



Media Release

Contact: Robbie Gallagher
604-333-3617
rgallagher@curlbc.ca

New BC Men's & Women's Curling Championships playdown structure

Richmond, BC (June 14, 2010) – Curl BC is pleased to announce that the BC Men's & Women's Curling Championships will have a new playdown structure for the 2010/2011 season on a two-year trial basis.

This change comes after a 10 month review of the playdown structure by Curl BC's Performance Committee. The process included researching other provincial structures, surveying Curl BC member facilities and curlers and analyzing the current system.

The formats of the 2011 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's and the 2011 Scotties Tournament of Hearts Women's Curling Championships will remain the same, however, the routes to qualify for these events will differ from previous years. The regional qualifying events will now be broadened to host two open interior playdowns and two open coast playdowns. Events will be spread geographically for accessibility, with the interior events being split between the north and south, and the coast events being split between Vancouver Island and the mainland. Each of these events will qualify 2 teams directly to the BC championships and will be held on separate dates to allow teams to enter one or both events within their playdown area. The remaining two berths in each provincial championship will remain reserved for the defending champions and the top BC team on the Canadian Team Ranking System list as of December 1st of each season.

The most notable change within this new structure is the elimination of the men's coastal and interior championships. This will remove the additional qualification step that only the men have been required to complete in the past.

It is anticipated that these changes will increase the opportunity to showcase BC's best teams at the provincial level, increase exposure & experience of up & coming teams, and save time and money for athletes, coaches, volunteers, member facilities and the Curl BC organization.

It has also been confirmed that the Vernon Curling Club will repeat as host of the 2011 Canadian Direct Insurance BC Men's Curling Championship. This championship will take place from February 7th- 13th. The Jeff Richard rink from Kelowna will be returning as 1 of the 10 teams vying for the provincial title. Richard earned his berth as the defending champion.

It was announced last month that the 2011 Scotties Tournament of Hearts BC Curling Championship will be hosted at the Cloverdale Curling Club January 17th – 23rd. The Kelly Scott team will return as the defending champions.

About Curl BC

Curl BC is the provincial sport governing body responsible for the development, promotion and organization of curling in British Columbia. Curl BC is also responsible for the championship system that declares provincial representation at National events. In cooperation with its Members, Curl BC provides service to both competitive and recreational curlers, including a variety of adaptive sport groups.