



ONTARIO CURLING ASSOCIATION



RULES SUPPLEMENT 2009 - 2010

July 1, 2009

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN OCA COMPETITIONS:

It is a condition of participation in any competition provided by the Association that the participant does so at his/her sole risk and that the Association shall not be liable in any case for any loss, damage, or injury resulting from or in connection with such participation.

GENERAL RULES GOVERNING OCA COMPETITIONS:

The OCA will use the rules found in the Rules of Curling for Officiated Play in the 2008-2010 CCA Official Rulebook with the following exceptions and clarifications:

Events convened by a distinct and separate committee (e.g. Timbits, Gore Mutual Schoolboy & Schoolgirl, The Dominion Provincial Stick Bonspiel and The Dominion Club Championship) are governed by the rules of that committee as applied by that committee.

Eligibility and Registration

1. A player shall be eligible to play in an OCA competition whether or not it leads to a Canadian championship provided he/she is a member of the OCA member club he/she is representing immediately prior to and at all times during the competition (for women's competitions only, team personnel must be OCA members but do not have to be members at the club they represent, **provided that the club consents**), and such member is either
 - (a) a bona fide resident within the geographical jurisdiction of the OCA by September 1 immediately prior to the curling season and at all times thereafter to the end of the competition. (A bona fide resident is defined as one who lives in a house or dwelling located within the jurisdiction of the OCA).

The only exception to this clause shall be members of the Canadian Forces, university or college students and others who apply for and receive an exemption from the OCA Board of Directors; or

- (b) a resident outside the geographical jurisdiction of the OCA but within forty (40) kilometers of the OCA geographical jurisdiction provided such residency is established by September 1 immediately prior to the curling season and remains in effect at all times thereafter to the end of the competition; and
 - (c) a player may only compete for one curling association in the same competition in the same curling season. (Note: Mixed playdowns that are held in March/April are considered to be held in the following season) A player representing more than one association may face suspension; and

- (d) all competitors playing in events leading to the Canadian Men's Championship and the Canadian Women's Championship **must** be residents and citizens of Canada
- 2. Notwithstanding rule #1, the members of OCA member clubs located in the United States of America are eligible to play in all OCA competitions, except a competition leading to a sanctioned Canadian championship.
- 3. For Mixed competitions, teams are composed of two (2) male players and two (2) female players who are members of the club they represent.
- 4. For competitive play, it is the responsibility of the club OCA representative/skip/chaperone/coach to ensure that all team personnel meet eligibility requirements. If a player or chaperone/coach is found to be ineligible after the start of play, the team shall be disqualified. (*Refer to Competition Regulations #3, 4, 5 and 6 and the Club Entry Sheet for that competition for eligibility rules and regulations*)
- 5. A person who plays in a club playdown or at any other level of an OCA competition or equivalent competition in another curling jurisdiction is ineligible to represent any other club in the same competition except;
 - (i) the players in a player's pool at a provincial final or an alternate accompanying a team to the Canadian Men's or Canadian Women's Curling Championships,
- 6. In the event that a provincial winning team also wins a Canadian championship, such team shall have a direct entry into the provincial round robin in the next following year if at least three (3) of the four (4) members remain on the team and provided that such team pays the prescribed OCA entry fee for the competition in question.
- 7. An entry to the Men's Challenge Round or the Women's Challenge Round is another level of the playdowns leading to the provincial final for that event. Rules for Eligibility, Registration and Alternates/Substitutes as outlined in this Rules Supplement shall apply and specific event rules will be outlined in the Entry package for the Challenge Rounds.

Competition Entry

1. For women's competitions, each OCA member club is allowed unlimited entries in all zone competitions regardless of the number of registered curlers. This rule also applies to Junior, Bantam and Mixed competitions.
2. For men's competitions, all member clubs shall be eligible to enter one (1) team per one hundred registered adult male & female curlers in all competitions. (Minimum eligibility of one team per club.)
3. The winner of any OCA provincial championship shall have a direct entry into the zone playdowns in the same zone of such competition in the next following year if at least three (3) of four (4) members remain on the team (or at least six (6) of the eight (8) players in a double-team event) and provided that such team pays the prescribed OCA entry fee for the competition in question.

