



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION
2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION



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2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ELIGIBILITY RULES	1
GENERAL INFORMATION.....	1
AGE ELIGIBILITY.....	2
Under 21 and Under 18.....	2
Under 16.....	2
Seniors.....	2
Masters.....	2
Travelers.....	2
Men’s, Women’s, Mixed, Wheelchair, and Mixed Doubles.....	2
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT POLICY.....	3
TRAVELERS CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY.....	5
COACHING REQUIREMENTS	7
JUNIOR COMPETITIONS (U21, U18, U16).....	7
ALL OTHER COMPETITIONS.....	8
PROVINCIAL FORMATS	8
FORMAT FOR MEN’S/WOMEN’S/SENIORS/MASTERS/MIXED/WHEELCHAIR/U18/U16.....	8
FORMAT FOR THE TRAVELERS.....	9
FORMAT FOR THE UNDER 21 COMPETITION.....	9
PROVINCIAL HOST REQUIREMENT	10
SPECIAL RULES	10
JUNIOR COMPETITIONS (U21, U18, U16).....	10
MIXED DOUBLES.....	11
BRUSH HEAD REGULATIONS.....	11
CONCUSSION PROTOCOL.....	11
RULES OF COMPETITION	11
GENERAL RULES.....	11
PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE.....	12
STONE SELECTION, PRACTICE, AND LAST STONE ADVANTAGE.....	12
During Round Robin.....	12
During Tiebreakers and Playoffs.....	13
LAST STONE DRAW AND TEAM RANKING.....	13
Common Regulations.....	13
Events with Tiebreakers.....	14
Accumulated Distances (Team Ranking).....	14
Minimum Number of Deliveries.....	15
Mixed Doubles.....	15
Miscellaneous.....	15
GAME TIME, GAME DURATION, AND TIME OUTS.....	15
FIFTH PLAYER AND SUBSTITUTION.....	16
Fifth Players.....	16
Temporary Substitution.....	16
Special Mixed Substitution Rule.....	17
ASSOCIATION AUTHORITY.....	17
TIEBREAKERS.....	17
One Position Available.....	18
Two Positions Available.....	18
Three Positions Available.....	19



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

ELIGIBILITY RULES

To compete in play downs sanctioned by the NLCA:

1. All players, to constitute a team, must be bona fide members of a club that is affiliated with the Newfoundland and Labrador Curling Association (NLCA).
2. With the exception of the Under 21 and the Travelers championships, teams may be comprised of players from any affiliated club in the province and need not come from the same club. Under 21 and Travelers teams' players must come from the same affiliated club.
3. A player who is a bona fide member of more than one affiliated club may only compete out of one club at any level for any one event.
4. With the exception of the Men's and Women's, all players must be a resident of NL on or before September 1st of the year prior to the championship. If you are a member of a provincial championship team you must be a member of an NLCA affiliated club in the year of the National Championship. Please see section under Residency Rule for further information.
5. All teams are to have four registered members of their team at the start of each event. All team members are expected to participate at each level of competition. A team arriving at the start of a competition with only three players must provide a written statement explaining the absence or delay of the fourth player. If the NLCA determines the team is acting in bad faith with respect to the rules, the team may be disqualified for the event and/or suspended from play in any and all NLCA events the following year.
6. A player who registers with a team is not eligible to join another team competing for the same event until that player's initial team has been eliminated from play and competition has moved on to the next level.
7. Each team is ultimately responsible to ensure that all team members meet eligibility requirements as set out by the NLCA, Curling Canada, or other governing body in relation to the event being played. Players may be asked to provide official documents to prove eligibility for items such as residency or age as an example.
8. Teams and players must register in good faith with respect for the Rules and Regulations of the NLCA and/or Curling Canada or other governing body sanctioned to run curling competitions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Team entry applications and competition fees must be submitted to the club's president or manager by the official provincial registration deadline as indicated by the NLCA for the event in question. Note that some clubs may start play to determine club representatives prior to this deadline and teams will be required to have their registration completed and paid by the club deadline. Teams must be registered and have paid in full prior to any game leading to a provincial championship no matter what level.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

If the host zone does not have a team registered for a provincial tournament by the provincial deadline, the NLCA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to move the location of a tournament.

Curling other than event play may be permitted during a provincial championship at the discretion of the NLCA Tournament Coordinator or NLCA designate. No non-event curling will be allowed during playoffs in any event.

A Rules Committee will preside at all levels of play leading to a provincial championship. The Chief Umpire and/or designate will have final authority with respect to any ruling at any NLCA event unless an appeal is filed in which case the Appeals Committee will preside. All appeals shall follow the Appeals Policy that can be found on the NLCA's Official Documents website.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

For clarification purposes, where it states "of the year prior" this refers to the calendar year. Where it states "current curling year" this refers to the curling calendar which will span from approximately October of one calendar year to April the immediate following calendar year.

Under 21 and Under 18

Must be 20 and 17 years of age or younger, respectively, as of June 30th of the year prior to the Canadian Championship.

Under 16

Must be 15 years of age or younger as of December 31st of the current curling year.

Seniors

Must be 50 years of age or older as of June 30th of the year prior to the Canadian Championship.

