



**Ontario Curling Council**

**Ontario Winter Games 2026**

# ***Ontario Winter Games Qualifier Guide – 2025/26***

**Competition Guide**

**Fours: December 12 – 14, 2025**

**Mixed Doubles:**

**January 9 - 11, 2026**

**Wheelchair – various events**

**Revision A – November 2025**



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# Welcome Message

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Ontario Winter Games Qualifiers 2026.

The Ontario Curling Council (OCC) is the recognized Provincial Sport Organization for amateur curling by the Government of Ontario's Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Our members are Curling Ontario and the Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA). The OCC is responsible for delivery of all Province-wide programs and competitions when events do not lead to a Curling Canada National Championship with representation from both Curling Ontario and NOCA. The Ontario Curling Council is responsible for the Ontario Winter Games, ParaSport Winter Games and Canada Winter Games Events/Qualification Events.

The Ontario Curling Council would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the competition that will ultimately determine the Ontario Winter Games Champions. Qualifiers for both four person games (single gender) and Mixed Doubles will be held across the province. Winners from each qualifying competition (Four Person and Mixed Doubles) from each of the Qualifier locations will advance to the OWG Provincial Competition to be held in Orillia February 20 – 22, 2026, at Barnfield Receptions Centre (four person & Mixed Doubles) and Coldwater Curling Club (Wheelchair Curling).

Qualification for the OWG Wheelchair Curling event will be based on select events, past and future, that have been designated qualifying events

The Ontario Curling Council appreciates the curling facilities who are hosting the provincial qualifiers and the volunteer officials/umpires who will be assisting us with operating each of the events.

Friends and families are encouraged to visit host facilities to take in the action, please respect that outside food and drinks are not permitted within some clubs. Please support our host facilities.

Live scoring will be available at [curlinginontario.ca/compete/scoreboard/occ-scoreboard/](https://curlinginontario.ca/compete/scoreboard/occ-scoreboard/)

# About the Ontario Winter Games

Ontario Winter Games – Orillia 2026

The Ontario Games Program began in 1970 in Etobicoke as a showcase for amateur sport. Over more than five decades, it has grown into Ontario’s largest multi-sport event, celebrating both team and individual disciplines.

Today, the Games bring together provincial-level athletes aged 12 to 18, who qualify through a regional selection process managed by their respective Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs). Held every two years, the Games are awarded through a competitive bidding process and supported by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport in partnership with host communities across the province.

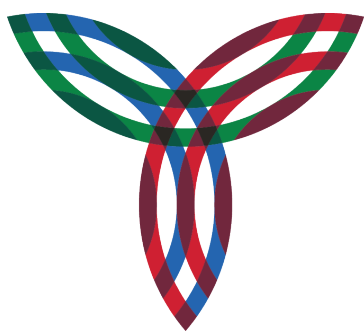
For many young athletes, the Ontario Winter Games represent the pinnacle of their sporting journey. For others, the experience serves as an important stepping stone toward the Canada Games, Pan Am Games, or even the Olympic stage.

## Winter Games at a Glance

- 2,500 participants
- 17 sports
- 4 days of competition
- Athletes aged 12–18 years
- \$5 million in estimated economic activity
- 700+ volunteers

## Games Ontario

The Ontario Winter Games is supported by the Government of Ontario, through its Games Ontario program. This program delivers or supports multi-sport events, including the Ontario Winter and Summer Games for youth, the Ontario 55+ Summer and Winter Games and the Ontario Parasport Games.



# Orillia 2026

Ontario  
Winter Games

Jeux d’hiver de  
l’Ontario

## Glossary of Terms

**Curling Ontario** –formerly known as “CurlION”

**NOCA** – Northern Ontario Curling Association

**OCC** – Ontario Curling Council

**PSO** - Provincial Sport Organization

**OWG** – Ontario Winter Games

**Qualifier** – Ontario Winter Games Provincial Qualifier

**LSD** - Last Stone Draw

**MD** - Mixed Doubles

## Ontario Curling Council Contact/Event Coordinator

Manager, Programs and Operations:

Erin Jarvis

erin@ontcurl.com

416-617-5409

*Erin or her designate, will be responsible for all pre-event inquiries or on-site OFF-ice issues.*

## Qualification Process for Ontario Winter Games

The OCC will host five OPEN qualifiers for **four person teams** and five separate OPEN qualifiers for **mixed doubles**. Four person teams may enter any ONE of the five qualifiers, Mixed Doubles teams may enter any ONE of the five mixed doubles qualifiers. Entry fees payable to the OCC will apply for all qualifiers.

One winning team per gender (fours) and one mixed doubles team from each of the qualifiers will advance to the Ontario Winter Games. The qualifying location that has the most entries will send two teams to the Ontario Winter Games (finals teams). If multiple locations have the same high number of entries then a random draw will be held to determine which of the sites sends two entries. This applies to both Mixed Doubles and Fours.