Note: This direct entry does not affect the club's eligible entries based on membership.

4. (a) Entries to all competitions, other than Challenge Rounds shall be submitted by OCA member clubs. (If on-line entry system is used refer to 4(b)) Notice of entry must be received by the OCA office by the zone entry deadline. Team personnel need not be declared until the first game of the zone playdown.

The payment for competition entries must be sent by the OCA member club to the OCA office with the entry and must be accompanied by the Competition Entry Fee Remittance Form (Exhibit #7)

(b) On-line entries to competitions will be paid for at the time of entry and require OCA member club approval prior to the zone entry deadline.

5. Entries to the Challenge Rounds must be paid by the entering teams and sent directly to the OCA office along with the prescribed entry form. On-line entries will be accepted, providing the OCA member club approves the team personnel.
6. The deadline for entries for each competition is a minimum of 21 days before the start of the zone playdown or the deadline set by the zone/region. **Late entries will not be accepted by the OCA office after the zone entry deadline. Entry fees are non-refundable after the zone entry deadline.**
7. In the event of late withdrawal from the competition, the draw shall be revised, if possible, and teams notified of any changes in the starting time.
8. A CCA competitor's fee must be paid to be eligible for participation in competitions leading to a national championship, excluding Junior competitions.

Defaults

1. Where a winning team in a zone is unable or unwilling to continue in a competition, the skip/chaperone/coach of the team shall notify the OCA Executive Director to this effect at least three (3) days before the first day of the next scheduled round, and that team will not be entitled to the position, rights, privileges and awards as it has defaulted and may be suspended. A runner-up team in that zone shall be entitled to the position, rights, privileges and awards of the team that has defaulted.
2. Each member of a team
 - (a) which defaults at the regional or provincial level of a competition, or
 - (b) which defaults at the zone level of a competition during the competition or at the start of the competition as shown under Competition Regulations, Rule 1, or
 - (c) subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 below, shall be suspended immediately, for the balance of that curling season and the immediately following curling season, from all OCA competitions.
3. The OCA Executive Director shall notify each member of a defaulting team in writing of such suspension and the method of appealing such suspension. Such suspension may be appealed in writing and/or in person to the Board of Directors of the OCA within a period of two (2) weeks from notification of such default and in such event the suspension shall be lifted until the appeal is heard.
4. Such suspension shall not apply to the level of the competition in which the default occurred if, in the opinion of the official-in-charge or a head official of the OCA, the team in question has a reasonable explanation for such default.

Competition Regulations

1. All competitions (including Challenge Rounds) are considered to have started on the Friday immediately prior to the start date of the zone competition regardless of the actual starting date of the event. The competition is considered complete 24 hours after each level of play.
2. At the team meeting at the zone playdown of each competition, each team member must complete his or her own section on the Team Sign-in Sheet and return it to the official-in-charge.

Penalty: Failure to complete the Team Sign-in Sheet in full will result in the team forfeiting the right to proceed to the second game.

3. At all levels of the competition, prior to the start of the first game, the official-in-charge may ask for proof of age.

4. All coaches accompanying teams to competition shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age. It is recommended that all clubs mandates that coaches have a Police Record Check available that is no more than three (3) years old (please note #7).

Where required, the only acceptable coaching qualifications are those that are part of the Canadian Certification for Curling recognized by the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP). (Technical + Practical + Theory = Full Certification).

Note: The "Club Coach-Youth" technical is not equivalent to Club Coach Level 1 technical.

