



Competitors Guide

2020-2021 Season

Version 6.0

Please e-mail all questions and concerns
regarding this Competitors Guide to

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Introduction

The Alberta Junior Curling Tour was created in 2011 in hopes of creating meaningful competition to help develop high-end curling teams to represent the Province of Alberta at Canada Winter Games, U18 Nationals and Junior Nationals. Until the 2020-2021 season the majority of junior-aged curlers saw their season end near Christmas, as only one U20 team represented the province at Nationals. The Alberta Junior Curling Tour formed to extend the competitive season into March by creating additional cash spiels (AJCT Player's Championship, AJCT-run events, etc.) across the province. For the 2020-2021 season, the AJCT has facilitated the change in Canadian Championship dates by working with provincial bonspiels to ensure their event is on a weekend that provides meaningful competition for our curlers.

General Information

For the 2020-2021 season, teams can join the Alberta Junior Curling Tour by registering on the website **at no cost**. Registered teams will collect points from tour events as listed on the website [here](#). All Alberta Junior Curling Tour events are to be played under the "Rules for General Play" in the latest edition of the rulebook published by Curling Canada.

Teams will be comprised of four (4) U20/U18/U15 Men's curlers or four (4) Junior/U18/U15 Women's curlers. Teams have the option of registering an alternate, 5th player. Curlers may be registered in a maximum of one (1) team per division, only for the reason of age differences (e.g. a player is on different U20 and U18 teams). Two (2) members of the registered team must remain the same throughout the season for the team to earn points. Based on [Curling Canada's guidance](#), age eligibility will be evolving over the next few years, and the AJCT will be following this.

Transportation, accommodation and meals are at the expense of each team during their travels to and from each event on the tour. The local host committee will advise you of any functions provided at each event. The AJCT is not responsible for any damages, loss or other harm caused by transportation to and from, and general participation at any AJCT events.

Teams registering with the AJCT consent to having their pictures and team information displayed for purposes of promotion of the tour. This may include but is not limited to the AJCT website, social media pages, brochures, or other purposes as deemed necessary. The information provided to the AJCT at registration is used for contact and information purposes only and will not be provided to any other organizations without written consent of the teams. Teams and/or players are able to withdraw their consent at any time with written notice to the AJCT.

COVID-19 Protocols

The AJCT has created a “Return to Play FAQ’s” document that provides additional clarification about return to play for this year’s curling season. All information has been taken from the guidance provided by Curling Alberta, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Government of Alberta’s Sport Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) team. Please find this document attached in Appendix A, at the end of the Competitors Guide.

The AJCT is not responsible for the administration, monitoring, or enforcement of any COVID-19 guidelines. Each individual curling club, and by extension each individual bonspiel, is responsible for following the applicable health and safety guidance at all times. The AJCT can be used as a resource to help answer questions or direct inquiries to the appropriate body.

Alberta Junior Curling Tour Sponsorship

In the event that the Alberta Junior Curling Tour has sponsors for the season or select events throughout the season, it is on request by the Tour that these logos will be displayed at events across the province. The Alberta Junior Curling Tour will provide host committees with signs or banners as necessary. The host committee is still permitted in these situations to display their own sponsors, as long as when requested by the tour, tour sponsors are displayed as well.

If you are interested in partnering with the tour, please reach out to albertajuniorcurling@gmail.com.

Our title sponsor for the 2020-2021 season is Curlers Corner. If you are ever in the Calgary Curling Club, please stop by and say a big THANK YOU to Bernice and her team.

Curlers Corner



Your One Stop Curling Shop

Rules and Regulations

Curling is based on a code of ethics, good sportsmanship and personal integrity. You are expected to follow this tradition and the rules of the game throughout the competition. Please become familiar with the rules and regulations of the AJCT as follows.

