



2023-2024

Championship Qualifying Procedures

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www.USACurling.org

Notice: USA Curling Championship Qualification Procedures may be changed, in whole or in part, prior to the playdown process. This includes championship berth allotments for regions and specific teams, as granted in these rules. Regions and teams are not guaranteed a berth beyond the current USA Curling Championship. The rules for one year of championships will not be construed to give or imply any right for future championships. USA Curling policy is to promulgate its rules in advance of the competition affected by those rules, through its due process of committee and board meetings. Any mistakes, omissions, or ambiguity may be subject to clarification by USA Curling.

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Section I—Championships—General Rules and Guidelines

1. Overview: The policies stated in this section apply to all USA Curling Championships, unless otherwise noted. Specific Event Procedures Documents (EPDs) provided by the Chief Umpire of each championship override policies in this section. For any national championship, the [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#) apply.

For the Men’s and Women’s National Championships, Mixed Doubles National Championships, the Wheelchair Mixed Doubles National Championships, and the Junior National Championships, all players who advance to the world event are required to sign and abide by the USA Curling National Team Athlete Agreement.

2. General Eligibility: Playdown eligibility criteria varies by event. Refer to specific event eligibility in Section III. Every team member, including fifth players (alternates) AND coaches must have completed online registration before participating in a championship. Team members can be added electronically at the venue if an internet connection is available (see the Chief Umpire). The Chief Umpire or Deputy Chief Umpire, or his or her designated substitute, must be provided with acceptable proof of registration and will screen the athlete or coach for the appropriate participation requirements. If applicable, acceptable proof of citizenship must also be provided (see #3—Entry Process, Deadline, and fees for information).

Coaches must be at least 21 years of age and registered on [MyUSACurling](#). Coaches must be SafeSport-certified, review the [MAAPPs](#) in advance, and have a valid Background Screening.

Non-registered players or those who knowingly provide false information are subject to disqualification. If registration information is intentionally falsified and an individual is found to be ineligible because of it, the player will not be allowed to compete, entry fees will not be refunded, and the entire team can be declared ineligible to compete due to a lack of personnel.

(a) Membership - Anyone who registers for a USA Curling Championship event must be a dues-paying member of USA Curling. Anyone who registers for the Club Nationals Championships or Arena Nationals Championships must be a dues-paying, league-playing member of a USA Curling member club. Athletes should check with their club to ensure that their names appear on the club dues/membership roster similar to the way they appear in the online registration system. Updates can be made by athletes to their [MyUSACurling](#) profile as necessary.

(b) Dues—A player who registered for a championship in the previous year, but whose name did not appear as a dues-paying member, will be officially notified via email and will be given 30 days in which to correct the discrepancy. If the discrepancy is not corrected in a timely manner, the player will not be permitted to register for any championship in the current year.

(d) Citizenship—Proof of citizenship is required for all events leading to a World competition or representation of USA Curling for international competition: Junior Nationals, Mixed Doubles Nationals, Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Nationals, Mixed Fours Nationals, Men’s Nationals, Women’s Nationals, Senior Women’s Nationals, Senior Men’s Nationals, Olympic Team Trials, World University Games, and Youth Olympics.

(e) Residency Eligibility—Residency is permissible for all other events: Arena Nationals, Five-and-Under Nationals, Club Nationals, and U18 Nationals.

(f) Residency Definition—Residency is established by lawful and continuous presence within the United States for a period of 12 months immediately prior to April 1st of the year in which the competition is to

take place, except for brief and infrequent trips outside of the United States and except, as to full-time foreign students, for school vacation periods. U.S. citizens are eligible for all events without regard to residency.

(g) Level of Competition—No player may register on more than one team competing at the same level of play leading to the same national championship. A full team of eligible players must register before being allowed to represent a region in a national championship.

3. Entry Process, Deadlines, and Fees: *Parents or Legal Guardians of Minors are responsible for registering their children.* Teams enter the playdown process through online registration at usacurling.org (Events tab under Event Registrations). All registrations and payments are made online. It is the athlete's responsibility to see that all requirements are complete by the entry deadline date. Incomplete entries will not be accepted. Teams are encouraged to enter at least two weeks prior to the deadline date to avoid disqualification due to incomplete entries. It is important to keep contact information current on your MyUSACurling profile.

(a) The USA Curling office must receive the following through online registration by 11:59 p.m., Central Time, of the event registration deadline date. If a team has a coach, the coach must also register online and have an updated profile on MyUSACurling.

(b) Full payment of entry fees and any applicable regional association fees.

(c) Proof of Citizenship. Can be a legible photocopy of U.S. Passport photo/personal page, a notarized statement from a witness seeing your U.S. Naturalization Certificate, or your U.S. Birth Certificate/Certificate of Birth. Registrants from states employing the Enhanced Driver's License may use that document for proof. Proof of Citizenship is uploaded upon registration and can be added to your MyUSACurling profile under the documents tab.

(d) Entry registration dates are listed under the events registration section on usacurling.org.

4. Alcohol Consumption Policy: Consumption of alcohol by players under 21 is prohibited from the time of departure from the city of home/school residence, through the competition, and until the return to the city of home/school residence, including, without limitation, any banquet or post championship/event celebration.

Older players on a team with younger players who cannot drink alcohol may not encourage drinking by the underage members of their team. Sanctions for violation of this policy are as set forth within the Code of Conduct. USA Curling online registration Code of Conduct can be found at usacurling.org in the events tab under the Championships section.

5. USA Curling Recommended Format Policy: In certain cases where the number of teams is unknown or the format is not specifically stated, the following formats are recommended:

- Two teams – Best three out of five games
- Three or four teams – Double Round-Robin
- Five to ten teams – Single Round-Robin
- 11 teams or more - Knockout format or pool play

*Alternative formats may be considered when circumstances warrant.

