



# NOVA SCOTIA CURLING

## Competition Advisory Panel (CAP) Feedback Report

**2025 Women's and Men's Senior Provincial Championship**

**October 30<sup>th</sup> - November 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2025**

**Digby Curling Club**



Final Report Prepared by Dan Baldwin, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Curling Association with input and review by the Competition Advisory Panel (CAP), Chief Umpire, Greg Thorbourne and NSCA Board Liaison, Hugh Avery.

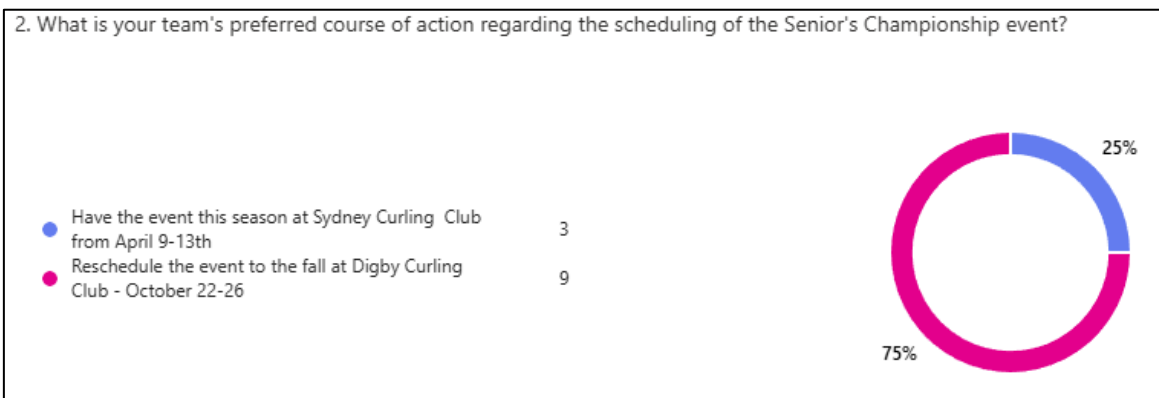
### **CAP Core team members:**

Jill Brothers, Technical Director, NSCA --- Kevin Ouellette, High Performance Coach, NSCA, --- Bruce Lohnes, Competitions Manager, NSCA, --- Dan Baldwin, Executive Director, NSCA, --- Hugh Avery, NSCA Board of Directors Liaison

To learn more about the CAP, visit <https://nscurl.com/playdowns/championship-rules/>.

## Notes about this report:

1. Survey results have not been edited or omitted; what's presented in this report is the exact feedback collected.
2. Kevin Ouellette, CAP member, was excused from the review of this event because he participated in the event. He was invited to complete the Feedback Survey.
3. The Feedback Survey was sent to team contacts provided during registration for the event. Team contacts were asked to forward the survey to their teams. The survey link was emailed to teams on November 4 at 2:00pm and we accepted feedback until November 11, 2025.
4. This event was originally scheduled for last spring; however unforeseen events lead to the host club closing early. The Association surveyed the entrants of the event with these results:



It was decided that the event would be moved to the start of the 2026 Championship Calendar.

5. There were **5** women's teams and **4** men's teams registered in the men's.
6. We received **18** responses to the survey.
7. Survey questions specific to the *host committee* have been removed from this report. This feedback has been sent to the host club for review and consideration. This report is *competition* focused.
8. NSCA Championship Rocks were used for this event.

## **Executive Summary**

Participants of the 2025 Seniors Provincials were surveyed after the event. The survey included questions covering:

- Pre-event information: timeliness and completeness of the Official Draw Document; whether teams received, read, and understood the event rules.
- Practice and playing conditions: adequacy of pre-game practice; ice speed/curl standards met; space to note issues.
- Event design: perceived length (too long/short/right) and whether the format enabled the best teams to succeed.
- Equipment: suitability and condition of championship rocks.
- Officiating and fairness: consistency of rule enforcement; accuracy of timing clocks; space for feedback on officials' communication and approach.
- Coaching accommodation: adequacy of time and seating for coaches.
- Open feedback: an "other comments" prompt for anything the Competition Advisory Panel should consider.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Most elements of the championship met or exceeded participant expectations, with clear documents and rules, adequate practice time, satisfactory ice and rocks, and a format perceived to produce deserving winners. Areas for improvement include communications during announcements and the application of rules. The CAP focused on addressing themes in the feedback, not individual comments or results.