Player Eligibility

The Alberta Junior Curling Tour is open to Men's and Women's teams of U20 or U18 eligibility as defined by [Curling Canada](#). The Alberta Junior Curling Tour requires that **a minimum of two (2) players from the registered team must be present to earn points for the event**. As well, a maximum of two (2) spares may be used to earn points. In the event that a team member is unable to compete in an event, a spare or replacement may be used, however this player may not be currently registered within the specific event and must respect event and AJCT rules regarding spares and replacements.

Event Eligibility

All events on the Alberta Junior Curling Tour have been recommended to have the following criteria:

- The minimum field for Alberta Junior Curling Tour Events is 8 women's and/or 8 men's teams per division.
- Divisions **must** be separated by gender.
- Double knockout, triple knockout, and round robin pool formats are acceptable with the conditions that the five rock Free Guard Zone Rule must be used and games must be 8 or 10 ends.

Brush Head Moratorium

All Alberta Junior Curling Tour Events will be required to follow the brush head moratorium put in place by Curling Canada. Failure to comply with this moratorium will result in consequences deemed appropriate by the AJCT and host event committee. Teams may be deemed ineligible for points and could face disqualification from the AJCT.

Pre-Competition Practice

Unless noted in a Pre-Competition meeting or outlined by your host committee, there will not be any pre-competition practice of any kind. Please check each individual bonspiel's rules.

Dress Standards/Cresting

It is a request that at all events of the Alberta Junior Curling Tour the guidelines from Curling Alberta are followed. Please educate yourself on the dress standards required for Curling Alberta-sanctioned events (qualifiers and provincials).

- The AJCT will not regularly enforce a dress policy at its events. However, if a tour event has a request (ex. Business casual at banquets, matching uniforms for televised events), teams will be notified and compliance is expected.

Team Sponsorship

Teams entered in AJCT events are more than welcome to wear sponsor logos on uniforms, as well as bring a sign/banner with sponsor logos. It is up to the discretion of individual bonspiel organizers to inform teams on where banners and signs may be placed in their facility.

Electronic Devices

No electronic devices of any type are allowed in the playing area during the course of a game. Teams may stream their games provided the host committee allows it.

Microphones

One-way communication devices such as microphones are allowed by the AJCT as a training device. Check with the organizing committee at each event for their policies.

Media

It is requested that all players and coaches cooperate with the media and grant interviews when requested. Please remember, there is no such thing as an “off the record” comment. Players are representatives of the AJCT and must conduct themselves in a respectful manner.

Enhanced Coaching Involvement (ECI) Pilot

Curling Alberta is piloting the Enhanced Coaching Involvement project for the 2020-2021 season. The purpose of the ECI pilot project is to allow coaches to better support their teams by giving them more convenient and frequent access while the game is underway. This begins by allowing coaches to sit on the backboards, where they are better able to listen in on their teams' conversations. Furthermore, in U15, U18 and U20 categories the ECI pilot project also gives them the opportunity to interact with their teams a pre-determined number of times each end.

The AJCT is recommending to clubs that the ECI is followed at their event. Please visit <https://curlingalberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ECI-Pilot-Project-Rules-20-21.pdf> for more information.

Point Allocation

The AJCT Points System has changed for the 2020-2021 season. Typically we follow the direction of the World Curling Tour (WCT) and since they have changed their system this year we will follow suit. We have also been working closely with Curling Alberta to closer align our two systems.

This year we are using a tiered system similar to the WCT, and point values similar to that of Curling Alberta. This system will be used for all AJCT and Curling Alberta events.

Breakdown by Result

Points breakdown by result is as follows:

Champion	100%
Finalist	70%
Semifinalist	50%
Quarterfinalist	36%

**In the event that a third-place or bronze medal game is played, the team finishing in 3rd place will receive 56%, and the team finishing in 4th place will receive 50% of the Champion's points.*

Points per Tier

Similar to the Curling Alberta Excel Points Race, there are different points awarded for U20 and U18 Events. Tier 2 is the baseline for number of points awarded; Tier 1 events award points one-third greater, and Tier 3 events award points one-third less.

