



Policy Name: Membership
Date Approved: November 18, 2024
Next Review Date: Annually

Preamble

The Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA) is a Member Association (MA) of both Curling Canada (National Sport Organization) and the Ontario Curling Council (Provincial Sport Organization).

NOCA's Bylaws define the corporation's membership, which are our affiliated curling clubs.

NOCA organizes and operates a championship system for U15 (Youth under age 15), U18 (Youth under age 18), U20 (Youth under age 20), Men's, Women's, Mixed, Mixed Doubles, Seniors (aged 50 and older), Masters (aged 60 and older), Wheelchair and Two-Person stick athletes in Northern Ontario. Except for U15, each of these championships lead to a Canadian (National) championship.

Purpose

This policy defines the categories of participants, related programs and services provided for those participants and participant fees.

Definitions

- a) *"Curling Club"* - An organized curling club registered with the Corporation.
- b) *"Provincial Sport Organization (PSO)"* - A provincial governing sport body recognized by the Ministry of Sport. The Ministry of Sport provides sport funding to the PSO.
- c) *"Registrant"* - Any individual registered with a Curling Club. Registrants may include but are not limited to a registered athlete, coach, official or volunteers that pay a designated participant fee to their member club. This excludes a one-time event or competition, and the services, benefits or activities that are mandatory requirements of the MHSTCI's Sport Recognition Policy (i.e. Rules, insurance, competition guidelines, communication including web site access, risk management policies, etc.).
- d) *"Long Term Athlete Development Model (LTAD)"* - A systematic framework for curling which identifies optimal training, competition and recovery principles and practices for our athletes through sequential stages from childhood through to adulthood. It recognizes there are three distinct streams in curling – the lifetime recreational sport, competitive,

and performance. Curling refers to their LTAD Model as the [Long-Term Curler Development Model](#).

Policy

1. **Categories** – The Corporation has one primary Membership Category and one secondary non-voting category

Primary Membership category:

- 1.0 Member Club – Any curling club within the boundaries, defined by the Board of the Association that:
 - a) Has applied for membership to the Association and who has been accepted by the Board;
 - b) Has agreed to abide by the Association's Bylaws, policies, procedures and rules and regulations;
 - c) Offers regularly organized curling activities within a building properly equipped and maintained for curling;
 - d) Operates under the guidance of a board of directors, executive, committee, or any other body empowered to manage the sport of curling within the building;
 - e) Has bylaws and/or policies that are consistent with those of the Association;
 - f) Has agreed to register all of its players and participants who are involved in curling leagues with the Association.

Secondary Membership category:

- 1.1 Honorary Life Member – Honorary Life Memberships shall be bestowed on any person so recommended for recognition to the Association by way of 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors. Honorary Life members shall have contributed greatly to the development and promotion of amateur curling in Northern Ontario and be entitled to all the privileges of membership in the Association, save and except voting.

2. Conditions of Membership:

Admission of Members – No individual or organization will be admitted as a member of the Association unless:

- a) The applicant has made an application for membership in a manner prescribed by the Association;
- b) The applicant has been approved by the Board or the individual delegated such authority;
- c) The applicant has paid dues as prescribed by the Board.

Resignation – A member club or member may resign from the Association by giving written notice to the Board. The resignation will become effective the date on which the request is approved by the Board.

Arrears – A member club or member may be suspended from the Association for failing to pay membership dues by the deadline date as determined by the Board. Should membership dues remain unpaid for an additional fourteen (14) days, the member club or member may be expelled from the Association upon the sole discretion of the Board.

Discipline – In addition to suspension or expulsion for failure to pay membership dues, a member club or member may be suspended or expelled from the Association in accordance with the Association's policies and procedures relating to discipline of members.

Resignation when facing Discipline – Where a member club or member who is subject to a disciplinary investigation or action of the Association resigns, that member club or member will nonetheless be subject to any sanctions or consequences resulting from the disciplinary investigation or action.

Cease to be a Member – Any member club or member will cease to be a member upon its dissolution or winding up of affairs or upon expiration of their membership, unless renewed in accordance with these bylaws.

Special Resolution – Any member club or member may be expelled by a special resolution of the voting members passed at a meeting duly called provided:

- a) Notice of the special resolution for expulsion has been sent to all member clubs thirty (30) days before the meeting and is accompanied by a statement of reasons for the proposed expulsion; and
- b) The member club or member subject to the proposed resolution is given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.