### **The key recommendations from this report are:**

- ✓ To ensure clear announcements, we will equip umpires with a portable PA for venues without in-shed audio. When a host club provides an audio system, officials will use the house system instead.
- ✓ Umpires will enforce the Rules as written to protect competitive integrity, delivered in a calm, respectful manner. Where discretion exists, officials will use brief reminders/warnings; where it doesn't, prescribed penalties will be applied consistently and without favor.
- ✓ To help teams understand changing and new rules, it is recommended that the NSCA coordinate and execute an online webinar clarifying new broom head rules. Also, if new rules or changes are introduced that are not obvious, host online webinars as needed.

## Survey Results

The following summarizes the Competition Feedback Survey results by question, along with CAP's recommended actions. Identifying questions and responses have been excluded. For the complete set of survey questions, refer to **Appendix One**.

### Question 3:

3. Was the Official Draw Document received in a timely manner? Note: we send the document to the team contact listed in Curling IO - the team contact is to share the document with their respective team and coach.

● Yes 18  
● No 0



#### Actions/Recommendations:

Respondents were happy with the timing and delivery of the Draw Document. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

#### Question 4:

4. Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the timelines of receiving the Official Draw Document:

8 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	We were informed in a timely manner.
2	anonymous	Well done, thank you.
3	anonymous	No issues.
4	anonymous	All good lots of time
5	anonymous	I haven't curled in 3 years, but this was the fastest I have seen a draw come out.
6	anonymous	No issues.
7	anonymous	The timeline was sufficient. It might be helpful to list somewhere that the draw start date will be determined by the number of teams registered - it's easy enough to figure that out. ie - 6-8 teams registered - event will start on the Wed. 1-5 teams - event will start on the Thurs. Might allow for teams to make plans easier.
8	anonymous	Received in sufficient time

#### Actions/Recommendations:

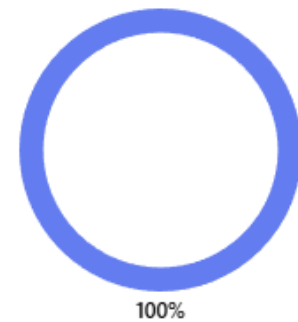
Respondents were happy with the timing and delivery of the Draw Document. No action or recommendations are required. Regarding the highlighted comment, information is noted in Provincial Championship Calendar and Competition Guide, Section 12.3 page 19.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

**Question 5:**

5. Did the Official Draw Document provide all the necessary information required?

● Yes 18  
● No 0



**Actions/Recommendations:**

Respondents were happy with the contents of the Draw Document. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

### Question 6:

6. Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the thoroughness of the information contained in the Official Draw Document:

6 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	My comment on the draw is that I believe the last seeded team should have the bye in round one if a bye is required. It did not negatively impact the number 2 team (event winner) that was given the bye this year, but it may have had the ice conditions not been good.
2	anonymous	All necessary information was there for reference
3	anonymous	Well organized, thank you!
4	anonymous	I thought it was detailed and provided us with all we needed to know
5	anonymous	No issues
6	anonymous	None

#### Actions/Recommendations:

Feedback received indicated that the Draw documents are thorough and provide the necessary information. No changes to the Draw documents are recommended.

#### Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A

### Question 7:

7. Were the rules for the event forwarded to you? Rules are sent to the Team Contact person listed in Curling IO when registering for an event

● Yes	17
● No	0
● Other	1



#### Actions/Recommendations:

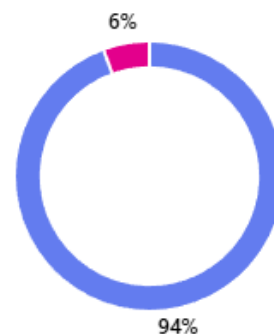
All but one respondent indicated they received the rules; no changes recommended.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

### Question 8:

8. Did you read the event rules before the event?

● Yes	17
● No	1
● I never received the rules	0



#### Actions/Recommendations:

Most respondents indicated they read the rules before the event. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

