2026 Mixed Doubles
Canada Winter Game Trials
March 6-8, 2026
Abbotsford Curling Club

Prepared by Chief Umpire: Karen Sauer

The Chief Umpire will oversee all field of play action and assist competitors in the competition. If you have any questions **after** reading this information, please call or text Karen Sauer at cell # 604.504.1998, or email karensauer321@gmail.com.

The BC Mixed Doubles Canada Winter Game Trials: 12 teams in a round robin of 2 pools with 6 teams in each pool. Games are eight (8) ends each.

A team is comprised of two players, one male and one female. Alternate players are not allowed. A team must forfeit any game(s) in which it fails to have both athletes playing the entire game.

TIMING: Time Clocks will not be used for this event. Rule 17 (7) will be used in lieu:

If time clocks are not used in officiated play, and an umpire determines that a team is unnecessarily delaying a game, the umpire notifies the skip of the offending team and, after that notification, if the next stone to be delivered has not reached the tee line at the delivering end within forty-five (45) seconds, the stone is removed from play immediately.

Between end breaks will be sixty (60) seconds, mid game break five (5 (minutes and one (1) minute before each extra end and any Technical Time Outs.

OFFICIATING:
- 1 Chief Umpire
- Rule enforcement and unresolvable on-ice situations are to be directed to the Chief Umpire. The decision of the Chief Umpire is final.
- On-Ice Official:
    - There will be no on-ice officials. All measures will be taken by the Chief Umpire. Teams are asked to put up the score immediately after the completion of each end.

Curlers are reminded of the Curlers' Code of Ethics in the Curl BC Yearbook. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Please refer to: https://curlbc.ca/rules-documents/#rules

Please refer to: https://curlbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2026-Curling-Canadas-U-18-U-20-Coach-Interaction-Rules-English.pdf

MODIFIED FREE GUARD ZONE: No stone in play including the "positioned" stones and those in the house can be moved to an out-of-play position prior to the delivery of the fourth stone of an end. If there is a violation, **without exception** the delivered stone shall be removed from play and any displaced stone(s) shall be replaced to their original position by the non-offending team as per (Rules of Curling for Officiated Play - Mixed Doubles (rule (5) page 56).

POWER PLAY OPTION: Once per game, each team, when they have the decision on the placement of positioned stones, can use the "power play" option (Rules of Curling for Officiated Play - Mixed Doubles page 57).

TIMEOUTS: Replaced by Coach Interactions, following the 2027 Canada Winter Games U-21 Mixed Doubles rules.

Coaches will be provided with more convenient and frequent access to their teams while the game is being played.

Please refer to: 36 2027 Technical Package - Curling - PUBLISHED.pdf - Google Drive - page 13 and 14.

COACH INTERACTIONS: can occur when your team is the "DELIVERING TEAM".

Coaches will be allowed a maximum of two (2) interactions in the first half of the game and a maximum of two (2) interactions in the second half of the game. These Coach Interactions can occur in the same end or in different ends.

Coaches are responsible for keeping track and policing the number of interactions used. Disagreements will be brought forth to the Chief Umpire.

TECHNICAL TIMEOUTS:
Teams are encouraged to use the "X" signal to request a technical / official timeout (timeout for free guard zone measurement, end of end measurement, rule interpretation, etc.)

FAIR PLAY TIME OUT:
The purpose of the Coaches Fair Play Time-Out is to provide the coach or official an opportunity to diffuse a potentially negative situation regarding a player on ice demeanor before the situation escalates. Each coach shall be given a 1-minute fair play time out per game. Only the coach calling the fair play time out may enter the field of play and will be accompanied by an official. This is not an opportunity for a coach to discuss strategy.

Coaches are reminded that clean curling shoes are required to access the field of play. Coaches going to the away end will travel to the away end backboards to meet with their teams behind the backline. Coaches will be seated on the backboards during the games with their chairs positioned on the same side as their team's rocks. As the Coaches **will be on the ice**, they are to be dressed appropriately and warm enough to sit comfortably throughout a game. Jeans are not considered appropriate curling clothes and anyone wearing jeans will not be permitted in the field of play.

CONCEDING A GAME:
The team may concede following criteria have been met:

- In an eight (8) end game, a minimum of five (5) ends must be played.

Clarification of the score with a concession of the game:

1. When both teams still have stones to be delivered (at least 1 each) and there is a concession, no points are given and X's are placed on the scoreboard (if a team is mathematically eliminated - the game is over).
2. When one team has delivered all their stones and the other team has 1 stone remaining and there is a concession:
    a. If the team that delivered all their stones has stones counting and the game is conceded, X's are placed on the scoreboard.
    b. If the team that did not deliver all their stones has stones counting and the game is conceded, the points in the house are placed on the scoreboard.
    c. If after 9 stones are delivered and no stones are counting and the game is conceded, X's are placed on the scoreboard.
    d. If a game is conceded with more than 2 ends remaining, the first non-scored end will be marked with X's.

SPARE POOL: There are no spare pools or replacements allowed for this event.

PRE-COMPETITION PRACTICE: Pre-competition practice will be **20 MINUTES** on the first sheet the team will be playing on in their first draw. The schedule for pre-competition practice will be controlled by an umpire.

PRE-GAME PRACTICE AND STONE COLOUR: The round robin stone colour and pre-game practice is pre-determined based on the draw. The team listed first delivers dark stones and has first practice. Under the direction of an Umpire, each team will be allowed a **7-minute warm-up** with **1 minute** to complete each Last Stone Draw (LSD) before each game on the sheet of ice on which they are about to play. There is no limit to the number of stones which may be thrown. Teams will practice using only their stones for that game and may not handle or otherwise disturb their opponent's stones. Players are requested to stay off the ice until 1 minute to practice has been announced. Under the direction of an Umpire, curlers may cool their sliders and they may slide. Opposing teams may not be in the field of play during the other team's pre-game practice.

SPARE STONE: At the end of the team's pre-game practice, the "spare" stone will be moved to an out-of-position area – the spare stone can be switched out at the completion of an end.

LAST STONE ADVANTAGE IN THE FIRST END (HAMMER) will be decided by a draw to the button following each team's pre-game practice.

Following the pre-game practice, and under the direction of an Umpire, each player will deliver an LSD. In Mixed Doubles, Teams practicing first will throw the clockwise rotation, and teams practicing second will throw the counterclockwise rotation. The lowest combined LSD between the two teams will receive last stone advantage in the first end.

The draw to the button shall be played towards the home end.

Stones not delivered within the time allotted by the umpire will be assigned a measurement of 199.6 cm (the stone must reach the nearer tee-line before time expires). A draw to the button for last stone advantage that is moved by a team member prior to the measure will be assigned the distance to the next defined circle away from the button.

POSITIONED STONES: The positioned stones used for each draw will be as follows draw 1, stones #1 and #2, draw 2 stones #3 and #4, draw 3 stones #5 and #6, draw 4 stones #7 and #8 and then go through the order again (depending on the # of draws). A determination for what position will be used on the ice will be determined with the ice technician of the facility and will be announced prior to the 1st draw.

OTHER PRACTICE: During the event, no other practice is permitted.

All certified coaches must receive approval from Curl BC prior to the event. Only one coach will be permitted (from the original line-up form) to participate in the pre-game practice.

LINEUP FORMS: Prior to the first game of the event, a lineup form must be submitted to the chief umpire.

DELIVERY ROTATION: Each team shall deliver five (5) stones per end. The player delivering the team's first stone of the end must also deliver the team's last stone of that end. The other team member shall deliver the team's second, third, and fourth stones for that end. The player delivering the first stone can change from end to end.

If a player delivers a stone out of proper rotation, the delivered stone will be removed from play, and any displaced stones are returned to their original positions by the non-offending team. Should the infraction not be discovered until after the delivery of a subsequent stone, play continues as if the infraction did not occur; however, the player that delivered the first stone of the end can only deliver a maximum of two stones in that end.

FORMAT AND EVENT PLAYOFF

12 Teams play in a round robin of 2 pools with 6 teams each. The top 4 teams overall will advance to the semi-final. Teams will be determined in the following manner:

1. Win/Loss record
2. If Win/Loss cannot break the tie, then LSD will be used

There are no tie breaker games.

Playoff teams will be re-seeded and ranked one through four. The semifinal matchups will be 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3. The winners of the semifinal games will advance to the final and will be re-seeded again. The winner of the final will advance to the Canada Winter Games.

Playoff Selection

In the semi-final games

- The team with the better win/lose record will have choice of hammer or stone colour. The team with hammer will have first practice.
- If two teams have the same win/lose record, the team with the lower cumulative LSD will have a choice of pregame practice order or stone colour. Hammer will be determined by the LSD at the conclusion of pregame practice.

In the Final

- The team with the better win/lose record will have choice of hammer or stone colour. The team with hammer will have first practice.
- If two teams have the same win/lose record, the team with the lower cumulative LSD will have a choice of pregame practice order or stone colour. Hammer will be determined by the LSD at the conclusion of pregame practice.

Teams will play with the stones assigned to their sheet in all games.

CUMULATIVE LSD
Cumulative LSD is based on the total of 6 round robin games' LSDs (12 records) minus the two highest LSDs.

EQUIPMENT MORATORIUM: Curl BC has adopted the sweeping moratorium and equipment recommendations from Curl BC. ALL ATHLETES AND COACHES should familiarize themselves with this document and adhere to it. There will be no warnings and penalties will be applied as outlined in the document. This document is available on the Curl BC website.

Brush Inspection Procedures:
https://curlbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Broom-Inspection-Procedures.pdf

Please refer to: https://curlbc.ca/rules-documents/

Brush will be inspected and taped prior to the team's pre-event practice. Teams will be expected to take apart their entire brush head for inspection. Please ensure you have spare foam in the event foam disintegration is discovered.

All Players MUST start with a new brush sleeve for this event. Brushes may be visually inspected prior to each draw, and the Chief Umpire may request that brush sleeves be changed. Random equipment checks will take place at the discretion of the Chief Umpire throughout.

New Sweeping Technique Policy

This new rule/policy will **not** be implemented for these competitions.

In the spirit of curling, we still recommend that teams and athletes do not perform these techniques in an attempt to slow down the stone, as identified in the principles of sweeping, however officials at events this week will not have the authority to pull stones based on this policy.

Any questions/concerns that are not 'on-ice related' should be directed to:

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Good luck and Good Curling!

Regards,

Karen Sauer
Chief Umpire