Member Facility Verification Form](#)

Rowan's Law:

Please note that all athletes under the age of 26 (and his/her parent if under the age of 18) , must agree to the terms in the waiver and have reviewed the [Concussion Awareness Resources](#) and [NOCA's Concussion Code of Conduct](#). These are both contained within the Adult or Youth Waiver as part of the creation or updating of a player/coach profile.

NOTE: If player profiles/waiver and the Member Facility Verification Form are not completed prior to one week before the start of the event the team registration will not be considered valid and complete and may result in the team being removed from the competition.