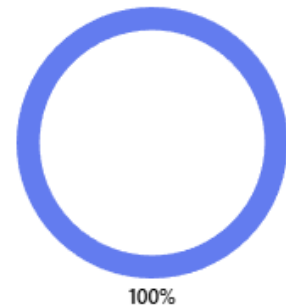
**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**



**Question 9:**

9. Were the event rules clear?

● Yes	17
● No	0
● I never received the rules	0


**Actions/Recommendations:**

All respondents indicated that the rules were clear. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

### Question 10:

10. Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the thoroughness and clarity of the official rules of the event:

9 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Not all rules were applied consistently. It was rumoured that the men's teams were permitted to use competitive foam while women's teams were not. Some women were made to replace damaged compliant foams while others were told to buy new ones as soon as possible. Broom checks were conducted before the first practice and not repeated during the event. There was nothing to prevent teams from using noncompliant foam or covers.
2	anonymous	No issues
3	anonymous	Great detail.
4	anonymous	The section on equipment required careful attention, particularly as it related to what is acceptable for foam inserts in broom heads. It may be worth consolidating all of the relevant info into a more user-friendly guide.
5	anonymous	The rules were very clear
6	anonymous	No issues. Had to find the information regarding broom foam requirements.
7	anonymous	Broom inspection not completely clear. Brooms were inspected but only before first practice. There seemed to be some confusion re a clean head and a new head. Perhaps it was because this was new.
8	anonymous	I didn't read through the entire rules - skimmed it and read the areas I needed info on.
9	anonymous	None

#### Actions/Recommendations:

A common theme in comments was identified regarding understanding rules around broom foam. This was a new rule introduced by Curling Canada on October 2, 2025. The CAP sent rules to teams in original wording provided by Curling Canada. We expected some uncertainty from players given the rules were introduced less than 30 days before the event.

CAP confirmed with Chief Umpire rules were enforced equally between women's and men's divisions regarding broom foam usage – umpires were flexible, many teams needed to buy broom parts from host club.

CAP will recommend to NSCA board to prepare and execute an online webinar specific to the rules around brooms and to publish a recording of the webinar.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations:** Publish a Broom Webinar within 90 day

#### Question 11:

11. Did the event provide adequate pre-game practice time (only applicable for Tier 1 and Tier 2 events)?

● Yes 18  
● No 0



#### Actions/Recommendations:

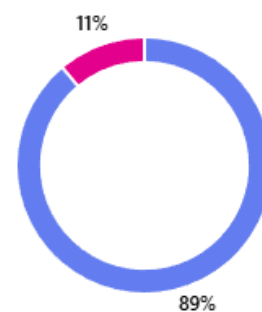
All respondents indicated that practice time was adequate. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

#### Question 12:

12. Did the ice conditions meet the requirement for play? Our standard is to provide at least 4 feet of curl and minimum speed of 14 seconds hog to hog.

● Yes 16  
● No 2



**Actions/Recommendations:** Overall, the responses indicated that the ice was satisfactory to most competitors. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

**Question 13:**

13. Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the practice time and ice conditions of the event:

11 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Ice conditions were very good although there were several flat spots that were especially apparent on ice 4. The amount of curl and the speed were excellent. Ice was clean and ice shed has nice new paint and lighting.
2	anonymous	Ice was great. Was consistent across the sheet and on all the sheets
3	anonymous	Overall the ice conditions were very good. The speed was excellent and consistently 15-15.5 seconds which held up the entire game. The curl was at 4 feet for the first few games but as the event progressed, the ice became more dishd with less curl and only 2-2.5 feet in places.
4	anonymous	The ice was soft at the beginning of the event. This improved after conversation with the ice maker.
5	anonymous	The ice was straight but the slide and the speed were great.
6	anonymous	Ice and rocks were all very good...no issues
7	anonymous	I thought the ice was excellent...plenty of curl and the speed got up to 15 on Friday
8	anonymous	Practice time was fine and the ice was great!
9	anonymous	I found the ice a little soft to begin with. This caused flat spots which affected some of the rocks.
10	anonymous	Practice time clock was not not easy to see from all sheets. Did not always hear when draws to the button began.
11	anonymous	Several pick on both sides in the first game - discussion with the ice maker and conditions were great for remaining games - noticed some shoes of players in not so good condition