U20 Placement	Tier 1 (1.33x)	Tier 2 (1.0x)	Tier 3 (0.67x)
Champion	40	30	20
Finalist	28	21	14
Semifinalist	20	15	10
Quarterfinalist	14.4	10.8	7.2
Points per Win	2.67	2	1.33

U18 Placement	Tier 1 (1.33x)	Tier 2 (1.0x)	Tier 3 (0.67x)
Champion	20	15	10
Finalist	14	10.5	7
Semifinalist	10	7.5	5
Quarterfinalist	7.2	5.4	3.6
Points per Win	1.33	1	0.67

Determination of Tiers

Each event will be placed into a tier **after** the bonspiel has concluded. The tier of an event will be determined by the average rank of participating teams based on the most up-to-date AJCT Standings. The tier cut-off values were calculated from the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 seasons and will be reviewed annually. Note that the AJCT reserves the right to adjust the tier of an event as needed.

Note: Should a division of an event (e.g. U18 Women) have fewer than 8 teams, the Tier will be downgraded by one step.

U20 Tiers	Average Rank
Tier 1	<7
Tier 2	7-9
Tier 3	>9

U18 Tiers	Average Rank
Tier 1	<8
Tier 2	8-10.5
Tier 3	>10.5

Placement Points

In each event, placement points (Champion, Finalist etc.) will be awarded to approximately half of the teams. We will use the following guidelines when determining how many teams receive placement points. These guidelines may change at any point on an event-by-event basis.

- Number of teams receiving placement points will change based on the number of entries and number of qualifiers to the Championship Round
- Teams who are not awarded placement points will be awarded points per win based on the Tier of the event
- Teams who are awarded placement points will not receive points per win
- In events where **all** teams qualify for the championship round, placement points will only be awarded to the semi-finalists
- Points will not be awarded for tiebreaker wins

Example Calculation

The following teams are entered in a U18 AJCT Bonspiel:

Team	Rank	Event Result	Points Awarded
Team A	2	Semi-Finalist	7.5
Team B	4	Semi-Finalist	7.5
Team C	5	Champion	15
Team D	6	Runner-Up	10.5
Team E	7	2 wins	2
Team F	10	1 win	1
Team G	16	0 wins	0
Team H	20	0 wins	0

The average rank is calculated to be **8.75**, which means that this U18 event is classified as **Tier 2**.

Since there are 8 teams in the event, 4 teams (half) will receive placement points and the remaining 4 teams will receive points per win.

Points for Curling Alberta Events

Using the Excel Points Race as a guide, we will be awarding AJCT points for the following Curling Alberta events. **We will continue to use the WCT structure of 100/70/50/36% of Champion's points for these events.**

Event	Champion	Finalist	Semi-Finalist	Quarter-Finalist	Per Win
U18 Qualifiers	15 per Provincial berth	N/A			2
U18 Provincials	40	28	20	N/A	2.67
U18 Excel Cup	30	21	15	N/A	2
U18 Excel Points Race Provincials Berth	15	N/A			
U20 Qualifiers	30 per provincial berth	N/A			4
U20 Provincials	80	56	40	N/A	5.33
U20 Excel Cup	60	42	30	N/A	4
U20 Excel Points Race Provincials Berth	30	N/A			

Maximum Number of Events

Only a team's top 5 results from AJCT events will be included in points calculation. It is an expectation that all AJCT teams will register in their respective Provincial Qualifier events run by Curling Alberta. Therefore, results from the Qualifier and Provincial events will not count towards this 5 event maximum and will still be included in their total points calculation.

Example 1: A U20 team competes in five (5) AJCT events, U20 Qualifiers and U20 Provincials and has all seven (7) events included in their total points calculation.

Example 2: A U18 team competes in seven (7) AJCT events, U18 Qualifiers and U18 Provincials. Only their top 5 results from the AJCT events as well as their results in the Qualifiers and Provincials will be counted towards their total points calculation.

