



2016-2017 Competition Policy

1. General

All competitions sanctioned by the SACA shall be played under the “Rules for Officiated Play” as specified by the current edition of the Rule Book as published by Curling Canada; except as modified by this Competitions Policy. Curling is based on a code of ethics, good sportsmanship and personal integrity. You are expected to follow this tradition throughout the competition.

- (a) It is understood that by entering the selected playdown, the entire team agrees to follow the rules and policies of the SACA, ACF and CURLING CANADA. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from all competitions and could mean future suspensions. It is the responsibility of team members to familiarize themselves with the rules and policies of the competition. This Policy is posted on the SACA website. Copies are available from the SACA office upon request.
- (b) **NEW (2016) The Sweeping Moratorium on Brush Head Technology- applies to U18, Juniors, Men’s, Women’s, Mixed and Senior playdowns. Please refer to attachment for rulings and penalties that will be applied at SACA playdowns.**
***** NOTE: waiting Board decision in regards to Masters playdowns*****
- (c) All interpretations and decisions during a playdown will be made by the SACA Chief Umpire or designate(s). For sanctioned events, the Chief Umpire will be appointed by the SACA Head of Officiating and shall be responsible for rule enforcement and interpretation. All decisions made by the Chief Umpire or SACA designate will be final except in matters involving disciplinary action. The SACA Board of Directors shall be responsible for all matters involving disciplinary action. Appeals are to be made in writing, through the SACA office to the Board, whose decision is final.

2. Eligibility

- (a) Men, Women, Seniors, Masters - Each team must register four (4) male/female players.
- (b) Mixed - Each team must register two (2) male and two (2) female players who play alternate positions.
- (c) Junior - Each team must register four (4) male/female players and an eligible coach of Club Coach “Trained” status (Level I) 21 years of age or over. A certified Competition Coach (Level II) coach is required for Provincial Championships. A Criminal Records Check is mandatory and must be provided for each coach by the entry deadline.

- (d) U18 - Each team must register four (4) male/female players, a responsible adult 21 years of age or over to accompany them at playdowns and an eligible coach of Club Coach “Trained” status (Level I), 21 years of age or over. A Criminal Records Check is mandatory and must be provided for each coach by the entry deadline.

*****NOTE: Coaching requirements for U18 will be upgraded to all Coaches to be Competition Coach Certified in the 2017-18 season*****

- (e) Bantam - Each team must register four (4) players, and a responsible adult 21 years of age or over to accompany them at District and Southern playdowns. It is SACA’s recommendation that all Bantam coaches apply for a Criminal Records Check and submit it with the team entry. **See COACHING clause for full explanation of requirements.**

Prior to the Canadian Championship each player must be:

- Senior - Minimum 50 years of age – as of June 30th
- Master - Minimum 60 years of age – as of Dec. 31st
- Men, Women and Mixed - No minimum age restriction
- Juniors - Maximum of 20 years of age – as of July 1st (Birth Certificate must be supplied or on file at the SACA office)
- U18 - Maximum of 17 years of age – as of June 30th (Birth Certificate must be supplied or on file at the SACA office)
- Bantam - maximum of 14 years of age (Birth Certificate must be supplied or on file at the SACA office)

3. Residency

NEW (2015): Men and Women: A minimum of three (3) team members (4 including the alternate) must be bona fide residents within the geographic area of the Member Association they are intending to represent. A maximum of one (1) “Free Agent” will be allowed per team. Teams requesting this exemption must identify their “Free Agent”, notify both Member Associations involved, seek their approval and provide the required documentation proving the remaining players (3 or 4) are bona fide residents. Please refer to Curling Canada for complete residency regulations.