**Actions/Recommendations:**

Overall, the feedback indicated that the respondents were happy with ice conditions. It appeared the ice may have been soft at the start of the event, but the ice technician sought player feedback and made adjustments to improve ice conditions. The CAP will recommend hosting sites, as a best practice, seek player feedback during events, and make adjustments if necessary/required.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

#### Question 14

14. Was the event

● too long?	0
● too short?	1
● just right?	17



#### Actions/Recommendations:

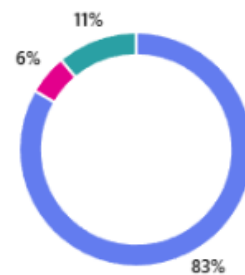
Actions/Recommendations: Overall, the responses indicated that the length of the event was satisfactory to most competitors. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

#### Question 15:

15. Do you believe the format of the championship enabled the best teams to succeed? Please note for events that lead to a national championship, we adopt the format of the national event when possible.

● Yes	15
● No	1
● Unsure	2



#### Actions/Recommendations:

Actions/Recommendations: Overall, the responses indicated the format of the event enabled the best teams to succeed.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

### Question 16:

16. Were the rocks used adequate for competition?

● Yes	18
● No	0
● Other	0



#### Actions/Recommendations:

Overall, the responses indicated that the rocks were adequate for competition. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

### Question 17:

17. Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the length and format of the competition as well as the condition of the rocks:

10 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	The format was fine.
2	anonymous	Perhaps after the two finalists are determined it could be a two out of three format . Just a thought
3	anonymous	The new rocks are very good.
4	anonymous	Not exactly your question, but, the early season timeframe was not great for this event. I understand this is a one-off resulting from unexpected events but just noting this. The winning teams have very little time to prepare for the next step.
5	anonymous	All good!
6	anonymous	The rocks were good. The length and format were fine.
7	anonymous	We had no picks the rocks were excellent
8	anonymous	Only 4 teams and single round robin event. A double round robin or triple knock out would have been more appropriate.
9	anonymous	No comments
10	anonymous	single round robin too short

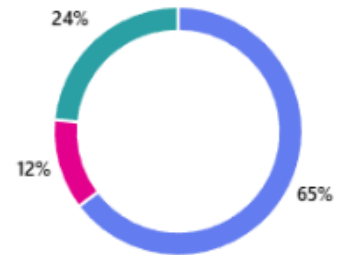
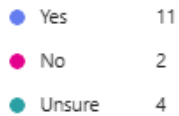
#### Actions/Recommendations:

Overall, respondents said the format and length were fine (“all good”), and the new rocks were praised as very good/excellent with no picks. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

**Question 18:**

18. Were competition rules enforced consistently during the event?


**Actions/Recommendations:**

Most respondents indicated that the rules were enforced consistently. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

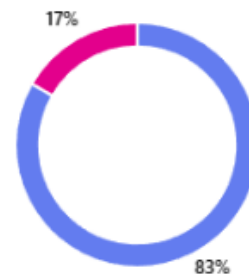
**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**



### Question 19:

19. If applicable, were the timing clocks accurate for your games?

● Yes	15
● No	3
● We didn't using Timing Clocks	0



#### Actions/Recommendations:

Although we strive for perfection, we're satisfied a significant majority of the respondents said the clocks were accurate. We recommend that Umpires notify teams to report timing inaccuracies between ends for correction.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: By next Provincial Championship**

**Question 20:**

20. Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the officiating during your event:

- See remarks as above regarding brooms. There was an unfortunate incident on the men's side regarding the LSD. It was difficult to hear the official and on that particular situation none of the curlers (both men and women) heard the one minute announcement. All but one threw with less than 15 seconds remaining with one curler missing the opportunity altogether. Every effort should be made to ensure that all curlers hear the warnings. I am not condoning the actions of the curler, just making the committee aware that the official(s) could have been louder.
- Instructions were made very clear to participants
- Broom heads/foams/sleeves were only inspected before pre comp practice and not before every game. Non compliant foams could have easily been used without being observed.
- Overall well organized and executed. Only exception is it was difficult to hear the head umpire clearly which led to some players being on the ice when they shouldn't be as they couldn't hear him. Could have been more flexibility from the umpire in letting players stand on the ice while waiting for practice as backboard space was very tight. He may have thought players were ignoring his instructions when in fact we couldn't hear him.
- In some cases maybe a little stricter than needed for this particular event? I'm sure you will hear more about this from other competitors.
- The chief umpire escalated an event when in my opinion there was an opportunity to de-escalate the situation. The final result was a one game suspension for a player based on a strict interpretation of the rules. The umpire did have a fairly autocratic style throughout the event, in my opinion.
- The officials worked hard. Sometimes you could not hear the instructions from the main official.
- Issue where Team Fox had one LSD removed from play because it was not delivered within the one minute time limit. Seems all three players throwing this session were hesitant to throw as they did not hear the announcement to proceed. Player whose draw was removed got upset and cursed toward the official and was then tossed out of the game! Seemed excessive, considering all three throwing teams hesitated?
- I do believe the clocks were a bit inaccurate not sure if the people knew what they were doing
- We could not hear the official announce when it was time to throw for the draw to determine hammer.
- The ice shed was noisy and it was hard to hear the officials making announcements like last minute in practice, last stone draw etc. Team reps were not called to desk before each draw it was up to them to go and record the LSD throwers or line up changes.
- A team member (not from our team) was ejected during one of the games. I'm not sure that a 'warning' might have been a more appropriate action.
- During our round robin pregame practice for game two, there was a umpire situation that I feel should be brought forward as a learning matter. As our team finished the pregame practice, we got prepared for the first rock DTB to be thrown and waited for the announcement. It seemed like a long wait and we looked over and saw the teams on the adjacent sheets not throwing either. Then sheets three and four began to throw and we threw our stone within 5-10 seconds of those teams. When our rock entered the rings the head umpire said remove the rock - you did not deliver in time. When I indicated to the umpire we did not hear it he said - "I said it", I indicated again that we did not hear him. This time he said in an what I would consider an aggressive load tone - "I YELLED IT!" When the thrower asked what was happening and was informed, the thrower of our team yelled a foul language comment to the umpire and was subsequently ejected from the game. I want to be clear that I do not condone any foul or abusive language to an official. I am a retired 40 year soccer referee at the highest level having refereed at provincial and national competitions across Canada. The decision of the umpire was correct. I would bring forward the following comments as constructive comments as a learning experience for the officiating crew. 1. The umpire's position when informing the throwers of the DTB was at the home end facing the glass and in this case behind a support pillar between ice two and ice three. After the practice - the team throwing on sheet four asked us what happened and we told them we did not hear the umpire and ran out of time. They indicated they did not hear it either. Recommendation - face the players throwing the rock and ensure information is heard. 2. There should have been a recognition that no sheet was throwing - from my experience DTB throws happen very quickly after the announcement - officials should have recognized something was wrong. Recommendation - awareness something is wrong. 3. There was no collaboration from the umpire to any other officials once they were informed that we did not hear the announcement - a decision of this significance should have been discussed. Recommendation - collaboration prior to making this major decision. 4 - When the umpire was provided a second time by me in a calm manner the Umpire, in my opinion, raised their voice in aggressive elevated voice triggering which I would suggest triggered an emotional response from my teammate. Recommendation - Calm approach when providing decisions. As a former high level official, the teaching for officials should be to have a goal that the game is remembered for the play of the game - not the officiating. Unfortunately, this was not the case as throughout the weekend after this situation, there were several comments from at least one other team that I would consider were passive aggressive to this official. Comments yelled across the room or when arriving at the club - saying things like "Is there anything you need to tell us", "Is there anything I need to know" in a voice that all could hear. There was no action by the umpire to these comments. This is called the continuation effect. As I always do, before I left

the facility for home, I thanked the officials and recognize the importance of volunteers and officials and pass this information along as opportunity for learning.

