

## Policy XVIII – Curling Playdowns

(Revised Feb. 28, 2018)

### 1. Eligibility

- a) Students must meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the HCAA Bylaws.
- b) A “senior curler” is an eligible curler enrolled in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12.  
A “junior curler” is an eligible curler enrolled in grade 6, 7, 8, or 9.
- c) A grade 9 student may participate as both a junior curler and a senior curler.
- d) Once the Pre-District playdowns have begun (and through to the end of the District Championship), a junior curler may curl with only one junior team and a senior curler may curl with only one senior team. Essentially, a junior curler is locked in with the junior team they first play for once Pre-Districts begin and through to the end of the District Championship, and a senior curler is locked in with the senior team they first play for once Pre-Districts begin, including Districts and through to the end of the Provincial Championship.
- e) A grade 8 student may become eligible to curl as a senior in 1A and 2A schools if the need, request, and approval from the SHSAA have followed proper channels.

### 2. Rules and Guidelines:

- a) The HCAA will follow SHSAA rules (current CCA rules with exceptions as noted in the SHSAA Handbook) with exceptions and reminders as noted below. **It is the responsibility of each coach/supervisor to have read and understood the current rules set out by the CCA, the SHSAA Handbook, and HCAA policy.** Failure to read and understand the aforementioned documents will not be acceptable justification for violations.
- b) All SENIOR games consist of eight ends. Extra ends will be played until a winner is declared.
- c) All JUNIOR games consist of six ends. Extra ends will be played until a winner is declared.  
  
In JUNIOR games, there will NOT be a mandatory one minute break at the midpoint of each game.
- d) In Senior Mixed curling, teams must be comprised of two males and two females. Curlers of the same gender must play alternate positions.

In Junior Mixed curling, teams may be comprised of (2 possibilities):

1. Two male and two female curlers. Opposite genders must deliver skip and third stones (thus MFMF, MFFM, FMFM, and FMMF are all acceptable throwing orders).
  2. **NEW in 2017-2018:** Three of one gender and one of the other gender. The one person of the opposite gender must deliver either skip or third stones.
- e) A coin toss shall be used to determine last rock advantage/choice of rock color in all games EXCEPT the first game of the A-B final at the District Championship (where the A-Side qualifier shall be given the options granted a coin toss winner).

- f) In BOYS and GIRLS curling, teams must start each event (Pre-Districts or Districts) with four players. Should one of these players fall ill, get injured, or otherwise legitimately be unable to continue playing (and no spare is available), the team shall be allowed to continue the event with three players.

In JUNIOR MIXED curling, teams must start each event (Pre-Districts or Districts) with four players. Should one of these players fall ill, get injured, or otherwise legitimately be unable to continue playing (and no spare is available), the team shall be allowed to continue the event with three players ***as long as at least one remaining player is of the opposite gender***. Should a junior mixed team's only or last opposite gender player get injured and be unable to continue playing (and no eligible spare of that gender traveled with the team), a player may be borrowed from the host school's sub pool. The sub pool shall consist of a minimum of 1 male and 1 female age and grade eligible student from the host school's student body who are not already competing at the event in progress. It is therefore the duty of each commissioner to have these people in place and prepared to curl if need be. As the necessity for the use of a sub pool player is rare, the sub pool students need not be at the rink during school time, as they can be called over from the school in the rare event they are needed.

In SENIOR MIXED curling, however, a team must be comprised of alternating genders at each position and therefore cannot, at any time, compete with only three players. Should one of the four players on a mixed team fall ill or get injured and be unable to continue playing (and no eligible spare of that gender traveled with the team), a player may be borrowed from the host school's sub pool. The sub pool shall consist of a minimum of 1 male and 1 female age and grade eligible student from the host school's student body who are not already competing at the event in progress. It is therefore the duty of each commissioner to have these people in place and prepared to curl if need be. As the necessity for the use of a sub pool player is rare, the sub pool students need not be at the rink during school time, as they can be called over from the school in the rare event they are needed.

- g) SUBS and SUBSTITUTION

Senior boys and girls teams may be made up of a maximum of five competitors (one substitute). A senior boys or girls team would have to forfeit any game where they are down to fewer than three eligible curlers able to continue.

Senior mixed teams may be made up of a maximum of three males and three females (one male substitute and one female substitute). A senior mixed team would have to forfeit any game where they are down to fewer than four of their own school's eligible curlers able to continue, notwithstanding the fact they could utilize up to one male and one female from the host's "sub pool" before having to forfeit.

Junior boys, girls, and mixed teams may be made up of a maximum of six competitors (up to two substitutes). A junior boys, girls, or mixed team would have to forfeit any game where they are down to fewer than three eligible curlers able to continue. Mixed teams would have to have one remaining player of the opposite gender, notwithstanding the fact they could utilize up to one male and one female from the host's "sub pool" before having to forfeit.

In both junior and senior curling, an eligible substitute may be substituted into any game. This substitution would take place between ends, unless motivated by physical injury or illness. The player substituted out of the game may not re-enter the same game. The player entering the game must be of the same gender as the player who leaves the game ***EXCEPT in junior mixed where a boy could be substituted for a girl and vice versa as long as there is still one member of the opposite gender on the ice and that one member of the opposite gender must throw third or skip stones.*** The player entering the game must play the same position as the player who left the game **or lower**. The other players would retain their relative order (in mixed, alternating gender must still be maintained).

