

APPENDIX to the Competitor Guide

## 2025 Men's and Women's COMBINED EVENT



### Open Qualifier

**Date:** Dec 12-15, 2024 (Thursday to Sunday)

**Location:** Amherst Curling Club

**Registration Deadline:** November 12, 2024

**Entry Fee:** \$800.00 + Curling Canada Competitor Fee of \$25 per participant, including Alternate.

### Provincial Championship

**Date:** January 14-19, 2025 (Tuesday to Sunday)

**Location:** Halifax Curling Club

**Notice:** NS Curling's Championship Rules may be changed, in whole or in part, prior to the playdown process. The rules for one year's championship will not be construed to give or imply any right for future championships. NS Curling policy is to publicize its rules in advance of the competition affected by those rules. Any mistakes, omissions or ambiguity may be subject to clarification by the Competitions Director. This document can be deemed final 14 days prior to the start of the championship.

See below for competition specific details that are in effect for both the Men's and Women's Championships. **In the event there is a perceived conflict between the Competitor Guide and this document, this document is considered to take priority.**

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## A. ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Limited Entry:
  - a) Both the Men's and Women's provincial championship is limited to eight (8) teams.
  - b) If more than eight (8) teams register there will be an Open Qualifier playdown held.
- 2) Teams MUST register four (4) players. Teams may register an alternate and an eligible coach.
- 3) All players and alternate must be Canadian citizens. There is no minimum age requirement.
- 4) All players and alternate must be a member in good standing of a NS Curling affiliated curling club but not necessarily the same club.
- 5) For more information regarding eligibility rules consult [Competitor Guide, Section D\(2\)](#).
- 6) The original four (4) players, alternate and coach must be registered on Curling IO. The host club or umpires shall not accept any personnel changes to the original roster. For more information regarding team registration or team rosters consult [Competitor Guide, Sections B\(3\) and B\(4\)](#).
- 7) Free Agents:
  - a) Teams may consist of one (1) non-resident 'free agent'. The remaining players must be bona fide residents of Nova Scotia, or have birthright status.
  - b) A 'Free agent' must be a member of a NS Curling affiliated club.
  - c) Free Agent rules and procedures are described in the [Competitor Guide, Section D\(2\)](#). The Free Agent Application form can be found on the NS Curling website. Note: There is an application deadline.
  - d) Refer to the Curling Canada directive on Residency and the rule governing Free Agents, <https://www.curling.ca/residency-eligibility-rule>.
- 8) A delivery stick is NOT allowed.

## **B. HOSTING INFORMATION**

### **OPEN QUALIFIER**

- 1) A minimum of four (4) sheets of ice is required.
- 2) The event is scheduled for a maximum of four (4) days – Thursday to Sunday.
- 3) NSCA stones may be assigned for this event.
- 4) The event will be officiated.
- 5) Games will be timed.
- 6) There will be a pre-competition practice scheduled.
- 7) There will be a pre-game practice scheduled prior to each draw.
- 8) House buttons should be the same size and triangulation measurement points established.
- 9) Games will have live scoring on the NS Curling website.

### **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

- 1) A minimum of four (4) sheets of ice is required.
- 2) The event is scheduled for a maximum of six (6) days – Tuesday to Sunday.
- 3) An opening ceremony/reception will be held. This is a mandatory event for teams. For more information regarding team obligations consult [Competitor Guide, Section B\(2\)](#).
- 4) NS Curling will appoint a Head Ice Technician for the event.
- 5) NSCA stones have been assigned for this event.
- 6) Stones may be lightly textured during the event.
  - a) Texturing will only be completed to maintain competition quality playing conditions which is a minimum of four (4) feet of curl at a 2 oz clip.
  - b) The decision to texture the stones will be at the discretion of the Head Ice Technician, in consultation with the Competitions Director.
  - c) Teams will be informed prior to the stones being textured.
  - d) If stones are textured, teams playing on the next draw will receive an extra three (3) minutes in their pre-game practice.
- 7) The event will be officiated.
- 8) Games will be timed.
- 9) There will be a pre-competition practice scheduled.
- 10) There will be a pre-game practice scheduled prior to each draw.
- 11) House buttons should be the same size with triangulation measurement points established.
- 12) Games will have live scoring on the NS Curling website.

## **C. UMPIRES**

Once the competition starts the Chief Umpire has the general supervision and governance of the rules and procedures. The Chief Umpire shall have full authority to enforce the rules of the game as adopted by NS Curling. The decision of the Chief Umpire is final in all aspects involving judgment calls. In emergency situations, the Chief Umpire may have to act immediately in areas outside of rules, policy or precedent. In these situations, the Chief Umpire is the final authority.