6. Personnel:

(a) Registered Players - Upon entering the playdowns of any four-person team event, a team MUST register four or five players (minimum of four players must register at the close of event registration). A team may start, play, and/or end a competition with three of their registered four or five players. *There*

is no option for a player to resign from a team, or to be replaced. In extenuating circumstances, an appeal to replace a player can be emailed to competitions@usacurling.org.

(b) Fifth Players - Teams are encouraged to register only four players prior to the entry deadline. Teams may then add a fifth player at any point in the playdown process through the Championship event.

When adding a fifth player, that player:

- (i) Must meet all general eligibility requirements
- (ii) Must have completed on-line registration and the "USA Curling Registration Code of Conduct Agreement" and "Release of Liability" forms prior to competing (included in the online registration process)
- (iii) Must prove U.S. citizenship when applicable; and
- (iv) In any competition where a team represents a State or Region, the added fifth player must be a resident of that same state or region, unless the region represented would not be different had the added fifth player registered prior to the registration deadline. For Club Nationals, the fifth player must meet the same eligibility requirements as the other four players.

Any player from a team that has been eliminated from competition is eligible to become another team's registered fifth player only at a subsequent level of play.

Caution: Players are registered on a team as of the entry deadline. Teams registering five players have NO option to add an additional player for any reason except at the World Championships and U.S. Olympic Team Trials as noted below. In extenuating circumstances, an appeal to replace a player can be emailed to competitions@usacurling.org.

(c) Coaches & Team Officials - Must be at least 21 years of age. All coaches and team officials must have an updated profile on MyUSACurling with SafeSport requirements, review MAAPPs and have an updated Background Screen. USA Curling coaches are required for all USA Curling junior events. Legal Guardian consent forms are required for all minor athletes giving consent to a supervising adult or coach when a legal parent or guardian is not present or accompanying a minor athlete. Consent forms are to be carried by all designated coaches and supervising adults.

(d) Coaches are required to register three business days prior to the close of event registration and complete the requirements.

(e) Regional Playdowns and RFRs (Request for Rulings) - For any championship in which teams represent a region (and/or state), a team composed of players from more than one region (and/or state) is subject to the following team residency rule.

(i) When a majority of a team's players reside in a given Region (and/or State), the team must play down in that Region (and/or State). This is always the case when three or more team members reside in the same Region (and/or State), but also applies if two team members are from the same Region (and/or State) and the other two (or three) are each from separate Regions (and/or States). Please submit a Request for Ruling (RFR) to USA Curling to confirm participation eligibility.

(ii) Where an athlete "resides" is the region they will be considered as registering to represent. Registration addresses are reviewed. Individuals who have any confusion or ambiguity regarding region of residence should consult their regional association and USA Curling.

Any questions regarding the interpretation of these rules should be sent to:
competitions@usacurling.org.

7. Uniforms: Rules for uniforms vary by championship. At national championships that require uniforms, each team member shall wear identical uniforms for all games, including pants and hats, if worn (peak forward.) Each garment (jacket, sweater, shirt, or vest) shall have the player's surname in 2-inch letters across the upper back of the playing garment. All coaches and team officials are required to wear a

matching team jacket to sit on the coaching bench. Jeans are not acceptable within the field of play or coach's bench. When two players have the same surname, the first letter of their given name shall be added to the player's name on the garment. If the first letter is also the same either another initial should be added, or the full or abbreviated given names shown. A player or coach with an improper uniform shall be denied access to the field of play and the coaching bench.

Uniforms are strongly encouraged at all levels of play but are not mandatory at certain qualifying events and national championships. Uniforms are mandatory at the following national championships: Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, Wheelchair Mixed Doubles, U21 Junior Men's, U21 Junior Women's. They are also required at Olympic Team Trials.

8. Advertising/Cresting: Advertising shall be permitted on a player's on-ice uniform and equipment as follows:

Shall consist of embroidery, patches, screen printing, sublimation, or other design integration or adhesion (particularly in the case of equipment) in the exact same positions for each team member. The advertising/cresting must be neatly attached or incorporated into the uniform or on the equipment and be professional in appearance.

Advertising/crests on team uniforms are generally allowed. To streamline the review process and avoid on-site delays, teams must submit advertising/cresting for approval to USA Curling, no later than two weeks prior to the start of the event, at [USA Curling Logo Submission](#).

If the pre-event notification and review process is not followed, or any advertising/crests are added to uniforms after this review, players are advised that the Chief Umpire of the event may direct any team or player to remove any advertising deemed objectionable by her/him or other USA Curling representatives before being allowed on the ice. Any appeal of the Chief Umpire's ruling to ban a crest will be reviewed by USA Curling.

Advertising/sponsor crests may be placed on team uniforms in any locations other than those listed below:

- (a) The upper right chest of the outer playing garment – this is reserved for a potential USA Curling National Championship sponsorship patch (see provision below)*
- (b) On the seat or crotch area of a competitor's pants, tights or skirt

*USA Curling reserves the right to request that teams wear certain USA Curling sponsor crests while competing at USA Curling National Championships. If USA Curling does not notify teams of a National Championships cresting sponsor 30 days prior to the event, teams may leverage the upper right chest location for their own cresting.

Advertising/sponsor crests may not be placed, worn, or otherwise applied to a player's skin or hair. Players may wear hats, scarves or other headgear while competing. If more than one player on a team is wearing such an item, the items must be matching (exactly the same).

Separate advertising/sponsor cresting rules apply for National Team Athletes, all World Championship events, and other international events in which USA Curling may enter a team or teams.

All USA Curling Advertising/Sponsor cresting rules are subject to review and could change at any time, with ample notice to be given to competitors in USA Curling championship events.