Athletes may compete in only ONE discipline at the Ontario Winter Games. Therefore, Athletes who win the Men’s and Women’s provincial qualifier events are **INELIGIBLE** to play in the Mixed Doubles event. We do not want athletes who have already qualified for the OWGs potentially eliminating another eligible athlete from the competition.

If an athlete wants to enter both the Four Person Discipline and the Mixed Doubles Discipline, the OCC will permit withdrawal from the Mixed Doubles Discipline should the athlete qualify for the Ontario Winter Games in the Four Person Discipline. Sufficient time has been allowed between the four person qualifiers and the mixed doubles qualifier to allow athletes who did not qualify to enter the mixed doubles qualifier.

## Qualifier Location- Four Person – December 12 – 14, 2025

	Location	Start Date*	Address
A	York Curling Club	December 12, 2025	220 Muriel Street, Newmarket, ON
B	Midland Curling Club	December 12, 2025	474 King St, Midland, ON
C	Niagara Falls Curling Club	December 12, 2025	5801 Morrison Street, Niagara Falls, ON
D	Kakabeka Falls Curling Club	December 12, 2025	ON-17, Kakabeka Falls, ON
E	Horne Granite Curling Club	December 12, 2025	11 May St S, New Liskeard, ON

\*Friday start dates are dependent on the total number of teams registered at a particular qualifier site and will be communicated to the entrants after registration has closed.

## Qualifier Locations - Mixed Doubles – January 9 – 11, 2026

	Location	Start Date*	Address
A	Brockville Country Club	January 9, 2026	1548 King Street West, Brockville, ON
B	Lakefield Curling Club	January 9, 2026	12 Nicholls St, Lakefield, ON
C	Niagara Falls Curling Club	January 9, 2026	5801 Morrison St, Niagara Falls, ON
D	Kakabeka Falls Curling Club	January 9, 2026	ON-17, Kakabeka Falls, ON
E	McIntyre Curling Club	January 9, 2026	85 McIntyre Rd, Schumacher, ON

\*Friday start dates are dependent on the total number of teams registered at a particular qualifier site and will be communicated to the entrants after registration has closed.

**NOTE: Some host sites do not allow outside food in the facility. Fourth end break snacks must NOT be prepared in the club and must arrive at the club already prepared and in containers. Site Co-ordinators will ask people who violate these rules to take their food outside the club.**

## Qualification Events – Wheelchair Curling

A total of **six (6) wheelchair curling teams** will qualify to participate in the 2026 Ontario Winter Games. The qualification process is structured to ensure regional representation while rewarding top performance across key events. Select events, past and future, have been designated qualifying events for the Ontario Winter Games for Wheelchair Curling.

### Qualification Breakdown:

- **2 teams** from clubs affiliated with **Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA)**
- **2 teams** from clubs affiliated with **Curling Ontario**
- **2 additional teams** from **either region**, based on overall performance  
*(If fewer than two eligible teams enter from NOCA, any unfilled spot(s) will be reallocated to the next highest-ranked team regardless of region.)*

### Qualifying Events:

1. **Top Ontario team from the 2025 Sticks, Stones & Wheels Bonspiel**
2. **Top Two Ontario team from the 2025 Ontario Wheelchair Curling Open**
3. **Remaining 1(or 2) spots** will be awarded to the highest-finishing eligible teams at the **2025 Ontario Wheelchair Curling Provincial Championship**

### Additional Details:

- Teams are **not required to participate in a separate OWG qualifying event**.
- There will be no separate qualifier registration fee; instead, teams will pay an Ontario Winter Games registration fee upon qualification and confirmation of participation.
- To maintain team eligibility, **at least three (3) of the four players** must be the same as those who competed in the qualifying event.

# Competition General Rules

## Age Eligibility

For four person teams, athletes must be under 18 years of age as of June 30, 2025

For mixed doubles, athletes must be under 20 years of age as of June 30, 2025

*Verification of age may be required at any stage of competition.*

## Residency

The Ontario Winter Games Qualifiers are open to Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

The Ontario Winter Games Qualifiers are open to athletes who are members in good standing of Curling Ontario or NOCA.

An athlete's permanent domicile or actual residence must be located, for at least the 180 days prior to the first game of the Qualifier, within the recognized boundaries of the Province of Ontario. An athlete can have only one domicile.

An athlete attending school on a full-time basis outside of Ontario during the year of the Ontario Winter Games shall be permitted to compete for the Ontario Winter Games. Any athlete attending school on a full-time basis outside of Ontario, but who plan to play in the Ontario Winter Games – must make it known to Erin Jarvis, (by email [erin@ontcurl.com](mailto:erin@ontcurl.com)) prior to the first game of the Qualifier. This applies to both Four person and Mixed Doubles disciplines.