The Chief Umpire may intervene at any time and give directions to any player or coach. They may suspend or expel a player or coach for abusive or unacceptable behaviour, including bad language. All conduct matters will be fully documented and filed with NS Curling for subsequent review and follow-up. For more information regarding officiating consult [Competitor Guide, Section C\(2\)](#).

## D. COACHES

- 1) Coaches must be current with their competition specific NCCP credentials and NS Curling requirements.
- 2) Coaches are considered a team member and must abide by all relevant policies and team expectations. For more information regarding coaching consult [Competitor Guide, Section B\(7-10\)](#).

## E. CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

Prior to 2016 the Men's and Women's championships had two (2) qualifying events each. From 2016 to 2020 one qualifier event was held for each. 2021 no championships were held due to Covid. In 2022 the Women's was an open provincial championship, Covid cancelled the 2022 Men's. 2023 had an open provincial championship for both the Men's and Women's. Beginning in 2024, one qualifier event for both the Men's and Women's was scheduled.

Prior to 2016, the Men's and Women's provincial championships had separate host clubs. Since 2016 the Men's and Women's provincial championship has been a combined event.

### Year to Year Participation Information

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Men	12	13	Covid	Covid	12	12	11	11	14
Women	8	8	11	Covid	12	12	12	10	12
Date	Jan 17-21	Jan 25-30	Dec 8-13	Jan 25-31	Jan 20-26	Jan 21-27	Jan 8-14	Jan 24-29	Jan 19-24
Host	Halifax CC	Bluenose	Berwick	Bluenose	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Mayflower	Mayflower

## F. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION PROCESS

- 1) All teams, including those deemed eligible for a provincial championship pre-qualifying berth, must register for the Open Qualifier in Curling IO by the registration deadline, and must have paid the championship entry fee and Curling Canada Competitor Fees.
- 2) Up to four (4) provincial championship pre-qualifying berths will be offered to eligible teams.
- 3) Only teams who have accumulated a minimum of 12,000 CTRS points by November 26, 2024 are eligible to receive a provincial championship pre-qualifying berth. This includes a finalist team from the previous year's provincial championship.
- 4) If eligible, provincial championship pre-qualifying berths will be awarded to:
  - a) The two (2) finalist teams from the 2024 Provincial Championship (champion and runner-up). The team must retain 3 of 4 original players, alternate players do not qualify as an original team member, **AND**
  - b) The top two (2) CTRS points leaders on November 26, 2024, who do not pre-qualify as a 2024 provincial finalist team identified above.
- 5) If a provincial championship pre-qualifying berth is not awarded, that berth will be allocated to the Open Qualifier.
- 6) A team accepting a provincial championship pre-qualifying berth is ineligible to compete in the "Open Qualifier".
- 7) A minimum of four (4) teams will qualify through the 'Open Qualifier'.
- 8) The 'Open Qualifier' will only be required if more than eight (8) teams register in Curling IO by the registration deadline.

## **G. GUIDELINES FOR OPEN QUALIFIER and PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **GENERAL**

- 1) This championship is a designated Tier 1 NS Curling event.
- 2) The WCF moratorium on brush heads is in effect and the exchanging of brooms and changing brush heads during play will not be allowed. For more information on sweeping equipment consult [Competitor Guide, Section C\(3\)](#).
- 3) Umpires will conduct all measurements.
- 4) Players and coaches cannot be in the ice shed at any time during the event without an Umpire present who has been assigned to and is working the event.
- 5) Teams are not permitted to practice at the host club within 24-hours of the start of competition, unless they are a regular member of the club with a regularly scheduled game during that 24-hour period.
- 6) In the event of a Force Majeure and the provincial championship is not able to be held, all entry fees will be refunded. The selection of the team to represent NS at Nationals will be awarded to the CTRS points leader on January 14, 2025. In the case of a tie, the selection of the team to represent NS at Nationals will be governed by the Competitions Advisory Panel.

### **COMPETITION FORMAT**

- 1) The Open Qualifier draw format (TKO or RR) will be depended on the number of participating teams. The guideline is: if six (6) teams or less, round robin format will be used.
- 2) The Provincial Championship will be an eight (8) team round robin format, qualifying three (3) teams for the single elimination playoffs.

