

POLICY FOR RESIDENCY & FREE AGENTS

Curling Canada Championships



Curling Canada Championships involve the participation of teams that are made up of individuals who are:

- Canadian citizens*;
- Residents of Canada, and;
- Minimum of three (3) of the team members (Tournament of Hearts & Brier) and four (4) of the team members (all other Canadian championships) must be bona fide residents within the geographic area of the Member Association they are intending to represent.
**exceptions: players are not required to be Canadian citizens for the Under-18, the Curling Club Championships, Masters, and the Wheelchair events*
- **Mixed** – all four (4) players must be Canadian citizens and residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association. No age restrictions. Because the national championship is played the following season, players must be residents in the year of their provincial/territorial championship.
- **Curling Club Championships – Men & Women** – all four (4) players must be residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association and must be nineteen (19) years of age and older on November 1st prior to the championship. There are no citizenship requirements.
- **Junior Men & Women** – all four (4) players must be Canadian citizens and residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association and must be twenty (20) years of age or under on June 30th the year prior to the championship.
- **Women (Tournament of Hearts)** – a minimum of three (3) of the four (4) players must be Canadian citizens and residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association. Any free agent must also be a Canadian citizen and may only compete with the approval of the Member Association where she is a resident and the Member Association where they are a free agent. No age restrictions.
- **Men (Brier)** – a minimum of three (3) of the four (4) players must be Canadian citizens and residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association. Any free agent must also be a Canadian citizen and may only compete with the approval of the Member Association where she is a resident and the Member Association where they are a free agent. No age restrictions.

- **Senior Men & Women** – all four (4) players must be Canadian citizens and residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association and aged fifty (50) years of age or over on June 30th the year prior to the championship.
- **Mixed Doubles** – a) **Member Association teams**: both players must be Canadian citizens and residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association. Age restrictions may vary association to association. b) **all other teams** must be Canadian citizens and residents of Canada. No age restrictions.
- **Under-18 Boys & Girls** – all four (4) players must be residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association and seventeen (17) years of age and under on June 30th of the year prior to the championship. No citizenship requirements.
- **Wheelchair** – all four (4) players must be residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association. No age restrictions and no citizenship requirements.
- **Masters Men & Women** – all four (4) players must be residents of the same Provincial / Territorial Member Association and sixty (60) years of age or older on December 31st the year prior to the championship. No citizenship requirements.
- **Canada Cup** – all four (4) players must be Canadian citizens. No age restrictions and no residency requirements.
- **Pre-Trials & Trials** – all four (4) players must be Canadian citizens. No age restrictions and no residency requirements.

FREE AGENTS

A maximum of one (1) “Free Agent” will be allowed per team, per season. “Free Agents” are allowed to compete in the Tournament of Hearts and Brier **only** (any level). Furthermore, “Free Agents” **are not allowed** to compete in any competition leading to a Curling Canada championship for the Member Association where they are resident in the season of their “free agency”.

Teams requesting this exemption must identify their “Free Agent”, then notify both Member Associations involved seeking their approval. If necessary, the teams will provide the required documentation proving the remaining players [3 of 4] are bona fide residents of the Member Association they are intending to represent.

“Free Agent” requests must be received by Curling Canada and the respective Member

Associations a **minimum of 30 days prior to the Member Association's entry deadline for the Tournament of Hearts or Brier playdowns**. Following the approval process between the respective Member Associations, the player must register or be registered appropriately with the Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS).

All individuals must comply with the club membership criteria of the province/territory they wish to represent including the acquisition of a Curling Canada competitors card.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY

To participate in Curling Canada Championships, individuals **must** be bona fide residents of the province/territory in which they wish to enter play prior to September 1st of the year preceding the championship season (for example – prior to September 1st, 2017 for the 2017/18 championship season). This time frame may be shortened in the following circumstances:

- Transfer due to employment
- School attendance
- Military service and transfer

Exemptions may be made in exceptional circumstances if granted by two Member Associations:

- Individuals living within a short distance of a provincial/territorial boundary;
- Full-time on-campus students attending a recognized post secondary educational institute may either play out of the province/territory in which they are attending school or, the province/territory in which they are maintaining a residence. An individual may be requested to provide proof of registration and semester transcripts.
- Individuals that reside in province/territory "A" and conduct the majority of their work outside of province/territory "A", may represent province/territory "A" on the assumption that they can validate that the majority of their non-work and non-train/compete time is spent in province/territory "A".
- Individuals that have a primary residence in province/territory "A", a temporary/secondary

residence in province/territory “B”, and conduct the majority of their work in province territory “B”, may represent province/territory “B” on the assumption that they can validate that the majority of their work related time is spent in province/territory “B”. (The individual must be able to provide positive proof that their predominant employment from September 1st to March 31st of the curling season the exemption is being requested, will be located with the geographical area of the Member Association they wish to represent*).