Standings

Points are divided into two categories; U21 Standings and U18 Standings.

- Teams who compete in U21 events will gain points towards their U21 standings
- Teams who compete in U18 events will gain points towards their U18 standings
- If a U18 team is playing in a U21 event, the points they obtain will be added ONLY to their U21 standings. The only way to get points in the U18 standings is to play in U18 events
- Teams may only earn points at events listed on the tour schedule
- The U21 category will be capped at the completion of Junior Provincials. The U18 category will be capped at the completion of U18 provincials
- No points will be awarded at Mixed Doubles events

Tie-breakers

Teams with equal quantity of points earned throughout the season will be considered tied. The following process will break ties, which will rank teams into prior to the start of the event. In the event that the first rule does not declare a winner, proceed to the next ruling.

1. If tied, the team with the most first place finishes on the Alberta Junior Curling Tour will receive the tiebreaker.
2. If still tied, the team with the most second place finishes on the Alberta Junior Curling Tour will receive the tiebreaker.
3. If still tied, the team with the better U20 or U18 qualifier result will receive the tiebreaker. (Teams who qualify for provincials surpass teams who only qualified for regionals). In the event teams have identical records, teams remain tied.
4. If still tied, the team who has won more head-to-head games at tour events will receive the tiebreaker.

Qualification for Players' Championship

Eight (8) teams will qualify for the Players' Championship in the following order:

1. Winner of the U20 Provincial Championship
2. Winner of the U20 Bonspiel with the lowest (best) Average Rank
3. Highest-ranked team on the U21 standings not already qualified
4. Highest-ranked team on the U21 standings not already qualified
5. Highest-ranked team on the U21 standings not already qualified
6. Highest-ranked team on the U21 standings not already qualified
7. Winner of the U18 Provincial Championship
8. Highest-ranked team on the U18 standings not already qualified

If a team declines their invitation to the Players' Championship, the highest-ranked team on the respective standings that has not already qualified will be invited. Points cut-off for each division will be at the conclusion of the last-scheduled AJCT Bonspiel or Provincial Championship, whichever is later.

Conduct

The Alberta Junior Curling Tour is a showcase of the finest curling talent (U21, U18 and U15) in our province. Players are required to conduct themselves on and off the ice in an appropriate manner. Please see your regional Code of Conduct policy.

Athlete's/Coaches Code of Ethics

1. *To ensure that all curlers are aware of their responsibilities when playing the game, the Canadian Curling Association has adopted the following Code of Ethics as an official supplement to the Rules of Curling:*
2. *Curlers' Code of Ethics*
3. *I will play the game with a spirit of good sportsmanship*
4. *I will conduct myself in an honorable manner both on and off the ice*
5. *I will never knowingly break a rule, but if I do, I will divulge the breach*
6. *I will take no action that could be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate or demean my opponents, teammates or umpires*
7. *I will interpret the rules in an impartial manner, always keeping in mind that the purpose of the rules is to ensure that the game is played in an orderly and fair manner*
8. *I will humbly accept any penalty that the governing body at any level of curling deems appropriate*
9. *The coach shall act with integrity in performing all duties owed to athletes, the sport, other members of the coaching profession and the public*
10. *The coach shall strive to be well prepared and current in order that all duties in their discipline are fulfilled with competence*
11. *The coach shall act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person*
12. *The coach shall accept both the letter and spirit of the rules that define and govern the sport*
13. *The coach shall accept the role of umpires in providing judgment to ensure that competitions are conducted fairly and in accordance with the established rules*
14. *The coach's conduct toward other coaches shall be characterized by courtesy, good faith and respect*
15. *The coach shall maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and support the principles of Fair Play*