Masters

Must be 60 years of age or older as of December 31st of the year prior to the Canadian Championship.

Travelers

Must be 19 years of age or older as of November 1st of the year of the Canadian Championship.

Men's, Women's, Mixed, Wheelchair, and Mixed Doubles

There are no age eligibility requirements for these events.

Players under the age of 19 must be accompanied by a legal guardian or a chaperone identified by a legal guardian who is 21 years of age or older and must abide by the same rules as the underage player regarding alcohol, smoking, or use of restricted drugs throughout the duration of the competition. Chaperones of such players must obtain a letter signed by the player's legal guardian and provide this to the NLCA prior to the start of the event or at the pre-tournament team meeting or the player will be ineligible to play in the event.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT POLICY

It should be noted that Curling Canada adopted, at the 2015 National Curling Congress, a Residency Requirement Policy that applies to all Member Associations. This policy has been included here for convenience, but if there are any discrepancies between the following text and the policy as published by Curling Canada, the policy as published by Curling Canada will govern.

The Canadian Men's and Women's Curling Championships involves the participation of teams that are made up of individuals that are Canadian Citizens, residents of Canada and a minimum of three (3) of the team members (four (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 of the Member Association they are intending to represent. To ensure that all individuals are treated equally, a policy has been established that clearly outlines what an individual must be able to provide to be considered a resident for play down purposes. Individuals claiming to be bona fide residents of the curling jurisdiction they wish to represent and individuals engaged in the exemption process may be requested to participate in Curling Canada's "Whereabouts" Program, as administered by the Director of High Performance to validate their residency or the merit of their request for an exemption.

It is understood that an individual can only participate in one province/territory in any championship season. This includes individuals that apply for and receive exemptions and individuals that have "free agent" status on their Scotties or Brier Team. All individuals must comply with the club membership criteria of the province/territory they wish to represent including the acquisition of a competitors card. (Explanation – an individual may only participate in the play down process in one Member Association in one championship year – this includes all championships that lead to a national event. These include Masters, Juveniles, The Travelers Club Championship, etc. It is understood that the Canadian Mixed, held in November, will be part of the previous year's group of competitions even though it is dated in the following year. For example – the 2016 Canadian Mixed held in November of 2015 will be considered a part of the 2014/15 Championship season for residency purposes.)

An individual claiming to be a bona fide resident of the specific curling province/territory whose play down structure he or she wishes to enter, must be able to provide a minimum of three of the following four items to the Member Association (if requested):

- *Current Driver's 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 for a non-mortgaged property is also adequate. Recommend a statutory declaration be obtained.*

In addition to providing the above documentation, an individual must spend the majority of their non-compete time in the province/territory in which they are claiming to be a bona fide resident.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

Traditional, on-campus, full time students will be allowed to establish residency by providing a confirmation letter from their school's Registrar's Office confirming full time status and class enrollment for the academic year. This policy defers to the institution that the student attends in terms of defining full-time student status.

To participate in the Canadian Championships identified above, individuals MUST be bona fide residents of the province/territory in which they wish to enter play downs prior to September 1st of the year preceding the championship season (for example – prior to Sept 1st of 2015 for the 2015/16 championship season). This time frame may be shortened in the following circumstances:

- *Transfer due to employment*
- *School attendance*
- *Military service and transfer*

Exemptions may be made in exceptional circumstances if granted by two Member Associations where:

- *Individuals live within a short distance of a provincial/territorial boundary*
- *Full-time on-campus students that are attending a recognized post-secondary educational institute may either play out of the province/territory in which they are attending school or the province/territory in which they are maintaining a residence. An individual may be requested to provide proof of registration and semester transcripts.*
- *Individuals that reside in province/territory "A" and conduct the majority of their work outside of province/territory "A", may represent province/territory "A" on the assumption that they can validate that the majority of their non-work and non-train/compete time is spent in province/territory "A".*
- *Individuals that have a primary residence in province/territory "A", a temporary/secondary residence in province/territory "B" and conduct the majority of their work in province territory "B" may represent province/territory "B" on the assumption that they can validate that the majority of their work related time is spent in province/territory "B".*

(The individual must be able to provide positive proof that their predominant employment from September 1st to March 31st, of the curling season the exemption is being requested for, will be located within the geographical area of the Member Association they wish to represent).*

Process for Exemption Requests:

- *Exemption requests must be received by Curling Canada and applicable Member Associations a minimum of 30 days prior to the Member Association's entry deadline*
- *Detailed information will be required with the exemption request*
- *The respective Member Associations will review all information and approve or deny the application. If Member Associations cannot agree on a decision, a committee that includes the following three individuals will make the decision and their ruling will be considered final:*
 - *CEO of Curling Canada*
 - *Director, High Performance of Curling Canada*



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

- *Chair or Vice-Chair of the Operations (ED) Council*
- *(* Individuals who have employment in two curling jurisdictions may be required to participate in a formal interview that will include the identified employer, a representative of the Member Associations, and the Director of High Performance of Curling Canada*
- *Individuals that meet exemption criteria will be considered bona fide residents of the province/territory granting the exemption. They are not considered free agents.*

For Canadian championships that do not lead to World Championships, there may be unique circumstances that allow a curler to be residing outside of Canada and still be eligible to compete. In these circumstances, the respective Member Association(s) must provide approval. For example – Point Roberts, Washington residents may be eligible to compete in Curl BC events leading to Canadian Juvenile, Master, and Travelers competitions if granted an exemption by Curl BC).