## Composition of Teams - All Disciplines

Each athlete must be a member of an affiliated club and have paid dues to an OCC Member Association (Curling Ontario or NOCA). Team members DO NOT have to be a member of the same club, or the same Member Association. **All teams must declare their players (regardless of discipline) who will play in the Qualifier, and the same players will advance to the OWGs should they be successful.** In the event of a catastrophic injury or extenuating circumstances where a player is unable to play in the Ontario Winter Games Qualifier or Ontario Winter Games, a substitution of one player may be permitted however these circumstances will be managed on a case-by-case basis. Any cases of extenuating circumstances MUST be reported to Erin Jarvis ([erin@ontcurl.com](mailto:erin@ontcurl.com)) immediately for a ruling on how the case will be handled.

## Roster Confirmation

One planned substitute per team will be allowed at the OWG Qualifiers and they will be managed by exception. That is, before a planned substitution is permitted the team must get approval from the Manager Programs and Operations, Erin Jarvis ([erin@ontcurl.com](mailto:erin@ontcurl.com)) prior to the start of the qualifier. The original player who was substituted for will not be allowed to return to play in the qualifier.

The planned substitute will be required to have a profile on file with the OCC prior to the start of the qualifying event.

Any substitutes will require fully completed Sideline profile.

**NOTE: If a team is granted a planned substitute, that player WILL NOT be allowed to accompany the team or play at the Ontario Winter Games should the team be successful in advancing. Only the original four players that were registered will be allowed to advance to OWG's.**

Any known changes to a team from Qualifier to OWG must be communicated to Erin Jarvis ([erin@ontcurl.com](mailto:erin@ontcurl.com)) by 12:00 pm on December 1, 2025. Only one member of the team may be changed from Qualifier to OWGs, or the team will forfeit their spot at the OWGs. If a team wishes to make a roster change between qualifiers and OWG they must get prior approval from Erin Jarvis ([erin@ontcurl.com](mailto:erin@ontcurl.com)) and that player must have a profile on file with the Ontario Curling Council.

## Four Person Specific

Due to capacity limits at the Ontario Winter Games (athlete quota) – fifth players will not be permitted in the OWGs. Fifth players (substitutions) will only be allowed if they are pre-approved as described above.

In the event of illness/injury, teams will be permitted to play a game with three players.

If a team is unable to field a minimum of three players, they will forfeit any games until the time which they can field a team of three players.

## Mixed Doubles Specific

Due to capacity limits at the Ontario Winter Games (athlete quota) – extra players will not be permitted in the OWGs. Third players (substitutions) will only be allowed if they are pre-approved as described above.

In the event of illness/injury for MDs, teams will NOT be permitted to play with any combination different than the two original, registered team members. Teams will forfeit any games until they are able to field their original team.

## Switching Registration to another Provincial Qualifier Site

Teams will only be permitted to switch locations up until **4:00 pm EST on the Friday before** the registration closing date.

### **Registration Closing Dates:**

Fours: 8:00am - Monday December 1, 2025

Mixed Doubles: 8:00am - Monday December 29, 2025

*All switches will be subject to a 10% fee to cover bank transaction and administration fees.*

## Participation Agreement, Requirements & Safe Sport Training

All coaches and athletes must complete the Ontario Curling Council's Mandatory Safe Sport Program. Safe Sport includes abuse and concussion prevention education. Additionally, all participants must complete the listed requirements in their associated assigned role in **Sideline Learning**.

Create a profile here: [Sideline Learning](#)

Athletes need to select the role: **Athlete (minors) (15-17) or Athlete 18 – 26**

Coaches need to select the role: **Team Coach Portfolio – (Standards and Safe Sport) – U15 – Curling Ontario/NOCA/OCC**

### **All participants (Athletes & Coaches)**

- Informed consent, release of liability, waiver of claims and assumption of risk agreement
- Rowan's Law - Concussion Awareness and Concussion Code of Conduct
- Safe Sport Module - Coaching Association of Canada (online course – NCCP number/registration required).
- Code of Conduct, Harassment and Ethics Policy - OCC/NOCA/CurlION

### **Additional Coach Requirements**

- Criminal Record Check
- Screening Disclosure
- NCCP Coach Certification

Instructions and submissions of Safe Sport training activities are to be done through Sideline Learning. All instructions and requirements can be found in Sideline Learning after a profile is created and a role assigned.

Contact Erin Jarvis – Manager Programs and Operations, with any questions. [erin@ontcurl.com](mailto:erin@ontcurl.com)

## OWG Coaching Requirements

### **Four Person - Qualifier and Ontario Winter Games**

All coaching qualifications are updated in Sideline Learning.