To ensure that all individuals are treated equally, an individual must be able to provide proof of residency to be considered a resident for playdown purposes.

It is understood that an individual may only participate in **one** province or territory in any championship season. This includes individuals that apply for and receive exemptions or, individuals that have “free agent” status on their Tournament of Hearts or Brier teams.

An individual claiming to be a bona fide resident of the specific curling province/territory whose playdown structure he or she wishes to enter, must be able to provide a **minimum of three** of the following four items to the Member Association (if requested):

- Current Drivers License (or valid travel picture ID) from that province/territory;
- Current Health Care Card from that province/territory;
- Letter from employer confirming employment within the province/territory;
- Statement from landlord (if renting) or bank (if owned) confirming residency within the province/territory – a copy of a property tax invoice for non-mortgaged property is also adequate. Recommend a statutory declaration be obtained.

In addition to providing the above documentation an individual must spend the majority of their non-compete time in the province/territory in which they are claiming to be a bona fide resident. Individuals claiming to be bona fide residents of the curling jurisdiction they wish to represent or, individuals engaged in the exemption process, may be requested to participate in Curling Canada’s “Whereabouts” Program, as administered by the Director of High Performance to validate their residency or the merit of their request for an exemption.

PROCESS FOR EXEMPTION REQUESTS

- Exemption requests must be received by Curling Canada and the respective Member Associations, **a minimum of 30 days prior to the Member Association's entry deadline.**
- Detailed information will be required with the exemption request.
- The respective Member Associations will review all information and approve or deny the application.
- If Member Associations cannot agree on a decision, a committee that includes the following three individuals will make the decision and their ruling will be considered final:
 - CEO of Curling Canada
 - Director, High Performance of Curling Canada
 - Chair or Vice-Chair of the Operations (ED) Council
- Individuals who have employment in two curling jurisdictions may be required to participate in a formal interview that will include the identified employer, a representative of the Member Associations and the Director of High Performance of Curling Canada.
- Individuals that meet exemption criteria will be considered bona fide residents of the province/territory granting the exemption. They are not considered free agents.

For Canadian championships that do not lead to a World Curling Federation Championships, there may be unique circumstances allowing a curler to reside outside of Canada and still be eligible to compete. In these circumstances, the respective Member Association[s] must provide approval. For example – Point Roberts, Washington residents may be eligible to compete in Curl BC events leading to Under-18, Masters, and Travelers competitions if granted an exemption by Curl BC.

In the case when a team enters the Provincial/Territorial/Canadian Championship playdown and is found **not** to be in compliance with the residency policy, the entire team risks being suspended for one (1) year from Curling Canada and Member Association sanctioned events. Suspension shall only be implemented subsequent to due process and it is determined that residency and/or exemption related information has been provided in a fraudulent manner.

PROCESS FOR CHALLENGES

It is understood that this policy will be a national policy and, in the event the policy is challenged, Curling Canada will assist in the defense of any challenge at the Member Association level and/or

protect Curling Canada's interest and its costs, as the Associations mutually deem appropriate.

WHEREABOUTS PROGRAM

Curling Canada's "whereabouts" program will be implemented as required to provide confirmation that a team member is in compliance with established residency and/or exemption criteria and to ensure all related documentation/ statements that the individual has provided are valid. The protocol for the "whereabouts" program is as follows:

- It is brought to the attention of a Member Association that a team member(s) may not be compliant with the residency/exemption policy criteria.
- If the Member Association is in agreement, they shall work together with Curling Canada in an effort to establish confirmation that the individual is compliant.
- The individual(s) shall be contacted and asked to confirm that the documentation/statements provided are accurate/valid and to establish that they are aware of the potential consequence of having provided fraudulent documents and/or statements.
- The Member Association and Curling Canada shall then determine if further confirmation is warranted and if so, the Director of High Performance will implement Curling Canada's Whereabouts Program.
- The individual will be contacted and requested to participate in Curling Canada's Whereabouts Program and their team will be advised. Failure to grant approval will result in the individual being deemed not to be in compliance.
- The whereabouts program is intended to establish the exact location of the individual on a 24/7 basis and therefore the individual must be a willing participant in providing proof positive as to the credibility of their claim to be in compliance with the residency policy and/or exemption criteria.
- The Whereabouts Program will make use of any reasonable means possible/available to establish that the individual in question is in fact in compliance with the residency policy and/or exemption criteria. This will be done with the approval of the individual in question. Failure to grant approval will result in the individual being deemed not to be in compliance.
- If it is established that the individual is deemed not to be in compliance, they will be provided the opportunity to participate in Curling Canada's Appeal Process, which will be implemented in a timely manner by the Department of High Performance.