9. Media: By entering the National Championships at any level of play, athletes and their coaches waive their rights to broadcast or print media royalties and permit editorial use of their image and description by the media. Athletes and coaches are advised that the USA Curling National Championships are commercial property owned exclusively by USA Curling.

10. Drug Testing: By entering any competition, all players acknowledge that they are subject to testing for substances banned by USA Curling, the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) substance abuse program, in accordance with the USOPC/USADA testing standards and procedures, and that by failing such a test, or by refusing to be tested, the player will be subject to disqualification. (The WCF Anti-Doping rules and procedures, which meet the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Agency, are applicable, and published in the WCF Anti-Doping Pamphlet.)

It is the responsibility of each athlete to be aware of banned substances and whether he/she must file a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE), and to follow through with all requirements in this regard. For information regarding banned substances go to the USADA website (www.usantidoping.org) or call the USADA Drug Reference Hotline: 1-800-233-0393. You can obtain information from WADA at their website (www.wada-ama.org).

11. Smoking: Smoking is not allowed at any USA Curling event venue except in designated areas. Smoking, including e-smoking devices, and tobacco of any kind are never allowed within the confines of the competition area.

12. Supervision: Any player under 18 years of age participating in any USA Curling championship events must be supervised by an appropriate adult over the age of 21 who has received legal Guardian Consent. Legal Guardian Consent forms are required for all minor athletes giving consent to a supervising adult or coach when a legal parent or guardian is not present or accompanying a minor athlete. Consent forms are to be carried by all designated coaches and supervising adults.

At the team meeting, the Chief Umpire will verify that the supervising adult is in attendance and has copies of consent Forms for each athlete under 18. A substitute responsible adult may be present due to illness, emergency, etc., provided they are over 21 years of age and are willing to sign and accept responsibility for the Under-18 competitor and have completed the coaching requirements.

14. Refund/Withdrawal Policy: Teams and individuals that withdraw from events that they registered to compete in will not receive a refund. Certain teams may qualify for an exception under the following conditions:

(a) Event was cancelled due to a lack of entered teams (and team elects not to travel to a proximate region to compete)

(b) Online registration system errors or registration overpayments

(c) Registered and unknowingly ineligible because a team member's club is not a member of USA Curling

(d) Certain hardship exceptions (to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis). Refund exceptions will be made for athletes who signed up for more than one USA Curling championship qualifier and advance to USA Curling championship events with scheduling that prevents their attendance at the other USA

Curling championship event. The inability to get another day off from work, or to find an alternate (fifth) player, will not be considered a hardship and an exception will not be granted.

All refunds will have online processing fees deducted. Individuals declared by USA Curling as eligible for a refund and withdrawal from a championship event must submit a written request, including complete contact information, specific event title and region (if applicable), and amount of the entry fee paid to the Events Director. (aaron.kaylor@usacurling.org)

SECTION II—Championship Qualifying Procedures

ARENA NATIONAL MEN’S and WOMEN’S CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Overview: The Arena National Championships are a club-based championship that determines the top teams that play regularly on prepped skating ice in an arena setting. An arena club is defined as a club that is a member in good standing of USA Curling and conducts all its on-ice activities by renting ice from a facility that is not solely or predominantly used for curling.

2. Event Eligibility: U.S. citizenship or residency is required. In addition to the USA Curling membership requirements in Section I, all team members must be dues-paying, league-playing members of the same USA Curling Member Arena Club. Team members cannot curl in more than ten league games at any dedicated ice clubs in the calendar year of the championship. Curling in bonspiels at dedicated ice clubs does not affect event eligibility. Delivery of the stone with a stick device will be allowed. Wheelchair curlers are allowed to compete but must adhere to the USA Curling Wheelchair Curling rules.

3. Playdown/Selection Window: Selecting team representatives will be at the discretion of each region. If requested, USA Curling may act in an advisory role to assist in determining a fair process. Regions must declare their intent to send teams to the 2023 Arena National Championships by July 15, 2023. If a region fails to declare its intent to send a team, that region will lose its Arena Nationals berth.

4. Qualifying Process: 12 Men’s teams and 12 Women’s teams will participate in separate Men’s and Women’s divisions for a total of 24 teams. Each region (Alaska, At-Large, Dakota Territory, Great Lakes (GLCA), Mid-America (MACA), Midwest, Minnesota, Mountain Pacific (MOPAC), Pacific Northwest (PNWCA), Wisconsin) will receive one berth per gender. The two regions with the greatest number of playdown entries per gender will each receive the additional Men’s and additional Women’s berths. If two regions have the exact same number of playdown entries, the total number of active, USA Curling members in each region will be used to break the tie.

*Fill Policy – In the event that one or more regions are unable to field a team, the vacant berth(s) will be filled to a total of twelve teams, beginning with the region that has the most regional playdown entries and does not already have an additional berth, and proceeding with the other regions in order of number of entries. See (ii) for process used to break ties.

5. Team Selection: Regions are responsible for determining the fairest possible selection or playdown process.

6. Championship Format: The championship will be a split round-robin event, with two divisions per gender of six teams each. Peer seeding will be used to rank teams in advance of play. The Round-Robins may be set up in a way that allows marquee matches in prime viewing time, as long as the drawmaster determines that the Round-Robin schedule remains fair in terms of time of play and sheet repetition. The top two teams from each division advance to the semifinals (A1 v. B2, B1 v. A2). The winners of the semifinals play in the gold medal game, while the losers of the semifinals play in the bronze medal game. Tiebreakers will be determined according to the [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#). All games will be eight ends and each team will be allotted one time out, plus an additional timeout in an extra end.

