

## **ROPSSAA CO-EDUCATIONAL CURLING**

### **PLAYING REGULATIONS**

#### **1. DATE**

The ROPSSAA Open and Novice Curling Championships shall be scheduled no later than the Tuesday prior to the March Break.

#### **2. LOCATION**

The location of the championships will be decided by the Convenor and approved by the executive.

#### **3. ELIGIBILITY**

(a) All competitors must meet the eligibility requirements of the ROPSSAA Constitution, Article X.

(b) (i) A junior competitor shall not have attained their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2023 – 2024 school year, born in 2008 or later). In addition they must be in their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of high school.

(ii) A senior open competitor shall not have attained their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2023-2024 school year, born in 2004 or later).

(c) Competitive Levels

(i) Open - open to all competitors.

(ii) Novice – Any curler with club experience (with exception of little rocks) or who has participated in a “learn to curl” program is not eligible for Novice.

Club curlers are individuals who are or who have been registered members of any O.C.A. Curling Club or who represent an O.C.A. Club in competition.

A “learn to curl” participant is any instructional clinic or lesson operated by any city or club that exceeds three (3) sessions in length.

(d) Unless a staff sponsor is present a school will be deemed ineligible to curl.

(e) Novice competition will have 6 divisions of competition, Junior novice boys, junior novice girls, junior novice mixed (2 boys & 2 girls), senior novice boys, senior novice girls and senior novice mixed (2 boys & 2 girls).

(f) Senior Open competition will have 2 divisions of competition, boys and girls.

(g) Team Eligibility

(i) Individuals are eligible for 1 division of competition only.

- (ii) For team sports, individuals must have participated in at least 50% of their team's regular season games to be eligible for playoffs and OFSAA. Players missing games due to injury (INJ), or awaiting transfer approval (ATA), must appear so designated on a game sheet to maintain their eligibility. Games missed due to injury are subject to review of a doctor's note. Players under game or school suspension may not have their name included on a game sheet for participation percentages.
- (iii) All game sheets/rosters are to include the name of all those in the bench area (players, coaches, managers). In order to be in the bench area an individual's name must appear on the eligibility sheet. Players under game or school suspension may not sit in the bench area.
- (iv) Individuals are deemed to have played if their name appears on a game sheet. Individuals must be present at a game to be included on a game sheet.
- (v) A staff member must be present in the bench area from the start of the warm-up until the last competitor has left the area.
- (vi) Only those who are included on the eligibility list are permitted on the ice.

#### 4. OPERATING STRUCTURE

- (a) Regular Season:
  - (i) All novice divisions will compete in a series of bonspiels throughout the winter season.
  - (ii) The format of the bonspiel(s) will be based on the number of teams in each division.
  - (iii) Open divisions will compete in a round robin season format.
- (b) Playoff format to be determined based on entries. Playoff information will be sent out with the season schedule.
- (c) Tiebreaker Criteria

##### Two Teams

The following criteria will be applied in the following order until the tie is broken:

- (i) Winner of game between the tied teams
- (ii) +/- between the tied teams
- (iii) Teams defaulting games will automatically receive the lower placing
- (iv) +/- in games involving common opponents
- (v) In all regular season games ending in a tie, one (1) rock is to be thrown by each team with sweeping allowed, attempting to be closest to the button. The team who is closest to the button is to report that result to the sport convenor. The game result remains a tie.

Note: This measure is ONLY to be used in tie-breaking scenarios where one team will be eliminated from playoffs

- (vi) Coin toss

Note: Defaults will be recorded as 2-0 and will be considered in +/-.

Three Teams or More

The following criteria will be applied in the following order. If at any time one or more teams are removed from the tie (placing first or last) the tiebreaker process will be restarted.

- (i) Percentage record in games involving the tied teams
- (ii) +/- between the tied teams
- (iii) Teams defaulting games will automatically receive the lower placing
- (iv) +/- in games involving common opponents
- (v) Coin toss

Note: Defaults will be recorded as 2-0 and will be considered in +/-.

