

# **COMPETITOR'S GUIDE**

## **2024**

# **CURLING CLUB PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**



**Jan. 19, 2023**

<b>NOCA Championship Committee</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2024 Curling Club Championship Provincial</b>	
Overview	4
Eligibility	5
Competition Format	10
Stone Selection, Practice, Last Stone Advantage – Round Robin & Triple Knockout	10
Stone Selection, Practice, Last Stone Advantage – Round Robin Tiebreaker & Playoffs	12
Tiebreaking Process	13
Stone Selection, Practice, Last Stone Advantage – Triple Knockout Playoff	13
Schedule & Location	13

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

## **CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **NOCA President:**

Hayley Smith

[hayley.smith@curlnoca.ca](mailto:hayley.smith@curlnoca.ca)

### **Competitions Committee:**

Karen Saarimaki

(807) 854-8496 (cell)

Chair

[karen.saarimaki@curlnoca.ca](mailto:karen.saarimaki@curlnoca.ca)

Glen Poirier

Amanda Gates

Bryan Burgess

Tyler Stewart

### **Officiating Committee:**

Karen Saarimaki

(807) 854-8496 (cell)

Chair

[karen.saarimaki@curlnoca.ca](mailto:karen.saarimaki@curlnoca.ca)

Kim Beaudry

(807) 274-2921 (cell) (807) 275-6067 (work cell)

(West - Regions 1-3)

[kbeaudry@curlnoca.ca](mailto:kbeaudry@curlnoca.ca)

Claude Peloquin

(705) 840-2985 (home) (705) 499-6900 (cell)

(East - Regions 4-6)

[cpeloquin@curlnoca.ca](mailto:cpeloquin@curlnoca.ca)

### **Executive Director:**

Laura Forget

(705) 358-3288 (cell)

[laura.forget@curlnoca.ca](mailto:laura.forget@curlnoca.ca)

## Competitor's Guide – 2024 NOCA Provincial Curling Club Championships

---

### **CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP NOCA PROVINCIALS:**

Your team has decided to participate in the NOCA Curling Club Championship being held February 29 – March 3, 2024 at the Fort Frances Curling Club in Fort Frances.

Because there is no sponsor of this event, each team travelling to the Provincial Curling Club Championship will NOT receive any travel or accommodation assistance.

The winning men's and women's teams will advance to the Canadian Curling Club Championship to be held Nov. 17 – 23, 2024, in Barrie, Ontario.



## Curling Club Championship Eligibility Requirements

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

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. 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 5<sup>th</sup> players and spares) **must be** members in good standing of an affiliated curling club for the duration of the process. Example, you compete in 2019-2020 to win your provincial / territorial event. You win the right to represent your province or territory at the Canadians which would be held in 2020-2021. All players including 5<sup>th</sup> players or spares must be members of the same club in both years. Note: residency exemptions may be granted if a player moved from one province / territory to another in the off season between events.
- 3) A competitor **is not** required to be a Canadian citizen.

## Competitor's Guide – 2024 NOCA Provincial Curling Club Championships

---

- 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 5<sup>th</sup> player costs will be the responsibility of the team.
- 5) 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. **No exceptions.** A team with a registered 5<sup>th</sup> player **may not** add a spare or replacement player.
- 6) **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.
  - (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.
- 7) 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

## Competitor's Guide – 2024 NOCA Provincial Curling Club Championships

---

exception by the Member Association).

- 8) 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 5<sup>th</sup> player or spare player.
- 9) Each Member Association reserves the right to determine the number of teams qualifying from each club.
- 10) 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.
- 11)
  - (a) In each of Rule 10) (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 10) (a)** allowing players to form teams for this special event. They must receive permission from their provincial / territorial Member Association.
- 12) The use of the delivery stick by any competitor (and any 5<sup>th</sup> player or spare) **is acceptable** subject to the Curling Canada rules under **Rule 19. Curling With A Delivery Stick**.
- 13) 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.
- 14) **EXEMPTIONS**

Each four-person team **is allowed** to have one (1) player who, during the previous **three (3) curling seasons**, has participated in 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-Trials event; or any provincial / territorial event leading to these events. This same player can have played in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Grand Slam event in the previous three (3) curling seasons.

