

Stick Championship

I – GENERAL

The Stick Championship is open to any curler in NS who meets the eligibility criteria for the Provincial Championship and the Residency Directive.

While a single winner will be declared, the top four (4) Open and top four (4) Women's finishing teams earn the right to represent Nova Scotia at the Maritime Stick Curling Championship.

If a team qualifying for the Maritime Stick Curling Championship cannot fulfill that obligation; then the next highest finishing team will be offered that opportunity. Provincial championship standings and tie breaker rules will form the basis upon which alternate teams are offered an opportunity to represent Nova Scotia.

The Local Rules of Play governing this Championship can be found in Section 6.

II - ELIGIBILITY

Teams may be composed of players from any NSCA Member Club

Players must be nineteen (19) years of age, or older, as of December 31 of the year prior to the Championship

Teams may consist of a maximum of two (2) players plus one (1) coach.

III – COACHES

Each team may be accompanied by a coach in accordance with the Coach Eligibility Chart

- The minimum standard for this event is shown in Table Z (Section 5).
- A coach may not join the team on the ice surface during a time out.

IV – FORMAT OF PLAY

The format of play for the Provincial shall be determined by the NSCA Competitions Committee in collaboration with the NS Stick Committee. The format shall guarantee a minimum of three (3) games for each team.

All games in the Championship shall be:

- Six (6) ends duration. If a game is tied after the allotted six (6) ends, the teams shall play extra ends until a winner is declared.

- Officiated - Last stone draw to the button (LSDB), time outs, pace of play and rules violations shall be monitored by an NSCA official. The host club organizer will assign volunteers to assist the NSCA official.
- Untimed but at the discretion of the NSCA official, slow players may be put on a “shot clock.”

V – PRE-GAME BRIEFING

A pre-game briefing and coin toss will be held by the NSCA official approximately fifteen (15) minutes before each draw.

At all stages of this championship a “coin toss” will be used to determine:

- Stone handle colour.
- Pre-game practice order.

A draw to the button competition will be used to determine last stone advantage in the first end.

VI – DRAW TO THE BUTTON

Following the completion of the Pre-game Practice, the Last Stone Draw Button (LSDB) will take place.

- Team members will alternate taking the LSDB.
- All LSDB shots will be thrown towards the home end unless decided otherwise by the championship organizing committee.
- The Coin-toss winner delivers their LSDB first. If the two stones are tied in distance, or if neither team finds the House, then Hammer goes to the coin-toss winner.
- A team cannot sweep the opposing team’s rock on a LSDB to determine hammer.
- Both stones will be measured and used for tie breakers.

VII – Last stone Advantage

In the first end the team that had the lowest pre-game LSDB distance is awarded Hammer and will have the last shot.

Following the first end, the team that did not score shall have Hammer.

If neither team scores in an end (Blank End), the team that delivered the last stone in that end shall have Hammer in the next end.

VIII – TIE BREAKERS

The tie-breaking process shall consist of (in order):

- Most wins.
- Results of head-to-head play.
- Draw to the button (LSDB) accumulated distances.
- Closest draw to the button.

Teams tied for a Playoff position cannot be excluded from the playoffs without having played a tie-breaker game(s).

IX – TEAM RANKING / SEEDING

The following seeding system has been adopted for seeding teams at the NSSCA Provincial Championship.

- Points will be awarded for each person on the team.
- Points are based on the prior season's NSSCA Championship results.
- If only one person from a team returns the next year they will carry only their own points forward to the new team. Team points will consist of first team member's points plus the points associated with their new partner.
 - Winner 65
 - Finalist 50
 - Semi Finalist 40
 - Quarter Finalist 30
 - Non-Playoff teams per win 07
 - Teams with no wins 05
 - New Entries this year 00

X– TEAM DRAW ASSIGNMENTS

The championship format will be determined by the NSSCA in consultation with the host club organizing committee

Teams will be seeded based on total team points determined using section IX above.

If there is a pool play format; then teams will be placed in pools in a manner that ensures the best possible balance between pools.

The championship format and related seedings must be approved by NSCA

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XI – OTHER

Timing -

The NSSCA Championship would normally be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If there are large registrations, or other issues that need to be adapted for, then play could commence on Thursday evening and extend to Monday evening.

A team shall not be scheduled to play more than three (3) games each day, unless time constraints require teams to play tie-breaker or playoff games.

A team will not be scheduled for more than two (2) games within a four (4) hour period, unless time constraints require teams to play tie-breaker or playoff games.

Spare Pool -

A spare pool must be maintained by the host club for the Championship draws.

On-ice Assistants –

An on-ice assistant will be permitted for a wheelchair athlete participating in the Championship.

An on-ice assistant is not mandatory and must be provided by the wheelchair athlete if they wish to use one.

It is not the responsibility of NSSCA or the host club to provide an on-ice assistant.

The on-ice assistant may:

- provide assistance in cleaning and positioning rocks prior to delivery,
- provide an “anchor” for the wheelchair during the athlete’s delivery process, and help to clean up post end and hang the score.

The on-ice assistant may not provide strategic advice.

The NSCA reserves the right to hold an Open, Women’s and Mixed Division championship if the number of teams allows.

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Section 6: Local Rules

Rules of Play – Stick

The rules of two person stick curling is a combination of Curling Canada rules 8, 19, 20 effective until August, 2022 and supplemental Canadian Stick Curling Association rules which may be modified on a more frequent basis.