In the upcoming seasons, coaches accompanying teams to competition are required to have the following qualifications:

For the 2009-10 season:

	Zone	Region	Provincial
Bantam Mixed & Junior Mixed	None	None	None
Bantam Boys & Bantam Girls	None	None	Club Coach Level 1 Technical
Junior Men & Junior Women	Club Coach Level 1 Technical	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification
All Adult events	Club Coach Level 1 Technical	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification

For the 2010-11 season onward:

	Zone	Region	Provincial
Bantam Mixed & Junior Mixed	None	None	None
Bantam Boys & Bantam Girls	Club Coach Level 1 Technical	Club Coach Level 1 Technical	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification
Junior Men & Junior Women	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification
All Adult events	Club Coach Level 1 Technical	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification	Full Club Coach Level 1 Certification

	Old NCCP	New NCCP
	n/a	Club Coach Youth Course (one day) = TRAINED
LEVEL 1 Technical + Practical + Theory = CERTIFICATION	Level 1 Technical + Level 1 Logbook (min. 20 hours) + Level 1 Theory <u>or</u> Introduction to Competition, Part A = Certified Level 1 Coach	Club Coach Course + Level 1 Logbook + Introduction to Competition, Part A = Certified Level 1 Coach

5. A coach accompanying a team at a Canadian Championship shall have a minimum of Level 2 Coach certification for curling or be registered with the Coaching Association of Canada's *Canadian Mental Training Registry* and shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
6. At all levels of the competition requiring coach certification, prior to the start of the first game, the official-in-charge may ask for proof of the applicable certification.
7. Coaches/Chaperones accompanying Bantam or Junior aged teams, including Mixed, to the provincial final will be required to submit an acceptable Police Record Check to the OCA office no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the provincial final.
8. At all levels of the competition, a chaperone/coach is only permitted to coach one (1) team.

Interpretation: A coach of a team in any competition will not be permitted to coach any other team in the same competition. When two (2) competitions are run simultaneously at the same place, such as the Junior Men and Women, a coach will not be permitted to coach a team in both competitions until such time as one team is no longer playing in the competition.

9. No electronic equipment, except stopwatches and hearing aids, is allowed within the curling rink area.
10. At regional playdowns, the following fill system shall be utilized in the event that the regional playdown has less than eight teams (Four teams for double team events). The following sequence will be used:
 1. The runner-up of the zone with the largest number of entries in the zone playdown within that particular region. (The Scotties Tournament of Hearts is regarded as having four regions for fill purposes.) If more than one zone have an equal number of entries a coin toss will be used to determine which zone is used.
 2. The runner-up from the host zone.
11. In the Fairfield Marriott Challenge and the Best Western Challenge the Provincial Championship shall be filled to 32 teams from across the OCA jurisdiction.
12. **The person standing on the tee (for 6 stones), directing play and holding the broom shall be known as the skip and the team shall be listed under his/her name.**
13. **In Mixed competition each team shall have two male and two female players and the male and female players shall play alternate positions in the team's delivery rotation. Sweepers of the final two(2) stones of the end shall be of opposite gender and the skip and acting vice-skip shall also be of opposite gender.**

Alternates/Substitutes

1. The OCA strongly supports the utilization of four (4) player teams. In extenuating circumstances, a team shall be permitted to begin play with three (3) players, however, the practice of using three (3) players for a complete game, except in extenuating circumstances is not permitted.
2. **Except for the Men's & Women's Provincial Championships, the current policy of the Ontario Curling Association is NOT to allow an alternate player at a Provincial Championship unless such alternate is selected from the pool of alternate/substitute players established by the host committee.**

Only one (1) alternate/substitute per team is allowed at any level of a competition except in Mixed competition where you will be allowed one (1) male and one (1) female alternate/substitute who are members of the same club as the player(s) they are replacing. (Silver Tankard or Women's Tankard are allowed two (2) alternates/substitutes per double-team entry). The alternate/substitute shall not receive any awards or prizes and shall not be acknowledged.