(d) Scheduled Games

- i) Coaches are responsible for reviewing final league game schedules and playoff schedules as to locations, dates, and times to ensure their attendance.
- ii) Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. The defaulting team will cover all cost associated with the game as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- iii) Failure to fulfill game requirements leading to the abandonment of a game will result in a loss for that team. An incident report must be completed and submitted to the ROPSSAA Athletic office by the abandoning team within 24 hours of the game. No score shall be entered until after a Board of Inquiry. A team abandoning a game may be required to cover any costs incurred as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- iv)
  - a) Schools must bring their own warm-up equipment and first aid kit
  - b)
    - i) Schools must endeavor to arrive no earlier than 60 minutes before game time. Teams arriving earlier than this must be supervised by the head coach in an area where students from the home school do not congregate. Schools with team members who do not travel with the head coach (in taxis, cars, on foot, etc.) must inform players that they must wait for their head coach and should ensure that the head coach is the first to arrive at the host school.

- ii) Schools arriving for an away game between 30 and 60 minutes before game time must accompany the head coach to the competition area and liaise with the host school. The visiting team will be provided with a safe waiting area and change room during this time and the visiting head coach must provide supervision of his/her players. Visiting athletes must bring all their belongings with them to the competition area.

## 5. ENTRIES

- (a) Team entry lists and eligibility sheets must be in the hands of the Athletic Convenor by the deadline announced in the pre-season coach's module. Team entry lists must include all players and alternate players of said teams.
- (b) In the open division each school may enter one boys and one girls team.
- (c) At the novice level each school may enter one team each in junior boys, junior girls, junior mixed, senior boys, senior girls and senior mixed.
- (d) A player cannot change teams, at any level of play once they have played in the competition. (Note: For teams declared a ROPSSAA Champion, players may move for purposes of OFSAA competition). Novice eligible players may play senior open one season and return to novice the following season if they meet the criteria as per 3c of the playing regulations.

## 6. EXPENSES

- (a) Expenses for the ROPSSAA league and the championship tournament will be met by an entry fee per team determined by the convenor and announced after the pre-season coaches meeting.

## 7. RULES AND OFFICIALS

- (a) The rules governing play shall be those of the Ontario Curling Association. All junior novice divisions will follow OCA U15 rules for the first game of the first bonspiel; the ROPSSAA rule exemptions will apply. For the remainder of the season and playoffs the OCA rules with ROPSSAA exemptions will apply. The ROPSSAA exceptions to these rules are:
  - (i) For league play, teams may start with 3 curlers. A curler arriving late may play any position starting next end.
  - (ii) A team with only 3 curlers shall have the first 2 players throw 3 rocks each and the third player shall throw 2 rocks.
  - (iii) As per OCA rules there must be a player in the house until the rock has been delivered.
  - (iv) Once the rock has crossed the delivery end hog line you may have up to four (4) players sweep.
  - (v) For playoffs, there must be 4 curlers throwing 2 rocks each end.
  - (vi) For mixed competition, throwing order must alternate between genders.

- (vii) If a team member is unable to continue curling, an alternate may take their place at the start of the next end. If necessary, the team may change its' throwing order at this point. (Note: If there is no alternate, and the injured player recovers, they may re-enter at the beginning of an end).
- (viii) In all league and playoff games a team may substitute players at the end of any end and rearrange the throwing order at this point.
- (ix) All regular-season Senior Open boys and girls games will be scheduled for 8 ends. No end shall start with less than 15 minutes of rented ice time left. Coaches should monitor the time situation and agree before the 4-end time-out and inform their teams if the game is likely to end before the scheduled number of ends are completed. Skips must continue to monitor game time and be aware of this rule. Games that end in a tie will be recorded as a tie in the standings.
- (x) All regular-season senior novice mixed games will be scheduled for 6 ends. No end will start with less than 15 minutes of rented ice time left. Coaches should monitor the time situation and agree before the 4-end time-out and inform their team if the game is likely to end before the scheduled number of ends are completed. Skips must continue to monitor game time and be aware of this rule. Games that end in a tie will be recorded as a tie in the standings.
- (xi)
  - a) It is recommended that 2 hours of ice be booked for all regular season games. For playoffs, 2 hours for Novice and 2 hours and 30 minutes for Senior Open games should be booked to guarantee practice time and extra-end time.
  - b) Games are limited to the 2 hour block of ice booked. Games are not permitted to continue beyond the reserved time. No new end is to begin with less than 15 minutes remaining. Ends that have begun prior to the 15 minute cut off are to be completed.
- (xii) In the Senior Open division, a 1 minute consultation between the coach(es) and curlers will occur after the 4<sup>th</sup> end. Two additional 1 minute timeouts per team are also permitted and may be called by a player on the ice when it is their team's turn to throw, or between ends. Coaches may signal to their team that they wish a time-out, but the time-out must be called for by a player on the ice. No banging on the glass allowed. Note: The 1 minute time limit MUST be adhered to, to prevent time problems.
- (xiii) In the Novice division a 1 minute consultation between the coach(es) and curlers will occur after the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ends. One additional 1 minute timeout per team is also permitted and may be called by a player on the ice when it is their team's turn to throw, or between ends. Coaches may signal to their team that they wish a time-out, but the time-out must be called for by a player on the ice. No banging on the glass allowed. Note: The 1 minute time limit MUST be adhered to, to prevent time problems.
- (xiv) During time outs only, those people included on the eligibility list are permitted on the ice.

