



HSSAA CURLING LEAGUE

Playing Regulations



1. DATE

- a. **The HSSAA Senior Open and Novice Curling Championships shall be scheduled no later than the Wednesday prior to the March Break.**

2. LOCATION

- a. **The location of the championships will be decided by the Convenor and approved by the Curling Council.**

3. ELIGIBILITY

- a. **All competitors must meet the eligibility requirements of the HSSAA Constitution, Article VI.**
- b. **A school team will be deemed ineligible to curl if a staff sponsor is not present in the building from the start of warm up (if applicable) until the end of the scheduled game.**
- c. **A junior competitor shall not have attained their 15th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2017 – 2018 school year, born in 2002 or later). In addition they must be in their 1st or 2nd year of high school.**
- d. **A senior open competitor shall not have attained their 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2017 – 2018 school year, born in 1998 or later).**
- e. **Competitive Levels**
 - i. **Senior open boys and girls - open to all competitors. Eligible for OFSAA. A boys open team may include up to 2 girls only if the school can not field a separate girls team. Girls open teams must have girls only.**
 - ii. **Junior novice mixed - coed grade 9, 10 players only.**
 - iii. **Senior novice mixed - coed grade 11, 12 players only.**

Any curler with club experience (with exception of little rocks) or who has participated in a “learn to curl” program is not eligible for Novice.

Club curlers are individuals who are or who have been registered members of any O.C.A. Curling Club or who represent an O.C.A. Club in competition.

A “learn to curl” participant is any instructional clinic or lesson operated by any city or club that exceeds three (3) sessions in length.

f. Team Eligibility

- i. Individuals are eligible for one level of competition only.**
- ii. Teams may have a maximum of 6 declared players including alternates.**
- iii. For team sports, individuals must have participated in at least 50% of their team's league games to be eligible for playoffs. Players missing games due to injury (INJ), or awaiting transfer approval (ATA), must appear so designated on a game sheet to maintain their eligibility. Games missed due to injury are subject to review of a doctors note. Players under game or school suspension may not have their name included on a game sheet for participation percentages.**
- iv. All game sheets/rosters are to include the name of all those in the bench area (players, coaches, managers). In order to be in the bench area an individuals name must appear on the eligibility sheet. Players under game or school suspension may not sit in the bench area.**
- v. Individuals are deemed to have played if their name appears on a game sheet. Individuals must be present at a game to be included on a game sheet.**
- vi. Only those who are included on the eligibility list are permitted on the ice.**

4. OPERATING STRUCTURE

- a. Coaches to declare teams by level and division before the agreed upon date set at the pre season coaches meeting.**
- b. Playoff Format:**
 - i. Top 4 boys and girls open teams participate in a page playoff.**
 - ii. Top 2 teams from each novice division compete in single elimination playoffs.**
 - iii. Playoff dates to be set at pre-season coaches meeting.**
- c. Tiebreaker Criteria**

Two Teams

The following criteria will be applied in the following order until the tie is broken:

- i. Winner of game between the tied teams**
- ii. +/- between the tied teams**
- iii. Teams defaulting games will automatically receive the lower placing**
- iv. +/- in games involving common opponents**
- v. Coin toss**
- vi. Defaults will be recorded as 2-0 and will be considered in +/-.**

Three Teams or More

The following criteria will be applied in the following order. If at any time one or more teams are removed from the tie (placing first or last) the tiebreaker process will be restarted.

- i. percentage record in games involving the tied teams**
- ii. +/- between the tied teams**
- iii. Teams defaulting games will automatically receive the lower placing**
- iv. +/- in games involving common opponents**
- v. Coin toss**
- vi. Defaults will be recorded as 2-0 and will be considered in +/-.**

d. Scheduled Games

- i. Coaches are responsible for reviewing final league game schedules and playoff schedules as to locations, dates, and times to ensure their attendance.**
- ii. Schools must bring their own warm-up equipment and first aid kit.**

- iii. **Failure to fulfill game requirements leading to the abandonment of a game will result in a loss for that team. An incident report must be completed and submitted to the HSSAA athletic office by the abandoning team within 24 hours of the game. No score shall be entered until after a Board of Inquiry. A team abandoning a game may be required to cover any costs incurred as determined by the Curling Council.**
- iv. **Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. The defaulting team will cover all cost associated with the game as determined by the Curling Council.**

5. ENTRIES

- a. **Team entry lists and eligibility sheets must be in the hands of the Athletic Convenor by the deadline announced at the pre-season meeting. Team entry lists must include all players and alternate players of said teams.**
- b. **In the senior open division each school may enter one boys and one girls team.**
- c. **At the novice level each school may declare 4 teams maximum.**
- d. **A player cannot change teams, at any level of play, once they have played in the competition. (Note: For teams declared a HSSAA Champion, players may move for purposes of OFSAA competition). Novice eligible players may play senior open one season and return to novice the following season if they meet the criteria as per 3c of the playing regulations.**

6. EXPENSES

- a. **Expenses for the HSSAA league and club ice rental will be met by an entry fee per player determined by each division convenor and announced after the pre-season coaches meeting.**

7. RULES AND OFFICIALS

- a. **The rules governing play shall be that of the Ontario Curling Association. The HSSAA exceptions to these rules are:**
 - i. **Coaches to instruct their participants on curling rules, etiquette and expectations.**

