

SPORT INFORMATION PACKAGE

CURLING

2011 Canada Games
Halifax, Nova Scotia

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A. HISTORY OF SPORT

There is little evidence to firmly establish the birthplace of curling. Both Scotland and the “low countries” of Europe claim title. The earliest artefacts of the game are from the Scots, while the language common to curling can be traced to dialects spoken by the Flemish peoples of what is now Belgium.

The stages of curling history are best traced by the development of curling stones. The earliest known stones, dating back to the 16th century, were called “Kuting Stones”. There were small niches scrapped into the stones for fingers to grip and hold. Stones were as small as 2 kilograms, or as large as 10 kilograms. In the mid-17th century, handles began to appear with the early versions of curling stones. While handles allowed for greater control when throwing the stones, a wide variation in sizes and shapes of the stones still made it interesting to play. Before the current standard, shapes of stones included cones, ovals, squares, hexagons and others.

Current stones weigh 18 kilograms of granite from the tiny Scottish island of Ailsa Craig was the material of choice for curling stones. Up to the early 20th century, it was the only quarry in the world from which curling stone granite was mined. Veins of suitable granite have now been found in Wales.

Scottish settlers & General Wolfe's soldiers brought the game to Canada around 1760. Unable to find Ailsa Craig stones, Wolfe's troops melted cannonballs and made stones or “irons”. Irons were used in Quebec curling clubs up until the 1950's. Scottish settlers developed a hardwood block with an iron ring as a striking band.

The oldest curling club in Canada is the Royal Montreal club, established in 1807. The first club in Ontario was formed in 1807 in Kingston. The third oldest club in Canada was formed in Halifax in 1824.

The largest growth for curling happened as the game moved west of the Great Lakes. In 1876, Winnipeg formed its first curling club, both Alberta and Saskatchewan formed clubs in 1880, and in 1895 curling reached British Columbia. Today, over two-thirds of the country's curling clubs are located in the four western provinces.

The biggest single change to the game was the development of indoor curling facilities. Harsh Canadian winters forced the game to move indoors, but it also meant an improvement in playing conditions, as the effect of weather conditions was greatly reduced. The subsequent development of “artificial ice” for these indoor clubs meant an extended playing season, a greater proliferation of clubs and many more people being attracted to the sport as participants. In the late 1950's, Canada had over 1500 curling clubs, many of which were located in small rural communities throughout Canada.

Today there are over 1200 curling clubs in every province and territory in the country. While a few “natural ice” clubs remain, the vast majority have artificial ice allowing a typical club to operate from October through to April. The largest club in Canada has 14 sheets of ice under one roof and the smallest only one sheet of ice. Within these clubs, over 1.5 million Canadians curl each winter.

The Canadian Men's Curling Championship, or Brier, has been held every year since 1927, with the exception of 1943-1945. The first Canadian Women's Championship was held in 1961 and Canadian Junior Curling Championships have been contested since 1950 (men) and 1971 (women). Canada has also won more world titles than any other nation in the world - twenty nine men's championships, thirteen women's titles, fifteen world junior men's and eight world junior women's.

On July 21, 1992 the International Olympic Committee formally approved curling's inclusion in the Winter Olympic program, after the sport had been played as a demonstration at the 1932, 1988 and 1992 Games. Curling had, for the first time, full medal status at the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan and Canada won a gold and silver medal. Since Nagano, Canada has gone on to win one gold medal (Torino, Italy), one silver medal (Salt Lake, Utah) and two bronze medals (Salt Lake & Torino) at the Olympic Games.

The 2006 Games in Torino, Italy marked the first year curling was included as a medal sport in the Paralympic Games. Canada won the gold medal at the Games in Torino, Italy.