In the case when a team enters the Provincial/Territorial/Canadian Championship play down and are found not to be in compliance with the residency policy, the entire team risks being suspended for 1 year from Curling Canada and Member Association sanctioned events. Suspension shall only be implemented subsequent to due process and it is determined that residency and/or exemption related information has been provided in a fraudulent manner.

Process for Challenges:

- *It is understood that this policy will be a national policy and, in the event the policy is challenged, Curling Canada will assist in the defense of any challenge at the Member Association level and/or protect Curling Canada's interests and its costs, as the Associations mutually deem appropriate.*

TRAVELERS CURLING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY

The NLCA wishes to respect the intent and integrity of the event by adhering to the statements as posted on the Travelers Curling Club Championship Eligibility site with three exceptions. These exceptions relate to number of teams from each club (Rule 2), the eligibility of major and super league curlers (Rule 2), and the eligibility limits of curlers from current or past Under 21, Men's, Women's, and Seniors' provincial championships (Rule 3). If, for extraordinary circumstance, an exception is requested, the request must be addressed to the NLCA. If necessary, the NLCA will contact Travelers Canada on behalf of the club, team, or player.

As applicable to Newfoundland and Labrador, the rules stated on the Travelers Curling Club Championship website are as follows:

We trust that all participants will respect the intent of this championship, which is for curling clubs to engage their members to participate in a club championship to declare a club champion to represent the curling club. The event is formulated for true club championship teams, not past or present elite. The objective is to support the development of curling across Canada. We keep this objective in mind as we set our eligibility requirements and on-ice rules, including the Curling Canada Rules of Curling for General Play. Curling Canada reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to exclude any team that violates this spirit and intent as it pertains to the rules below.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

- 1. The curling club, represented by the team, must be affiliated with its provincial/territorial curling association, and thereby its national curling association (CC), and all dues must be paid in full to both the provincial/territorial and national association(s). The players of any club champion team must be members in good standing of the affiliated curling club. Any player can be a member of more than one affiliated curling club, but shall declare one “home club” for this competition.*
- 2. Each club will declare a maximum of two (2) men’s teams and two (2) women’s teams of FOUR (4) players to represent their club through either their normal league or club championship process, or through a designated Travelers Curling Club Championship competition within the club. The declared teams, through either process, MUST have at least three players who have played together in a sanctioned club league during the current season. If a replacement fourth player is used, (i.e., a player who did not play regularly on that team throughout the season) that player MUST play lead. Players who play exclusively in a major/super league without playing in another sanctioned club league are ineligible to compete. Clubs that only have mixed or open leagues (i.e., no men’s and women’s leagues) must contact their association for approval to participate.*
- 3. Each team from Provinces/Territories with an open provincial/territory event will be permitted 1 player who has placed top 25% in an Juniors’, Men’s (Brier), Women’s (Scotties), or Seniors’ provincial/territory event in the current or previous 4 curling seasons, or participated in a Grand Slam event in the current or previous 4 curling seasons (2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18). No player on the team can have played in a Canadian Juniors, Men’s, Women’s or Senior’s **Canadian** Championship for those years (i.e. national competitors are excluded as regular or replacement players on the team).*
- 4. Players who competed in the 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championship national event are ineligible to compete in the 2018 play downs.*
- 5. All games will be 8 ends with ties being decided by a full extra end.*
- 6. Once a four person team has been declared a club champion, a maximum of 1 replacement/substitute player from the club can play lead. It is at the discretion of each curling club to determine their replacement/substitute rules throughout their process to declare their club champions.*
- 7. Each team must be comprised of 4 players aged 19 or over, as of November 1st, 2018. Provincial/Territorial curling associations may adopt a more restrictive age criteria if they choose.*
- 8. Curling Canada has the sole authority to grant exceptions to these rules in extraordinary circumstances. Before exercising this discretion, Curling Canada will consult with the relevant provincial/territorial curling association, and will notify the provincial/territorial association in writing of any decisions regarding exceptions that are granted.*

In addition to the eligibility rules as stated above, fifth players and coaches are not permitted for the Travelers Curling Club Championships at any level of play.

It should be noted that Tier 2 teams in the Tour Challenge event are not considered to have participated in a Grand Slam event for the purposes of eligibility in the Travelers Championships.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

It should also be noted that Curling Canada defines major/super leagues as leagues designed for elite players, generally in larger cities, involving two or more clubs. There are no such leagues in this province.

