



## **Curling Club Championship Eligibility Requirements Revised October, 2023 for Clarification Purposes Only**

**(Effective Beginning with the 2024 NB Curling Club Championships)**

**(Note: The CCC Eligibility Requirements are currently under review by Curling Canada. Although not expected to impact the 2024 CCC Playdowns, should that happen, Curling NB will immediately send e-mail notification to NB clubs, post on Curling NB Facebook & Instagram pages and on our website.)**

The principles of this event target non-elite teams (grassroots club curlers) who regularly compete in their clubs. Teams, however, are no longer limited to being the club champion to be considered eligible. Previous changes now allow Member Associations control of the number of entries within their jurisdictions. (See “9)” below for further details.)

### **Curling Club Championship Eligibility Requirements**

We trust all curling rinks will respect the intent and spirit of the Curling Club Championships by engaging their members to participate and to represent their curling club in any process leading to the provincial/territorial championships and ultimately, leading to the Canadian Curling Club Championships. The event was created for true club-based teams. The objective is to support the development of grassroots curling across Canada.

Here are the eligibility requirements for the events leading to the national Curling Club Championships. Curling Canada reserves the right to exclude any team that violates the spirit and intent of this event as it pertains to the rules below.

1) Participating curling clubs **must be** affiliated with its Provincial / Territorial Association. They must be in good standing with all applicable dues to the Association paid in full.

2) Any competitor (including 5<sup>th</sup> players and spares) **must be** members in good standing of the

same affiliated curling club for the duration of the process. **Example:** you compete during the 2020-21 season to win your 2021 provincial/territorial event. You win the right to represent your province/territory at the 2021 Canadians which would be held during the 2021-22 season. All team players, including 5<sup>th</sup> players or spares, must be members of the same club during both seasons. Note: residency exemptions may be granted if a player moved from one province/territory to another in the off season between events.

- 3) A competitor **is not** required to be a Canadian citizen.
- 4) A **5<sup>th</sup> player** may compete at any level of competition including the Canadian Championships. If they play, they must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8. **No exceptions.** Any 5<sup>th</sup> player costs will be the responsibility of the team.
- 5) Once a four-person team enters the club championships playdowns, a maximum of one (1) spare from the club is allowed **at any level of competition.** A team can use an eligible spare for **any game** played assuming the spare is eligible based on Rule 2). The spare may be a different player each game. The spare must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones 3-8. **No exceptions.** A team with a registered 5<sup>th</sup> player **may not** add a spare or replacement player.
- 6) **Prime Directive**
  - (a) A team must field **three of the four** original players for each game played at any level of the Curling Club Championships. "Original" means signed up and registered for league play in their club, **OR** signed up and registered for a special curling club championship qualifying event created within their club (with the permission of their Member Association). If an "Original" team only has three players, then those three players must be on the ice at all times up to and including the national championships.
  - (b) If any team had only three players all year or in the special qualifying event, the team may pick up an eligible spare who must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8.

- (c) If a team has four players, they are good to go.
  - (d) If a team has five players during the season, one player must be designated the “5<sup>th</sup>” who, if added to the line-up, must play lead and sweep stones 3-8, **OR** they may choose four (4) players from the 5 person team to participate as a four-player **only** team in the competition.
  - (e) If they have six or more players during the season, the team must declare four (4) players for the competition. They can pick up an eligible spare at any level and the spare must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8, **OR** they can choose five players to advance but one player must be designated the “5<sup>th</sup>” who must play the traditional lead position throwing the first two stones of **any and all ends** for their team and sweeping delivered stones numbered 3-8.
- 7) All four (4) competitors and any 5<sup>th</sup> or spare player **must be** bona fide residents within the geographic area of the Member Association they are intending to represent unless granted an exception by the Member Association.
  - 8) A competitor can participate for only one affiliated curling club in one season. If you lose out while playing for one club, you cannot then play for another club unless the Member Association accepts the competitor as a 5<sup>th</sup> player or spare player.
  - 9) Each Member Association reserves the right to limit the number of teams qualifying from each club based on capacity and scheduling limitations. **Curling NB** will allow up to two eligible teams per gender from each affiliated curling club. A club representative will be required to complete, sign and submit a Declaration of Eligibility for each team.
  - 10) Teams must qualify under one of the following conditions:
    - (a) A formal Club Championship league, or;
    - (b) A special Club Championship event
  - 11) In each of Rule 10 (a) or (b), all team players must have been members of the same club,

have played in regular club league(s) at that same club but not necessarily together. This is the club all team players can register with to compete together in the Curling Club Championships.