### **RANKING & DRAW PLACEMENT PROCEDURE**

- 1) In the Open Qualifier teams will be ranked based on CTRS points earned as of November 26, 2024. Ties in points will be broken by random draw.
- 2) In the Provincial Championship pre-qualifying berths will receive the highest ranking (seeded 1-4), based on their CTRS points on November 26, 2024. Teams qualifying through the 'Open Qualifier' will be seeded 5-8, based on their CTRS points on December 17, 2024. Ties in points will be broken by random draw.

### **GAME TIMING**

- 1) Time clocks will be used for all games. However, certain compromises could be made depending upon club space, available equipment, number of volunteers, etc.
- 2) All games are scheduled for ten (10) ends duration.
- 3) Each team will receive 38 minutes of thinking time to complete the game.
- 4) Each team will receive four (4) minutes, thirty (30) seconds of thinking time for each extra end.
- 5) The mid-game break is five (5) minutes.
- 6) There will be a three (3) minute break before starting the extra end. Between all other ends, breaks will be "turn and go".
- 7) Each team will receive one (1) sixty (60) second timeout per 10-end game. Each team will receive one (1) sixty (60) second time out during any extra end of play.

### **PRE-COMPETITION PRACTICE**

- 1) A schedule will be created to allow the teams a ten (10) minute practice session on each sheet of ice to be used.

- 2) As a matter of courtesy please let the Competitions Director know if you are not going to attend your practice session.
- 3) For more information regarding pre-competition practice guidelines consult the [Competitor Guide, Section D\(8\)](#).

### **PRE-GAME CALL**

- 1) Thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled game time, when announced, teams will report to the designated pre-game area to confirm their line-up, readiness to play, and to receive any instructions.
- 2) For round robin formats, the team listed first will be assigned dark-coloured handles. Dark coloured handles will practice first.
- 3) A draw to the button competition will be used to determine last stone advantage in the first end. Each team will name their two players who will deliver the Last Stone Draws for that game, including which turns will be thrown.

### **PRE-GAME PRACTICE**

- 1) Twenty-five (25) minutes prior to scheduled game time, first practice will be announced.
- 2) It will consist of: up to one-minute of slider cool-down with sliding, seven (7) minutes of practice time with a one (1) minute remaining warning, then, a one (1) minute time period for each Last Stone Draw. Second practice will follow the same format. Please follow the umpire's announcements.
- 3) Coach and alternate are allowed access on the ice surface during practices with appropriate curling footwear.

### **LAST STONE DRAW (LSD) IN THE PRELIMINARY ROUND**

- 1) Last stone advantage in the first end will be decided by a draw to the button contest immediately following the pre-game practice.
- 2) In Round Robin format competitions two (2) LSDs will be thrown.
- 3) Stones will be thrown with the rotation identified in the pre-game call.
- 4) For more information on LSD procedures consult [Competitor Guide, Section D\(12\)](#).

### **TIE-BREAKER GAMES (Round Robin Format)**

#### Open Qualifier

- 1) A maximum of one (1) tie-breaker game will be played to determine the final qualifying team.
- 2) In the pre-game call the winner of the coin flip will choose stone handle colour OR practice order. A draw to the button competition will determine last stone advantage in the first end.
- 3) Teams will use the stones on the assigned game sheet.

#### Provincial Championship

- 1) A maximum of two (2) tie-breaker draws will be scheduled.
- 2) Tie-breaker games are not considered to be playoff games.
- 3) Only teams with a winning record (more wins than losses) in the preliminary round will play in a tie-breaker game.
- 4) In the pre-game call the winner of the coin flip will choose stone handle colour OR practice order. A draw to the button competition will determine last stone advantage in the first end.
- 5) In all tie-breaker games, teams will use the stones on the assigned game sheet.

**PLAYOFF MEETING (Provincial Championship)**

- 1) The Chief Umpire will administer the playoff and tie-breaker process.
- 2) Immediately following the conclusion of the preliminary round final draw, a meeting will occur between the Chief Umpire, and tiebreaker and playoff teams. Teams must send one (1) team member (i.e. a player or coach).
- 3) The Chief Umpire will identify each team's advantages and choices with respect to hammer or handle colour selection(s), and any adjustments to scheduling or ice allocation if necessary.
- 4) A team that does not attend the playoff meeting forfeits their game choices (last stone advantage in first end, stone handle colour, and practice order) to which the team may be entitled.
- 5) Playoff and tie-breaker games will follow the procedures described in the **Competitor Guide, Section D(14-20).**