- Coaches must have a valid (within three years) Criminal Record Check on file in Sideline, **AND**
- Coaches must have a completed profile confirming their Safe Sport / Rowan's Law training.

## AND

- Coaches must be at a minimum **Competition Coach “Trained”** (Note: Competition Coach “Trained” = Competition Coach Workshop + Make Ethical Decisions Workshop & Evaluation or Evaluation Challenge)\*.

*\*A one-time exemption will be available upon [request](#). Exemption requests must be filed before the registration closing date (December 1, 2025).*

### Mixed Doubles - Qualifiers

- Coaches are not required at OWG Qualifiers **IF** both athletes are over the age of 18.
- If one athlete is under the age of 18 then either a chaperone (21 years of age or older) or coach must accompany the team. The chaperone will NOT have on ice privileges.
- Coaches or Chaperones must have **completed Participation Agreement, Requirements & Safe Sport Training** as listed above. Chaperones should select the “team coach portfolio” requirements.
- If teams choose to have a coach at Qualifiers, that coach must be at a minimum **Competition Coach-Certified** in order to have on-ice access.

### Mixed Doubles - Ontario Winter Games

- Due to agreements with the Ontario Winter Games committee, teams **MUST** have a **Certified Competition Coach** accompany them to the OWG.
- Requirements and Safe Sport Training as outlined in Sideline required.

## Code of Conduct

- The Team (athletes), Coaches and Parents and any accompanying support personnel are subject to all applicable [Ontario Curling Council’s Policies](#). Including, but not limited to Code of Conduct, Harassment and Ethics, Discipline and Complaints, Dispute Resolution.
- The **Team Coach** will be held directly responsible for the On and Off-Ice Conduct of his/her team.
- The consumption or use of alcoholic beverages, banned drugs (including cannabis) and anabolic drugs by any player or coach at any time during the competition is strictly prohibited. All competitions are considered to have **started twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the first level of play or the scheduled pre-event practice. The competition is considered completed, one (1) hour after the final game is complete.** This rule shall be administered on a no tolerance basis.
- Penalty: In the event of a violation of this rule, the offender will be suspended immediately for the balance of the competition and, depending on the circumstances of the violation, may face further suspension or disciplinary action as per the OCC’s Discipline Policy.
- Curling is based on a code of ethics, good sportsmanship and personal integrity. Display of emotion, broom banging, etc., which results in damage to any area or part of the playing surface, players’ dressing rooms or any other area of the curling club or hotel will result in suspension for one game. Subsequent infractions will result in suspension for the remainder of the championship. You are expected to follow this tradition and the rules of the game throughout the competition.

## OWG Winners

Winners of the Ontario Winter Games do not advance to any national event.

## General Play Rules

All rules will comply with the Curling Canada “Rules of Curling for Officiated Play in 2022-2026” and any issued Moratoriums unless modified in this guide. Ontario Curling Council rules listed in these documents will take precedence over Curling Canada “Rules of Curling for Officiated Play 2022-2026”.

### Clarification Regarding No-Tick Rule (4s only)

If, prior to the delivery of the sixth stone of an end, a delivered stone causes either directly or indirectly, an opposition stone in the Free Guard Zone (FGZ) which is touching the centre line to be moved to an off-centre line position or to a position outside the FGZ, the non-offending team has the option to:

- I. *Remove the delivered stone from play, and replace all stones that were displaced to their positions prior to the violation taking place; or*
- II. *Leave all stones where they came to rest.*

*If the stone is moved from the centre line to an out-of-play position, then the FGZ rule applies.*

***This does not apply for Wheelchair Curling or for Mixed Doubles competitions.***

## Rule Enforcement

The Chief Umpire is responsible for all on-ice rule enforcement and interpretation in all areas covered by the Curling Canada Rules of Curling for Officiated Play, Ontario Curling Council policy or precedent. His/Her decision will be final, except in matters involving disciplinary action, in which case the OCC’s [Discipline Policy](#) will be followed. In an emergency situation, 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. In the event of a dispute regarding a decision made by the Chief Umpire, all disputes shall be immediately addressed by OCC Manager, Programs and Operations, Erin Jarvis or her immediate designate.

## Game Duration - Both Disciplines

Games will be eight (8) ends in duration. A team may concede the game at any time but must concede when it is mathematically impossible for a tie to develop.

## Pace of Play

**Time clocks will NOT be used for Qualifiers therefore the pace of play rule will be in effect.** Players are expected to keep up a reasonable pace of play during competition (approximately 15 minutes per end)

Should any game fall behind the next slowest game by a full end, the game umpire shall inform both skips that they are behind the pace of play and are now subject to the "45 second rule".

Under the 45 second rule, the game umpire will time each rock from when the skip takes control of the house to when the rock crosses the near t-line. Any rock that is delivered after the 45 second mark shall be removed from play.