Fair Play

1. *Fair Play begins with the strict observance of the written rule; however, in most cases, Fair Play involved something more than even unflinching observance or the written rule. The observance of the spirit of the rules, whether written or unwritten, is important*
2. *Fair Play results from measuring up to one's own moral standards while engaged in competition*
3. *Fair Play is consistent demonstration of respect for teammates and opponents, whether they are winning or losing*
4. *Fair Play is consistent demonstration of respect for umpires, an acceptance of their decisions and a steadfast spirit of collaboration with them*

5. *Sportsmanlike behaviour should be demonstrated both on and off the ice. This includes modesty in victory and composure in defeat*

Parent's Code of Conduct

1. *I will not force my child to participate in curling*
2. *I will remember that my child curls for his/her enjoyment, not mine*
3. *I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflict without resorting to hostility or violence*
4. *I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the score of the game*
5. *I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly, for trying hard and/or for at least making a good shot sometime in the game*
6. *I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a game*
7. *I will remember that children learn best by example, I will: applaud good plays and performance by both teams*
8. *I will never question the umpires' judgment or honesty in public*
9. *I will support all efforts to remove verbal abuse from curling games*
10. *I will respect and show appreciation for all the volunteers that contribute to each team so that my child has an opportunity to curl*



APPENDIX A: Return to Play FAQ's

Alberta Junior Curling Tour Return to Play FAQ's

This document has been created for our U20/U18/U15 competitive teams to provide additional clarification about return to play for the 2020-2021 season. All information has been taken from the guidance provided by Curling Alberta, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Government of Alberta's Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) team. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at albertajuniorcurling@gmail.com or speak to Curling Alberta directly at info@curlingalberta.ca or 780-454-2875.

Is there going to be a 2020-2021 season?

RIGHT NOW, THE ANSWER IS YES! Given Alberta's current relaunch guidance we are able to return to the ice this year. We will be following Curling Alberta's lead with respect to our competitions, and as this is a big team effort, we ask everyone in the curling community to follow the guidance to the best of their ability at all times.

What is a cohort?

A COVID-19 cohort is a small group of people (always the same people) who do not always keep their 2m distance from other members of the cohort. It is recommended that teams registering in AJCT events form a sport cohort as they are likely to be in close contact with each other, including the team's coach. Teams who elect not to form a cohort will simply employ physical distancing within their team as per their own risk tolerance. Regardless of whether your team chooses to include your coach in the team cohort (i.e. you don't always maintain a physical distance) it is recommended that they always wear a mask when performing their duties.

How many sport cohorts can I be in?

Families are encouraged to limit the number of cohorts that their members are part of, including sports cohorts. However, there is not a set a single number of cohorts that is right for every family or team. Each family and team must determine what level of risk is right for them and what level of risk they deem acceptable. The more activities a person participates in where distancing cannot be maintained, the greater their risk of exposure.

If there are concerns or when in doubt, Albertans are encouraged to keep sports cohorts as limited as possible. Alberta Health is closely monitoring all factors to determine if and when an increase in cohort size is appropriate. They will continue to monitor the spread of the virus and changes will be made as needed, however, there is no plan to raise cohort numbers in the immediate future.

If we become a cohort, can we have two sweepers?

Yes. If your team forms a sport cohort, your team members do not need to physically distance from each other at all times. You will be allowed to have two sweepers if your team is a cohort. As a cohort, you must, at all times, remain physically distanced from the opposing team, and all others in the club.

Are we able to sweep rocks when it is the opposition's turn to throw?

In line with Curling Alberta's guidance, the non-delivering team must relinquish the sheet completely, meaning that you are not allowed to sweep any rocks unless you are the delivering team. In addition, the delivering team can only sweep their own stones that have been set into motion, regardless of where they may be (and conversely, they may not sweep any of the opponent's rocks, regardless of where they may be). Remember that your team must be physically distanced from all other teams at all times; your skip must stand behind the sheet when it is not your team's turn to throw.

What happens if my team needs a spare for an event?

