

## AGE GROUP

Age eligibility will align with Curling Alberta's Under-15 category.

*\*Athletes must meet the minimum age of 11 years old at the start of the Games to be eligible for competition.*



## ZONE TEAM COMPOSITION

The maximum team size shall be:

<u>8</u> athletes per zone	(4 males and 4 females per team)
<u>2</u> coaches per zone	(One coach per team – up to 2 females/males )
<u>0-2</u> chaperones*	(Up to two (2) Chaperones per zone *only if needed where coach is different sex than athletes and needed for village)

## FILL POLICY

A Team Fill Policy will be in effect in both the male and female events whereby if one (1) or more teams withdraw they will be replaced as follows:

- First consideration goes to the team or teams that lost the final berth game at the same qualifying event as the team that has withdrawn. If more than one team is equally entitled, then a playoff game will determine the berth. In the event a play-off game is not possible, Curling Alberta's tie-breaking procedure for berth allocation will apply as described in the 2025-2026 Competitor's Guide.

*Fills must be submitted for approval to the Multisport Games Unit by **January 13, 2026**.*

## ELIGIBILITY

For Alberta Games Eligibility Policy information please visit [www.albertawintergames.ca](http://www.albertawintergames.ca).

### Athletes

Each player must meet all age, gender, and residency requirements, and must be a member of a Curling Alberta affiliated curling club but not necessarily the same club. In this case a "Member" defined as follows:

- A curler who has paid a fee known as a "Membership Fee" or equivalent to a Curling Alberta affiliated organization known as a curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent.
- A curler who has paid league dues or similar registration fees to a Curling Alberta affiliated curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent, within which is included a membership fee or an inferred membership privilege in such curling club, curling centre, curling association or equivalent.

### Coaches/Chaperones

*All coaches and chaperones must be at least eighteen (18) years old by the start of the Alberta Games.*

The following coach requirements will apply to the 2026 AWG Curling Competition:

- **NCCP Certification**
  1. All teams must have a coach.
  2. All coaches must be at least 21 years of age as of the beginning of the competition.
  3. Coaches must be fully certified under the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) to at least **Competition Coach** as recognized by Curling Alberta and the Coaching Association of Canada.

Coaches may only coach one team at the AWG Curling Competition (i.e., a coach may not coach in both the male and female events at the same time).

- **Safe Sport** - SafeSport Requirements for all coaches and chaperones by the registration deadline:
  - Must have a clear criminal records and vulnerable sector check from within the last three (3) years, or less if required by your Organization's policies.
  - Must have completed the CAC Safe Sport Training.

*Note: Where a coach or chaperone has been substituted after the registration deadline leading into the Games, they must have the above completed and verified with Mission Staff no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the Alberta Games.*

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## **AFFILIATION**

Athletes must be members of a curling club affiliated with Curling Alberta.

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## **ENTRY AND ZONE PLAYOFF PROCEDURES**

Eight (8) teams per gender will qualify through three (3) Zone Qualifiers (i.e., South, North, and West), each of which will be open to curlers from all Zones. All three Qualifiers will be completed on or before **January 9, 2026**.

The specific dates and host clubs for these Qualifiers will be announced on or before **September 1, 2025**. Berths to the AWG will be distributed among the Qualifiers as per the method described in Curling Alberta's AWG Category Appendix to be available on the Curling Alberta website.

Only teams consisting of (4) four players and (1) one coach meeting the described requirements are permitted to enter. All entries will be submitted through the Curling Alberta website. The team entry fee will be \$225.00.

To determine the date and location of Zone playoff s/selection please visit [www.curlingalberta.ca](http://www.curlingalberta.ca) or <https://albertawintergames.ca>.

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## **ALBERTA GAMES REGISTRATION FEE AND DEADLINE**

All Zone team athletes, who qualify to compete at the 2024 Alberta Winter Games (excluding coaches and chaperones), are required to pay an individual registration fee of \$80.00. This fee will offset the costs related to transportation, accommodation, meals, Zone identification, medals, athlete entertainment and sport competitions. *Information on the collection of this fee(s) will be updated no later than the fall of 2025.*

Please note the registration deadline for Curling is **December 31, 2025**.