3. In Mixed competition, where during a game a player is unable to continue, the team:
 - (a) may play an eligible alternate/substitute; or
 - (b) may finish the game with the three (3) remaining players. Where the missing player is the first or third player, that player's stones shall be played by the remaining player of the same gender. Where the missing player is the second or fourth player, the first two (2) remaining players shall each deliver three (3) stones each end; or
 - (c) during the provincial final competition, may replace the missing player by a person of the same gender chosen from a group of several curlers appointed by the OCA umpire. The replacement may play any position consistent with the rules of the competition.
4. In Mixed competition, an alternate/substitute shall be of the same gender as the absent player.
5. Only in the Men's and the Women's championships shall the fifth player advance to the Canadian championship.
6. A team shall be permitted to utilize eligible alternates/substitutes to distribute playing time among more than four (4) players **during zone and regional playdowns.**
7. An alternate/substitute player participating in any OCA competition is subject to the same requirements as the original team personnel. (*Refer to Eligibility and Registration, Rules 1, 2, 4 & 5*)

8. Three (3) members of the zone winning team must be retained at subsequent levels of the competition (i.e. regional, Challenge Round, provincial final), except in all Mixed competitions where two (2) members must be retained, one of each gender, from the four players that began Game 1 of zone play. (For Silver Tankard or Women's Tankard, six (6) members of the zone winning team must be retained).

Example: If ABC Club had a four-person team, either men's or women's, that won the zone playdown and only two of those four players were available to advance to the regional playdown, then ABC team would have to declare and sign in their eligible fifth person even though the zone playdown was completed. Three of the five would have to play at the regional playdown along with an eligible fourth person. If this team continued to the final, any three of the original five players declared at the zone level would have to play along with a fourth who could be the player used at the regional playdowns or an eligible new person.

Cresting/Sponsor Identification

1. A team competing at the zone, regional or Challenge Round level of an OCA competition shall be allowed to wear non-competing sponsors' crests (i.e. sponsors who do not compete with any OCA sponsor).
2. A team competing in an OCA provincial final other than the Men's and the Women's championships shall be allowed to wear non-competing sponsors' crests (i.e. sponsors who do not compete with any OCA sponsor), four (4) crests visible at any given time per player per game. Each crest is limited to one sponsor identification. The allowable size shall not be in excess of 5"x5", 3"x8" or 4"x6" (or approximately 25 square inches). If a name or lettering is also included with a logo/crest, the two items together must not exceed the allowable size.
3. A team competing in the Men's and the Women's championships shall be allowed to wear non-competing sponsors' crests (i.e. sponsors who do not compete with any OCA sponsor). Each crest is limited to one sponsor identification. The allowable size shall not be in excess of 5"x5", 3"x8" or 4"x6" (or approximately 25 square inches). If a name or lettering is also included with a logo/crest, the two items together must not exceed the allowable size. The number of crests and location per garment is as follows:

Golf Shirts (supplied by sponsors):	limited to one (1) per shoulder
Jacket & Pants & Hats Together:	limited to a maximum of four (4), including manufacturer's mark(s). Such manufacturer's mark(s) must not exceed the allowable size.
Vests & Pants & Hats & Shirts Together:	limited to a maximum of four (4), including manufacturer's mark(s). Such manufacturer's mark(s) must not exceed the allowable size.

The Draw

1. The OCA Zone Representative responsible for the zone competition shall draw for start times with the assistance of the Zone Host Club Representative and shall notify the skip/chaperone/coach of their start time. If either/both is playing in the event, he/she shall request that another Zone Representative and Club Representative without a conflict conduct the draw for start times.
2. Teams participating in a regional playdown or a Challenge Round will not be permitted to practice at the regional or Challenge Round host club within 24 hours of the start of Game 1 of the competition. Teams participating in a provincial final will not be permitted to practice at the provincial final host club within 24 hours of the start of the event unless a pre-event practice is included in the schedule of events.
3. Teams shall draw for position on the draw board prior to their first game at the zone competition. At regional competitions, the draw is pre-determined and is posted on the Regional Playdown Information Sheet (Exhibit #13). The order of the games shall remain the same.
4. A zone may elect to accept additional entries to expand or "fill" the double knockout draw to an even and/or manageable number of teams. Factors such as the eligible number of entries in a zone and the ice availability may determine the maximum number of teams allowed and such final determination will be made by the OCA Executive Director.