CLUB NATIONAL WOMEN'S and MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Overview: The USA Curling Club National Championships determine the top club-based teams from across the country. Teams advance through a regional playdown process. Club National Champions do not advance to world play.
 2. Event Eligibility: U.S. citizenship or residency is required. In addition to the USA Curling membership requirements in Section I, all team members must be dues-paying, league-playing members of the same USA Curling member club. Each entrant must also comply with the rulings or requirements of their region.
 3. Playdown Window: There is no formal playdown window. Regions may choose their own entry deadline. USA Curling encourages regions to hold their playdowns at least five weeks in advance of the Club Nationals Championship and avoid conflicts with other competition dates as much as possible.
 4. Qualifying Process: Twelve men's and twelve women's teams will advance to the Club Nationals as follows:
 - (a) One team from each of the following: Alaska, At-Large, Dakota Territory, Great Lakes (GLCA), Mid-America (MACA), Midwest, Minnesota, Mountain Pacific (MOPAC), Pacific Northwest (PNWCA), Wisconsin. The At-Large playdown will be run by USA Curling.
 - (b) The location with the greatest number of entries per gender will receive an additional berth. In the event there are two regions with the same number of entries, the number of entries in the previous season will be used to break the tie. If the tie remains, the region with the highest finish in the previous Club Nationals will receive the berth.
 - (c) The host club will receive berths in Men's and Women's Club Nationals.
- *Fill Policy – In the event that one or more regions or the host club are unable to field a team, the vacant slot(s) will be filled to a total of twelve teams, beginning with the region that has the most regional playdown entries and does not already have an additional berth, and proceeding with the other regions in order of number of entries. See (ii) for process used to break ties.
- **A region (and/or state) is not required to have more than one team registered in order to retain its berth to in Nationals.
5. Regional Competition Advancement: Each region is responsible for determining its representatives to the Club National Championships. Regions are encouraged to use the USA Curling recommended formats in Section I.
 6. Championship Format: The championship will be a split round-robin event, with two divisions per gender of six teams each. Peer seeding will be used to rank teams in advance of play. The Round-Robins may be set up in a way that allows marquee matches in prime viewing time, as long as the draw-master determines that the Round-Robin schedule remains fair in terms of time of play and sheet repetition. The top two teams from each division advance to the semifinals (A1 v. B2, B1 v. A2). The winners of the semifinals play in the gold medal game, while the losers of the semifinals play in the bronze medal game. Tiebreakers will be determined according to the [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#). All games will be eight ends and each team will be allotted one time-out.

MIXED FOURS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Overview: The Mixed Fours National Championship is a regionally based, geographic championship that determines the best Mixed Fours team. Teams move through the playdown process via regional playdowns. The winning team of the Mixed Fours National Championship will advance to the World Mixed Championship.

2. Event Eligibility: All four players must be U.S. citizens as of the deadline date. Players must be dues-paying members of a USA Curling member club. In addition to the USA Curling membership requirements in Section I, teams registering must have at least two players who reside in the region where the team will compete in playdowns.

3. Playdown Window: There is no formal playdown window. Regions may choose their own entry deadline. USA Curling encourages regions to hold their playdowns at least five weeks in advance of the Mixed Fours National Championship and should avoid conflicts with other competition dates as much as possible.

4. Qualifying Process: Twelve teams will advance to the Mixed Fours Nationals as follows:

(a) One team from each of the following: Alaska, At-Large, Dakota Territory, Great Lakes (GLCA), Mid-America (MACA), Midwest, Minnesota, Mountain Pacific (MOPAC), Pacific Northwest (PNWCA), Wisconsin. The At-Large playdown will be run by USA Curling.

(b) The region with the greatest number of entries will receive an additional berth. In the event there are two regions with the same number of entries, the number of entries in the previous season will be used to break the tie. If the tie remains, the region with the highest finish in the previous Mixed Fours Nationals will receive the berth.

(c) The host club will receive a berth in Mixed Fours Nationals.

*Fill Policy – In the event that one or more regions or the host club are unable to field a team, the vacant berth(s) will be filled to a total of twelve teams, beginning with the region with the most teams registered, and proceeding with the other regions in order of number of entries. See (ii) for process used to break ties.

**A region (and/or state) is not required to have more than one team registered in order to retain its berth to in Nationals.

5. Regional Competition Advancement: Each region is responsible for determining its representatives to the Mixed Fours National Championship. USA Curling encourages regions to use the USA Curling format formula described in Section I.

6.Format: The championship will be a split round-robin event, with two divisions of six teams each. Peer seeding will be used to rank teams in advance of play. The Round-Robins may be set up in a way that allows marquee matches in prime viewing time, as long as the drawmaster determines that the Round-Robin schedule remains fair in terms of time of play and sheet repetition. The top two teams from each division advance to the semifinals (A1 v. B2, B1 v. A2). The winners of the semifinals play in the gold medal game, while the losers of the semifinals play in the bronze medal game. Tiebreakers will be determined according to the [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#). All games will be eight ends and each team will be allotted one time out.

U21 JUNIOR MEN'S and JUNIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Overview: The Junior National Championships determine the top U21 Junior teams of each gender. The Junior National Championships serve as a selection event for the World Junior Championships.

2. Event Eligibility: Any player who is less than 21 years of age at any time during the 30th day of June of the year immediately preceding the year the competition is to take place and is a citizen of the United States as of registration deadline. Players must be dues-paying members of USA Curling (See Section I).

3. Entry and Qualifying Process: See Section I for entry process information. Upon qualifying for the U21 Junior National Championship, individuals and teams will be required to register and meet all eligibility requirements. Teams must submit an Intent to Compete form at least fourteen (14) days prior to their first qualification event (only one form needed per National Championship).