- (xv) If required, an umpire will be designated by the Convenor for a game.
- (xvi) Playoff games will be played to completion, (8 ends Senior Open/6 ends Novice). If a game ends in a tie a full end will be played towards the glass to break the tie.

Note: This rule may have to be amended due to ice rental restrictions. If so, the coaches will be informed of the alternate procedure before the beginning of the game.

- (xvii) The coin toss for hammer will take place 15 minute before the start of the game. Subject to ice availability the team with hammer will have a 5-minute practice, then the team without hammer will have a 5-minute practice. There will be NO practicing before the coin-toss.
- (xviii) If a team is not present for the coin toss, they will be deemed to have lost the coin toss. The other team will be awarded the hammer and may practice until the other team shows up. Ten minutes after the scheduled start time they will be awarded an end and a point. They still retain the hammer. After twenty minutes they will be awarded a second end and point. If the opposing team has not been able to deliver their first stone 30 minutes after the scheduled start the game will be recorded as a default (See Rule 4c).
- (xix) Teams involved in playoffs may not practice or play an exhibition game on the same day as their playoff game.
- (b) Coaches to instruct their participants on curling rules, etiquette and expectations.
- (c) An end shall be decided when the skip or vice skip agree upon the score for the end.
- (d) When there is an on-ice dispute about a rule interpretation or infraction, a fair play time out may be called by the coach or on ice competitors. Once there has been agreement on the disputed matter and play has resumed the ends played will stand as is.

## 8. AWARDS

- (a) All members of the championship teams shall receive gold medallions (maximum 8 per team).
- (b) All members of the runner-up teams shall receive silver medallions (maximum 8 per team).

Note: There must be a minimum of 6 teams participating in a level for ROPSSAA Sponsorship.

## 9. UNIFORMS

- (a) Novice team members must be dressed in similar coloured tops or have school uniform/identification/logo tops. Open team members must be dressed in matching tops. No football and/or hockey sweaters may be worn.
- (b) No flannelette pants or jeans can be worn on the ice surface.

- (c) Curlers cannot compete without fulfilling a) and b).
- (d) All players must wear attire that will not damage the ice surface. Dirty shoes and pants, metal chains, metal lace eyelets are examples of attire that can damage the ice. Players may be removed from competition at the discretion of the facility manager.
- (e) No participant may wear a pair of shoes that they wore into the facility.
- (f) Inappropriate slogans and advertising/sponsorship reflecting alcohol or tobacco products may not be worn.
- (g) Non-school logos must meet OFSAA size regulations (64sq cm - not longer than 10cm) for sleeved shirts and/or bottoms.
- (h) Athletes may not change their clothing in the competition area. For all outdoor sports, athletes must arrive dressed to compete. Visiting teams requiring the use of washroom facilities must send a staff member into the school with the team member(s). For all indoor sports, athletes must move to the designated locker room or change area to change their clothing.

10. EQUIPMENT

- (a) Schools must provide their own equipment; rentals are not always available.
- (b) No electronic devices may be brought onto the ice unless a medical device.

11. DEPORTMENT

- (a) Coaches and players are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner as per Article XVI, Section II of the ROPSSAA Constitution.
- (b) A no smoking and no alcoholic beverage policy will be enforced for participants and spectators of ROPSSAA curling.

12. JURY OF APPEAL

- (a) The Jury of Appeal constructed at the pre-meet coaches meeting will consist of the Convenor and four coaches from participating schools.
- (b) The Jury of Appeal will rule on disputes and protests submitted.
- (c) The Jury of Appeal may only consider matters of policy regarding the operation of the activity concerned within the limits of the playing regulations.

13. QUALIFICATION TO OFSAA

- (a) The winners of the senior open tournaments will advance to OFSAA.