



2026 Curling Club Championship Men and Women

	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
Date:	Mar 4 to 8, 2026	March 26 to 29, 2026
Location:	Lakeshore Curling Club	Sydney Curling Club
Club Registration Deadline:	January 19, 2026	January 19, 2026
	<u>Registration deadlines are at 12:00 pm (noon).</u>	
Team Roster Deadline:	February 2, 2026	February 9, 2026
Entry Fee:	\$400.00 + Curling Canada Competitor Fee of \$25 per participant, including alternate.	

National Championship: November 18 to 23, 2026 at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This appendix is subject to review and evaluation, at a minimum, on an annual basis. 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 Manager. This appendix 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 championship. The rules and details contained in the main body of the Competition Guide apply to this competition. In the event there is a perceived conflict between the Competition Guide and this appendix, this appendix is considered first.

A. PURPOSE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Curling Club Championship has been designed for curling club teams consisting of curling club members, who support curling club leagues, at the same curling club.

This championship is an opportunity for those curlers that support curling clubs and mostly do not have the time or resources to chase the dream of representing Canada at a World Championship or Olympic Games but still enjoy competitive play and representing Nova Scotia at a Championship.

All curling clubs will respect the intent of the spirit of the Curling Club Championship by engaging their members to participate and to represent their curling club in any process leading to the provincial championship. NS Curling reserves the right to exclude any team that violates the spirit and intent of the event as it pertains to the rules attached.

B. PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

CURLING CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Participating curling clubs must be affiliated with NS Curling and be in good standing, having:
 - a) Paid their NSCA Membership Affiliation Fee's in full by December 31st.
 - b) Submitted their annual Membership Numbers by December 31st.
- 2) **The registration deadline for a club to register their intent to send one (1) or two (2) teams is January 19, 2026, for both the Men's and Women's championship.**
 - a) Clubs are required to register their team(s) in Curling IO.
 - b) Clubs will identify their teams as Team #1, Team #2 (i.e Truro #1, Truro #2)
 - c) Clubs may initially identify the team players as TBD.
 - d) The team registration fee must be paid during the registration process.
- 3) Clubs MUST finalize, with the Competitions Manager by email (blohnes@nscurl.com), their **Men's team(s) players by February 2, 2026**, identifying all four (4) original players. Teams may register an alternate and an eligible coach.
- 4) Clubs MUST finalize, with the Competitions Manager by email (blohnes@nscurl.com), their **Women's team(s) players by February 9, 2026**, identifying all four (4) original players. Teams may register an alternate and an eligible coach.
- 5) NOTE: The 2025/26 Men's Championship is being hosted by Lakeshore Curling Club, the club has six (6) sheets of ice. This championship will be a complete 24-team event. It is possible some clubs could be offered a third berth; clubs should plan their club championships accordingly. See "Competition Format in the Qualifying Round" (Page 5) for more information on berth allocation.

NS CURLING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) A team MUST register a minimum of four (4) players. Teams may register an alternate and an eligible coach. A team's registration will not be accepted if all four (4) players are not registered prior to the team roster deadline.
- 2) For more information regarding team registration or team rosters consult [Competition Guide, Sections 7.1-7.5.](#)

CURLING CANADA MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TEAM COMPOSITION:

- 1) All four (4) players and alternate must be a bona fide resident of Nova Scotia.
- 2) All four (4) players and any alternate must be members in good standing of the **same curling club**, paying a full league fee.
- 3) All team members must be registered and **playing in a league** that is affiliated with the team's designated curling club. Players WILL NOT be required to play on the same team.
- 4) It is the responsibility of the designated curling club to provide an accurate verification if requested by NS Curling.
- 5) A competitor can participate for only one affiliated curling club in one season. If a competitor loses out while playing for one club, they cannot then play for another club.
- 6) An Alternate player may play in ANY position.
- 7) A team with a registered alternate player **may not** add a replacement player.
- 8) The use of the delivery stick by any competitor (including alternate) is acceptable.
- 9) Minor Players:
 - a) Players under the age of nineteen (19) shall be considered a 'minor'. They must be accompanied by a legal guardian (or chaperone identified by the legal guardian) for the duration of the event including departure from home and return to their home. A legal guardian can be a parent on the team.

- b) A minimum of two (2) players must be nineteen (19) years of age or over as of December 31st immediately prior to the national championship.
- 10) Each four-person team must consist of players who, during the previous season, did NOT participate in the Canadian Curling Club Championships;
AND
Each 4-person team must consist of a minimum of three (3) players who during the previous three (3) seasons, did NOT participate in a Curling Canada National Championship leading to a World Championship (U20, Women's, Men's and Seniors), an Olympic qualifying event (Pre-Trials and Trials), or a Grand Slam of Curling event (Tier 1 or Tier 2). Alternate players are considered as having not played in those events.
- 11) Definition of the curling seasons is defined as follows:
 - a) Canadian Championship to be competed in November 2026.
 - b) The events noted above include the previous three (3) seasons being 2025-2026, 2024-2025, 2023-2024
 - c) Competitive season defined as August 1 to July 31.
- 12) Curling Canada has the sole authority to grant exceptions to these rules in extraordinary circumstances. Any request must be submitted by NS Curling. Curling Canada will consult with NS Curling and will notify them within five (5) business days in writing of any decision. The Curling Canada decision may not be appealed.