A more detailed history of the sport in Canada can be found on the Canadian Curling Association website at www.curling.ca

B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS

Curling was first contested at the inaugural Canada Games in 1967 in Quebec City, QC. Below are the ranking of the Provinces/Territories since the inaugural games:

	1967*		1971*		1975*		1979		1983		1987		1991		1995		1999		2003		2007	
	<i>C</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
AB	1	1	-	1	1	10	5	7	5	8	9	2	11	3	8	1	8	3	9	1	9	
BC	-	3	-	-	-	3	10	11	3	4	8	8	1	10	7	2	3	11	5	12	3	
MB	2	-	1	2	2	1	4	6	4	1	1	1	2	5	6	8	1	5	11	11	2	
NB	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	5	9	10	2	11	5	6	3	10	10	2	3	7	6	
NL	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	4	11	9	5	6	10	8	5	3	5	7	7	9	7	
NWT	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	2	12	12	12	5	7	9	12	9	11	8	10	8	12	
NS	3	-	-	-	-	9	2	8	2	2	11	7	8	11	9	11	9	6	4	6	5	
NU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	13	
ON	-	2	2	-	3	6	9	1	1	7	4	4	9	1	4	4	4	4	2	2	1	
PEI	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	10	6	5	6	3	6	4	2	6	12	9	6	3	10	
QC	-	-	-	3	-	11	7	9	8	6	7	9	4	7	1	5	2	10	1	4	8	
SK	-	-	3	-	-	5	6	3	7	3	3	10	3	2	10	7	7	1	8	5	4	
YK	-	-	-	-	-	8	3	12	10	11	10	12	12	12	11	12	6	12	12	10	11	

C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM

Each team will be composed of four male and four female competitors.

D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY

All curling will be governed by the Canadian Curling Association's Rules of Curling.

Pre-playoff Competition Format

Pre-playoff competition will consist of one pool of six (6) and one pool of seven (7) teams in a round robin competition. Each team will meet all the other teams in its division in eight (8) end games. In the event a game is tied after the regulation eight (8) ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played to determine a winner. The team that has accumulated the most victories in its division will be ranked first, the next highest will be ranked second, and so on. The coach of the losing team may concede the game after a minimum of five (5) ends played and with the approval of the head official.

Seeding

Seeding is determined by the Canadian Curling Association and is based on the results of the 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 Canadian Junior Curling Championships.

MEN

POOL A	POOL B
1. Prince Edward Island	2. Alberta
4. Saskatchewan	3. Ontario
5. Quebec	6. Manitoba
8. New Brunswick	7. British Columbia
9. Nova Scotia	10. Newfoundland Labrador
12. Northwest Territories	11. Yukon

WOMEN

POOL A	POOL B
1. Manitoba	2. Alberta
4. Saskatchewan	3. Ontario
5. British Columbia	6. Prince Edward Island
8. Nova Scotia	7. Newfoundland Labrador
9. New Brunswick	10. Quebec
12. Northwest Territories	11. Yukon

Playoffs

Following the round robin competition, the first two (2) teams of each division will play for the medals while the remaining teams will meet in the following manner to determine their final standings:

Semi-Final

Game # 1
1a vs 2b

Game # 2
2a vs 1b

Finals

Winner Game #1 vs winner Game #2

Winner - Gold
Loser - Silver

Loser Game #1 vs loser Game #2

Winner - Bronze
Loser - 4th

3a vs 3b

Winner - 5th
Loser - 6th

4a vs 4b

Winner - 7th
Loser - 8th

5a vs 5b

Winner - 9th
Loser - 10th

6a vs 6b

Winner - 11th
Loser - 12th

The last place team in Pool A will be ranked 13th overall.

E. EQUIPMENT & TERMINOLOGY

Backline – The line across the ice at the back of the house. Stones, which are over this line, are removed from play.

Balance – Something each curler must achieve while playing on the ice.

Biter – A stone that just touches the outer edge of the circles.

Blank End – An end in which no points have been scored.

Brush – A device used to sweep the ice in the path of a moving stone.

Burned Stone – A stone in motion touched by a member of either team, or any part of their equipment. Burned stones are removed from play.

