



2027 Men's and Women's

Ultimate Qualifier

Date: Dec 10 to 13, 2026 (Thursday to Sunday)

Location: Amherst Curling Club

Registration Deadline: November 5, 2026 at 12:00 pm (noon)

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

Provincial Championship

Date: January 12 to 17, 2027 (Tuesday to Sunday)

Location: Mayflower Curling Club

STOH: February 12 to 21, 2027 at Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown PE

BRIER: February 26 to March 7, 2027 at SaskTel Center in Saskatoon SK

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 Advisory Panel (CAP). 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 Championships. 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. PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

- 1) The provincial championship is a limited entry, qualification event.
 - a) Both the Men's and Women's provincial championships are limited to eight (8) teams.
 - b) If more than nine (9) teams register, there will be a Qualification playdown held.
- 2) Teams **MUST** register 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 in Curling IO prior to the registration deadline.
- 3) For more information regarding team registration or team rosters consult [Competition Guide, Sections 7.1-7.5.](#)
- 4) All players and alternate must be:
 - a) Canadian citizens.
 - b) A member in good standing of a NS Curling affiliated curling club but not necessarily the same club.
- 5) There is no minimum age requirement.
- 6) 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 by December 1, 2026.
 - c) 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.
- 7) For more information regarding eligibility rules consult [Competition Guide, Section 12.2.](#)
- 8) A delivery stick is NOT allowed.

B. HOSTING INFORMATION

ULTIMATE 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 prior to each draw.
- 8) House buttons should be the same size and triangulation measurement points established.
- 9) No opening ceremony.
- 10) 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 six (6) days – Tuesday to Sunday.
- 3) NS Curling will appoint a Head Ice Technician for the event.
- 4) NSCA stones have been assigned for this event.
- 5) The event will be officiated.
- 6) Games will be timed.
- 7) There will be a pre-competition practice scheduled.
- 8) There will be a pre-game practice prior to each draw.
- 9) House buttons should be the same size with triangulation measurement points established.
- 10) An opening ceremony/reception will be held. This is a mandatory event for teams. For more information regarding team obligations consult [Competition Guide, Section 6.4.](#)
- 11) Games will have live scoring on the NS Curling website.
- 12) Games will be live-streamed

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.

- a) 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) New in 2026/27 season:

On-ice Coaching Bench

- a. **The Competitions Advisory Panel (CAP) in consultation with the Head and Deputy Umpires, will review the venue environment and develop a process that will benefit all the stakeholders without interrupting the flow of the game(s) in progress.**
- b. While a game is in progress, the coach and/or alternate player may, if the venue layout allows, communicate with their team from their position on the Coach Bench. **This only applies when a team is the non-delivering team.** Yelling is not allowed, and the team must not distract the delivering team and must be aware of the player positions as the non-delivering team.
- c. The coach bench for the Team throwing dark-coloured handles will be at the away end. The Team throwing light-coloured handles coach bench will be at the home end. No advertising or branding of any sort is allowed on the bench.
- d. Coaches may watch (no sound allowed) the broadcast / stream on the coach bench IF all games on that draw are broadcast/streamed. Teams will be required to use their own internet connection (using the buildings WIFI is not allowed) and subscription. No sound is allowed (also not using headsets). If there is any violation, the team Coach will be removed for that game from the bench. If a violation happens a 2nd time, the Coach will be removed from the bench for the remainder of the event. Please remember, if a Coach is not on the bench (i.e. removed for the event), they have no Field of Play access for pre-game practice, time-outs, evening practice etc.
- e. Calling or receiving a call on a coach's cell phone is not allowed at the coaches' bench. If a coach needs to make or answer a call, they must leave the playing area.
- f. NS Curling reserves the right to make alternative seating arrangements for coaches depending on the facility.
- g. For more information regarding coaching consult [Competition Guide, Sections 8.1-8.4.](#)

E. CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

Men's - first Canadian championship held in 1927; first World championship held in 1959.

Women's - first national championship held in 1961; first World championship held in 1979.