B. HOSTING INFORMATION

- 1) A minimum of four (4) sheets of ice is required.
- 2) The event is scheduled for a maximum of five (5) days.
- 3) Club stones will be used.
- 4) The event will be officiated.
- 5) Games will be timed.
- 6) There may be a pre-competition practice scheduled, if time allows.
- 7) There will be a pre-game practice prior to each draw.
- 8) House buttons should be the same size with triangulation measurement points established.
- 9) No opening ceremony.
- 10) Games will have live scoring on the NS Curling website.
- 11) The host club shall provide, at a minimum, the following ice maintenance:
 - a) The ice must be scraped prior to play each day.
 - b) The ice shall be scraped after two (2) draws have been played.

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 [Competition Guide, Section 9.2.](#)

D. COACHING STANDARD

- 1) Only coaches meeting the required coaching credentials will be permitted on-ice access. No exemptions to certification standards will be provided.
- 2) For more information regarding coaching consult [Competition Guide, Sections 8.1-8.4.](#)

E. CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

First Provincial championship held in 2008. First Canadian championship held in 2009.

Year to year Participation Information - MEN

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
# Teams	24	20	20	21	Covid	20	15	9
# Clubs	11	13	13	13	X	?	?	?
Date	Mar 5-9	Feb 22-26	Feb 23-26	Mar 25-28	Feb 25-Mar 1	Feb 27-Mar 1	Feb 28-Mar 3	Mar 8-12
Host	Lakeshore	Bridgewater	Bridgewater	Bridgewater	Bridgewater	Bridgewater	Bridgewater	Sydney

Year to Year Participation Information - WOMEN

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
# Teams	10	12	8	4	Covid	12	10	6
# Clubs	7	9	6	4	X	?	?	?
Date	Mar 20-23	Feb 29-Mar 3	Mar 2-5	Mar 25-27	Mar 4-8	Mar 12-16	Feb 28-Mar 3	Feb 16-18
Host	Berwick	Digby	Digby	Amherst	Amherst	Wolfville	Amherst	Bluenose

F. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

GENERAL

- 1) This championship is a designated Tier 2 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 equipment consult [Competition Guide, Sections 10.1-10.2.](#)
- 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) 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 the Canadian Championship will be governed by the Competitions Advisory Panel.

COMPETITION FORMAT IN THE QUALIFYING ROUND

- 1) Each game is scheduled for eight (8) ends.
- 2) Teams can expect to play up to three (3) games per day, for a maximum of two (2) days.
- 3) The minimum berth allocation and draw format guidelines is shown in Table A. NS Curling reserves the right to modify the draw format to meet the requirements of the championship.

Table A. Minimum Berth Allocation and Draw Format Guidelines

# Clubs		Standard Berths	Additional Berths	Total Allocation	Draw Format	Days to Complete
1		1	0	1	Declared Provincial Representative	0
2		2	0	2	Best 3 of 5	3
3		3	0	3	Double Round Robin. An undefeated team will be declared champion outright without playoffs. Otherwise, 2-team single elimination playoff.	3

4		4	0	4	Double Round Robin. An undefeated team will be declared champion outright without playoffs. Otherwise, 2-team single elimination playoff	3	
5		5	1	6	1 Pool. Single Round Robin. 3-team playoff, 1 st place team goes straight to final.	4	
6		6	0	6			
7		7	1	8			
8		8	0	8			
9		9	3	12	2 Pools. Single Round Robin. 6 team playoff, top 2 teams in each pool + next best 2 teams overall.	4	
10		10	2	12	4 Pools. Single Round Robin. 8 team playoff, top team in each pool + next best 4 teams overall.	4	
11		11	5	16			
12		12	4	16	4 Pools. Single Round Robin. 12 team playoff, top 2 teams in each pool + next best 4 teams overall.	4	
13		13	7	20			
14		14	6	20			
15		15	5	20			
16		16	4	20	4 Pools. Single Round Robin. 12 Team playoff, top 2 teams in each pool + next best 4 teams overall	4	
17		17	7	24			
18		18	6	24			
19		19	5	24			
20		20	4	24			
21		21	3	24			
22		22	2	24			
23		23	1	24			
24		24	0	24			
+24		If more than 24 clubs are anticipated to register, a Qualification event will be required.					