Button – The circle at the centre of the house.

Centre Line – The line that goes the length of the sheet down its middle.

Counter – Any stone in the rings or touching the rings, which is a potential point.

Curl – The amount a rock bends while travelling down the sheet of ice.

Delivery – The action of throwing a curling stone that usually involves a curler sliding forward to propel the stone toward the target.

Draw Weight – The momentum required for a stone to reach the house or circles at the distant end.

End – A portion of a curling game that is completed when each team has thrown eight stones and the score has been decided.

Four Rock Rule – The first four stones (the two lead stones from each team) of an end cannot be removed from play if they come to rest within the free guard zone.

Guard – A stone that is placed in a position so that it may protect another stone.

Gripper – Rubber material on non-sliding foot to help curler keep balance on ice. Majority of curlers will wear two grippers when sweeping.

Hacks – The footholds at each end of the ice from which the stones are delivered.

Handle – The curved part on top of the rock where the curler holds on to the stone.

Heavy – A rock delivered with a greater force than necessary.

Hit – A take-out. Removal of a stone from the playing area by hitting it with another stone.

Hog Line – A line 10 meters from the hack at each end of the ice. A player must release the stone before the leading edge of the stone reaches the near hog line. If the stone is not released it will be stopped and removed from play.

Hogged Rock – A stone that does not reach the far hog line and it must be removed from play.

House – The rings or circles toward which play is directed consisting of a 12-foot ring, 8-foot ring, 4-foot ring and a button.

In-Turn (Clockwise) – The rotation applied to the handle of a stone that causes it to rotate in a clockwise direction and curl for a right-handed curler.

Lead – The first player on a team to deliver a pair of stones for his/her team in each end.

Out-Turn (Counter Clockwise) – The rotation applied to the handle of a stone that causes it to turn and curl in a counter-clockwise direction for a right-handed curler.

Pebble – A fine spray of water applied to a sheet of curling ice before commencing play.

Raise – When one stone is bumped ahead by another stone.

Release – The point at which the hand puts the turn on the rock.

Roll – The movement of a curling stone after it has struck a stationary stone in play.

Running Edge – The small circular band on the bottom of the rock.

Second – The curler who delivers the second pair of stones for his/her team in each end.

Sheet – The playing surface where a curling game is played.

Shot Rock – At any time during the end, the stone closest to the button.

Skip – The player who determines the strategy, and directs play for the team. Generally, the skip delivers the last pair of stones for his/her team in each end.

Slider – Slippery material placed on the sole of the shoe, to make it easier to slide down the ice.

Spare – An alternate player or substitute.

Sweeping, Brushing – The action of moving a brush back and forth in the path of the moving stone.

Take Out – Removal of a stone from the playing area by hitting it with another stone.

Tee Line – The line that passes through the centre of the house parallel to the hog line and back line.

Third, Vice-Skip or Mate – The third player on a team to throw two stones in each end. Generally this player acts as the skip when the skip is delivering his/her stones and assists with strategy decision.

Weight – The amount of force given to the stone during the delivery.

F. ELIGIBILITY

Competitors shall be a maximum of 17 years of age on December 31, 2010. They will be born on and since January 1, 1993.

G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM

Each team will meet all the other teams in its division in eight (8) ends games and they shall be ranked within their division by wins and losses; then by head to head results; then by Skill Based Team Ranking System.

H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL RANKING - TIE BREAKING:

Should ties exist at the conclusion of round robin play, they shall be dealt with in the following manner:

Teams that complete the round robin with identical win-loss records will be ranked on the head to head result and if necessary, with the Skill Based Team Ranking System.

Teams tied for a medal playoff position shall only be eliminated from the playoffs by playing a tie breaker game(s). The only playoff position that shall involve tiebreaker games is the second playoff position.

The head official shall make all final decisions with regard to the administration of tie-breakers.

When teams are tied for a playoff position, the round robin win/loss record of those teams against each other shall be used to determine their ranking and therefore how the teams are positioned in the playoff draw or tie-breaker game(s).