Each team will be able to use their remaining allowed coach interactions while the 45-second rule is in effect.

The 45 second rule shall be enforced until the game is back on pace.

Where games do not begin at the same time, it will be noted by the game umpire at what point games are starting their first end in relation to the other games already being played. If the game concludes under the Pace of Play rule and an extra end is required, the Pace of Play rule will remain in effect.

## Coach Interactions:

For the Ontario Winter Games Qualifiers and the Ontario Winter Games the **new Curling Canada Coach interaction rules for U18 and U21**. Full Coach Interaction Rules can be found [HERE](#)

## Four Person Specific - Pregame Practice

Prior to the start of a game, teams are permitted seven (7) minutes practice on the same sheet of ice on which they are about to play and ONLY with the stones they will be using in the game.

1. For qualifier events with full round robin competition formats, the team listed first (or on top) will be assigned top of the scoreboard colour handles and will begin practice a minimum of 20 minutes before the scheduled draw time. The team assigned bottom of the scoreboard colour will begin their practice a minimum of 10 minutes before the scheduled draw time.
2. For qualifying events that are not round robin, a flip of the coin will determine the choice of stone colour or practice session.
3. Practice sliding after completion of the practice is not allowed.
4. Players are asked to cool their equipment by standing behind the hack at the home end.
5. Last stone advantage (hammer) in the first end will be decided by a draw to the button, referred to as the Last Stone Draw, or LSD, following each team's pre-game practice.

## Mixed Doubles Specific - Pregame

Each team will be allowed a four (4) minute practice on the sheet they are about to play on prior to their game. During that practice, they may only throw their own colour stones.

1. For qualifier events with full round robin competition formats, the team listed first (or on top) will be assigned top of the scoreboard colour handles and will begin practice a

minimum of 20 minutes before the scheduled draw time. The team assigned bottom of the scoreboard colour will begin their practice a minimum of 10 minutes before the scheduled draw time.

2. For qualifying events that are not round robin, a flip of the coin will determine the choice of stone colour or practice session.
3. Practice sliding after completion of the practice is not allowed.
4. Players are asked to cool their equipment by standing behind the hack at the home end.
5. Last stone advantage (hammer) in the first end will be decided by a draw to the button, referred to as the Last Stone Draw, or LSD, following each team's pre-game practice.

## Last Stone Draw (LSD) both disciplines

1. The team or the official may measure the LSD. Who is responsible for the measuring of the LSD is at the discretion of the event official.
2. LSDs will be delivered towards the home end only.
3. First practice teams deliver the LSD stone in the clockwise rotation and the second practice team delivers the LSD stone in the counterclockwise rotation. If a team delivers the wrong rotation, they receive a maximum distance of 199.6 cm.
4. A maximum of one (1) minute will be given to deliver the LSD. One player delivers a stone with a broom holder and full sweeping to the home end. Stones not delivered within one (1) minute will be assigned a distance of 199.6 cm.
5. All stones finishing in the rings will be measured. Stones that do not finish in the rings are recorded as 199.6 cm.
6. A stone that is moved by a team member, prior to the measure, will be assigned the distance of the next defined circle away from the button.
  - a. On or touching the button = 15.24 cm (29.44 cm if a laser measure is used.
    - i. *note: subject to change if the actual button diameter is more than one (1) foot*
  - b. In or touching the four foot = 60.96 cm (75.16 cm)
  - c. In or touching the eight foot = 121.92 cm (136.12 cm)
  - d. In or touching the twelve foot = 182.88 cm (197.08 cm)
7. Stones that cover the pinhole are recorded as 0.0 cm. If the measuring device can be placed in the pinhole but no measurement is possible, the distance will be recorded as 0.0. (unless triangulation measurements can be done with a laser).
8. The team with the lesser LSD distance has the choice of delivering the first or second stone in the first end. It is assumed that the team winning the LSD will want the last stone in the first end and therefore deliver second. If there is any time that a team does not want the last stone if they win the LSD, then they must inform the Umpire before the start of their practice.
9. For qualifiers, any player may throw the LSD.
10. In the event a team covers the pinhole or does not finish in the rings, then a second team member will be required to immediately deliver a measurable stone, using the

same turn. In the chance of a tie after two throws a coin toss will determine the last stone advantage winner for the first end.

11. Coaches are not allowed to stand on the ice during the delivery of the LSD. The opposing team should remain behind the glass or scoreboard until after the LSD has been delivered and measured. (applies to both practice sessions).