To further clarify the “top 25%” stated in Rule 3, the NLCA provides the following examples based on the number of teams entered in the tournament:

- 1-4 teams: Only the top team after playoffs is within the top 25%
- 5-8 teams: The top two (2) teams after playoffs are within the top 25%
- 9-12 teams: The top three (3) teams after playoffs are within the top 25%
- Higher numbers of teams will follow a similar pattern for determining the top 25%

COACHING REQUIREMENTS

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS (U21, U18, U16)

- All Under 21 and Under 18 Junior teams must be accompanied to, during, and from the Provincial championships by a coach that is, at a minimum, a certified Competition Coach (Competition-Introduction) who is over twenty-one years of age.
- All Under 16 Junior teams must be accompanied to, during, and from the Provincial championships by a coach that is, at a minimum, a trained Club Coach who is over twenty-one years of age.
- To be a “certified” Competition Coach, the individual must complete the Competition-Introduction course, the associated practice evaluation, as well as the Competition Introduction Make Ethical Decisions course and evaluation. Completion of the Competition-Introduction course alone does not constitute a full certification. Further information on how to become a certified Competition Coach can be found under “Evaluation Requirements” on Curling Canada’s website.
- To be a “trained” Club Coach, the individual needs only to complete the Club Coach course. There is no evaluation required for Club Coach.
- Coaches must provide BOTH a criminal records screening certificate AND a vulnerable sector check as provided by the RNC or RCMP. These certificates are valid for a period of two (2) years with the NLCA. It is advisable for any coach of a junior team to secure these documents early as the process may take over four weeks if fingerprints need to be sent to the mainland for verification. If these documents are not supplied the Coach will not be able to Coach the team at the provincial level or National event. If the screening process shows a criminal record, the NLCA reserves the right to refuse a person from Coaching.
- Coaches are not permitted to smoke, consume alcohol, or use restricted drugs in the curling club during the competition.
- Coaches are responsible for their team’s conduct at all times.
- Coaches must provide a good example for their teams.
- Failure to abide by these rules could result in the immediate suspension of the coach and the team defaulting games with no coach.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

ALL OTHER COMPETITIONS

- Any person that wishes to coach at a non-junior event must be, at a minimum, a certified Competition Coach (Competition-Introduction) and over twenty-one years of age.
- To be a “certified” Competition Coach, the individual must complete the Competition-Introduction course, the associated practice evaluation, as well as the Competition Introduction Make Ethical Decisions course and evaluation. Completion of the Competition-Introduction course alone does not constitute a full certification. Further information on how to become a certified Competition Coach can be found under “Evaluation Requirements” on Curling Canada’s website.
- A criminal record screening certificate and a vulnerable sector check are not required to coach at a non-junior event.

PROVINCIAL FORMATS

With the exception of the Under 21 and the Travelers championships, the format for provincial championships will be based on the number of teams signed up for the event. The format for the Under 21 and the Travelers provincial championships will be based on the number of teams that qualify through Zone or Club play downs. The provincial championship formats are as outlined below.

FORMAT FOR MEN'S/WOMEN'S/SENIORS/MASTERS/MIXED/WHEELCHAIR/U18/U16

2 teams:

- A best 3 out of 5 series
- No playoff

3-4 teams:

- Double Round Robin
- Any undefeated team will be declared the winner outright without playoffs
- If all teams have a loss, top 2 into a one game final

5-6 teams:

- Single Round Robin
- Top 2 teams into playoff
- Undefeated team to be beaten twice (exception: an undefeated team need only be beaten once for the U18 & U16 competitions)

7-10 teams:

- Single Round Robin
- Top 3 teams into playoff
- First place team advances directly to final
- Undefeated team to be beaten twice (exception: an undefeated team need only be beaten once for the U18 & U16 competitions)



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

11 or more teams:

- Triple knockout
- If team wins A, B and C section they will be declared the winner
- If there are three different section winners, A side will advance to final, B will play C in the semi final
- If a team wins two sections, they must be beaten twice by the winner of the other section

FORMAT FOR THE TRAVELERS

Refer to the Travelers Curling Club Championship Eligibility section for determining the number of qualified and eligible teams competing in the Travelers provincial championship event.

2 teams:

- A best 3 out of 5 series
- No playoff

3-4 teams:

- Double Round Robin
- Any undefeated team will be declared the winner outright without playoffs
- If all teams have a loss, top 2 into a one game final

5-6 teams:

- Single Round Robin
- Top 2 teams into playoff
- Undefeated team to be beaten twice

7-9 teams:

- Single Round Robin
- Top 3 teams into playoff
- First place team advances directly to final
- Undefeated team to be beaten twice

10 or more teams:

- Split sections into modified page
- Draw for ranking

Note: For a page playoff format involving two divisions, the team with the best Team Ranking of the two division winners will be awarded the choice of last stone advantage in the first end of play or colour of stone handle.

FORMAT FOR THE UNDER 21 COMPETITION

The Under 21 Competition will remain as a Zone based competition and the Zones are recognized as:

- North: All communities in the Labrador portion of the province
- Western: All communities west of and including Baie Verte to Port aux Basques



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

- Central: All communities west of and including Clarenville to the Baie Verte Junction
 - Eastern: All communities east of Clarenville
1. The Under 21 championship will consist of eight teams, two from each Zone.
 2. In the event that a Zone does not fill its quota of two teams the provincial field will be filled based on the following:
 - a. The first berth will be filled by the Zone with the largest number of teams starting the Zone competition at the Club level. This will be based on the number of signed and paid forms received by deadline. If two zones have the same number of teams starting at the club level the tie will be broken based on the club with the highest number of teams entered. If still a tie, the tie will then be broken by a random draw by the Tournament Director.
 - b. The remaining berths will be awarded to the Zone(s) with the highest ratio of berths to remaining entries after a) has been applied above.
 - c. If the field is still not full team or teams can be invited to fill the field at the discretion of the NLCA.
 3. Once the number of teams in the field has been determined, the tournament will follow the same format as that for the men's and women's provincials outlined above.
 4. Each affiliated club is entitled to send a total of four teams per gender to the Zone playoffs.