For example:

## Competitor's Guide – 2024 NOCA Provincial Curling Club Championships

- 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-Trials event **in the previous three (3) seasons**; **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 four (4) years and more back in time (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 5<sup>th</sup> players and any spares may have competed in any provincial / territorial championship **in the previous three (3) seasons** 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 8<sup>th</sup> or better You **cannot** play in the Curling Club Championships based on this chart. If you had finished 9<sup>th</sup> or worse, you would be cleared to play.

Member Association	You are <b>ineligible</b> if.....
Alberta	You qualified for the playoffs in the men's, women's, junior, senior, or mixed doubles provincial championships. This does not include the U21 mixed doubles.
British Columbia	You finish 4 <sup>th</sup> or better at provincials
Manitoba	You finish 8 <sup>th</sup> or better in all championships with qualifying events. Or, you finish 4 <sup>th</sup> or better in all open entry championships.
New Brunswick	You finish in the championship round at provincials OR you finish 3 <sup>rd</sup> or better at open provincial events.



## Competitor's Guide – 2024 NOCA Provincial Curling Club Championships

Newfoundland & Labrador	You finish 3 <sup>rd</sup> or better at provincials
Northern Ontario	You finish 2 <sup>nd</sup> or better at provincials
Northwest Territories	You win a territorial championship
Nova Scotia	You finish 3 <sup>rd</sup> or better at provincials
Nunavut	You win a territorial championship
Ontario	You qualified for the playoffs in the men's, women's, junior, senior, or mixed doubles provincial championships. This does not include the U21 mixed doubles.
Prince Edward Island	You win a provincial championship
Quebec	You finish 3 <sup>rd</sup> or better at provincials
Saskatchewan	You finish 8 <sup>th</sup> or better at any provincial
Yukon	You win a territorial championship

- 16) 5th players at the Canada 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-Trials event are considered as **not to have played** in those events.
- 17) 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 5<sup>th</sup> players or spares. For example, if you were a participant at the **2019 national curling club championships**, then you cannot participate at any level to compete in the **2020 curling club championships**.
- 18) A minimum of three (3) players must be a **minimum of nineteen (19) years of age** or over as of June 30<sup>th</sup> immediately prior to the national championships.
- 19) 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.
- 20) 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.

## **COMPETITION FORMAT:**

The 2024 NOCA Curling Club Championship Provincial format will be:

Two teams – Best Three out of Five

Three or Four teams – Double Round Robin with a Final

Five or Six teams – Single Round Robin with a Final

Seven or Eight teams – Single Round Robin, Semi-final and Final

Nine or more teams – Triple knockout, 3 qualifiers, Semi-final and Final

In all triple knockout draws, teams will be required to peer rank each team involved in the draw except their own. Final rankings will be prepared by the Executive Director and/or Competitions Chair.

## **STONE SELECTION, PRACTICE & LAST STONE ADVANTAGE – Round Robin and Triple Knockout**

### ***Round Robin Draws:***

In each draw the team listed first shall have top of the scoreboard color and practice first for nine (9) minutes, beginning thirty (30) minutes prior to the posted draw time. The team listed second, shall have bottom of the scoreboard color and practice immediately following the first team's draw to the button for last stone advantage.

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 of rock color or first/second practice, a minimum of forty (40) minutes prior to the scheduled draw time.

### ***Last Stone Advantage:***

Last stone advantage (hammer) in the first end will be decided by a draw to the button following each team's nine (9) minute pre-game practice. Two different players from each team will each deliver a stone towards the home end (full sweeping allowed, one player must hold the target broom) and the better total distance of the two draws between the two teams will receive last stone advantage in the first end. The first player will deliver the clockwise rotation and the second player will deliver the counter clockwise rotation. A stone delivered after the practice time has elapsed and prior to the announcement, or thrown with the incorrect turn, or not delivered within the time allotted by the umpire (the stone must reach the nearer tee line before the time expires) will be assigned 199.6 cm. Only the four 'game' players are allowed on the ice surface during the determination of hammer.