## Last Stone Draw (LSD) Mixed Doubles Specific

12. Teams may throw all eight (8) stones but immediately following the practice they must declare the five (5) stones they will use for the game. From the three remaining stones, teams will designate one as the "A" stone and one as the "B" stone to be placed at the beginning of each end. The "B" stones for both teams will be moved to the far end immediately before the start of the game. The third stone will not be marked by the official and will not be used in any capacity during the game.
13. After the LSD the officials will be responsible for placement of the "A" stone (the stone in front of the rings) based on the ice conditions. If the host club does not have "in ice" markers, the official will place a pylon or marker at the side of the sheet to guide teams for placement of the "A" stone in subsequent ends. The team with the stone in the "A" position shall throw the first stone of the end.

## Coaching

**During the qualifiers**, coaches **may only coach one team in any given discipline** but may coach multiple teams across disciplines. For example, a coach may NOT coach two U18 Men's teams but may coach one U18 Men's team and one U18 Women's team **IF** both teams are playing at the same qualifying site. Coaches who are registered to a team must be physically present at the qualifying site where their team is playing. **IF** a coach is coaching multiple teams at a qualifying event and those teams are scheduled to play at the same time, the coach must declare to the site official **BEFORE FIRST PRACTICE** which team they are coaching. In any given game, coaches will only have on ice access to one team.

Coaches **MAY NOT** coach multiple teams at the Ontario Winter Games. If during qualifiers a coach has been registered to multiple teams and both teams advance to the OWG then each team will have to register a unique individual as their coach to accompany them to the games.

Only the official team coach (as outlined in this Competition Guide) is permitted on the ice. The coach will be allowed access to the ice for pre-game practices and to the coaches seating on ice behind the game sheet.

Coaches are considered to be part of the team and will therefore **march in all ceremonies** and will be introduced with the team.

A Coach must be present during every game of the competition in its entirety (personal breaks are permitted).

## Coach's Fair Play Time-Out

The purpose of the Coach's Fair Play Time-Out is to provide the coach with opportunity to defuse a potentially negative situation regarding a player's on ice demeanour before the situation escalates or to counsel an athlete relative to adhering to the rules of the game. A Fair Play Time-Out cannot be used to discuss strategy. Each coach shall be provided the opportunity to request one (1 minute) fair play time-out per game. The clock will be stopped.

A coach's fair play time-out shall only be implemented with the approval of the Chief Umpire. Only the coach who requested the fair play time-out may access the playing area accompanied by the umpire.

An umpire may recommend a coach's fair play time-out.

## Measurements

Teams will conduct their own measurements when required for all games, including playoffs.

## Pre-Competition Practice

Teams will not be allowed a Pre-Competition practice at any Qualifier site. Teams are not permitted to practice at a Qualifier site **within 24 hours of the start of the competition**, unless they are a regular member of the local club with a regularly scheduled game during that 24-hour window.

## Stone Matching

Stone matching using devices such as 'speed traps' shall not be allowed in this competition.

## Equipment

The current Curling Canada Rules for Officiated Play regarding sweeping and brushes will be in effect.

1. All brush heads, including 'target' brooms must be 'WCF' compliant. It is the responsibility of the players and coaches to ensure compliance. Hair and corn brooms are banned as sweeping devices. Visit the WCF website for the up-to-date code list and for more details: <https://worldcurling.org/brushes/>
2. Each person must declare their one (1) sweeping device that will be used for the entire game and only that player may use that sweeping device. This declaration must take place prior to the first pre-game practice (brooms will not be marked).
3. A player may only change a brush head with approval from the Head Umpire.
4. A sweeping device broken during the game cannot be replaced, except at the sole discretion of the Head Umpire.
5. A substitute entering a game must use the sweeping device of the player they are replacing.
6. All equipment is subject to random inspection. Any equipment causing damage to the ice surface will be removed from play until the equipment is repaired to the satisfaction of the Head Umpire or designate.
7. For penalties related to illegal brush heads please review Curling Canada's Rules for Officiated Play September 2022 - August 2026, Section 11.12.e., on page 43.

8. If a player uses another player's legal brush head, the stone is removed from play.
9. If you suspect a brush violation you must report it to the official immediately. Brush violations reported after the conclusion of a game will not be reviewed.

A note on the [Replacement Brush Sleeves Policy dated October 1, 2025](#): Ontario Curling Council will NOT require teams to begin each game with a new replacement sleeve at any competition in the 25-26 season. It is important to note that Umpires at these competitions have the authority to require a sleeve being replaced if they deem the condition of the equipment is unsatisfactory. If it is not replaced, the brush cannot be used.

## Competition Formats - All Disciplines

### Six or More Teams Entered – Modified Double Knockout

Ontario Winter Games Qualifiers with six or more teams entered will play modified double knockout formats. Teams will self-seed prior to the competition to determine playing brackets. Registered teams will be sent a link on December 2, 2025 to input their seeding estimates. Seeding responses must be returned by December 4, 2025 to be considered. Teams that make the traditional A final (no losses) will play the teams that make the traditional B side (single loss) final in a single knockout semi-final. A1 winner will play B2 winner in one semi-final and A2 winner will play B1 winner in the second semi-final. The winner of the semi-final games will advance to a final game with the winner of that game advancing to the Ontario Winter Games.

