



Competition Directives

2023-2024

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NS CURLING COMPETITION DIRECTIVES

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DIRECTIVE 1 – NS CURLING POLICIES IN EFFECT

Date Approved: September 2020

The following policies are in effect for all NS Curling Championships, regardless of level of play. These policies may be found on the NS Curling website and/or by requesting a copy from NS Curling. In case of disagreement, the policies published on the website will be considered correct.

Applicable Policies/Directives:

- 1) Human Resources
 - a. Discrimination and Harassment Policy 2.05
 - b. Volunteer Screening Policy 2.08

- 2) Competitions
 - a. Code of Conduct Policy 5.01
 - b. Concussion Policy 5.02
 - c. Inclement Weather Policy 5.03
 - d. Helmet Use Policy 5.05
 - e. Spectator Code of Conduct Policy 5.09
 - f. Parent Code of Conduct Policy 5.10



DIRECTIVE 2 - PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE

Date Approved: September 2021

The NS Curling's policy is to adhere to current provincial health association guidelines with respect to vaccines and masking. In the event that a club or host site has a policy that goes above and beyond the current provincial health guidelines, that host's policy will be respected and must be adhered to for the duration of the event. Any situation in which this occurs will be communicated prior to registration closing for that specific event.

In the event of a public health event (such as a localized or Provincial pandemic) NS Curling will adhere to the rules and/or guidelines as communicated by Nova Scotia's Health Authority. Any changes in health guidelines or requirements throughout the course of the season could necessitate changes to our competition rules, including possible cancellation of some competitions. Any failure to adhere to the stipulated Public Health regulations within a competition could result in elimination or suspension of a player or team from the competition.

Any event which leads to a national event which is to take place will require a representative to be named by NS Curling. The nature of that process will be specific to each event and will be listed in the specific championship appendix.



DIRECTIVE 3 - SOCIAL MEDIA

Date Approved: September 2020

Unquestionably, the landscape has changed in terms of the ways that players, fans and the media interact, and it's recognized that the various forms of social media represent a valuable opportunity for communication. Competitors are encouraged to embrace these social media, as they present avenues to promote the game of curling as well as their own teams. But there must be certain responsibilities attached to the use of these social media outlets, particularly when competitors are participating in national and world championship events and visibility is at its highest.

With that in mind:

During championship events, out of respect for the integrity of the game, players, coaches, and alternates on the field of play will be prohibited from using any form of social media from **15 minutes prior to games until the completion of the game.** Teams can, however, appoint someone sitting in the stands or watching on television to send messages via social media so long as there is no direct contact with the players, coach or alternate in the field of play.

Be respectful of NSCA and event sponsors. The Nova Scotia Curling Association (NSCA) expects competitors to respect these partnerships by:

- Not distributing messages that may be seen as critical of the sponsors; and
- Not distributing messages promoting direct competitors of our sponsors. This includes when the competing sponsor is a team sponsor.

If messages sent during a championship event (Provincial, National, World, or any other event operated by the NSCA or Curling Canada) are deemed inappropriate by the NSCA, disciplinary action may be taken. Inappropriate messages include any derogatory statements made about the sport, the event, the event participants, sponsors, and organizers.



DIRECTIVE 4 - BLUETOOTH AND CELLULAR TECHNOLOGY

Date Approved: September 2020

During championship events, out of respect for the integrity of the game:

- players and alternates on the field of play during the game, will turn off and secure their cellular and Bluetooth devices; and
- Coaches and alternates will refrain from using their cellular communication devices during the game.

The penalty for breaching this directive during a NSCA Championship event would be the removal of the stone that was played. A second breach by the same team will result in the forfeit of the game.



DIRECTIVE 5 - CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER PENALTIES

Date Approved: September 2020

General

The NSCA shall determine the processes and procedures for imposing penalties on Players or Teams for various infractions as covered below.

The imposition of these penalties shall not limit the NSCA Board of Directors' ability to levy additional penalties or sanctions should the circumstances warrant and as outlined in the NSCA Code of Conduct Policy (Policy #5.01).

This Directive shall in no way be deemed a replacement to the Chief Umpire's ability to govern a Competition or impose penalties as outlined in the Rules of Curling for Officiated Play (section 20. Chief Umpire); rather, this Directive shall be available to provide guidance to the Chief Umpire.

Procedure

Major Infractions include the following and will result in immediate expulsion from the game in process or the ensuing game to be played for the 1st offence and immediate expulsion from the event and possible monetary penalties for the 2nd offence.

- Unsportsmanlike behaviour
- Any off-ice conduct considered inappropriate by the Chief Umpire including any damage caused to real property

The following infractions could result in a verbal and/or written warning for the 1st offence and immediate expulsion from the game for the 2nd offence.

- Use of inappropriate language to the point that it is offensive
- Making an obscene gesture, deemed inappropriate by the Chief Umpire
- Being rude or abusive to anyone associated with the event
- Refusing to take directions given by an Umpire (I.e. warnings relating to hands & knees affecting the ice surface, hog line violations, etc.)
- Inappropriate behaviour (I.e. banging/breaking/throwing of brooms, slamming of rocks in backboards, unnecessary damage to ice surface, etc.)

Should a 3rd offence occur for any of the following infractions, the player/team could be immediately expelled from the event.

- Refusing to take directions given by an Umpire (I.e. warnings relating to hands & knees affecting the ice surface, hog line violations, etc.)
- Inappropriate behaviour (I.e. banging/breaking/throwing of brooms, slamming of rocks in backboards, unnecessary damage to ice surface, etc.)

Appeals

Any decision or imposition of penalty resulting in the expulsion from a game by the Chief Umpire is final.

For all other matters, competitors, teams or coaches may appeal any decision at a Championship in accordance with NSCA the Code of Conduct Policy.

An appeal of any decision resulting in a monetary fine or other sanction will be dealt with by the NSCA in the normal course and may be further appealed in accordance with the NSCA Code of Conduct Policy.

Other

The cost to repair property damaged by a player/team will be the responsibility of the player/team causing the damage.

Any monetary fines or required repairs to property must be paid or suitable arrangements made, prior to the player/team being eligible to register for any subsequent NSCA Championship Event.

Should a team have already registered for a subsequent event, their entry fees shall be applied to any outstanding fines until paid. (Note: This shall not apply if an individual player is assessed a fine.)