All other categories remain unchanged: All individuals **MUST** be a permanent resident of the province/territory in which they wish to enter playdowns prior to September 1st of the year preceding the championship season. **(For example – Sept 1st of 2014 for the 2014/15 championship season)**

An individual must provide a minimum of three of the following four items to the Member Association whose playdown structure they wish to enter (if requested):

- ** **Current Drivers License (or valid travel picture ID) from that province/territory**
- ** **Current Health Care Card from that province/territory**
- ** **Letter from employer confirming employment within the province/territory**
- ** **Statement from landlord (if renting) or bank (if owned) confirming residency within the province/territory – a copy of a property tax invoice/payment for non mortgaged property is also adequate**

(Full time students will be allowed to establish residency by providing a confirmation letter from their school's Registrar's Office)

Residency exemptions may be granted by the SACA Board of Directors for members of the armed forces, university, college students or in circumstances where individuals reside outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the ACF, but are within reasonable traveling distance from a border, and are a member in good standing of a SACA affiliated club.

Any exemptions must be approved by the SACA Board of Directors on the basis of a written request for approval received at the SACA office a minimum of **thirty (30) days** prior to the entry deadline. Written requests should be submitted with information supporting the applicant's grounds for exemption. The SACA may require additional information be provided to substantiate any exemption request.

Upon an infraction of these provisions at any time during the progression up to, and including the Provincial, the entire team shall become ineligible for further competition.

All registered players must be in good standing with an affiliated curling club of the SACA and all members are in good standing with an affiliated curling club within the jurisdiction of the Alberta Curling Federation

It shall be incumbent on the affiliated curling club that a participant proposes to represent, verify and endorse that such individual is a "member in good standing". To preserve the integrity and viability of affiliated curling clubs, to enhance local / regional interests in District playdowns, and promote local interest in the sport of curling, a "member in good standing" must be an individual who is a paid participant at the curling club they choose to represent as of December 1st of the current year.

Each participant shall not have competed in a playdown of the same category of another curling jurisdiction during the current season.

4. Registration

- (a) Teams (excluding the Mixed category) will be permitted to register 5 team members at the entry (first) level of the competition and must meet the eligibility requirements.
- (b) A team must register a minimum of 4 players and the skip (the person calling the game) must be named.
- (c) All entries, including a completed Criminal Record Check and Coach Application for Junior, U18 and Bantam (Criminal Record Check recommended for Bantam), and payment **MUST** be received at the SACA office by 3:30 p.m. on the deadline date. Entries may be mailed, phoned, faxed, delivered personally, couriered or e-mailed to the SACA office, however must be received by 3:30 pm on the deadline date.
- (d) Copies of birth certificates **MUST** accompany entries for Junior, U18 and Bantam unless these are already on file with SACA.
- (e) Teams that have not paid their registration fee prior to the draw being made will not be permitted to participate in that playdown.
- (f) Any entry received after the deadline will **NOT** be accepted.

- (g) Accepted entries must have 4 named players by the entry deadline.
- (h) Teams must advise the Chief Umpire or SACA designate of any roster changes (including coaches) prior to playing the next game.
- (i) No refunds will be given after the entry deadline.
- (j) No receipt will be issued, unless requested.
- (k) Once teams have been notified of draw times, the draw will not be changed or the times altered for any reason.
- (l) Master Women will be an 8-team Provincial Championship. If 8 teams or less enter in the province, all teams will automatically advance to the Provincial Championship. In the event more than 8 teams enter, the regional associations will conduct playdowns to qualify 8 teams.
- (m) It is the responsibility of any registering team to ensure their entry has been received by the SACA office prior to the deadline.
- (n) Players can only be registered to one team in that category.

5. Substitution

- a) If a team advances to the next level, they may only declare 4 team members on the SACA Intent form.
- b) If one of those 4 members is unable to compete, normal substitution/replacement rules will apply.
- c) A team may play with 3 players and the first 2 players deliver 3 stones each (excluding Mixed which must have 4 players on the ice).
- d) A team MUST play with 2 registered players.