PROVINCIAL HOST REQUIREMENT

It is recommended that, whenever possible, host clubs do not sharpen or alter their rocks or perform a flood on their ice within 7 days prior to the start of a provincial event at their club.

Host clubs must provide a spare list prior to the team meeting which will include at least three spares for each event. For Mixed a minimum of two male and two female spares must be listed. Host clubs must provide a proper biter measure and a proper measuring stick.

SPECIAL RULES

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS (U21, U18, U16)

- A curler participating in the Under 16 cannot play in the Under 18 in the same year;
- Teams are permitted to use a fifth player who must sign and pay the appropriate entry fee. The fifth player will not be recognized after the provincial competition. The fifth player has no standing with the team and has no right to go to any competition associated with the event beyond the provincial level unless signed as a permanent replacement.
- All teams must have a coach that meets and abides by the rules outlined in the Coaching Requirements section above.
- Players are not permitted to smoke, consume alcohol or use restricted drugs at any time during the competition. Violation can result in immediate suspension from the



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

current event and possible suspension from any and all NLCA events the following year.

MIXED DOUBLES

In provincial play, the teams are responsible for the placement of the two placed stones at the start of each end. Once the first thrown rock of each end reaches the nearer tee-line, it is assumed that both teams have agreed that the location of the placed stones is correct. If the location of a placed stone is later determined to be incorrect, play will continue as if it is correct without moving the placed stones, regardless of whether it has been contacted by other stones during that end.

BRUSH HEAD REGULATIONS

Unless noted otherwise in advance of a tournament, the NLCA will follow the rules as set forth by Curling Canada regarding brush head regulations for all provincial championships. A link to this document can be found on the NLCA's Official Documents webpage.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

The NLCA will follow the Curling Canada Concussion Guidelines and Return to Play Policy for all provincial championships. A link to this document can be found on the NLCA's Official Documents webpage.

RULES OF COMPETITION

GENERAL RULES

1. Except where noted, all events of the NLCA will follow the Curling Canada Rules of Curling for Officiated Play, latest edition.
2. Players and teams that enter competition know that they must advance as long as they are not eliminated.
3. A minimum of one member from each team must attend the team meeting as set for each event. Any team not having at least one member present will forfeit hammer throughout the round robin.
4. All players and coaches are expected to attend any official ceremonies such as opening ceremonies, meals, or special sponsored events. If there are exceptional circumstances that prevent a player or coach from attending one of these events, they must provide as much notice as possible of the absence to the host committee.
5. All participants including players and coaches or other team members participate at their own risk. The NLCA or the host club or committee are not responsible for any personal injury, loss or damage to personal property.
6. All portable electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited within the playing area with the exception that a coach may use such devices during timeouts and mid-game breaks, provided they are in silent mode and all communication functions have been turned off. Any player caught with such devices during a game will be given a warning on their first infraction and will be removed from the remainder of the tournament for any subsequent infraction. If a player is removed from the tournament for this reason, the team may continue to play, provided they still meet the minimum



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

player requirements. Examples of portable electronic devices include cell phones, tablets, Fitbits, and smart watches.

7. No competitive advertising with our major sponsors will be allowed on players' on-ice uniforms.
8. A player, if having registered for more than one provincial competition, wins one of those competitions, shall not be penalized if there is a conflict with the timing of the national event and ensuing provincial competitions for which they have registered.
9. Each game shall start at the time of the designated draw. If a team is unable to start play at the designated time, rule 17(4) of Rules of Curling for Officiated Play will apply.
10. With the exception of tiebreaker games, all playoff games will be played on the same sheet of ice, which will be determined by the Tournament Coordinator prior to the selection of team numbers, however the Chief Umpire shall have the final authority on which sheet is selected should exceptional circumstances arise during the tournament.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE

Prior to the tournament, each team will be given an opportunity to practice. The format and time allotted to any or all the ice surfaces will be at the discretion of the Chief Umpire. Teams may not get to practice on every sheet or the pre-determined schedule may not give an opportunity for all teams to play on every sheet.

If, at the end of the tournament, a team has qualified to play in playoffs or tie-breakers the Chief Umpire may allow any team disadvantaged by not playing on a sheet that may be used for the playoffs to practice for up to one half hour. This will only be considered if it is possible and time allows. This extra practice won't be allowed within 3 hours of a game start and will only be considered for teams that did not play a pre-playoff game on the sheet.

STONE SELECTION, PRACTICE, AND LAST STONE ADVANTAGE

In this section, the term "hammer" refers to the last stone advantage in the first end and "colour" refers to the stone handle colour.