When the ranking of teams cannot be determined by comparing round robin win/loss records against the teams involved in the tie, the ranking shall be determined by applying the Skill Based Team Ranking System.

I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT

Curling equipment manufacturers continued to improve and develop new equipment for curling. Sliders have been developed to improve performance through increasing balance, improving direction and increasing body speed. Brushes have become lightweight and stronger which allows increased speed and decreased friction.

J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT

Officials are present to make rule interpretations and to ensure that the playing field is level.

Head Official

- Responsible for the entire officiating system during the competition and has the final word should a supervising official's ruling is being questioned
- Interacts with the governing body of the competition, the media and the sponsors

Supervising Officials (On-Ice)

- Responsible for supervision of all activity at their end of the ice.
- Responsible for answering any on ice problems
- Notify stats and media of any line up changes
- Supervising all practices
- Monitoring timing display units for accuracy
- Rendering decisions on disputes
- Performing all measures, including those in the Free Guard Zone & backline measure
- Removing hog line violation rocks from play if required

Supervising Officials (Timing)

- Responsible for all interaction between the supervising officials and timing officials
- Responsible for all activities of the timing officials and assisting with if they have problems
- Liaise between the timing officials, the on-ice supervising officials and the Head Official
- Supervising timing of pre-game practices

Game Observer

- Primary responsibility is on-ice observation
- In case of a dispute over an incident on the ice, the supervising official or head official will look to the game observer for a report on the incident
- Charts every shot of each end
- Other duties may include posting the score, tossing the coin at the start of the game, storing equipment, or keeping an official scorecard

Timing Official

- Responsible for the operation of the time clock on the sheet to which they are assigned.

K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

All Curling matches will take place at the Mayflower Curling Club. Mayflower is located just three (3) kilometres from the Athletes Village and consists of four (4) sheets of ice.

L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE

Curlers in Canada (2008)

- 857, 000 people play curling in Canada
- 368,000 are regular curlers (10 or more times per year)
- 119, 000 are occasional curlers (3-9 times per year)
- 370,000 (are social curlers (once or twice per year)

A profile by region

Atlantic (New Brunswick, Newfoundland Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island)

79,000 curlers

Quebec

90,000 curlers

Ontario

262,000 curlers

Prairies (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta)

305,000 curlers

British Columbia

120,000 curlers

Competitive Structure

Junior Women's Canadian Championship – Under 21

Junior Men's Canadian Championship – Under 21

Men's Canadian Championship – 19 years and older

Women's Canadian Championship – 19 years and older

Canadian Curling Trials - no age restrictions

Senior Men's Championship – 50 years and older

Senior Women's Championship – 50 years and older

Mixed Canadian Championship (2 men & 2 women) – 19 years and older

** All Championships lead to a World or Olympic competitions*

COACHES AND OFFICIALS (Sept 2008)

	Coaches*	Officials
AB	4252	1152
BC	3472	1380
MB	2392	824

NB	1018	332
NL	686	86
NS	1340	366
NT	409	73
NU	36	0
ON	8905	1226
PE	418	141
QC	1740	526
SK	2732	1720
YK	183	79

* Certified NCCP Level 1, 2, 3 & 4 (completed technical, practical & theory)

M. ATHLETES TO WATCH FOR

Thomas Scoffin and Sarah Koltun both from Team Yukon lead the pack in national experience. Both curlers competed in the 2007 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse. In addition, Thomas and Sarah have appearances at the Junior Canadian Championships in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and will once again represent their provinces in 2011.

N. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI

Athlete	Province	Canada Games	Olympics	Worlds
LaDawn Funk	Alberta	1987		1990 Junior (Gold)
Blayne Iskiw	Alberta	1995		1997 Junior (Bronze)
Marc Kennedy	Alberta	1999	2010 (Gold)	2009 (Silver) 2008 (Gold)
Brad Kuhn	British Columbia	1999		2000 Junior (Gold)
Ryan Kuhn	British Columbia	1999		2000 Junior (Gold)
Kerry Burtnyk	Manitoba	1979		1995 (Gold)
Denise Cormier	New Brunswick	1991		1991 Junior
Heather Smith-Dacey	New Brunswick	1991		1991 Junior
Suzanne Leblanc	New Brunswick	1991		1991 Junior
Lesley Hicks	New Brunswick	1991		1991 Junior
Melissa (McClure) Adams	New Brunswick	1995		1998 Junior (Gold)
Brigitte McClure	New Brunswick	1995		1998 Junior (Gold)
Bethany Toner	New Brunswick	1995		1998 Junior (Gold)
Nancy (Toner) MacDonald	New Brunswick	1995		1998 Junior (Gold)
Carol Webb	New Brunswick	1999		2002 Junior
Andrea Kelly	New Brunswick	2003		2005 Junior (Bronze)
Jodie DeSolla	New Brunswick	2003		2005 Junior (Bronze)
Kristin MacDiarmid	New Brunswick	2003		2005 Junior (Bronze)
Ryan Sherrard	New Brunswick	2003		2004 Junior (Bronze)

Jared Bezanson	New Brunswick	2003		2004 Junior (Bronze)
Mark Nichols	Newfoundland Labrador	1995	2006 (Gold)	2001 Junior (Gold)
Mike Adam	Newfoundland Labrador	1999	2006 (Gold)	2001 Junior (Gold)
Stacie Devereaux	Newfoundland Labrador	2003		2007 Junior (Silver)
Stephanie Guzzwell	Newfoundland Labrador	2003		2007 Junior (Silver)
Sarah Paul	Newfoundland Labrador	2003		2007 Junior (Silver)
Colleen Jones	Nova Scotia	1979		2004 (Gold), 2003, 2002, 2001 (Gold), 1999 & 1982
Monica (Jones) Moriarty	Nova Scotia	1979		1982
Paige Mattie	Nova Scotia	2003		2004 Junior (Silver)
Alison Goring	Ontario	1983		1990 (Bronze)
Kristin Holman	Ontario	1983		1990 (Bronze)
Cheryl McPherson	Ontario	1983		1990 (Bronze)
Rachel Homan	Ontario	2007		2010 Junior (Silver)
Emma Miskew	Ontario	2007		2010 Junior (Silver)
Lynn Kreviazuk	Ontario	2007		2010 Junior (Silver)
Suzanne Gaudet	Prince Edward Island	1995		2001 Junior (Gold), 2002 Junior
Stefanie (Richard) Clark	Prince Edward Island	1995		2001 Junior (Gold)
Robyn MacPhee	Prince Edward Island	1999		2001 Junior (Gold), 2002 Junior
Brett Gallant	Prince Edward Island	2007		2009 Junior (Silver)
Adam Casey	Prince Edward Island	2007		2009 Junior (Silver)
Anson Carmody	Prince Edward Island	2007		2009 Junior (Silver)
Amy Nixon	Saskatchewan	1995	2006 (Bronze)	
Drew Heidt	Saskatchewan	2003		2007 World Universiade Games

O. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS

Nova Scotia Team of Colleen Jones, Kim Kelly, Mary-Anne Arsenault and Nancy Delahunt is the only women's team to win four Canadian Women's Championships 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, in a row and five championships within six years; 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004.

Alberta Team of Randy Ferbey, David Nedohin, Scott Pfeifer and Marcel Rocque, is the only men's team to win three Canadian Men's Championships in a row; 2001, 2002, 2003 and four championships within five years; 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005.

Manitoba Team of Jennifer Jones, Cathy Overton-Clapham, Jill Officer, Dawn Askin/Cathy Gauthier (2005 only) is one of the only women's teams to win three Canadian Women's Championships; 2008, 2009, 2010 in a row and four championships within six years; 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010.