Good Standing: Definition – A member of the Association will be in good standing provided that the member:

- a) Owes no outstanding membership dues or other debts to the Association;
- b) Has not ceased to be a member;

- c) Has not been suspended or expelled from membership, or had other membership restrictions or sanctions imposed;
- d) Has completed and remitted all documents as required by the Association;
- e) Has complied with the Constitution, Bylaws, policies and rules of the Association; and
- f) Is not subject to a disciplinary investigation or action by the Association, or if subject to disciplinary action previously, has fulfilled all terms and conditions of such disciplinary action to the satisfaction of the Board.

Cease to be in Good Standing – Members who cease to be in good standing, as determined by the Board of Directors, will not be entitled to vote at meetings of members and, where the member is a Director, at meetings of Directors, or be entitled to the benefits and privileges of membership until such time as the Board is satisfied that the member has met the definition of good standing as set out above.

Membership Not Transferable – The interest of a member in the Association is not directly or indirectly, transferable to any individual or organization.

3. **Registrants:** There are five registrant groups: Athlete, Coach, Official, Volunteers and Other.

a) Athlete

Athletes may be considered (but are not limited to) recreational or competitive.

Recreational Curlers

LTAD Stage	Commonly Used Curling Terminology	Description
FUNdamentals	Elementary School Curler Little Rockers	Elementary school aged curlers who join the club to participate in programs designed for athletes of their age and stage of development
Learning to Train Active for Life	Club Curlers	Members of any age, stage or ability who join and play within the club or interclub leagues (including by not limited to; Visually Impaired, Stick Curling, Deaf Impaired, Special Olympics, LGBTQ)

Competitive Curlers

LTAD Stage	Commonly Used Curling Terminology	Description
Training to Train	U21, U18, U15, High School Curler, Youth Challenges	Each age and stage of development may vary depending upon the age the athlete entered the sport.
Learning/Training to Compete	U21 University/College Curler	
Learning/Training to Excel	Men's, Women's and Mixed Curler Mixed Doubles Curler Senior Curler Master's Curler Stick Curler Wheelchair Curler	

b) Coach

NOCA recognizes coaches from the Competency-Based NCCP System

- Club Coach – Youth
- Club Coach
- Competition Introduction Coach
- Competition Development Coach
- Canada Winter Games Professional Development Training
- Advanced Coaching Diploma
- Level 4/5 Certified Coach

c) Officials

- Time Clock Operators/Observers
- Game Umpires
- Chief Umpires

d) Volunteers

- NOCA – Board of Directors
- External Committee Participants

e) Other

- Ice Technicians

4. Services, Benefits and Activities

The Northern Ontario Curling Association, through collaboration with other delivery partners in Ontario including the Ontario Curling Council and Curling Ontario, makes available programs and services that provide benefits to members.

These services, benefits and activities may include but are not limited to;

Athlete Development:

- Skill Awards Program
- U18 Curling Camps
- Development Camps
- High Performance Camps
- High Performance Support Services
- High Performance Centre (Mobile)
- Access to Expert Support – Mental Performance Trainers, Fitness Trainers, Nutritionists
- Learn to Curl Clinics
- Youth Challenges
- Talent Identification Camps
- Quest for Gold Athlete Assistance Program
- Next Generation Program

Coach Development

- National Coaching Certification Program Workshops o Club Coach: Youth o Club Coach o Competition Coach
- Professional Development Opportunities including but not limited to:
 - o Coach Symposiums
 - o Canada Winter Games Professional Development Module o Wheelchair Curling Coach o Webinars
- Coach Developer Training, Certification and Professional Development
- Adult Learn to Curl Train the Trainer Programs

Competitions

- NOCA offers a variety of provincially sanctioned competitions which contribute to the meaningful development of our athletes and provide access to compete in national events

- Competitive Events are available for all ages/stages of the LTAD and for athletes with a disability

Officials Training

- Time Clock Operator/Observer
- Game Umpire
- Chief Umpire

Ice Technician Training

- Assistant Ice Technician
- Ice Technician
- Competition Ice Technician

Other

- Access to programs funded by the Ministry of Sport
- Application support when applying for Provincial Grants
- Feature Articles, newsletters
- Website Access, Social Media promotion
- Charitable Receipting Program

5. Fees

NOCA, through its Affiliated Curling Clubs, collects an annual registrant fee for all registrants in a curling club as determined annually by the Board of Directors to subsidize program delivery in the Province. Each Affiliate Club collects the annual participant fee and remits the fee to the Northern Ontario Curling Association upon receipt of an invoice from the Northern Ontario Curling Association.

NOCA will charge a user fee for services provided to registrants directly, fees for those programs will be posted on NOCA's website as part of the registration information. NOCA will collect an additional \$5.00/athlete/competition from athletes competing in any sanctioned competition leading to a national championship to subsidize high performance programming in the province.