- 12) The use of the delivery stick by any competitor (and any 5<sup>th</sup> player or spare) **is acceptable** subject to the Curling Canada-Rules of Curling: **Rule 19: Curling With A Delivery Stick**.
- 13) Teams who play **exclusively** in leagues where teams from different clubs compete and whose players may not be members of the club where the league is hosted are **ineligible to compete** in the Curling Club Championships. For example: teams playing only in a city-wide super league or major league but not curling in a regular club league. **Please** contact your Member Association if you have any concerns.

14) **EXEMPTIONS**

Each four-person team **is allowed** to have one (1) player who, during the **previous three (3) curling seasons**, has participated in the Canada Cup; and/or the Continental Cup; and/or the Canadian U 21; and/or the Canadian Seniors; and/or the Tournament of Hearts; and/or the Brier; and/or the Canadian U18; and/or the Canadian Wheelchair; and/or any Canadian Trials or Pre-Trials event; or any provincial/territorial event leading to these events. (See item (ii) below) This same player may have played in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Grand Slam event in the previous three (3) curling seasons.

**Example 1:** Craig Savill plays in a Wednesday night league with three friends but he also represented Ontario last season at the Brier with his elite team. Craig and his Wednesday night team of friends are eligible for the Curling Club Championships.

**Example 2:** Team Smith played in and ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2022 NB Scotties. They then went on to win the 2022 NB Club Championships. The team was eligible to participate in the 2022 NB Club Championships, without exemption, because all players either did not compete in 2019, 2020 or 2021 NB Scotties Championship events OR they did compete and none finished within the “final rank minimum to disqualify”. (See NB Thresholds below)

**However, further to Example 1 above, the other three (3) team members of**

**Craig's Wednesday team cannot have played in:**

- (i) **Any** Tier 1 Grand Slam event in the previous three (3) seasons (they **could** have played in a Tier 2 Grand Slam).
  
- (ii) **Any provincial / territorial championship leading to** the Canada Cup; and/or the Continental Cup; and/or the Canadian U21's; and/or the Canadian Seniors; and/or Tournament of Hearts; and/or the Brier; and/or the Canadian U18's; and/or the Canadian Wheelchair; and/or any Canadian Trials or Pre-Trials event **in the previous three (3) seasons and regardless of finish OR**, unless their final ranking is less than the threshold established by the respective Member Association (see NB Thresholds below). **Note: any player can have played in any of these events (4) four years or more back in time (regardless of finish) and not affect their eligibility for the Curling Club Championships.**

**Threshold:** Therefore, if you **are not the "one"** player on the team without any restrictions, you and/or the other three players and any 5<sup>th</sup> players and any spares may have competed in any provincial/territorial championship **in the previous three (3) seasons** and still be allowed to play in the Curling Club Championships as long as you don't match or surpass the thresholds set by your province. (See NB Thresholds below)

**NB Thresholds:**

**Final rank minimum to disqualify is:** Qualified for the championship round of a provincial playdown that disqualified teams through a preliminary event or finished in the top three at an open provincial championship. (See the list of events that fall under this threshold in sections 14, 14(i) & 14 (ii) above. Ex: All players in both the Provincial & National Mixed and Mixed Doubles can participate in the Curling Club Championships without restriction.)

- 15) 5th players at the Canada Cup; and/or Canadian U21's; and/or Brier; and/or Tournament of Hearts; and/or Canadian Seniors; and/or Canadian U18's; and/or Canadian Wheelchair; and/or any Canadian Trials or Pre-Trials event are considered as **not to have played** in those events.

- 16) Competitors (**as individuals or as a team**) who competed in the **previous season's** National Curling Club Championships are **ineligible** to compete the following season **at any level** including 5<sup>th</sup> players or spares. For example, if you were a participant at the **2019 National Curling Club Championship**, then you cannot participate at any level to compete in the **2020 National Curling Club Championship**. Or, if you have won the right to represent your province/territory at the 2019 National Curling Club Championship, you cannot play at any level for the right to compete in **2020**.
  
- 17) A minimum of three (3) team players must be **a minimum of (19) nineteen years of age** or over as of June 30<sup>th</sup> immediately prior to the National Championships. Example: Must be at least 19 years of age on June 30, 2023 if competing in November 2023 National Championships.
  
- 18) Any team will be allowed **one (1) player** under the age of 19 years of age whom shall be considered a “minor” and must be accompanied by a legal guardian (or a 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. The team is responsible to cover all costs associated with legal guardian who is not a team member.
  
- 19) Curling Canada has the sole authority to grant exceptions to these rules in extraordinary circumstances. Any request must be submitted by the Provincial / Territorial Member Association. Curling Canada will consult with the Provincial / Territorial Member Association and will notify them within five (5) business days in writing of any decision. The Curling Canada decision may not be appealed.

**NOTE:** Clubs are required to submit a Declaration of Eligibility for each team participating in the Provincial Championship, to Curling NB, on or before the NB Curling Club Championship registration deadline date.