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. In 2022 the Women was an open provincial championship. 2023 had an open provincial championship for both the Men's and Women's. Beginning in 2024, one qualifier event for both 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

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Men	8	12	12	13	Covid	Covid	12	12	11	11
Women	8	7	8	8	11	Covid	12	12	12	10

Date	Jan 6-11	Jan 14-19	Jan 17-21	Jan 25-30	Dec 8-13	Jan 25-31	Jan 20-26	Jan 21-27	Jan 8-14	Jan 24-29
Host	Halifax CC	Halifax CC	Halifax CC	Bluenose	Berwick	Bluenose	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Mayflower

F. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION PROCESS

- 1) All teams, including those deemed eligible for a provincial championship pre-qualifying berth, **MUST** register for the Provincial Ultimate Qualifier by the registration deadline (Nov 5th, 2026) and must have paid the championship entry fee and Curling Canada Competitor Fees. **NEW for 2026/27. Teams who play in the Provincial Ultimate Qualifier and do not advance to the provincial championship will receive reimbursement for \$400 of their entry fee.**
- 2) **Where 9 or fewer teams have entered:** No Qualification event will be held. Teams will be ranked based on CTRS points as of December 16, 2026, **with the Top 8 ranked teams advancing to the provincial championship. The 9th team is eliminated with a full entry refunded.** Ties in points will be broken by random draw unless the tie is for the eighth (8) and final qualifying spot where the following tiebreaker will be used: the team who participated in the most CTRS qualifying events during the current season will qualify. If a tie persists, the team with the highest CTRS points in the previous season will qualify. The 8 provincial qualifying teams will be seeded 1-8 in the provincial draw. Note: Teams with zero (0) CTRS points are still eligible for a qualifying berth.
- 3) **Where 10 or more teams have entered:**
 Pre-qualification: A maximum six (6) teams can pre-qualify for the provincial championship
 - a) Up to two (2) provincial championship pre-qualifying criteria berths will be awarded to eligible teams: The two (2) finalist teams from the 2026 Provincial Championship (champion and runner-up). The team must retain 3 of 4 original players; alternate players do not qualify as an original team player.
 - b) The top four (4) CTRS points leaders on November 24th, 2026, who do not pre-qualify as a 2026 provincial finalist team identified above.
 - c) If a provincial championship pre-qualifying berth is not awarded, that berth will be awarded based on CTRS points.
 - d) A team accepting a provincial championship pre-qualifying berth is ineligible to compete in the Ultimate Qualifier.
 - e) The final two (2) qualifying berths will be determined by a Qualification event, the Ultimate Qualifier
- 4) **Qualification Event - Ultimate Qualifier (previously Open Qualifier)**
 Two (2) teams will qualify for the Provincial Championship
 The A qualifier will be seeded 7th in the provincial draw; The B qualifier will be seeded

PRE-COMPETITION PRACTICE

- 1) There will be a pre-competition practice scheduled.
- 2) Teams are not required to participate. As a matter of courtesy please let the Executive Director know if you are not going to attend your practice session.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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 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.](#)

PLAYOFFS – TEAM RANKING PROCESS (Provincial Championship)

- 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. a 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, Sections 13.1-13.6.](#)

MAINTENANCE OF CURLING STONES DURING COMPETITION (Provincial Championship)

- 1) During an event, any maintenance on the stones will only be done with NS Curling approval.
- 2) The recommendation for maintenance after the start of a competition must come from the Head Ice Technician. Approval must then come from the Chief Umpire after consultation with the Competitions Manager.
- 3) Maintenance will only be completed:
 - a) to maintain competition quality playing conditions which is a minimum of four (4) feet of curl at a 2 oz clip.
 - b) when there is a minimum of two days remaining in the round robin. This timing restriction is to ensure the stones are played for several games prior to the start of the playoffs.
 - c) to return the stones to the condition they were in at the start of the competition. It is not intended to significantly alter the conditions for the athletes.
- 4) When maintenance takes place, teams playing on the next draw will receive an extra three (3) minutes in their pre-game practice. Additional practice will not be organized.
- 5) The teams will always be informed when any maintenance work is done on the stones.