- 4) NS Curling will endeavour to maximize the number of additional berth allocations, but reserves the right to limit additional berths to ensure a workable draw format.
- 5) The total number of 'Berths' into the championship draw will be determined by the number of NS Curling affiliated curling clubs registering a team(s) in Curling IO.
 - a) Each club who registers a team(s) in Curling IO by the registration deadline, will be initially awarded one 'Standard Berth'.
 - b) If a club wishes an additional (second) berth, the club is required to register a second team in Curling IO by the registration deadline.
 - c) After the registration deadline has closed, a club who has registered a second team may have an opportunity to secure an additional (second) berth.
 - i. The club must be in "good standing", meaning the clubs Membership Affiliation Fees have been paid in full AND their annual Membership Numbers (both due December 31st) have been submitted.
 - ii. The Host club will be given first option to secure a second berth. Then, the club with the highest 'adult per capita' will be awarded a second berth first, and so on until clubs desiring a second team have received a second berth.
 - iii. If the draw allocation still has not been reached, clubs that registered a second team may be awarded a third berth. The club with the highest 'adult per capita' will be awarded a third berth first, and so on until the draw allocation has been filled.
 - d) If a club registers a second team in Curling IO but the club is not offered a second berth the entry fee will be refunded.
- 6) **The 2025/26 Men's Championship is being hosted by Lakeshore Curling Club, the club has six sheets of ice. Therefore, the 2025/26 Men's championship will be expanded to accept 24-teams. It is possible some clubs could be offered a third berth; clubs should plan their club playdowns accordingly.**
- 7) The official draw and schedule will be emailed to the primary team contact.

- 8) For more information regarding draw preparation consult [Competition Guide, Section 12.3.](#)

RANKING & DRAW PLACEMENT PROCEDURE

- 1) Self-Seeding (peer ranking) will be used. Teams will be placed into the draw based on the results of the ballots received.
- 2) If more than one (1) pool is required, a ranking adjustment may be made so that teams from the same club are not placed into the same pool.
- 3) Team names in the draw will be listed as the curling club they represent.
- 4) For more information regarding self-seeding consult the [Competition Guide, Section 12.7.](#)

GAME TIMING

- 1) Games will be timed. However, certain compromises could be made depending upon club space, available equipment, number of volunteers, etc.
- 2) Each team shall receive 30 minutes of thinking time; extra ends are four minutes and thirty seconds (4:30).
- 3) The mid-game break is five (5) minutes.
- 4) There will be a three (3) minute break before starting an extra end. Between all other ends, breaks will be “turn and go”.
- 5) Each team will receive one (1) sixty (60) second time out per 8 end game. Each team will receive one (1) sixty (60) second time out during any extra end of play.
- 6) For more information regarding game timing consult [Competition Guide, Section 12.8.](#)

PRE-COMPETITION PRACTICE

- 1) If time allows, a schedule will be created to allow teams a pre-competition practice.
- 2) The amount of practice time will be identified in the Championship Draw Schedule. Each team will be scheduled the same amount of practice time.
- 3) Teams are not required to participate. As a matter of courtesy please let the Competitions Manager know if you are not going to attend your practice session.
- 4) 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. Penalty is loss of hammer in first game.
- 5) For more information regarding pre-competition practice consult [Competition Guide, Section 12.9.](#)

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:
 - a) confirm their line-up and readiness to play
 - b) name which player will be throwing the LSD clockwise rotation and which player will be throwing the LSD counter-clockwise rotation.
 - c) receive any instructions.
- 2) For more information regarding the pre-game call consult [Competition Guide, Section 12.10.](#)
- 3) A draw to the button competition will be used to determine last stone advantage in the first end.

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) Pre-game practice is not mandatory, but the team's attendance is required for the Last Stone Draw.
- 4) Coaches and alternates are allowed access on the ice surface during practices, with appropriate curling footwear.
- 5) For more information regarding pre-game practice consult [Competition Guide, Section 12.11.](#)

LAST STONE DRAW (LSD) IN THE QUALIFYING 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) Under the direction of the umpire, teams will deliver two (2) LSDs. The first LSD will be thrown in the clockwise rotation; the second LSD will be thrown in the counter-clockwise rotation.
- 3) Each player will deliver an equal number of clockwise and counter-clockwise LSD stones. If there are an odd number of games a variation of one rotation per player must occur.
- 4) For more information on Last Stone Draw procedures consult [Competition Guide, Section 12.12.](#)

TEAM RANKING AND PLAYOFF PROCESS

- 1) The Chief Umpire will make all decisions with regard to the administration of playoff games.
- 2) Playoff teams will be ranked and placed into the playoff draw according to their qualifying round results.
- 3) There will be NO tiebreaker games scheduled.
- 4) Immediately following the conclusion of the qualifying round final draw, a meeting may occur between the Chief Umpire and all playoff teams. Teams must send one (1) team member (i.e. player or coach).
 - a) The Chief Umpire will identify each team's advantages and choices with respect to hammer, handle colour selection, and any adjustments to scheduling or ice assignments.
 - b) 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) The full playoff process is described in the [Competition Guide, Section 13.1-13.6.](#)

NS Curling Competition Advisory Panel Decision (August 4, 2023)

Whereas, the triple knockout format may NOT produce an obvious third-place ranked team (i.e. where the two teams who lost the 'C Event' semi final have progressed to the same position in the draw), therefore, in a triple knockout format the following procedure shall be used to determine the third and fourth ranked team.

- 1) Teams will first be ranked according to their overall event win/loss record, the team with the most event wins will be ranked higher,*
- 2) If the teams have the same number of event wins, the team with the best record of the games played between each other shall be ranked higher;*
- 3) If rankings cannot be determined by 1 or 2 above, ranking will be determined using the Accumulated Draw Shot Distance.*