Teams will qualify for the U21 Junior National Championship as follows:

(a) The highest ranked U21 Junior Men's team and the highest ranked U21 Junior Women's team on the WCF Team Rankings as of October 31st, 2023, will earn berths in Junior Nationals. Six (6) teams per gender from six (6) recognized Qualifying Bonspiels will earn berths in Junior Nationals. In each qualifier event, the highest-finishing U.S.-based Junior Men's teams and Junior Women's teams, not already qualified, will earn berths in Junior Nationals. Teams competing in Qualifying Bonspiels will be ranked by WCF World Team Ranking total points and then at the discretion of the Qualifying Bonspiel Conveners in collaboration with USA Curling.

(b) One (1) team per gender will earn the remaining 8th berth based on points accumulated at Qualifying Bonspiels. Teams will accumulate points based on their top three (3) performances at qualifying events. Teams will earn three (3) points for a 2nd place finish, and two (2) points for a 3rd place or 4th place finish. If a points tie occurs, it will be broken by head-to-head performance record. If a tie still exists, it will be broken by order of finish at the final Qualifying Bonspiel. If the order of finish is the same, teams will play one (1) game for the final berth. If no unqualified teams have earned a berth through this points system, the final Nationals berth will be awarded to the next highest finishing team, not already qualified, at the final Qualifying Bonspiel. If two (2) teams are tied on points but neither team is competing at the Final Qualifying Bonspiel, the berth will be awarded to the next highest finishing team, not already qualified, at the Final Qualifying Bonspiel.

*Fill Policy—If no teams qualify via the WCF World Team Rankings, or if a Qualifying Bonspiel is cancelled or not held, the berth(s) will be awarded at the final Qualifying Bonspiel prior to the Junior Nationals.

**If a team already qualified for Junior Nationals wins a recognized Qualifying Bonspiel, the next highest-finishing US-based team not already qualified at that Qualifying Bonspiel will earn the berth in U21 Junior Nationals. There will be no berths awarded beyond 4th place. If a berth goes unfilled, the unfilled berth will be awarded at the final Qualifying Bonspiel.

4. Format: The 2024 Junior Men's and Junior Women's National Championship format will be a Round-Robin. The top four teams, as determined by the Round-Robin, will advance to the Page playoffs. Tiebreakers will be determined according to the [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#).

5. International Representation: Winning teams will be invited to represent the United States at the World Men's/Women's Junior Championships, or the World Men's/Women's Junior B Championships if the team must advance to the World Men's/Women's Junior Championships through that event.

Upon accepting the invite, the athletes and team coach will be under the direction of the Sporting Director and National Team Staff through to the completion of the World Junior Championships or the World Junior B Championships.

The Sporting Director will appoint a National Coach and support staff to assist the team in preparation for, and at, the World Junior Championships.

As necessary, a fifth player shall be selected to join the team at any time after the Junior National Championships.

While the intent is to keep teams and coaches intact, the National Team Staff, Sporting Director, and CEO may collaborate and modify teams if there is a code of conduct violation, the athlete is not maintaining the required training defined in their Junior National Team Athlete Agreement or the athlete is ill or injured therefore unable to compete healthy as deemed by a medical professional.

6. World Team Fifth Player Selection: A fifth player for any World Championship team will be selected by the Sporting Director and the National Team Coaching staff. Consideration of previous national and international experience, coachability, and progress as a youth athlete will be evaluated in the selection process of a fifth player for the team.

7. World Team Code of Conduct: All athletes invited to Team USA for Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, Juniors, Wheelchair Four Person, or Wheelchair Mixed Doubles World Championships are required to sign the USA Curling Code of Conduct. Any athlete failing to sign will be disqualified from representing the USA. If this occurs, the CEO reserves the right to invite another athlete or, as necessary, another team to fill the vacant position.

MIXED DOUBLES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Overview: The Mixed Doubles National Championship determines the top Mixed Doubles team. The Mixed Doubles National Championship serves as a selection event for the World Mixed Doubles Championship. Rules for Mixed Doubles play are in the [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#).

2. Event Eligibility: U.S. citizenship is required on or before the close of registration. Players need not be residents of the United States. Players must be paid members of USA Curling (See Section I). Event eligibility requirements are listed within Section I.

3. Entry and Qualifying Process: The 2024 Mixed Doubles National Championship will have a sixteen (16) team field. Teams must submit an *Intent to Compete* form at least fourteen (14) days prior to their first qualification event (only one form needed per National Championship). For teams qualifying per (iv) and (v) below, an Intent to Compete form must be submitted by October 31, 2023.

See Section I for entry process information or visit usacurling.org.

Teams will qualify for the Mixed Doubles National Championship as follows (in prioritized order):

- Previous season World Championship representatives.
- The 2023 Mixed Doubles Nationals Runner- Ups.

- The top three (3) finishing teams, not already qualified, from three recognized Qualifying Events (two teams from each Qualifying Event, six (6) teams total)
- Four (4) highest-ranked teams, not already qualified, based on the combined points of both players in the Men's/Women's WCF World Team Ranking System as of the second-to-last Tuesday in December of the current curling season. (i.e., The individual points earned by each player on the WCF World Team Ranking System will be added together to generate the total points of the Mixed Doubles combination.) Any ties will be broken by the WCF Mixed Doubles Rankings.
- Four (4) highest-ranked teams, not already qualified, from the WCF World Mixed Doubles Team Ranking System, as of the second Tuesday in January of the current curling season.

*Fill Policy-If a team qualifies through more than one of these criteria (i.e., has earned two or more berths in the Mixed Doubles National Championship), or if a team declines their berth in the Mixed Doubles National Championship, that berth will be awarded to the next highest-ranked team from the WCF World Mixed Doubles Team Ranking System, as of the second Tuesday in January of the current Curling season.

