SPORT INFORMATION PACKAGE
CURLING

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A. HISTORY OF SPORT

Origins of Curling

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 about 18 kilograms, and 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.

Curling in Canada

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 this 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 1950s, Canada had over 1500 curling clubs, many of which were located in small rural communities.
Today there are about 1000 curling clubs spread across 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 12 sheets of ice under one roof and the smallest has only one sheet of ice. Within these clubs, also known as curling centres, up to a million Canadians curl each winter.

Curling Championships

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 - 34 men’s championships, 15 women’s titles, 17 world junior men’s and nine 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 four gold medals (Torino, Italy; Vancouver, B.C., Canada; Sochi, Russia), two silver medals (Salt Lake, Utah; Vancouver, B.C., Canada) and two bronze medals (Salt Lake, Utah; Torino, Italy) 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 has won the gold medal at every Paralympic Games since its inclusion (Torino, Italy; Vancouver, B.C.; Sochi, Russia).

A more detailed history of the sport in Canada can be found on the Canadian Curling Association website at www.curling.ca. Information about Canadian results at international curling events can be found on the World Curling Federation website at www.worldcurling.org.

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:

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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**

The preliminary 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 ten (10) end games. In the event a game is tied after the regulation ten (10) 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 eight (8) ends played and with the approval of the Chief Umpire.

**Seeding**

Seeding is determined by the Canadian Curling Association and is based on the results of the 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 Canadian Junior Curling Championships.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MEN</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Ontario</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Nunavut</td>
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</table>

Following the round robin competition, the first three (3) teams of each division will play in the medal round while the remaining teams will meet to determine their final standings.

**Championship Round**

A1
OTHER SEEDING GAMES

7 - 13 Placing Rounds:

Following the main round robin, teams finishing A4, A5, B4 and B5 will play shortened round robins to determine positions 7-10.

Seeding Pool #1 (teams finishing 4th and 5th in each pool)
Day 5 - B4 v A5 B5 v A4
Day 6 - B4 v A4 B5 v A5
Day 6 - B4 v B5 A4 v A5

Positions 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be based on the results of this four team round robin. Ties will first be broken by who beat whom. If still unsolvable, the accumulated distance from the draws to the button for hammer in the three rounds will break ties.

Seeding Pool #2 (teams finishing 6th and 7th in each pool)
Day 5 - B6 v A6
Day 6 - A7 v A6
Day 6 - B6 v A7

Positions 11, 12 and 13 will be based on the results in this three team round robin. Ties will first be broken by who beat whom. If still unsolvable, the accumulated distance from the draws to the button for hammer in the three rounds will break ties.

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. Also called an anti-slider when placed on the sliding foot.

*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 which freezes 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, 2018. They will be born on and since January 1, 2001.

G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM

Each team will meet all the other teams in its division in ten-end (10-end) 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:

Following the conclusion of the round-robin competition, the top three (3) teams in each division shall participate in the medal round. The highest-ranking team based on round robin position will have choice of stone handle colour and pre-game practice time in any playoff game. If the round robin positions are the same, they will be ranked by the draw shot distance for the round robin portion of the event.

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.
Eye on the Hog is a system that provides impartial hog-line judging for the sport of curling. It uses innovative technology to detect a magnetic strip frozen into the ice at the hog line and a bare hand touching the handle. Circuitry in the handle turns on green lights after a valid release or flashes red lights if a violation has occurred.

The system is activated when the rock is tilted for cleaning. Circuitry turns off when not in use to extend the battery life to over 150 games. Operation of the touch sensor is confirmed by green lights that flash when the handle is not touched. Lights are off during delivery to prevent distraction.

J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT

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

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

Game Umpires (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

Time Clock Supervisor
- Responsible for all interaction between the Game Umpires and Time Clock Operators
- Responsible for all activities of the Time Clock Operators and assisting if they have problems
- Liaise between the Time Clock Operators, the Game Umpires and the Chief Umpire
- Supervise 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 Game Umpire or Chief Umpire 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

Time Clock Operator
• 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 Pidherney Centre just minutes from the Athletes Village and consists of twelve (12) sheets of ice, but only 10 will be in play for the competition.

L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE

Curlers in Canada (source - PMB 2014)

• 765,000 people play curling in Canada
• 267,000 are regular curlers (10 or more times per year)
• 148,000 are occasional curlers (3-9 times per year)
• 350,000 are social curlers (once or twice per year)

A profile by region

Atlantic (New Brunswick, Newfoundland Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island)
26,000 curlers

Quebec
119,000 curlers

Ontario
273,000 curlers

Prairies (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta)
280,000 curlers

British Columbia
66,000 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
- Mixed Doubles Curling Trials Championship (1 man & 1 woman) – no age restrictions
- Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championship - no age restrictions**
- Canadian University Curling Championships – ages 17-26

** championship does not lead to a World or Olympic competition

COACHES AND OFFICIALS (November 2014)

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

M. ATHLETES TO WATCH FOR

*Joshua Miki is the third on Team BC and the coach of the team is his dad, Bryan Miki, a member of the 2000 Brier and World championship team skipped by Greg McAulay. Bryan Miki played second on that BC team. Bryan picked up the game from his dad, Fuji, a former Canadian mixed champion, so it’s three generations of Mikis who have fallen in love with the sport.

* Saskatchewan skip Skylar Ackerman and her team of third Madison Johnson, second Chantel Hoag and lead Samantha McLaren competed in the recent 2019 Canadian Junior Curling Championship in Prince Albert as the host team. They replaced Team Yukon which could not ice a rink for the national championship. McLaren was named a first-team all-star. Team Ackerman had finished as runners-up at the Saskatchewan Junior and finished as silver-medallists at the 2018 U-18 national championship.

* Ontario’s Bella Croisier, PEI’s Lauren Ferguson, PEI’s Mitchell Schut and BC’s
Dawson Ballard all competed in the 2018 U-18 national championship.

* Saskatchewan boy’s coach Marcia Gudereit played lead on Sandra Schmirler’s team when they won gold at the 1998 Olympics in Nagano. That women’s team also won three Scotties Tournament of Hearts and World Championships.

### N. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI

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<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>2001 (Gold), 1999 &amp; 1982</td>
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<td>Ontario</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2010 Junior (Silver), 2013 Women’s (Bronze), 2014 Women’s (Silver)</td>
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<td>Emma Miskew</td>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2010 Junior (Silver), 2013 Women’s (Bronze), 2014 Women’s (Silver)</td>
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<td>Ontario</td>
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<td>Suzanne Gaudet</td>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
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<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
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<td>Robyn MacPhee</td>
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<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
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<td>Drew Heidt</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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### O. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS


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.
P. TEAM MATCHUPS/RIVALRIES

Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, BC and Nova Scotia are perennially strong contenders across the country.

The first day and first draw of competition features an east-coast battle of NB vs. NS on both the men’s and women’s side. That continues in the afternoon draw as PEI faces NFLD.

On Day 2, Ont plays Sask, both were medallists in women’s play in 2015 and on the men’s side Ont placed 2nd and Sask 4th in 2015.

On Day 3, Alta vs. Man takes the stage in the morning draw in what should be a competitive matchup and TSN will broadcast the afternoon women’s matchup between NS and Ont.

Day 4 heats up for Team BC as it faces Ont and Sask in two premier matchups.