Games

1. Three (3) games per day may be scheduled for all competitions with the following exceptions:
 - (i) **at Master Men, Master Women, Senior Men, Senior Women and Senior Mixed, three (3) games cannot be scheduled for two (2) consecutive days.**
2. All games are ten (10) ends for all competitions except Master Women, Master Men, Bantam Boys, Bantam Girls, Bantam Mixed, Junior Mixed, Schoolboy, Schoolgirl, Fairfield Marriott Challenge and the Best Western Challenge, which shall be eight (8) ends.
3. During the fourth/fifth end break, which shall be a maximum of five (5) minutes and will be taken on the backboard behind the team's sheet of play. **Beverages and small quantities of prepared fruit and vegetables shall be permitted provided they are in a non-breakable container.**
4. In all games of a competition played in a curling club, all extra ends must be played towards the glass.

5. Time clocks may be used at any level of any competition.
6. If there are only two (2) entries in a zone competition, the following method shall be used to determine the "A" and "B" winners:
 - (i) If both teams agree;
 - a) A game may be played at a time and place mutually determined by the two (2) teams and the Zone Representative. This game must be played between the time that zone entries close and the final date of the scheduled zone competition but does not necessarily have to be played at the date, time and place as scheduled.
 - b) If the two (2) teams do not wish to play a game, the OCA Zone Representative may execute a coin toss in the presence of a neutral third party. Prior to the toss, one (1) team shall be designated "heads" and the other "tails". The Zone Representative shall advise the two (2) teams of the outcome of this coin toss. The winner of the coin toss shall be considered the winner of the game and shall be placed in the higher position (their own zone is considered higher than a fill zone).

Note: Teams in the Men's and Women's event playdowns are encouraged to play as points may be gained for use in a Challenge Round entry.
 - c) If one (1) team chooses, it may forfeit the choice of "A" or "B" to the other in lieu of a coin toss or game.
 - ii. If both teams do not agree;
 - (a) Positions "A" and "B" shall be resolved by playing a game at the time and place as scheduled on the OCA competition poster.
7. If there is only one (1) entry in a zone competition, the team shall be declared the "A" winner.
8. Changes to a posted schedule must be approved by an OCA Zone Representative and the OCA Executive Director.

Pre-Game Team Meeting & Practice

1. A team meeting will be held before the posted start time of the teams' first game at each level of play of the competition. Each team must have at least one (1) member at the team meeting. If a team fails to have a team member at the team meeting, that team shall forfeit the choice of colour and last stone for that game and shall practice first.
2. **A minimum of 30 minutes prior to each game**, teams will flip a coin to determine which team plays the first stone in the first end. (*Refer to Exhibit 21 or CCA Rulebook page 32 (2) a and b*)

3. After the first game, if a team fails to have a team member present for the coin toss of any subsequent game, that team shall forfeit the choice of colour and last stone for that game and shall practice first.
4. **All competitions that lead to a sanctioned National event (Juniors, Seniors, Mixed, Mens, Womens) shall allow time for a ten (10) minute per team pre-game, organized practice, all other events shall allow seven (7) minutes.**
Practice is to be on the sheet of ice where the team is scheduled to play and only with the stones they will be using in the game.
5. At the discretion of the **Zone Representative**, a team having a bye in a competition and scheduled to play a team that has already played, will be allowed a maximum of thirty (30) minutes of practice time on a sheet of ice other than the sheet on which they are scheduled to play, if ice is available. **This practice must be pre-arranged with the Zone Representative a minimum of 48 hours prior to the start of the event.** This would be in addition to the seven (7) or ten (10) minutes of pre-game practice referred to in Rule 1 above.
6. A team receiving a bye due to a default will be permitted to practice on the sheet of ice that they would have played on for the length of time that the game would have taken (2 hours for an 8 end game or 2 ½ hours for a 10 end game).
7. Teams shall not be permitted to select stones off other sheets of ice at the facility unless at a provincial final that has a scheduled playoff format (Note: Tie-breakers are not included in a playoff format)