**If the Mixed Doubles National Championship is canceled, the team that won the Mixed Doubles National Championship in the previous season will represent the US at the World Championship.

4. Format: The 2024 Mixed Doubles National Championship format will be Round-Robin pools. The top three teams from each pool, as determined by Round-Robin results, will advance to post Round-Robin play. Tiebreakers will be determined according to the [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#).

5. International Representation: The winning team will be invited to represent the United States at the World Mixed Doubles Championship.

Upon accepting the invite, the athletes and team coach will be under the direction of the Sporting Director and National Team Staff through to the completion of the World Mixed Doubles Championship.

The Sporting Director will appoint a National Coach and support staff to assist the team in preparation for, and at, the World Mixed Doubles Championship.

While the intent is to keep teams and coaches intact, the National Team Staff, Sporting Director, and CEO may collaborate and modify teams if there is a code of conduct violation, the athlete is not maintaining necessary training or the athlete is ill or injured therefore unable to compete healthy as deemed by a medical professional.

6. World Team Code of Conduct: All athletes invited to Team USA for Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, Juniors, Wheelchair Four Person, or Wheelchair Mixed Doubles World Championships are required to sign the USA Curling Code of Conduct. Any athlete failing to sign will be disqualified from representing the USA. If this occurs, the CEO reserves the right to invite another athlete or, as necessary, another team to fill the vacant position.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Overview: The Men's and Women's National Championships determine the top Men's and Women's teams. The Men's and Women's National Championships serve as a selection event for the World Men's and World Women's Championships.

2. Event Eligibility: U.S. citizenship is required on or before the close of registration. Players need not be residents of the United States. Players must be paid members of USA Curling (See Section I). Other eligibility requirements are listed within Section I.

3. Entry and Qualifying Process: The 2024 Men's and Women's National Championships will have eight (8) teams per gender. Teams must submit an Intent to Compete form at least fourteen (14) days prior to their first qualification event (only one form needed per National Championship). If a team elects to not compete in a qualification event but still wants to be eligible for the National Championships, they must complete an Intent to Compete form by October 31, 2023. See Section I for entry process information or visit usacurling.org.

Teams will qualify for the Men's and Women's National Championships as follows:

- Previous season World Championship representatives
- The current year Pan-Continental Representative will receive a berth. If the current year Pan-Continental representative is the same team as the previous season's World Championship representative, this berth will be awarded to the runner-up at the 2023 National Championship
- Current season Junior World Championship representatives
- Two (2) highest-finishing teams, not already qualified, from two recognized Qualifying Events (top finisher in each Qualifying Event)
- Three (3) highest-ranking teams, not already qualified, from the published YTD WCF World Team Ranking System, as of the second-to-last Tuesday in December of the current curling season

*Fill Policy-If a team declines their berth in the National Championship, that berth will be awarded to the next highest-ranked team from the WCF World Team Ranking System, as of the second-to-last Tuesday in December of the current curling season. Teams must include Three of Four or Three of Five players to earn a berth.

**Qualifying Event draws will be seeded based on the WCF World Team Rankings—organizers will collaborate with USA Curling.

***If any Qualifying Event is canceled, that berth will be awarded to the next highest-ranked team from the WCF World Team Rankings, as of the second-to-last Tuesday in December of the current curling season.

4. Format: The 2024 Men's and Women's National Championship format will be a Round-Robin. The top four teams, as determined by Round-Robin play, will advance to a Page playoff. Tiebreakers will be determined according to the [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#).

5. International Representation: Winning teams will be invited to represent the United States at the World Men's/World Women's Championships.

Upon accepting the invite, the athletes and team coach will be under the direction of the Sporting Director and National Team Staff through to the completion of the World Men's/World Women's Championships.

The Sporting Director will appoint a National Coach and support staff to assist the team in preparation for, and at, the World Men's/Women's Championships.

As necessary, a fifth player shall be selected to join the team at any time after the Men's and Women's National Championships.

While the intent is to keep teams and coaches intact, the National Team Staff, Sporting Director, and CEO may collaborate and modify teams if there is a code of conduct violation, the athlete is not maintaining necessary training or the athlete is ill or injured therefore unable to compete healthy as deemed by a medical professional.

6. World Team Fifth Player Selection: A fifth player for any World Championship team will be selected by the Sporting Director and the National Team Coaching staff. Consideration of previous national and international experience, coachability, and progress as an athlete will be evaluated in the selection process of a fifth player for the team.

7. World Team Code of Conduct: All athletes invited to Team USA for Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, Juniors, Wheelchair Four Person, or Wheelchair Mixed Doubles World Championships are required to sign the USA Curling Code of Conduct. Any athlete failing to sign will be disqualified from representing the USA. If this occurs, the CEO reserves the right to invite another athlete or, as necessary, another team to fill the vacant position.

SENIOR MEN'S and SENIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Overview: The Senior Men's and Women's National Championships determine the top teams comprised of players who are at least 50 years of age. Event dates and format for both the Senior Men's and Senior Women's Nationals are subject to change each year, depending on the number of entries submitted.

2. Eligibility: Any player who is at least 50 years of age at any time during the 30th day of June of the year immediately preceding the year the competition is to take place, is a citizen of the United States as of the registration deadline, and a member of USA Curling, is eligible to compete. This event advances to the Senior Men's and Women's World Curling Championships.

3. Entry and Qualifying Process: Teams are required to register for the Senior Men's/Senior Women's National Championships by the entry deadline. See Section I for entry process information. There are no regional or state playdowns.

4. Format: The format for the Senior Men's and Women's National Championship depends on the number of entries. The USA Curling recommended format formula described in Section I will be used. The event is peer-seeded.

5. International Representation: Winning teams will be invited to represent the United States at the World Senior Men's/World Senior Women's Championships.

As necessary, a fifth player may be selected to join the team at any time after the Senior National Championships.

6. World Team Code of Conduct: All athletes invited to Team USA for Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, Juniors, Seniors, Wheelchair Four Person, or Wheelchair Mixed Doubles World Championships are required to sign the USA Curling Code of Conduct. Any athlete failing to sign will be disqualified from representing the USA. If this occurs, the CEO reserves the right to invite another athlete or, as necessary, another team to fill the vacant position.

WHEELCHAIR MIXED DOUBLES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Overview: The USA Curling Wheelchair Mixed Doubles National Championship will be the selection event for the Wheelchair Mixed Doubles World Championship.

2. Event Eligibility: U.S. citizenship is required on or before the close of registration. Competitors do not need to be residents of the United States. In addition to the USA Curling membership requirements in Section I, all team members must be dues-paying members of USA Curling. Competitors must exhibit a recognized physical impairment which allows the competitor to meet one of the six eligibility criteria for international classification specific to the sport of Wheelchair Curling. Please see WCF Classification information.

3. Entry and Qualifying Process: The 2024 Wheelchair Mixed Doubles National Championship will not have a limit on team field size. Teams are required to register for the National Championship four (4 weeks) prior to the competition start date.

4. Format: The 2024 Wheelchair Mixed Doubles National Championship format will be determined and announced when registration for the event closes. Start and finish dates of the event are subject to change, depending on the number of entries (accordion in nature). It is recommended that travel arrangements not be made until the number of registered teams has been determined.

5. International Representation: The Champion team will earn the right to represent the United States at the 2024 World Wheelchair Curling Mixed Doubles Championship. If one athlete from the winning team declines the slot, the first right of refusal goes to the athlete of the opposite gender from the 2nd place team to complete the team. Both athletes must agree to play with each other, otherwise the slot goes to an application process. If both team members of the winning team decline the slot, it will be offered to the 2nd place team who must accept the slot as a team (both individuals).

An application process will be used if:

(a) The Champion Team declines the berth, it rolls to the 2nd place team, and 2nd place team also declines the berth;

(b) If one athlete of the winning team declines the berth, first right of refusal goes to the athlete of the opposite gender from the 2nd place team but one of the athletes does not want to play with the other; Athlete(s) must accept or decline the berth within 72 hours of the event's completion by emailing Pete Annis at pete.annis@usacurling.org.

- (c) The Champion Team or one member of the Team is considered ineligible by WCF classification criteria;
- (d) the National Championship is cancelled
- (e) If the team needs to be replaced after Dec. 31st, 2022, the application process will be used.
- (f) Each individual athlete must apply individually therefore no “team” applications will be accepted

Application Process: Selection for the team will be considered based on the following criteria:

- (a) Mixed Doubles experience
- (b) Mixed Doubles competitive results
- (c) Coachability of the athlete
- (d) Availability of athlete to train/prepare for the Mixed Doubles World Championships
- (e) Potential of athlete to perform in the future in Mixed Doubles
- (f) WCF classification status and/or potential to classify based on outlined criteria
- (g) Applications will be reviewed by the following Selection Committee:
 - Two Athlete Representatives designated by the AAC
 - Pete Annis, Director of Wheelchair Curling Program
 - Katie Baker, Sporting Director
- (h) Mixed Doubles Worlds Team to be named no later than January 31, 2024.
- (i) All applications must be received, via email at Pete.Annis@usacurling.org, by 11:59pm CT on December 18, 2023.

International Representation: The team invited to represent the United States at the 2024 World Championships are required to meet the following criteria:

- The application process will finalize the team to represent the US at the 2024 Wheelchair Mixed Doubles World Championships if not determined on the field above per the above.
- The representing team will come under the direction of the National Team program in preparation for the World Championships.
- Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class Not Eligible) and designated Athlete to compete with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules by the first day of competition at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships.

Upon accepting the invite, the athletes and team coach will be under the direction of the Sporting Director and National Team Staff through to the completion of the World Championships.

The Sporting Director will appoint a National Coach and support staff to assist the team in preparation for, and at, the World Championships.

While the intent is to keep teams and coaches intact, the National Team Staff, Sporting Director, and CEO may collaborate and modify teams if there is a code of conduct violation, the athlete is not maintaining necessary training or the athlete is ill or injured therefore unable to compete healthy as deemed by a medical professional.

7. World Team Code of Conduct: All athletes invited to Team USA for Men’s, Women’s, Mixed Doubles, Juniors, Wheelchair Four Person, or Wheelchair Mixed Doubles World Championships are required to sign the USA Curling Code of Conduct. Any athlete failing to sign will be disqualified from representing

the USA. If this occurs, the CEO reserves the right to invite another athlete or, as necessary, another team to fill the vacant position.

U18 GIRLS and U18 BOYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Overview: The USA Curling U18 Boys and U18 Girls National Championships are regionally based, geographic championships that determine our top teams under 18 years of age. U18 National Champions do not advance to world play.

2. Event Eligibility. Any player who is less than 18 years of age at any time during the 30th day of June of the year immediately preceding the year the competition takes place and is a resident of the United States as identified in Section I.

3. Playdown Window. There is no formal playdown window. Regions may choose their own entry deadline. USA Curling encourages regions to hold their playdowns at least five weeks in advance of the U18 Nationals Championship and avoid conflicts with other competition dates as much as possible.

4. Qualifying Process. Twelve Boys and twelve Girls teams will advance to the U18 Nationals as follows:

(a) One team from each of the following: Alaska, At-Large, Dakota Territory, Great Lakes (GLCA), Mid-America (MACA), Midwest, Minnesota, Mountain Pacific (MOPAC), Pacific Northwest (PNWCA), Wisconsin. The At-Large playdown will be run by USA Curling.

(b) The defending champions, in Boys and Girls, provided they have three of four players or three of five players who won the title in the previous year, will receive a berth.

(c) The host club will receive berths in U18 Girls and U18 Boys Nationals.

*Fill Policy – In the event that one or more regions or the host club are unable to field a team, or the defending champions are not eligible, the vacant berth(s) will be filled to a total of twelve teams per gender, beginning with the region that has the most regional playdown entries, and proceeding with the other regions in order of number of entries. In the event there are two regions with the same number of entries, the number of entries in the previous season will be used to break the tie. If the tie remains, the region with the highest finish in the previous U18 Nationals will receive the berth. If a tie still remains, a coin flip will determine which region receives the additional berth.

**A region (and/or state) is not required to have more than one team registered in a playdown to retain its U18 Nationals berth.

(d) Regional Competition Advancement: Each region is responsible for determining its representatives to the U18 National Championships. Regions are encouraged to use the USA Curling format formula in Section I.

(e) Championship Format: The championship will be a split round-robin event, with two divisions per gender of six teams each. The Round-Robins may be set up in a way that allows marquee matches in prime viewing time, as long as the draw-master determines that the Round-Robin schedule remains fair in terms of time of play and sheet repetition. The top two teams from each division advance to the semifinals (A1 v. B2, B1 v. A2). The winners of the semifinals play in the gold medal game, while the losers of the semifinals play in the bronze medal game. Tiebreakers will be determined according to the [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#). All games will be eight ends and each team will be allotted two time-outs.

FIVE-AND-UNDER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Overview: The Five-and-Under National Championship determines our top team that is comprised of adult players with five years or less of curling experience. Teams qualify for the Five-and-Under Nationals through Five-and-Under Qualifier Bonspiels that are recognized and announced by USA Curling as national qualifier events. The Five-and-Under Nationals champion does not advance to world play.

2. Event Eligibility: U.S. citizenship or residency is required. In addition to the USA Curling membership requirements in Section I, all team members must be dues-paying members of USA Curling. Competitors must be 21 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June immediately preceding the year in which the Five-and-Under Nationals take place. Delivery of the stone with a stick device will be allowed.

(a) Competitors cannot have more than five years of curling experience. Convenors at national qualifying event bonspiels will ensure that players are acting in good faith when claiming to be a competitor with five years or less of curling experience. A year of curling experience is considered ten games played during a calendar year. 2021 does not count as a year of curling experience for any participant.

YEAR STARTED CURLING	ELIGIBILITY YEAR
2019	YEAR ONE
2020	YEAR TWO
2021	DOES NOT COUNT AGAINST ELIGIBILITY FOR ANY CURLER
2022	YEAR THREE
2023	YEAR FOUR
2024	YEAR FIVE—FINAL SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2024 5-AND-UNDER/NEW CURLER NATIONALS

(b) Teams may be comprised of players of any gender.

(c) Teams that compete at Nationals must have Three of Four or Three of Five of the team members that played in the Qualifier Bonspiel.

3. Qualifying Process. 24 teams will advance to the Five-and-Under Nationals as follows:

(a) The winners of each of the 23 USA Curling-sanctioned Qualifier Bonspiels will earn a berth in the Five-and-Under Nationals. (USA Curling reserves the right to remove qualifier spiels due to limited entries, to add qualifier spiels to replace events that are not held, or to make changes to the announced dates of each qualifier spiel.)

(b) The host club will receive a berth in the Five-and-Under Nationals.

*Fill Policy - If additional berths become available (teams declined, less than 23 Qualifying Bonspiels held, etc.), vacant berths will be filled to a total of 24 teams, beginning with the runner-up team at the Qualifying Bonspiel with the most entries, and proceeding with the other Qualifying Bonspiels in order of number of entries. Ties in the number of entries between two Qualifying Bonspiels will be broken by comparing the number of entries in the previous season. If the tie remains, the records of the team that earned their berth at the previous Five-and-Under Nationals through each qualifying bonspiel will be used to break it. If the tie is still not broken, a coin flip will determine the berth.

Format: The championship will be a split round-robin event, with four divisions of six teams each. Teams will be peer-seeded, but pools will also be balanced so each has teams from different parts of the country.

The top two teams from each division advance to the quarterfinals. (A1 v. B2, B1 v. A2, C1 v. D2, D1v C2). Winners of quarter-final games advance to the semi-finals—losers are eliminated. The winners of each semi-final play in the gold medal game. The losers of each semi-final play in the bronze medal game. Tiebreakers will be determined according to [World Curling Federation Rules of Curling](#). All games will be eight ends and each team will be allotted one time out.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REFERENCES

USA CURLING ATHLETE/COACH CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

The USA Curling Player/Coach Code of Conduct Agreement is part of the online registration system and can be found on the [USA Curling website](#).

USA CURLING BYLAWS

A copy of the current USA Curling By-laws can be found on the [USA Curling website](#).

USA CURLING TRANSGENDER POLICY

A copy of the USA Curling Transgender Participation in Curling Policy be found on the [USA Curling website](#).

- Olympic Events: All events that lead to and include competitions conducted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) must follow [the policies established by the IOC with respect to transgender athletes](#).
- World Events and WCF World Ranking Events: All USA Curling championships that lead to and include world-level events conducted by the World Curling Federation (WCF) must follow the policies established by the WCF with respect to transgender athletes. In the absence of WCF guidance, athletes should follow the IOC Guidelines on transgender athletes.
- Other USA Curling Competitive Events: USA Curling-sponsored events that do not lead to world-level play must follow USA Curling policy with respect to transgender athletes.

WCF WORLD TEAM RANKING SYSTEM

The WCF World Team Ranking System is international and event-inclusive. Find more information at [worldcurling.org](#).