You can have a spare join your team for the event, and it will be up to the group (parents, coach, etc.) to weigh the risks related to incorporating them into your cohort. Because Alberta's current relaunch guidance for sport discourages the formation of cohorts for weekend opportunities, we also recommend that your team remains physically distanced from the spare. If your team needs to utilize more than one spare during an event (e.g. a different spare on Friday than Saturday), you are strongly recommended to maintain physical distance from the spares.

Are there any time requirements for a cohort?

Your sport cohort can remain intact as long as you wish, and there are no restrictions on a waiting period before forming a new cohort. However, if you are on a team that has formed for the purpose of only playing in one event, you should not form a cohort. Rather, you would remain physically distanced and utilize only one sweeper at a time.

How will Curling Alberta's provincial qualifiers and championships be run?

Curling Alberta is currently in the process of finalizing revised policies for its sanctioned events for the 2020-2021 season. We have partnered closely with the provincial body to ensure that AJCT events are aligned with how Curling Alberta's events will look. Of course, both organizations will continue to monitor the environment throughout the season, and any necessary changes or updates will be communicated if/as required.

Are we allowed to travel to curl?

Where physical distancing between individuals/teams is maintained, travel for curling is allowed. This includes travel across provincial/territorial borders, noting that all other public health guidance should be observed. Alberta's updated relaunch guidance no longer refers to regional or zone restrictions. It is important to understand that some other provinces/territories are still not allowing or recommending participants to enter their boundaries for sport (Alberta *is* allowing individuals or teams to enter the province if they are complying with our own provincial guidance, specifically if they can physically distance or if they form a sport cohort).

Do we need to wear masks while on the ice?

Only coaches will be required to wear a mask (even if they are included in your team cohort) while on the cold side of the glass, including during gameplay. Players should feel free to wear a mask when they are not engaging in intense physical activity. Masks should not be worn during intense physical activity, as masks and face shields cannot be assured to stay in place. There is also some evidence to suggest that wearing a mask during high intensity activity could have negative health effects.

What happens if a member of my cohort feels ill, or tests positive for COVID-19?

You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition. The mandatory isolation period is 10 days from the onset of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. If you have known exposure to COVID-19 and display symptoms but tested negative for COVID-19 you are legally required to isolate for 14 days. If you have no known exposure to COVID-19, display symptoms and have tested negative, you are not legally required to isolate, however it is important to stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you do not infect others. See <https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx> for complete details.

If you have any symptoms you are encouraged to fill out the AHS Self-Assessment form at <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/Assessment.aspx>.

What forms do I need to complete before my team plays?

We are encouraging our hosts to collect the following forms:

1. Each member of the team will be required to fill out the Declaration of Compliance – COVID-19 from Curling Alberta, and submit to each individual host club.
2. Participants over the age of 18 will need to complete the Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement.
3. Participants under the age of majority (17 and under) will need to have their parent or legal guardian complete the Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement. It is expected that this information is shared with the participant.

4. Each team member, including coaches, will have to complete the COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist each day of competition.

We are encouraging that each individual bonspiel/club/host is responsible for collecting these forms. The AJCT is not responsible for this, and is using this document as a reminder to all parties that this is the current guidance from Curling Alberta and Curling Canada. These forms may be sent to your team from the club/host.

What is the Alberta Junior Curling Tour doing to ensure the safety of junior curlers?

The AJCT is not responsible for the administration, monitoring, or enforcement of any COVID-19 guidelines. Each individual curling club, and by extension each individual bonspiel, is responsible for following the applicable health and safety guidance at all times. The AJCT can be used as a resource to help answer questions or direct inquiries to the appropriate body.

Will there be any AJCT-run events like the Continental Cup or Players' Championship?

At this point a decision has not been made regarding the AJCT invitational events. Information will be posted on our social media as it is available.

Where can I find other resources?

[Curling Alberta Return to Play FAQs based on Alberta Health Guidance](#)

[Curling Alberta Member Club Resources](#)

[Curling Canada Return to Play Guidelines](#)

[Curling Alberta Sanctioned Competitions Policies](#)