SPARE: A temporary player used on a game by game basis and may play any position and must meet all eligibility rules of the competition for the same circumstances as listed below. The original player may return to the team at the beginning of a subsequent game. A spare shall not be a registered member of another team competing at that level of playdown. (Players already eliminated from the event are NOT permitted to spare.)

REPLACEMENT: Must continue with the team to the next level of competition and sign the SACA intent form – Only 1 replacement player per team. A replacement player must meet all eligibility rules of the competition and may not be registered on another team at the same playdown level.

ELIGIBILITY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEAM. Teams winning a berth to the Southernns will sign a SACA intent form stating the four players that will compete at Southernns/Provincials. If two or more players of a winning team are unable to continue to the next level of competition, a runner-up team may continue in their place.

Only circumstances that allow for a spare or replacement prior to a competition are as follows: Illness

- Injury
- Death or serious illness in the family

- Birth of a child
- Jury Duty
- Presence in a judicial matter as required by law
- School Examinations
- Employment commitments

Vacation or another curling commitment (fan, player or coach) will not be considered an acceptable reason for not participating.

If a substitute(s) is used, the substitute may play any position. The substitute(s) shall deliver stones in each end. For Mixed play, the substitute(s) shall be the same gender as the missing player and play either position appropriate for their gender. In the event that, after the start of competition one or more players on a team are unable to continue to play due to illness or other extenuating circumstances as deemed reasonable by the Chief Umpire, a temporary substitute or substitutes may be used. **(Teams MUST have a minimum of two original members participate in each game – otherwise the game(s) will be forfeited).**

For Mixed play, a substitute must be used, as a team may not play with three players.

At Provincial Men's and Women's Championships, teams will have the following two options to choose from:

- Teams may name four players and in the event a substitution is required, will be able to access the spare pool provided by the host committee. If victorious the team may choose any eligible player as their 5th player for the National Championship, however, they must be prepared to name the 5th player following the final game.
- Teams may name a five-player team following qualification from the regional championship. If a five-player team is named it is understood the team will not have access to the spare pool and if the team is victorious, the five-player unit moves on to the national championship as a whole. No substitutions will be allowed to the team lineup following the provincial championship. Fifths must be named and paperwork signed at least 72 hours prior to the championship.
- Spares or replacements should be prepared to provide proof of age to confirm eligibility prior to playing their first game.

6. Game Format

Juniors, Men's and Women's events are 10 ends.

Bantams, U18s, Mixed, Seniors and Masters events are 8 ends.

Slow play will NOT be tolerated and teams will be warned of excessive time use
CURLING CANADA Rule for Officiated Play 8(7) will be enforced.

7. Coaching

- (a) All coaches of U18 and Junior curling teams are required to provide the SACA with a Police Criminal Record Check and Coach Application prior to entry deadline. These will be kept on file for 3 years.
- (b) Each **Junior** team is required to have an eligible coach present at playdowns-The coach must be minimum Club Coach “Trained” status (Level I) 21 years of age or over. A certified Competition Coach (Level II) coach is required for Provincial Championships. A Criminal Records Check is mandatory and must be provided for each coach by the entry deadline.
- (c) Each **U18** team is required to have a responsible adult, 21 years of age or over to accompany them at playdowns and an eligible coach of Club Coach “Trained” status (Level I). Club Coach “Trained” status, plus MED or Competition Coach “Trained” status is required for Provincial Championships. A Criminal Records Check is mandatory and must be provided for each coach by the entry deadline.

*****NOTE: Coaching requirements for U18 will be upgraded to all Coaches to be Competiton Coach Certified in the 2017-18 season*****

- (d) Each **Bantam** team is required to have a responsible adult 21 years of age or over to accompany them at District and Southern playdowns. This person need not be certified and will have on-ice privileges. OR Have a coach who is between the ages of 18 and 21 who is Club Coach “Trained” (Level I) in curling through the NCCP coaching program, who will have on-ice coaching privileges. In this instance, the team must also have a responsible adult over the age of 21 years present at the playdown event.