Curling Canada Rules

8. Delivery

(1) The delivery of a stone by the right hand shall be initiated from the hack located to the left of the centre line. The delivery of a stone by the left hand shall be initiated from the hack located to the right of the centre line.

(2) If a single, moveable hack is in use, the delivery of a stone by the right hand or the left hand may be initiated from a hack located on the centre line.

(3) The delivery and release of a curling stone are intended to occur in a reasonably straight line from the hack towards the target broom.

(4) (a) A player, whose team is in control of the house, is in the process of delivery from the time the player is positioned in the hack until the stone is released.

(b) A player shall only commence a forward progression from the hack with a stone after the previously delivered stone and any stones set in motion have come to rest or have crossed the back line and their team is in control of the house.

(5) The stone shall be released before it reaches the hog line at the delivering end.

19. Curling With A Delivery Stick

(1) The use of a curling aid commonly referred to as a “delivery stick”, which enables the player to deliver a stone without placing a hand on the stone handle, is considered acceptable.

(2) The use of a delivery stick is not allowed in events leading to Curling Canada championships. Exception: wheelchair curling.

(3) If a player starts a game with a delivery stick, then that player shall use a delivery stick throughout that game.

(4) A player may not alternate delivery from the traditional hand delivery to a delivery stick or vice-versa.

(5) If delivery begins from the hack, then players using the delivery stick must adhere to Rule 8(1) and 8(2) and, stones must be delivered along a straight line from the hack to the intended target broom.

(6) The delivery may also begin anywhere along the centre line with a portion of the stone touching the centre line prior to the delivery. The stone must be delivered along a straight line from this position on the centre line to the intended target broom. **See additional clarification in Canadian Stick Curling Association Supplemental Rules effective September 30, 2021.**

(7) A stone delivered with a delivery stick must be released before it reaches the hog line at the delivering end. Rule 8(5).

(8) All other delivery rules apply.

20. Canadian Stick Curling Association (CSCA) Rules

(1) The CSCA applies the Rules of Curling for General Play, as approved by Curling Canada with the following exceptions:

(a) Each team is comprised of two (2) players regardless of gender.

(b) One (1) member of each team stays at each end of the rink and must not cross centre ice (except as provided for in 20(1)(j)).

(c) The two (2) delivering curlers alternately deliver six (6) stones each per end, while their teammates skip that end. Then the roles are reversed. All games are six (6) ends.

(d) Each stone must be delivered with a delivery stick, from a standing or sitting (in a wheelchair) position. [See additional clarification in Canadian Stick Curling Association Supplemental Rules effective September 30, 2021.](#)

(e) A stone is in play when it reaches the hog line at the delivering end.

(f) A stone that has not reached the hog line at the delivering end may be returned to the player and redelivered. The player will redeliver the same called shot and ice.

(g) Sweeping/brushing is not allowed between the hog lines. [See additional Nova Scotia Stick Curling Association clarification.](#)

(h) The first three (3) stones delivered in any end may not be removed from play before delivery of the fourth stone of that end. When a stone(s) is removed from play prior to the fourth stone of the end, directly or indirectly and without exception, the delivered stone is removed from play and any other displaced stones replaced as close as possible to their original position(s).

(i) [Replaced by Canadian Stick Curling Association Supplemental Rules effective September 30, 2021.](#)

(j) In case of a tie, an extra end is played, with each player delivering three (3) stones. The curlers then exchange roles at the mid-point of an extra end to complete the end. [See additional Nova Scotia Stick Curling Association clarification.](#)

Canadian Stick Curling Association – Supplemental Rules effective September 30, 2021.

These rules may be a revision or clarification of the Curling Canada rules.

Reference Curling Canada rule 20 (1) d (additional Clarification)

1. A wheelchair curler, or competitors with declared and confirmed mobility issues, if they so choose, can have a designated Ice Player Assistant (IPA) during play, per impacted curler. The IPA could hold/brace the wheelchair and position/clean rocks for delivery. The same IPA could also sweep for the impacted player only at the direction of the delivering partner competitor and only in the "in play area" (from the hog line to the back line), including opponent's stones behind the tee line. The IPA would also catch wayward stones when needed. IPAs would not be allowed to be involved in the shot calling or strategy discussions during a game. If an IPA is the declared coach of the team, they could participate in strategy only during the approved timeouts during the game. For safety reasons the IPA would need to wear proper footwear to actively participate on the ice.

Reference Curling Canada rule 20 (1) i (Complete Replacement)

2. Each team may call a maximum of two 90 second time outs during a game. During an extra end, one time out per team is allowed. Whenever a time out is called, the team calling the time out may consult anywhere on the ice surface, including in the playing area inside the hog line of the receiving end. Whenever a time out is called, the opposing team may consult outside the hog line of the receiving end or on the boards but not in the playing area inside the hog line of the receiving end.

Reference Curling Canada rule 19 (6) (additional Clarification)

3. In the case of a wheelchair player, or a player throwing with a delivery stick from a stationary standing position between the top of the house and the near hog line, the stone must begin from a point within 18 inches of the center line as per rule 17.1 of Curl Canada Rules of Curling for Officiated Play. When the player delivers the stone from an area between the hack and the outermost edge of the top of the house at the delivery end, a portion of the stone must be touching the centre line prior to starting the delivery.

Further Rules Clarification – