



— JEUX DU —
CANADA
— GAMES —

**MEDIA INFORMATION PACKAGE
CURLING**



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- A. HISTORY OF SPORT**
- B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS**
- C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM**
- D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY**
- E. EQUIPMENT & TERMINOLOGY**
- F. ELIGIBILITY**
- G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM**
- H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT**
- I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT**
- J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT**
- K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION**
- L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE**
- M. ATHLETES TO WATCH FOR**
- N. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI**
- O. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS**
- P. ATHLETE/TEAM MATCH-UPS (RIVALRIES)**

A. HISTORY OF SPORT

There is little evidence to firmly establish the birthplace of curling. Both Scotland and the "low countries" of Europe claim title. The earliest artefacts of the game are from the Scots, while the language common to curling can be traced to dialects spoken by the Flemish peoples of what is now Belgium.

The stages of curling history are best traced by the development of curling stones. The earliest known stones, dating back to the 16th century, were called "Kuting Stones". There were small niches scrapped into the stones for fingers to grip and hold. Stones were as small as 2 kilograms, or as large as 10 kilograms. In the mid-17th century, handles began to appear with the early versions of curling stones. While handles allowed for greater control when throwing the stones, a wide variation in sizes and shapes of the stones still made it interesting to play. Before the current standard, shapes of stones included cones, ovals, squares, hexagons and others.

Current stones weigh 18 kilograms of granite from the tiny Scottish island of Ailsa Craig was the material of choice for curling stones. Up to the early 20th century, it was the only quarry in the world from which curling stone granite was mined. Veins of suitable granite have now been found in Wales.

Scottish settlers & General Wolfe's soldiers brought the game to Canada around 1760. Unable to find Ailsa Craig stones, Wolfe's troops melted cannonballs and made stones or "irons". Irons were used in Quebec curling clubs up until the 1950's. Scottish settlers developed a hardwood block with an iron ring as a striking band.

The oldest curling club in Canada is the Royal Montreal club, established in 1807. The first club in Ontario was formed in 1807 in Kingston. The third oldest club in Canada was formed in Halifax in 1824.

The largest growth for curling happened as the game moved west of the Great Lakes. In 1876, Winnipeg formed its first curling club, both Alberta and Saskatchewan formed clubs in 1880, and in 1895 curling reached British Columbia. Today, over two-thirds of the country's curling clubs are located in the four western provinces.

The biggest single change to the game was the development of indoor curling facilities. Harsh Canadian winters forced the game to move indoors, but it also meant an improvement in playing conditions, as the effect of weather conditions was greatly reduced. The subsequent development of "artificial ice" for these indoor clubs meant an extended playing season, a greater proliferation of clubs and many more people being attracted to the sport as participants. In the late 1950's, Canada had over 1500 curling clubs, many of which were located in small rural communities throughout Canada.

Today there are over 1200 curling clubs in every province and territory in the country. While a few "natural ice" clubs remain, the vast majority have artificial ice allowing a typical club to operate from October through to April. The largest club in Canada has 14 sheets of ice under one roof and the smallest only one sheet of ice. Within these clubs, over 1.5 million Canadians curl each winter.

The Canadian Men's Curling Championship, or Brier, has been held every year since 1927, with the exception of 1943-1945. The first Canadian Women's Championship was held in 1961 and Canadian Junior Curling Championships have been contested since

1950 (men) and 1971 (women). Canada has also won more world titles than any other nation in the world - twenty nine men's championships, thirteen women's titles, fifteen world junior men's and eight world junior women's.

On July 21, 1992 the International Olympic Committee formally approved curling's inclusion in the Winter Olympic program, after the sport had been played as a demonstration at the 1932, 1988 and 1992 Games. Curling had, for the first time, full medal status at the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan and Canada won a gold and silver medal. Since Nagano, Canada has gone on to win one gold medal (Torino, Italy), one silver medal (Salt Lake, Utah) and two bronze medals (Salt Lake & Torino) at the Olympic Games.

The 2006 Games in Torino, Italy marked the first year curling was included as a medal sport in the Paralympic Games. Canada won the gold medal at the Games in Torino, Italy.

A more detailed history of the sport in Canada can be found on the Canadian Curling Association website at www.curling.ca

B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS

Curling was first contested at the inaugural Canada Games in 1967 in Quebec City, QC. Below are the ranking of the Provinces/Territories since the inaugural games:

	1967*		1971*		1975*		1979		1983		1987		1991		1995		1999		2003	
	<i>C</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
AB	1	1	-	1	1	10	5	7	5	8	9	2	11	3	8	1	8	3	9	
BC	-	3	-	-	-	3	10	11	3	4	8	8	1	10	7	2	3	11	5	
MB	2	-	1	2	2	1	4	6	4	1	1	1	2	5	6	8	1	5	11	
NB	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	5	9	10	2	11	5	6	3	10	10	2	3	
NF	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	4	11	9	5	6	10	8	5	3	5	7	7	
NWT	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	2	12	12	12	5	7	9	12	9	11	8	10	
NS	3	-	-	-	-	9	2	8	2	2	11	7	8	11	9	11	9	6	4	
ON	-	2	2	-	3	6	9	1	1	7	4	4	9	1	4	4	4	4	2	
PEI	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	10	6	5	6	3	6	4	2	6	12	9	6	
QC	-	-	-	3	-	11	7	9	8	6	7	9	4	7	1	5	2	10	1	
SK	-	-	3	-	-	5	6	3	7	3	3	10	3	2	10	7	7	1	8	
YK	-	-	-	-	-	8	3	12	10	11	10	12	12	12	11	12	6	12	12	

C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM

Each team will be composed of four male and four female competitors.

D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY

All curling will be governed by the Canadian Curling Association's Rules of Curling.

Pre-playoff Competition Format

Pre-playoff competition will consist of one pool of six and one pool of seven teams in a round robin competition. Each team will meet all the other teams in its division in ten ends games. In the event a game is tied after the regulation ten ends have been played, an extra end or ends must be played to determine a winner. The team that has accumulated the most victories in its division will be ranked first, the next highest will be ranked second, and so on. The coach of the losing team may concede the game at any time he/she so wishes, with the approval of the head official.

Seeding

Seeding is based on the results of the 2003 Canada Winter Games and is as follows. Nunavut has been seeded 13th.

MEN

<u>POOL A</u>	<u>POOL B</u>
1. Saskatchewan	2. New Brunswick
4. Ontario	3. Alberta
5. Manitoba	6. Nova Scotia
8. Northwest Territories	7. Newfoundland
9. Prince Edward Island	10. Quebec
12. Yukon	11. British Columbia
13. Nunavut	

WOMEN

<u>POOL A</u>	<u>POOL B</u>
1. Quebec	2. Ontario
4. Nova Scotia	3. New Brunswick
5. British Columbia	6. Prince Edward Island
8. Saskatchewan	7. Newfoundland
9. Alberta	10. Northwest Territories
12. Yukon	11. Manitoba
13. Nunavut	

Playoffs

Following the round robin competition, the first two teams of each division will play for the medals while the remaining teams will playoff to determine final rankings. See the schedule in Section P for specific match ups.

E. EQUIPMENT & TERMINOLOGY

Backline – The line across the ice at the back of the house. Stones, which are over this line, are removed from play.

Balance – Something each curler must achieve while playing on the ice.

Biter – A stone that just touches the outer edge of the circles.

Blank End – An end in which no points have been scored.

Brush – A device used to sweep the ice in the path of a moving stone.

Burned Stone – A stone in motion touched by a member of either team, or any part of their equipment. Burned stones are removed from play.

Button – The circle at the centre of the house.

Centre Line – The line that goes the length of the sheet down its middle.

Counter – Any stone in the rings or touching the rings, which is a potential point.

Curl – The amount a rock bends while travelling down the sheet of ice.

Delivery – The action of throwing a curling stone that usually involves a curler sliding forward to propel the stone toward the target.

Draw Weight – The momentum required for a stone to reach the house or circles at the distant end.

End – A portion of a curling game that is completed when each team has thrown eight stones and the score has been decided.

Four Rock Rule – The first four stones (the two lead stones from each team) of an end cannot be removed from play if they come to rest within the free guard zone.

Guard – A stone that is placed in a position so that it may protect another stone.

Gripper – Rubber material on non-sliding foot to help curler keep balance on ice. Majority of curlers will wear two grippers when sweeping.

Hacks – The footholds at each end of the ice from which the stones are delivered.

Handle – The curved part on top of the rock where the curler holds on to the stone.

Heavy – A rock delivered with a greater force than necessary.

Hit – A take-out. Removal of a stone from the playing area by hitting it with another stone.

Hog Line – A line 10 meters from the hack at each end of the ice. A player must release the stone before the leading edge of the stone reaches the near hog line. If the stone is not released it will be stopped and removed from play.

Hogged Rock – A stone that does not reach the far hog line and it must be removed from play.

House – The rings or circles toward which play is directed consisting of a 12-foot ring, 8-foot ring, 4-foot ring and a button.

In-Turn (Clockwise) – The rotation applied to the handle of a stone that causes it to rotate in a clockwise direction and curl for a right-handed curler.

Lead – The first player on a team to deliver a pair of stones for his/her team in each end.

Out-Turn (Counter Clockwise) – The rotation applied to the handle of a stone that causes it to turn and curl in a counter-clockwise direction for a right-handed curler.

Pebble – A fine spray of water applied to a sheet of curling ice before commencing play.

Raise – When one stone is bumped ahead by another stone.

Release – The point at which the hand puts the turn on the rock.

Roll – The movement of a curling stone after it has struck a stationary stone in play.

Running Edge – The small circular band on the bottom of the rock.

Second – The curler who delivers the second pair of stones for his/her team in each end.

Sheet – The playing surface where a curling game is played.

Shot Rock – At any time during the end, the stone closest to the button.

Skip – The player who determines the strategy, and directs play for the team. Generally, the skip delivers the last pair of stones for his/her team in each end.

Slider – Slippery material placed on the sole of the shoe, to make it easier to slide down the ice.

Spare – An alternate player or substitute.

Sweeping, Brushing – The action of moving a brush back and forth in the path of the moving stone.

Take Out – Removal of a stone from the playing area by hitting it with another stone.

Tee Line – The line that passes through the centre of the house parallel to the hog line and back line.

Third, Vice-Skip or Mate – The third player on a team to throw two stones in each end. Generally this player acts as the skip when the skip is delivering his/her stones and assists with strategy decision.

Weight – The amount of force given to the stone during the delivery.

F. ELIGIBILITY

Competitors shall be a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 17 years of age on December 31, 2006. They will be born January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1994 inclusive.

G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM

Each team will meet all the other teams in its division in ten ends games: two points will be allotted for each win, 0 point for loss.

H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL RANKING - TIE BREAKING:

Should ties exist at the conclusion of round robin play, they shall be dealt with in the following manner:

1. Teams that complete the round robin with identical win-loss records are considered to be tied.
2. Teams tied for a medal playoff position shall only be eliminated from the playoffs by playing a tie-breaker game(s).
3. The only playoff position that shall involve tie-breaker games is the second playoff position.
4. The head official shall make all final decisions with regard to the administration of tie-breakers.

Tie-Breaking Process

1. When teams are tied for a playoff position, the round robin win/loss record of those teams against each other shall be used to determine their ranking and therefore how the teams are positioned in the playoff draw or tiebreaker game(s).
2. When the ranking of teams cannot be determined by comparing round robin win/loss records against the teams involved in the tie, the ranking shall be determined by applying the skill based team ranking process.

Skill Based Team Ranking Process

The skill based team ranking process shall be conducted according to the CCA rules in force at the time of the Games.

NOTE: See Appendix 2 of the Curling Technical Package for the tie-breaker draw charts.

I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT

Startco Engineering Ltd out of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan developed a hog-line-violation-detection system. "Eye on the Hog" is a system that provides impartial hog-line judging for the sport of curling. It uses innovative technology to detect a magnetic strip frozen into the ice at the hog line and a bar hand touching the handle. Circuitry in the handle turns on green lights after a valid release or flashes red lights if a violation has occurred. The system is activated when the rock is titled for cleaning and lights are off during delivery to prevent distractions. This system is used at all major national and international competitions.

Curling equipment manufacturers continued to improve and develop new equipment for curling. Sliders have been developed to improve performance through increasing balance, improving direction and increasing body speed. Brushes have become lightweight and stronger which allows increased speed and decreased friction.

J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT

Officials are present to make rule interpretations and to ensure that the playing field is level.

Head Official

- Responsible for the entire officiating system during the competition and has the final word should a supervising official's ruling is being questioned
- Interacts with the governing body of the competition, the media and the sponsors

Supervising Officials (On-Ice)

- Responsible for supervision of all activity at their end of the ice.

- Responsible for answering any on ice problems
- Notify stats and media of any line up changes
- Supervising all practices
- Monitoring timing display units for accuracy
- Rendering decisions on disputes
- Performing all measures, including those in the Free Guard Zone & backline measure
- Removing hog line violation rocks from play if required

Supervising Officials (Timing)

- Responsible for all interaction between the supervising officials and timing officials
- Responsible for all activities of the timing officials and assisting with if they have problems
- Liaise between the timing officials, the on-ice supervising officials and the Head Official
- Supervising timing of pre-game practices

Game Observer

- Primary responsibility is on-ice observation
- In case of a dispute over an incident on the ice, the supervising official or head official will look to the game observer for a report on the incident
- Charts every shot of each end
- Other duties may include posting the score, tossing the coin at the start of the game, storing equipment, or keeping an official scorecard

Timing Official

- Responsible for the operation of the time clock on the sheet to which they are assigned.

K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

All Curling matches will take place at the Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre. Located just 10 minutes from the Athletes Village, the Centre is home to 8 sheets of ice.

L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE

Curlers in Canada (2004)

- 872, 000 people play curling in Canada
- 487,000 (56%) are regular curlers (10 or more times per year)
- 128, 000 (15%) are occasional curlers (3-9 times per year)
- 257,000 (29%) are social curlers (once or twice per year)

A profile by region

Atlantic (New Brunswick, Newfoundland Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island)

82,000 curlers

9% of players in Canada

Quebec

94,000 curlers

11% of players in Canada

Ontario

281,000 curlers

32% of players in Canada

Prairies (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta)

268,000 curlers

31% of players in Canada

British Columbia

147,000 curlers

17% of players in Canada

Competitive Structure

Junior Women's Canadian Championships – Under 21

Junior Men's Canadian Championships – Under 21

Men's Canadian Championships – 19 years and older

Women's Canadian Championships – 19 years and older

Canadian Curling Trials -

Senior Men's Championships – 50 years and older

Senior Women's Championships – 50 years and older

Mixed Canadian Championship (2 men & 2 women) – 19 years and older

** All Championships lead to a World or Olympic competition except the Mixed Canadians.*

COACHES AND OFFICIALS

	Coaches*	Officials
AB	1287	1152
BC	1177	1380
MB	916	824
NB	406	332
NL	167	86
NS	588	366
NT	89	73
NU	4	0
ON	2606	1226
PE	131	141
QC	467	526
SK	1041	1720
YK	58	79

* Certified NCCP Level 1, 2, 3 & 4 (completed technical, practical & theory)

M. ATHLETES TO WATCH FOR

Prince Edward Island – Brett Gallant, Adam Casey, Anson Carmody, Alex MacFadyen - This team tied for fourth at the 2006 Canadian Junior Championships and their first Canadian Championship together as a team. Brett Gallant skipped in one other Canadian Championship in 2003 at the age of thirteen.

Julie Devereaux (skip of Newfoundland Labrador) and *Ashley Howard* (skip of New Brunswick – Daughter of Russ Howard, gold medal recipient in Torino) are two athletes to be watched as they – along with the PEI men’s team – have competed at the National level. Their experience at higher level competition should be present at the Games.

Team Saskatchewan and Team Alberta (boy’s)

Ontario (women) – This team has been successfully defeating most opponents they’ve faced.

N. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI

Athlete	Province	Canada Games	Olympics	Worlds
LaDawn Funk	Alberta	1987		1990 Junior (Gold)
Blayne Iskiw	Alberta	1995		1997 Junior (Bronze)
Brad Kuhn	British Columbia	1999		2000 Junior (Gold)
Ryan Kuhn	British Columbia	1999		2000 Junior (Gold)
Kerry Burtnyk	Manitoba	1979		1995 (Gold)
Denise Cormier	New Brunswick	1991		1991 Junior
Heather Smith-Dacey	New Brunswick	1991		1991 Junior
Suzanne Leblanc	New Brunswick	1991		1991 Junior
Lesley Hicks	New Brunswick	1991		1991 Junior
Melissa (McClure) Adams	New Brunswick	1995		1998 Junior (Gold)
Brigitte McClure	New Brunswick	1995		1998 Junior (Gold)
Bethany Toner	New Brunswick	1995		1998 Junior (Gold)
Nancy (Toner) MacDonald	New Brunswick	1995		1998 Junior (Gold)
Carol Webb	New Brunswick	1999		2002 Junior
Andrea Kelly	New Brunswick	2003		2005 Junior (Bronze)
Jodie DeSolla	New Brunswick	2003		2005 Junior (Bronze)
Kristin MacDiarmid	New Brunswick	2003		2005 Junior (Bronze)
Mark Nichols	Newfoundland Labrador	1995	2006 (Gold)	2001 Junior (Gold)
Mike Adam	Newfoundland Labrador	1999	2006 (Gold)	2001 Junior (Gold)
Colleen Jones	Nova Scotia	1979		2004 (Gold), 2003, 2002, 2001 (Gold), 1999 & 1982
Monica (Jones) Moriarty	Nova Scotia	1979		1982
Paige Mattie	Nova Scotia	2003		2004 Junior (Silver)
Alison Goring	Ontario	1983		1990 (Bronze)
Kristin Holman	Ontario	1983		1990 (Bronze)
Cheryl McPherson	Ontario	1983		1990 (Bronze)
Suzanne Gaudet	Prince Edward Island	1995		2001 Junior (Gold), 2002 Junior
Stefanie (Richard)	Prince Edward	1995		2001 Junior (Gold)

Clark	Island			
Robyn MacPhee	Prince Edward Island	1999		2001 Junior (Gold), 2002 Junior
Amy Nixon	Saskatchewan	1995	2006 (Bronze)	
Drew Heidt	Saskatchewan	2003		2007 World Universiade Games

O. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS

Nova Scotia Team of Colleen Jones, Kim Kelly, Mary-Anne Arsenault and Nancy Delahunt is the only women's team to win four Canadian Women's Championships (2001, 2002, 2003, & 2004 in a row and five Canadian Women's Championships within six years (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, & 2004).

Alberta Team of Randy Ferbey, David Nedohin, Scott Pfeifer and Marcel Rocque, is the only men's team to win three Canadian Men's Championships (2001, 2002 & 2003) in a row and four Canadian Men's Championships within five years (2001-2005).

P. ATHLETE/TEAM MATCH-UPS (RIVALRIES)

The up and coming PEI team will look to make a mark in the men's division this year. They will have to fight to defeat the defending champion – Saskatchewan.

The Quebec women's team will look to conquer the Winter Games this year and defend the 2003 title.