Interpretation – All teams must declare their coach and their coach must meet the coaching requirements. The coach must be present for the team/official meeting and all playdown games. The Chief Umpire must be advised in advance of extenuating circumstances whereby a coach is not in attendance for the team/official meeting or a game that their team is competing in.

- (e) A coach accompanying a Junior, Men, Women, Senior, Master or Mixed team to any level of playdown competition, must be 21 years of age or over and have a minimum Club Coach “Trained” (Level I) in curling through the NCCP coaching program in order to be recognized with on-ice privileges. Provincial competition requires the coach of a Junior, Men, Women, Senior, Master or Mixed team be 21 years of age or over with a minimum NCCP Level II certification (old system) or Competition Coach certified (new system).
- (f) Any coach wishing to be mentored at a playdown event must apply for approval from the SACA office at least 4 days prior to the start of the event.
- (g) Proof of coaching accreditation will be required by SACA at time of registration if requested.
- (h) Coaches are only permitted to coach ONE team per competition. Coaches are permitted to coach multiple categories; however at no point during the season can there be a conflict as the coach must be present for all games.

8. Conduct

OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS AND COACHES

Each player shall comply with all reasonable directions and instructions given to them (including the current Competitors Guide) by the SACA or ACF, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, each competitor is obligated to:

- a) avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to reflect adversely upon the SACA and its athletes, teams, coaches, officials, employees, officers, directors, members or sponsors and to conduct themselves in a manner which will bring credit to the SACA;
- b) rely upon and utilize the appeal procedures established hereunder to resolve any issues, rulings, complaints or conflicts that may arise during any competition and to exhaust all such appeal procedures before making public any disputed issues, rulings, complaints or conflicts;
- c) avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to significantly disrupt or interfere with a competition or the preparation of any Competitor for a competition;
- d) avoid alcohol consumption to a level that would cause a player to behave in a disruptive manner during any competition, (Note: Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during a Junior, U18 and Bantam event sanctioned by the SACA. Prohibition shall include the entire timeframe from departure to the competition through to and including arrival at home from the endorsed event)
- e) avoid the use of prohibited drugs, other than those prescribed by a Medical Doctor;
- f) Stays in hotels/motels, etc., shall be subject to all provisions of this policy. If members of the team incur any damage to the hotel/motel, the player(s) involved shall be solely responsible for restitution to the hotel/motel. The SACA may also administer disciplinary action;
- g) abide by the rules of the competition;
- h) attend the designated competition team meeting, ceremonies and any banquet/social held in conjunction with the competition.

IT IS MANDATORY THAT ALL TEAM MEMBERS AND COACHES REGISTERED FOR BANTAM, U18 OR JUNIORS, ATTEND THE TEAM MEETING

Violation of any rule above may result in the disqualification of the violator and/or team in violation of the rules. Penalties for clubs who have provided fraudulent information -the club, when reviewed, may result in a one year suspension from any SACA or ACF sanctioned event. The SACA executive and/or Playdown Chair shall make the ruling.

9. Other

Electronic Devices – no electronic devices of any type (cellphones, ipods ipads,etc) are allowed in the playing area

Video Streaming/Recording – No streaming, transmitters, video recording by coaches or spectators from the viewing area during any games or practice sessions.

Team Sponsorship – each team is allowed 1 sponsor sign, professionally produced, maximum 3x8 feet. Signage must be pre-approved by the SACA office prior to entry deadline and is subject to host curling club final approval.

Team Meeting – players and coaches are to attend a team meeting prior to their first game at each level of playdown. If a coin toss is used to determine hammer and teams are not available, the Chief Umpire will conduct the toss.

Timed Games – all semi and final games are timed at Southern playdowns for Men, Women, Mixed, Seniors and Juniors.

Time Outs – each team is allowed two timeouts.

Timed Games – 90 seconds of stopped time to include coach travel time (regardless if there is a coach or not).

Non-Timed Games –60 seconds, self timed by coaches or teams