Teams must name the players delivering the last stone draws, including which turns, before the start of the first team practice. Failure to do so will result in an assigned distance of 399.2 cm being assigned to the team.

Should the team with first practice record a cumulative distance of 0.0 or 399.2 cm, a third player, different from the first two throwers, will deliver a draw to the button with a clockwise rotation. If the third player records 0.0 or 199.6 cm, a fourth player different from the first three throwers, will deliver a draw with a counter clockwise rotation, and so on, until a number other than 0.0 or 199.6 cm is registered.

The team shall then leave the ice and the second team will practice. If the second team registers the same two-stone distance as the team with first practice (other than 0.0 or 399.2 cm) the individual LSD distances

## Competitor's Guide – 2024 NOCA Provincial Curling Club Championships

are compared, and the lowest non-equal LSD has last stone advantage in the first end. When both teams have the same individual LSD stone distances, the teams will alternate delivering one stone each with their designated rotation until the tie is broken. Any player on the team can deliver the third and any subsequent stones including the players who delivered the first two stones.

Should the team with second practice record a cumulative distance of 0.0 or 399.2 cm, a third player, different from the first two throwers, will deliver a draw to the button with a clockwise rotation. The team will continue to throw (different throwers, alternating rotations) until a different comparable distance is achieved with the first team's distance thrown in the same order.

If an alternate player is used, they may deliver LSD(s) for the player they are replacing. Teams may use an Alternate player's LSD(s) for only one player.

# of Round Robin Games	Minimum for each player
3	1 stone
4-6	2 stones, minimum 1 clockwise + minimum 1 counter clockwise
7	3 stones, minimum 1 clockwise + minimum 1 counter clockwise

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 = 29.4 (subject to change if the bottom diameter is more than one (1) foot )
- In or touching the four foot = 75.1 cm
- In or touching the eight foot = 136.1 cm
- In or touching the twelve foot = 197.1 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.

**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-breaker and playoff games). Only the combined distance of the first two draw attempts 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 two draws will NOT be counted in the Total Draw Distance.

# Competitor's Guide – 2024 NOCA Provincial Curling Club Championships

---

## **STONE SELECTION, PRACTICE & LAST STONE ADVANTAGE – Round Robin Tiebreaker and Playoffs**

THREE or FOUR teams - Following the conclusion of the round robin competition the top two (2) teams will play in a FINAL championship game.

FIVE or SIX teams – Following the conclusion of the single round robin competition the top two (2) teams will play in a FINAL championship game.

SEVEN or EIGHT teams – Following the conclusion of the single round robin competition the top three (3) teams will advance to the playoff round. The teams that finished second and third will participate in a SEMI-FINAL with the winner of the semi-final then playing the first place team in the FINAL championship game.

Teams that complete the round robin with identical win/loss records are considered to be tied. There will only be **ONE** tiebreaker scheduled when there are teams tied with a qualifying record after the double round or single round robin. If more than two teams are tied, then teams will be ranked using the procedures in the NOCA Tiebreaker Review document. Teams tied for a qualifying position may be eliminated by their win/loss record against tied teams or by Total Draw Distance.

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

Immediately after the two or 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 chosen.

In all playoff games, a team finishing ahead of another team (according to win/loss record) will gain last stone advantage (hammer with first pre-game practice) AND choice of stone color.

When the round robin win/loss record of the two teams involved in a playoff or tiebreaker game is the same, the team that won the game between the two during the round robin shall have choice of either last stone advantage (hammer with first pre-game practice) OR stone color UNLESS their ranking has been determined by Total Draw Distance, then those results shall provide the higher ranked team with choice of color AND second practice and 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.

When a semi-final and final are scheduled, the first place team'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.

# Competitor's Guide – 2024 NOCA Provincial Curling Club Championships

---

## ***Tiebreaking Process – Round Robin***

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.

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

When ranking of tied teams eligible for the tiebreaker 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 two draw shots will NOT be counted). 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).

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

## **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.**