#### **Stone Selection, Pre-Game Practice and Last Stone Advantage - Playoffs**

In playoff games, last stone advantage and choice of rock colour will be awarded to the team with fewer losses prior to the start of playoffs.

In games where teams have an equal number of losses and either did not play against each other prior to playoffs or are tied in head-to-head record, the accumulated LSD will be used to determine choice of first practice OR choice of stone colour. The team with the lower accumulated LSD will get the choice of first practice OR stone colour. Both teams will throw a Last Stone Draw to determine hammer in the first end in the identical manner as in the pre-playoff games.

### Five or Four Teams Entered - Single Round Robin

Ontario Winter Games Qualifiers with five or four teams entered will play a single round robin with the top two teams advancing to a single knockout final.

If there is a tie for first place at the conclusion of the round robin, the final standings will be determined by the head-to-head record between the tied teams. If the tie cannot be broken by head-to-head, then the tied teams will be seeded based on the LSD results. The team with the lowest accumulated LSD will advance to the final and the second and third place team will play a tiebreaker to determine which team will advance to the final.

If after determining the first-place team as described above, there is a three-way tie for second place that cannot be broken by head-to-head records between the remaining teams, then teams will be seeded according to their LSD. Second place will be awarded to the team with the lowest accumulated LSD among the tied teams. Third place will be awarded to the team with the next lowest accumulated LSD among the tied teams and those two teams will play a

tiebreaker game to determine who advances to the final. All other teams involved in the tied situation will be eliminated. There will be NO tie breaker games to determine third place.

If there is a two-way tie for second place and the teams have split their round robin games, then a tie breaker game will be played to determine second place and advancement to the final. The winner of the final game will advance to the Ontario Winter Games.

#### **Stone Selection, Pre-Game Practice and Last Stone Advantage - Pre-Playoff**

First and second practice will be assigned in the event schedule for each round robin game. The team listed first in the schedule will play with the rock colour shown at the top of the scoreboard. The team listed second in the schedule will play with the stone colour shown at the bottom of the scoreboard. During the round robin, each player will deliver a minimum of one (1) stone to determine last stone advantage in the first end.

#### **Stone Selection, Pre-Game Practice and Last Stone Advantage - Playoffs**

The team with the better win/loss record in round robin play will be awarded last stone advantage **and** choice of stone colour in any playoff games.

When the pre-playoff record of the two teams involved in a playoff game is the same, the team with the better head-to-head record during the round-robin shall have choice of either last stone advantage in the first end **or** stone handle colour.

### **Three Teams Entered – Double Round Robin**

Ontario Winter Games Qualifier with three teams entered will play a double round robin with the top two teams advancing to a single knockout final. If there is a tie for second place at the conclusion of the round robin, the final standings will be determined by the head-to-head record between the tied teams.

If teams have split their round robin games, then a tie breaker game will be played to determine second place and advancement to the final. If there is a three-way tie and seeding cannot be determined by head-to-head records, the cumulative LSD of all teams will be used to determine seeding for playoffs. The team with the lowest cumulative LSD will advance directly to the final and the remaining two teams will play in a tie breaking game with the winner advancing to the final. The winner of the final game will advance to the Ontario Winter Games.

#### **Stone Selection, Pre-Game Practice and Last Stone Advantage - Pre-Playoff**

First and second practice will be assigned in the event schedule for each round robin game. The team listed first in the schedule will play with the rock colour shown at the top of the scoreboard. The team listed second in the schedule will play with the stone colour shown at the bottom of the scoreboard. During the round robin, each player will deliver a minimum of one (1) stone to determine last stone advantage in the first end.

#### **Stone Selection, Pre-Game Practice and Last Stone Advantage - Playoffs**

The team with the better win/loss record in round robin play will be awarded last stone advantage **and** choice of stone colour in any playoff games.

When the pre-playoff record of the two teams involved in a playoff game is the same, the team with the better head-to-head record during the round-robin shall have choice of either last stone advantage in the first end **or** stone handle colour. If the head-to-head record is tied then the team with the lower cumulative LSD will get choice of either last practice **or** stone handle

colour. Both teams will throw a Last Stone Draw to determine hammer in the first end in the identical manner as in the pre-playoff games.

## Two Teams Entered – Best 2 of 3

If an Ontario Winter Games Qualifiers event has 2 teams entered, the teams will play a best 2 out of 3 series of games. The first team to win 2 games will advance to the Ontario Winter Games.

### **Stone Selection, Pre-Game Practice and Last Stone Advantage - Pre-Playoff**

In events where a best 2 of 3 series is played, first and second practice and rock colour will be assigned in the first 2 games. In all subsequent games teams will conduct a coin toss with the winner given the choice of first or second practice OR choice of stone colour. The LSD will be used to determine the last stone advantage in the first end of all games.