- ii. For league play, teams may start with 3 curlers. A curler arriving late may play any position starting the next end.**
- iii. A team with only 3 curlers shall have the first 2 players throw 3 rocks each and the third player shall throw 2 rocks.**
- iv. As per OCA rules there must be a player in the house until the rock has been delivered.**
- v. Once the rock has crossed the delivery end hog line you may have up to four (4) players sweep.**
- vi. If a team member is unable to continue curling, an alternate may take their place at the start of the next end. If necessary, the team may change its' throwing order at this point. (Note: If there is no alternate, and the injured player recovers, they may re-enter at the beginning of an end).**
- vii. In all league and playoff games a team may substitute players at the end of any end and rearrange the throwing order at this point.**
- viii. Substitute players should be at the same level or lower as the player being substituted.**
- ix. All regular-season Senior Open boys and girls games will be scheduled for 6 ends. No end shall start with less than 15 minutes of rented ice time left. Coaches should monitor the time situation and inform their teams if the game is likely to end before the scheduled number of ends are completed. Skips must continue to monitor game time and be aware of this rule. Games that end in a tie will be recorded as a tie in the standings.**
- x. All regular-season Novice games will be scheduled for 4 ends. No end will start with less than 15 minutes of rented ice time left. Coaches should monitor the time situation and inform their team if the game is likely to end before the scheduled number of ends are completed. Skips must continue to monitor game time and be aware of this rule. Games that end in a tie will be recorded as a tie in the standings.**
- xi. The coin toss for hammer will take place 15 minutes before the start of the game. Subject to ice availability the team with hammer will have a 5- minute practice, then the team without hammer will have a 5-minute practice. There will be NO practicing before the coin-toss.**

- xii. If a team is not present for the coin toss they will be deemed to have lost the coin toss. The other team will be awarded the hammer and may practice until the other team shows up. Ten minutes after the scheduled start time they will be awarded an end and a point. They still retain the hammer. After twenty minutes they will be awarded a second end and point. If the opposing team has not been able to deliver their first stone 30 minutes after the scheduled start the game will be recorded as a default. Defaults are recorded as 2-0.**
 - xiii. In all regular scheduled league games, teams may take two 1-minute timeouts during the game.**
 - xiv. In all playoff games, teams will have a one minute 3rd (or 4th) end break in addition to their two 1-minute timeouts.**
 - xv. Timeouts must be called by a player on the ice when it is their team's turn to throw, or between ends. Coaches may signal to their team that they wish a timeout but the timeout must be called for by a player on the ice. No banging on the glass allowed. Note: The 1 minute time limit MUST be adhered to, to prevent time problems.**
 - xvi. During timeouts only those people included on the eligibility list are permitted on the ice.**
 - xvii. An umpire will be designated by the Convenor for the semi-final and final open page playoff games.**
 - xviii. For playoffs, there must be 4 curlers throwing 2 rocks each end.**
 - xix. Playoff games will be played to completion (8 ends Senior Open / 6 ends Novice). If a game ends in a tie a full end will be played towards the glass to break the tie. Note: This rule may have to be amended due to ice rental restrictions. If so, the coaches will be informed of the alternate procedure before the beginning of the game.**
- b. An end shall be decided when the skip or vice skip agree upon the score for the end.**
 - c. When there is an on ice dispute about a rule interpretation or infraction, a fair play time out may be called by the coach or on ice competitors. Once there has been agreement on the disputed matter and play has resumed the ends played will stand as is.**

8. AWARDS

- a. All members of novice and open championship teams shall receive gold medallions (maximum 6 per team). Open champions also receive a plaque.**
- b. All members of novice and open runner up teams shall receive silver medallions (maximum 6 per team).**
- c. All members of novice 3rd place teams shall receive bronze medallions (maximum 6 per team).**

9. UNIFORMS

- a. No participant may wear a pair of shoes that they wore into the facility. Players shall bring a clean change of shoes to curl.**
- b. All players must wear attire that will not damage the ice surface. Dirty shoes and pants, metal chains, metal lace eyelets are examples of attire that can damage the ice. Players may be removed from competition at the discretion of the facility manager.**
- c. No flannelette pants or jeans can be worn on the ice surface.**
- d. Inappropriate slogans and advertising/sponsorship reflecting alcohol or tobacco products may not be worn.**
- e. Players may be removed from competition at the discretion of the facility manager and/or convenor if 9.a), b), c) and/or d) are not fulfilled.**
- f. Novice team members must be dressed in similar coloured tops or have school uniform/identification/logo tops. Open team members must be dressed in matching tops. No football and/or hockey sweaters may be worn.**
- g. Non school logos must meet OFSAA size regulations (64sq cm - not longer than 10cm) for sleeved shirts and/or bottoms.**
- h. Athletes may not change their clothing in the competition area. For all outdoor sports, athletes must arrive dressed to compete. Visiting teams requiring the use of washroom facilities must send a staff member into the school with the team member(s). For all indoor sports, athletes must move to the designated locker room or change area to change their clothing.**

10. EQUIPMENT

- a. Schools must provide their own equipment, rentals are not always available.**
- b. No electronic devices may be brought onto the ice unless a medical device.**

11. DEPARTMENT

- a. Coaches and players are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner as per Article XVI, Section II of the HSSAA Constitution.**
- b. A no smoking and no alcoholic beverage policy will be enforced for participants and spectators of HSSAA curling.**

12. JURY OF APPEAL (CURLING COUNCIL)

- a. The Curling Council constructed at the pre-season coaches meeting will consist of the Convenor and three coaches from participating schools.**
- b. The Curling Council will rule on disputes and protests submitted.**
- c. The Curling Council may only consider matters of policy regarding the operation of the activity concerned within the limits of the playing regulations.**

13. QUALIFICATION TO OFSAA

- a. The winners of the senior open tournaments will advance to OFSAA**
- b. If the HSSAA champion cannot field a team, the runner up will advance to OFSAA**