Officiating

1. At zone and regional playdowns, a Club Representative or designate shall act as official-in-charge. At all OCA provincial championships, an OCA Head Official will be appointed and will work in consultation with the staff person or designate in charge of the event.
2. No person who is a player or coach in a competition shall be appointed or act as an official in that competition.
3. If the Club Representative is playing or coaching or otherwise unable to officiate, he/she must appoint someone else who is a member of the OCA to officiate.

Protests/ Appeals

1. A skip or coach may lodge a protest as to the outcome of the game on behalf of the team no later than ten (10) minutes after the completion of the game.
2. The protest will be lodged with the on-site official and can be appealed to an Official-on-Call. The subsequent decision is final.
3. Other decisions made regarding the entry process or eligibility may be appealed in writing to the OCA Executive Director within 48 hours of the original decision rendered. The appeal committee may consist of the OCA President, the appropriate OCA Director of Competitions, OCA Director of Rules Committee, OCA Head Official and OCA Executive Director as deemed necessary. The subsequent decision is final.

Disciplinary Procedures

The CCA rules found under Special Rules in the CCA Official Rulebook shall apply with the exception that appeals must be made within two (2) weeks.

This includes:

- (a) The right to implement and administer reasonable disciplinary measures arising from any Competitor/Coach's conduct (whether of a verbal or physical nature) occurring,
 - (i) during any competition, whether in the course of on ice play or at other times,
 - (ii) at any other time and place.
- (b) Such disciplinary measures may include but are not limited to,
 - (i) formal reprimand or verbal warnings;
 - (ii) formal reprimand (written);
 - (iii) temporary or permanent suspension of competition privileges;
 - (iv) dismissal from a team.

Competition Behaviour

Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated at any time during an OCA competition (e.g. slamming brushes in anger, willful damage to curling club, hotel or restaurant facilities, offensive and/or abusive language, etc.). Such inappropriate behaviour shall be subject to the disciplinary procedures as outlined above.

The OCA reserves the right to impose player fines as introduced by the CCA in cooperation and with the support of the World Curling Players Association. This fine system includes (but is not limited to) the following sample:

- (a) On-ice Conduct
 - (i) Use of inappropriate language and/or behaviour to the point that is offensive.
 - (ii) Making an obscene gesture that is deemed inappropriate by an Official.
 - (iii) Being abusive to anyone involved with the event.
 - 1st Offence \$150 - \$500
 - 2nd Offence \$500 - \$1000
 - 3rd Offence Fine up to \$1000 and suspension
- (b) Refusing to take a directive given by an OCA official.
 - 1st Offence \$300 - \$600
 - 2nd Offence \$600 - \$1000
 - 3rd Offence Fine up to \$1000 and suspension
- (c) Off-ice Activity: Any conduct considered to be inappropriate by the OCA.
 - 1st Offence \$300 - \$600
 - 2nd Offence \$600 - \$1000

Specific Competition Rules

The specific competition rules are listed on each Club Entry Sheet as well as on the OCA web site.

Stick Delivery Rules

1. The curler must initiate the delivery from the appropriate hack and then advance directly by walking or sliding towards the skip's broom. The delivery and release of a rock are intended to occur within a reasonable proximity to the centre line. Any attempt to change the angle of the delivery/release will result in forfeiture of the delivered rock.
2. The rock must be clearly released prior to reaching the near hog line.
3. The body and stick can cross the near hog line in a follow-through motion after the rock is released.
4. A stick or broom must be used to deliver all rocks.
5. No variation of the flat-footed slide delivery is appropriate.