## **Declaration of Stone Selection, Pre-Game Practice and Last Stone Advantage – Playoffs - All Competition Formats**

The declaration of last stone or stone handle colour shall be made within 15 minutes of being asked to do so by the official. Failure to comply shall result in a set of stones being assigned. Upon the conclusion of each playoff game the same process shall be implemented again.

All playoff games shall be played with the stones from the sheet assigned. Stone handles shall not be changed from one set of stones to another.

## **Team Meetings**

At least one team member and the coach shall attend a mandatory meeting with the Chief Umpire approximately 45 minutes prior to the team's first game of the event. At this time any questions your team may have on the draw, officiating or rule interpretations will be discussed.

The penalty for missing the team meeting is forfeiture of last stone advantage for all games in the round robin.

## **Late Team Arrivals**

Teams (minimum 3 players and coach for four person, 2 players and coach for mixed doubles) who do not arrive in time to start their games are subject to Curling Canada rule 16. (4) Game Duration and Postponement (Rules for Officiated Play). Illness, accident or extenuating circumstances will not be considered unless a sufficient number of teams are involved, thus making it impossible for the competition to commence or continue (this decision will be made by the Competitions and Development Coordinator). If the team arrives too late to participate in the Last Stone Draw for their game, they will deliver the first stone of the first end and will record a distance of 185.4cm (199.6) for the LSD for that game.

## **Dress Standards**

Teams are not required to have matching on-ice apparel for the Ontario Winter Games Qualifiers. Teams ARE required to have matching on-ice apparel for the Ontario Winter Games if they advance.

All individuals who access the playing area must ensure that their footwear is clean at all times and may be denied access to the playing area by the umpire if their footwear is not deemed appropriately clean.

Teams will be allowed to wear any number of sponsors' crests with no restriction on size. Any cresting or logo which is deemed to be in bad taste or demeaning will, at the discretion of the Chief Umpire or Event Coordinator, be removed or censored.

Violation of any aspect of the dress code will result in the offending player being suspended until the violation has been corrected – Curling Canada Rules of Curling for Officiated Play (Miscellaneous Rules).

## Post Competition - Winning Teams

The teams who advance to the Ontario Winter Games will be emailed an Ontario Winter Games package with information regarding the requirements for participating in the Ontario Winter Games. Teams will be required to complete a registration with Games Ontario. Deadlines for completing registration will be strictly enforced.

## Use of Electronics

Teams may not use any electronic communication device unless previously approved by the Chief Umpire. This includes the use of one-way mics and electronic watches must have the communication feature disabled ("do not disturb" on).

## Social Media

Ontario Winter Games and Ontario Winter Games Qualifiers are a celebration of athletics in Ontario and in an effort to spread the word about the Games, participants in the playdowns are encouraged to follow and use the official social media platforms.

## Connect with the Ontario Winter Games

<https://www.facebook.com/Orillia2026/>

<https://www.instagram.com/orillia2026/>

Participants in the playdowns leading to the Ontario Winter Games should exercise caution regarding their online presence. The social media effort is directed at celebrating the Games and their influence on Canadian society. Issues and complaints regarding any aspect of the games should be dealt with directly with game umpires/event coordinators rather than in a public platform. Competitors are asked to use their best judgement before posting possibly contentious thoughts online.

## Anti-Doping

Competitions at the Ontario Winter Games and playdowns leading to the Games are run under the rules that govern anti-doping in Canada. Athletes that compete to advance to the Ontario Winter Games are subject to those rules.

The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) is the custodian of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP); the set of rules that govern anti-doping in Canada. The CADP consists of several components such as in- and out-of-competition testing, education, medical exemptions, and the consequences of doping violations. The CADP is compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code and all international standards.

## Additional Supports and Resources

- The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) [AthleteZone](#) is a hub of resources and information for athletes and their support personnel.
- The [Global DRO](#) provides athletes and support personnel with information about the prohibited status of specific substances based on the [current WADA Prohibited List](#).
- Physicians and medical personnel are encouraged to use the CCES [Medical Exemption Wizard](#) for targeted medical information.
- Read more about the [Canadian Anti-Doping program](#).
- The [World Anti-Doping Agency](#) works towards a vision of a world where all athletes compete in a doping-free sporting environment.

For additional resources and more about anti-doping, please contact the CCES:

- Email: [info@cces.ca](mailto:info@cces.ca)
- Call toll-free: 1-800-672-7775
- Online: [www.cces.ca](http://www.cces.ca)

## Appendix A – Revision History

Revision A - November 16, 2025

## Appendix B – [Coach Interaction Rules \(updated Nov 2025\)](#)