- h) As per SHSAA policy, headwear is not permitted (unless there is a health, safety, or religious implication).
- i) A reminder that time-outs follow the SHSAA timeout protocol (see exception in 2. c above). **EXCEPTION:** In Junior Curling, a time-out ends after one minute, or when BOTH coaches, regardless of who called the time-out, are done speaking with their team – whichever is earlier.
- j) A technical committee shall be formed by the commissioner prior to each competition (as per HCAA Policy VII: Duties of Commissioners) to deal expeditiously with protests or disciplinary issues.
- k) The commissioner shall arrange for a qualified head judge to be present for all draws to assist with measurements, time out timing and recording, and rule enforcement and interpretation. The head judge should not be a person coaching a team at the event (when possible).

### 3. Pre-Districts (Format and Advancement)

- a) In both JUNIORS and SENIORS, each school shall be allowed to enter a maximum of two teams in each category (boys, girls, mixed) at the Pre-District playoff level.
- b) For both junior and senior curling playdowns, three Pre-District events will be held. Each Pre-District will include all three categories (boys, girls, mixed) at the same site (notwithstanding the next point). The top two teams from each of the three Pre-Districts will advance to the District Championship, with the following **EXCEPTION:** the school hosting the District Championship will, prior to the beginning of the Pre-District event, declare one team (boys, girls, or mixed) as the host team. If this team fails to place in the top two at Pre-Districts, **THREE** teams shall advance to District Championship from this Pre-District – the top two teams plus the declared host team (and the District draw in this category will have 7 teams).
- c) When there are 11 teams or less entered into any one category, an **attempt** will be made to have that category contested at only two of the three Pre-District sites, and thus Districts in this category would consist of four (five if a host team was declared) teams only.
- d) The location of each of the three Pre-Districts (junior and senior) will be selected by the HCAA Bids Committee. Host facilities must be wheelchair accessible and must be able to accommodate specific requests related to student well-being (e.g. allergy awareness).

- e) The HCAA's appointee shall determine which schools will appear at which Pre-District host site. The following guidelines shall be used to determine which schools go where:
  - no single school's teams shall be sent to more than 1 location without their express permission.
  - determination of which school travels to which Pre-District will be based on the location of the three hosts and then a geographical splitting of the map tempered with an attempt to equalize the number of rinks in any one category in each of the Pre-Districts
  - there shall be a maximum of eight (8) rinks in any one category at each Pre-District
- f) The format for all Pre-District play shall be a **regular double knockout** bracket draw. Because two teams are advancing, the A-B Final shall not be played (with the team winning the A-side considered to be ranked higher).
- g) An attempt will be made to complete each Pre-District in one day, with a two day maximum. Dates (or date ranges) will be determined at the Fall Meeting.
- h) The schedules and draws will be developed by the HCAA appointee in consultation with the commissioner.

#### 4. Districts (Format and Advancement)

- a) The HCAA District Championship will be held in one site for seniors and one site for juniors. All three categories (boys, girl, mixed) will compete at each site.
- b) The location of each District Championship (Junior and Senior) will be determined by the HCAA Bids Committee at least three weeks prior to Pre-Districts (if not sooner).
- c) Notwithstanding 3 c., each category will involve six teams (two teams advancing from each of the three Pre-Districts) OR seven teams should the declared host team not qualify top two at Pre-Districts (see 3 b.). Bye(s) to the second round/bracket at Districts will be awarded to team(s) qualifying from the A side at Pre-Districts.
- d) The format for all District play will be a **regular double knockout** bracket draw (B-side qualifier must defeat A-side qualifier twice to claim the District Championship).
- e) In Seniors, both the District Champion and the runner-up will advance to the SHSAA Regionals. EXCEPTION: In the event an HCAA team is hosting the SHSAA Regional, only the District Champion and the host advance; if the host is the District Champion, then the runner-up also advances).
- f) An attempt will be made to complete each District Championship using a maximum of one instructional day. Dates will be determined at the fall meeting.
- g) The schedules and draws will be developed by the HCAA appointee in consultation with the commissioner.

## **5. Hosting**

- a) Bids for hosting will be submitted upon request to the HCAA appointee (who will forward all bids to the HCAA Bids Committee). Hosts required:
  - 3 Senior Pre-District sites
  - 1 Senior District Championship site
  - 3 Junior Pre-District sites
  - 1 Junior District Championship site
- b) A bid shall not be considered unless accompanied by facility rental costs. Bids to host shall also include host amenities.
- c) No curling bid shall be accepted if the host facility will not close their bar to all alcohol service during the duration of the event.
- d) A minimum three (3) sheets of ice are necessary; four sheets are preferable.

## **6. Awards**

At Pre-Districts, each A-side and each B-side qualifying team shall receive a team plaque.

At the District Championship, the members of each first place team shall receive a gold medal, the members of each second place team shall receive a silver medal, and the gold medal team shall receive the District Championship pennant.

## **7. Expenses**

Transportation, supervision and accommodation arrangements/bookings/costs for Pre-Districts, Districts, and Provincials are the responsibility of the individual school and its coach. Refer to your Board's policies to determine which costs can be recovered through Board-sponsored funding

## **8. Gate**

No gate shall be charged at any HCAA curling event.