## **EVENTS**

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The Alberta Winter Games (AWG) Curling Competition will consist of (8) eight teams per gender, with the identical format used in both the male and female events. Preliminary round play will employ a two (2) pool round robin format (i.e., 2 pools of 4 teams each). Following the preliminary round the teams in each pool will be ranked 1st to 4th based on

- A. win-loss record
- B. head-to-head result(s) if needed, and
- C. aggregate last stone draw distance (LSD), if needed.

The 1st and 2nd ranked teams from each pool will advance to the A Playoffs, while the 3rd and 4th ranked teams from each pool will compete in the B Playoffs. The semi-final play-off matchups will be as follows: A-Playoffs (Pool X 1st vs. Pool Y 2nd, Pool Y 1st vs. Pool X 2nd), B-Playoffs (Pool X 3rd vs. Pool Y 3rd, Pool Y 4th vs. Pool X 4th). The winners of the A semi-finals will advance to the A championship final, while the losers will play in the A consolation final. 3<sup>rd</sup> in each pool will play in the B championship final, while 4<sup>th</sup> in each pool will play in the B consolation final.

The above format will require a total of 6 draws (i.e., 4 in the preliminary round and 2 in the playoffs). The general draw schedule is as follows: Draw 1: Saturday AM, Draw 2: Saturday PM Draw, 3: Sunday AM, Draw 4: Sunday afternoon, Semi-Finals: Sunday PM, Finals: Monday AM.

### Rules & Regulations

With the exception of the rules and regulations included within this document, those laid out in Curling Alberta's Competitors' Guide will apply : <https://curlingalberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CA-Competitors-Guide-Oct-2022.pdf> (to be updated for 2025-2026).

All games in the AWG Curling Competition will be eight (8) ends in duration, plus extra end(s), if needed.

There will be no time clocks used in this event. However, teams will be encouraged by the Umpires to maintain a reasonable pace of play.

Two (2) different players will deliver LSD's prior to each game, with the combined distance which team has hammer in the first end. The teams that practices first will throw both LSD's with the clockwise rotation, while the team that practices second will throw both LSD's with the counter-clockwise rotation. Please note that each player on the team must deliver at least (1) LSD during the Preliminary Round, and that all six (6) draws (i.e., 3 games x 2 draws per game) will be included in the aggregate LSD calculation noted within the tie-breaking protocols.

### Spare Pool

A Spare Pool will be established by January 15 thereby ensuring that substitute curlers can be registered and available for the AWG. This Spare Pool will consist of a maximum of 4 male and 4 female curlers who meet the necessary age and residency requirements for the AWG. Furthermore, to ensure that they are readily available as needed at the AWG, all curlers in this Spare Pool will need to live within

approximately one (1) hour of Cold Lake, unless granted exception. Please note that all spares must be drawn from this Spare Pool.

## **PROTEST PROCEDURES**

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### **On-Ice Protests**

1. The Chief Umpire shall hear and determine appeals of decisions made by teams. The Chief Umpire's decision is final. The rules pertaining to on-ice violations cannot be appealed beyond the Chief Umpire.
2. The Chief Umpire shall be approved by Curling Alberta and the Host Community Sport Chair(s) and is responsible for the rule enforcement and interpretation in all areas covered by the "rules of play".
3. Protests of any other aspect of competition must be submitted within one (1) hour of detection.

## **EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS**

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N/A

## **PROVINCIAL SPORT COORDINATOR**

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## **ZONE SPORT REPRESENTATIVE**

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The Provincial Sport Coordinator indicated above has been appointed by Curling Alberta to serve as the primary contact and leader of the association's participation in the Alberta Games. For any questions about Curling in the Alberta Games, contact your Provincial Sport Coordinator, or visit [www.curlingalberta.ca](http://www.curlingalberta.ca).