During Round Robin

Hammer will be decided by the Last Stone Draw procedures outlined in a subsequent section. Teams will be given one (1) minute following the pre-game practice to perform their Last Stone Draw.

Umpires will assume that every team that wins the Last Stone Draw will want the hammer. If a team does not want the hammer if they win the Last Stone Draw, they must inform the Umpire before the start of their practice.

A team is only permitted to throw or use its own stones during pre-game practice and not those of the opposition. Opposing teams must remain inside the non-playing portion of the club during their opponent's pre-game practice so as not to distract or intimidate the other team.

The draw to the button shall be played towards the home end.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

During Tiebreakers and Playoffs

Once playoff positions have been determined following the round robin, and prior to each playoff/tiebreaker game, each team involved shall be asked by the Chief Umpire to select their choice of colour. 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/tiebreaker game, the same process shall be implemented again.

During tiebreaker and playoff games, teams will be allowed to choose stones from any sheet used during the round robin. However, further restrictions may apply under certain circumstances such as if one team has not played with their stone handle colour on all sheets during the round robin or if two provincial tournaments are being run simultaneously. All restrictions will be at the discretion of the Chief Umpire.

In playoff games, hammer **AND** choice of colour shall be awarded to the team with the best win/loss record during the round robin. If the win/loss records are identical, the team with the best head to head record during the round robin between the two teams involved will have the choice of hammer **OR** colour. If the win/loss and head to head records during the round robin are identical, the team that has the higher Team Ranking as defined below will have the choice of hammer **OR** colour.

When a second final is required, the team that has the best win/loss record including round robin and playoff games, not including tiebreakers, will have the choice of hammer **OR** colour in the second final. If the win/loss records including round robin and playoff games, not including tiebreakers, are the same, the choice of hammer **OR** colour in the second final will go to the team with the higher Team Ranking as defined below.

The team delivering the last stone in the first end will practice first. A team is only permitted to throw or use its own stones during pre-game practice and not those of the opposition. Opposing teams must remain inside the non-playing portion of the club during their opponent's pre-game practice so as not to distract or intimidate the other team.

The first place team's access to practice ice will be at the discretion of the Chief Umpire. All practice sessions shall be supervised and the length of the practice will be at the discretion of the Chief Umpire.

LAST STONE DRAW AND TEAM RANKING

Unless noted otherwise in advance of a tournament, the NLCA will follow Curling Canada's procedures for performing the Last Stone Draw and for Team Ranking. Currently, all NLCA provincial events follow the procedures with tiebreakers. An excerpt of the relevant sections from these procedures is outlined below.

Common Regulations

- The team with first practice will **always** deliver the clockwise rotation while the team with second practice will **always** deliver the counter-clockwise rotation for the Last Stone Draw (except for Mixed Doubles – see below). A player that fails to throw the correct rotation will be assigned a distance of 185.4 cm.
- Only the four 'game' players are allowed on the ice surface for the Last Stone Draw in regular 4-person play and only the two 'game' players in mixed doubles.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

- Full sweeping is allowed, however, one of the four players must hold the target broom. This is not required in Mixed Doubles. Both players can sweep once the stone has been released.
- A stone not delivered within the time allotted by the Chief Umpire will be assigned a distance of 185.4 cm (the stone must reach the near tee-line before the time expires).
- Stones moved by the delivery team before being measured will be assigned the distance of the next defined circle away from the button.
 - On or touching the button = 15.2 cm (when a one (1) foot button)
Note: Subject to change if the actual button diameter is more than one (1) foot
 - In or touching the four foot = 61.0 cm
 - In or touching the eight foot = 121.9 cm
 - In or touching the twelve foot = 182.9 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 its original position by the delivering team.

Events with Tiebreakers

- Both teams will name the player delivering the stone before the first team practice. Failure to do so will result in a distance of 185.4 cm being assigned to the team(s).
- After each team's pre-game practice, the named player will deliver one (1) stone to the button, which will be measured. If the distance is 0.0 cm or 185.4 cm, a different player from the team will deliver a stone, which will be measured.
- If the team with second practice then registers the same first stone distance as that of the team with first practice, a second player from the team with second practice will deliver a stone, which will be measured and compared with the second stone distance of the team with first practice.
- Hammer will be determined by comparing the two first stone distances. If these distances are equal, hammer will be determined by comparing the second stone distances. If still tied, a coin toss will be performed to determine the team with last stone advantage in the first end.
- Only the first stone delivered will be registered for the accumulated distance.

Accumulated Distances (Team Ranking)

- Single round robins – with tiebreakers: at the conclusion of the round robin, the single highest recorded distance will be discarded to establish the final accumulated distance for Team Ranking.
- Double round robins – with tiebreakers: at the conclusion of the first round robin, the single highest recorded distance will be discarded to establish the first part of the accumulated distance. Each of the recorded distances in the second round will be added to the first part to establish the final accumulated distance for Team Ranking.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

Minimum Number of Deliveries

- The minimum number of deliveries per player is determined by the size of the event. For example, in a 9 game round robin, each player will deliver a minimum of two (2) stones for last stone advantage, while, in a 7 game round robin, each player will deliver a minimum of only one (1) stone for last stone advantage.