#### **Actions/Recommendations:**

Two main themes were identified from the comments:

1. Communication & audibility of announcements - many teams struggled to hear officials—especially LSD/“one-minute” calls—due to a noisy shed and poor positioning/projection, leading to confusion and missed throws despite generally clear written/oral instructions.
2. Officiating style & de-escalation - Several comments describe an overly strict approach (e.g., immediate ejection, one-game suspension) where a warning or calmer delivery might have defused situations and kept focus on the game.

Recommendations:

1. Purchase a portable microphone system for deployment at provincial events that the host site does not have an ice shed audio system. At host sites with ice-shed audio systems, use these systems for announcements. Recommend Officials be proactive, if a team appears to miss an announcement, and time is running out, approach the team and confirm they have heard the announcement.
2. Our expectation is that umpires enforce the Rules as written to ensure a fair and level field for every participant. Clear, consistent enforcement, delivered in a calm, respectful manner, supports both safety and sportsmanship. As a principle of equity, teams that meet established timelines and procedures should not be disadvantaged by exceptions granted to teams that do not. Accordingly, posted time limits and other mandatory provisions will be enforced uniformly (e.g., if five of six teams are on time and one is late, the applicable consequence will be applied to the late team). Where the rulebook provides discretion, officials will prioritize communication and, when appropriate, a brief reminder or warning before escalating. Where the rulebook does not allow discretion, penalties will be applied consistently and without favor.

#### **Timeline to Implement Recommendations:**

1. A portable sound system will be purchased and available for the next provincial championship.
2. A debrief with the Chief Umpire will be conducted before the next championship event to review this feedback.

### Question 21:

21. Please provide any other relevant information that you want the Competition Advisory Panel (CAP) to consider:

5 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	All was fine
2	anonymous	I thought the draw did not represent the seeding. The first bye was given to Team #2 and thought it should have been given to Team #5.
3	anonymous	Thanks for all your hard work on these championships, much appreciated!
4	anonymous	Digby did an amazing job at hosting.
5	anonymous	time started too quick after opposition rocks were thrown. need to timers not to rush on starting the clocks. Always feel rushed

#### Actions/Recommendations:

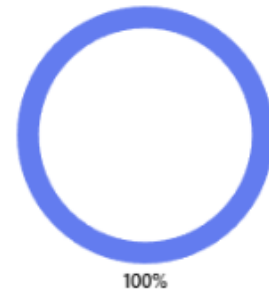
No new comments, similar comments addressed in previous questions regarding seeding and timing. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

**Question 22:**

22. Was adequate time and seating provided to team coaches?

● Yes 15  
● No 0


**Actions/Recommendations:**

Respondents were happy with the seating provided. No action or recommendations required; continue with the current process.

**Timeline to Implement Recommendations: N/A**

## Appendix 1: Feedback Survey Questions

1	Name or Team Affiliation: (removed from results)
2	Your role in the event: (removed from results)
3	Was the Official Draw Document received in a timely manner? Note: we send the document to the team contact listed in Curling IO - the team contact is to share the document with their respective team and coach.
4	Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the timelines of receiving the Official Draw Document:
5	Did the Official Draw Document provide all the necessary information required?
6	Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the thoroughness of the information contained in the Official Draw Document:
7	Were the rules for the event forwarded to you? Rules are sent to the Team Contact person listed in Curling IO when registering for an event
8	Did you read the event rules before the event?
9	Were the event rules clear?
10	Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the thoroughness and clarity of the official rules of the event:
11	Did the event provide adequate pre-game practice time (only applicable for Tier 1 and Tier 2 events)?
12	Did the ice conditions meet the requirement for play? Our standard is to provide at least 4 feet of curl and minimum speed of 14 seconds hog to hog.
13	Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the practice time and ice conditions of the event:
14	Was the event too long, too short, just right.
15	Do you believe the format of the championship enabled the best teams to succeed? Please note for events that lead to a national championship, we adopt the format of the national event when possible.
16	Were the rocks used adequate for competition?
17	Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the length and format of the competition as well as the condition of the rocks:
18	Were competition rules enforced consistently during the event?
19	If applicable, were the timing clocks accurate for your games?
20	Please provide any relevant feedback regarding the officiating during your event:
21	Please provide any other relevant information that you want the Competition Advisory Panel (CAP) to consider:
22	Was adequate time and seating provided to team coaches?