Mixed Doubles

- After each team's pre-game practice, both players will deliver a stone to the button: one (1) clockwise rotation and one (1) counter-clockwise rotation (any order). Both will be measured to determine the team's distance to determine choice in the first end.
- Full sweeping is allowed.
- Each player must throw an equal amount of clockwise rotations and counter-clockwise rotations during the round robin. One player will throw one more clockwise rotation or counter-clockwise rotation draw when the total number of round robin games is an odd number.

Miscellaneous

- For four (4) person mixed games, the sweeping line-up should be as it would be during the actual game; i.e. if the skip is throwing, then the lead and second must sweep; or, if the lead is throwing, then the second and third must sweep.

GAME TIME, GAME DURATION, AND TIME OUTS

The NLCA will follow the rules as set out in the Curling Canada Rules of Curling for Officiated Play for time clock operation, timeouts, and other time-related rules such as delay of start of game.

- Game duration for provincial championships shall be as follows:
 - 10 ends for Men's, Women's, and Under 21
 - 8 ends for Seniors, Masters, Mixed, Travelers, Under 18, Wheelchair, and Mixed Doubles
 - 6 ends for Under 16
- Three games a day may be required in some events. The NLCA reserves the right to schedule three game days in all events pending special circumstances, tiebreakers, playoffs, or other circumstances that may arise to allow for completion of the event.
- Extra ends are to continue in the line of play until a winner is determined.
- Coach's Fair Play Timeouts will be available for all Junior events (U16, U18, U21). The purpose of the Coach's Fair Play Timeout is to provide the coach with the opportunity to diffuse a potentially negative situation regarding a player's on-ice demeanor before the situation escalates or to counsel an athlete relative to adhering to the rules of the game.
 - Each coach shall be provided the opportunity to request one 1-minute fair play timeout per game.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

- A coach's fair play timeout shall only be implemented with the approval of the Chief or Deputy Chief Umpire.
- Only the coach who requested the fair play timeout may access the playing area accompanied by a Game Umpire.
- A coach's fair play timeout may be recommended by a Game Umpire.

FIFTH PLAYER AND SUBSTITUTION

In all events except for Mixed, teams can play with three players. All teams still have to abide by the rule that requires the team to show up at the event with four players unless approval of exceptional circumstances has been granted by the NLCA. Teams must ice at least two original signed players at all times.

Fifth Players

- Teams in all events EXCEPT Seniors, Masters, Travelers, and Mixed can sign a fifth player. Fifth players may not be recognized at events past the provincial level and it is the team's responsibility to ensure that all team members are aware of the rules for events that continue past the provincial level.
- A fifth player can be signed at any time provided they are a member of an affiliated club in the province, sign the appropriate form, and pay the required fees.
- Fifth players are considered full members of the team for the provincial events and can play in any position.
- Fifth players cannot be a member of another team in the event, regardless of whether the fifth player came from a team eliminated from play in the event.

Temporary Substitution

- All spares must meet eligibility requirements for the event.
- The spare's position in the delivery rotation of the team shall be per the Curling Canada Rules of Curling for Officiated Play.
- Spares can play up to two games in any event with the same team.
- Spares at provincials must have been on the list prior to the team meeting. Spares not listed on the official spares list prior to the team meeting will not be allowed to spare unless the spare pool has been depleted. Some reasons for the list becoming depleted include, but are not limited to, a spare becoming injured or sick and unable to play for the rest of the event, or a spare signing on as a fifth with another team.
- Spares signing up for the event should be available for the whole event. If not available for the whole event another spare should be secured to be placed on the spare list prior to the competition starting.
- All teams must declare any spares to the Chief Umpire prior to pre-game practice.
- The intent of the spares pool is that it is only to be used in the event of injury, illness, or other exceptional circumstance that could not be foreseen prior to the start of the tournament. If the NLCA determines that a team is acting in bad faith with respect to the intent of the spares pool, the team may be disqualified for the event and/or suspended from play in any and all NLCA events the following year.
- Travelers Curling Club Championship rules may vary from those listed above.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

Special Mixed Substitution Rule

- At the provincial level, the Tournament Director or designate may postpone play for up to one hour if a spare player is not available because the spare pool has been depleted. Mixed teams are required to play at all times with four players. The team requiring a spare player has up to one hour to secure a player who must be willing to join the spare pool. If after an hour no player can be found the team needing the player will lose by default.

ASSOCIATION AUTHORITY

The NLCA Championship Committee, consisting of the president, vice-president, tournament coordinator and other designates as necessary, excluding those participating in the event, has the power to make decisions in accordance with equity as it considers necessary to handle any situation not covered by these rules or the Curling Canada Rules of Curling for Officiated Play.

The NLCA Championship Committee and the host committee are empowered to recommend to the Executive the disqualification, suspension, or expulsion for just cause any player, players, or full team for such a period of time that the committee feels appropriate. A full written report must be obtained from the player or players in question. The final decision will be made by the NLCA executive. If sanctions are applied, the player or players affected will have the right to send in a written appeal within 30 days and have the matter considered at the next AGM or Special General Meeting. All appeals shall follow the Appeals Policy that can be found on the NLCA's Official Documents website.

The NLCA Executive reserves the right to amend or repeal any of the foregoing rules and regulations provided that the competitors are given due notice of such actions.

TIEBREAKERS

In the event of tiebreakers and playoffs, the starting times will be at the discretion of the NLCA, the Host Committee and/or NLCA designate.

Unless stated at the beginning of the tournament, teams tied for any playoff position cannot be eliminated without playing a tiebreaker game.

The Team Ranking results will be used to position teams in a tiebreaker. The teams will not be eliminated by this process; they will just be positioned for tiebreaker or playoff positions. In the tiebreaker formats described below, a team's "rank" refers to their position in the Team Ranking results.

In all tiebreaker games, the choice of last stone advantage in the first end or choice of stone handle colour will be awarded to the team with the best head to head record during the round robin between the two teams involved unless otherwise specified. If the head to head record is the same, this choice will be awarded to the team with the higher Team Ranking.

The format for tiebreakers shall follow the scenarios below. If a scenario presents itself that is not listed below, the format used will be at the discretion of the NLCA. The same principles will be used to determine a tiebreaker format. It is the intention to have the fewest number of games necessary. Advantage will be given to teams that have a higher Team Ranking only when it does not cause extra games.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

One Position Available

Two-Way Tie

- The two teams will play a one game tiebreaker and the winner will be awarded the available playoff spot.

Three-Way Tie

- If one team defeated the two other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, they will be granted a bye and will play the winner of a game between other two teams. The winner of this game will be awarded the available playoff spot.
- If no team defeated the two other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, the first ranked team will be granted a bye and will play the winner of a game between the other two teams. The winner this game will be awarded the available playoff spot.

Four-Way Tie

- The first ranked team will play the fourth ranked team.
- The second ranked team will play the third ranked team.
- The winners of the two games above will play each other and the winner of this game will be awarded the available playoff spot.

Five-Way Tie

- The first ranked team will play the winner of a game between the fourth and fifth ranked teams.
- The second ranked team will play the third ranked team.
- The winners of the two games above will play each other and the winner of this game will be awarded the available playoff spot.

Two Positions Available

In all tiebreaker procedures outlined in this section, of the two teams awarded playoff spots, the team that won the head to head game in the round robin will be awarded the highest available playoff seed and the other team will be awarded the second available playoff seed.

Three-Way Tie

- If one team defeated the two other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, they will be awarded a playoff spot. The remaining spot will be determined based on the procedure for a two-way tie with one position available.
- If no team defeated the two other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, the first ranked team will be awarded a playoff spot. The remaining spot will be determined based on the procedure for a two-way tie with one position available.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

Four-Way Tie

- If one team defeated the three other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, they will be awarded a playoff spot. The remaining spot will be determined based on the procedure for a three-way tie with one position available.
- If no team defeated the three other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, the following will take place:
 - The first ranked team will play the fourth ranked team.
 - The second ranked team will play the third ranked team.
 - The winners of these two games will be awarded playoff spots.

Five-Way Tie

- If one team defeated the four other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, they will be awarded a playoff spot. The remaining spot will be determined based on the procedure for a four-way tie with one position available.
- If no team defeated the four other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, the following will take place:
 - The first ranked team will play the winner of a game between the fourth and fifth ranked teams.
 - The second ranked team will play the third ranked team.
 - The winners of these two games will be awarded playoff spots.

Six-Way Tie

- The first ranked team will play the winner of a game between the fifth and sixth ranked teams.
- The second ranked team will play the winner of a game between the third and fourth ranked teams.
- The winners of these two games will be awarded playoff spots.

Three Positions Available

In all tiebreaker procedures outlined in this section, of the three teams awarded playoff spots, a team will be awarded the highest available seed in playoffs only if they defeated the other two teams in the round robin. The second and third available playoff seeds will then be determined based on the head to head record of the two remaining teams.

If no team defeated both of the other teams in the round robin, the three teams will be seeded based on their Team Ranking.

Four-Way Tie

- If one team defeated the three other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, they will be awarded a playoff spot. The remaining two spots will be determined based on the procedure for a three-way tie with two positions available.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CURLING ASSOCIATION

2017-18 RULES OF COMPETITION

- If no team defeated the three other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, the following will take place:
 - The first and second ranked teams will be awarded playoff spots.
 - The third ranked team will play the fourth ranked team and the winner will be awarded a playoff spot.

Five-Way Tie

- If one team defeated the four other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, they will be awarded a playoff spot. The remaining two spots will be determined based on the procedure for a four-way tie with two positions available.
- If no team defeated the four other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, the following will take place:
 - The first ranked team will be awarded a playoff spot.
 - The second ranked team will play the fifth ranked team and the winner will be awarded a playoff spot.
 - The third ranked team will play the fourth ranked team and the winner will be awarded a playoff spot.

Six-Way Tie

- If one team defeated the five other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, they will be awarded a playoff spot. The remaining two spots will be determined based on the procedure for a five-way tie with two positions available.
- If no team defeated the five other tiebreaker teams in the round robin, the following will take place:
 - The first ranked team will play the sixth ranked team.
 - The second ranked team will play the fifth ranked team
 - The third ranked team will play the fourth ranked team
 - The winners of the three games above will be awarded playoff spots.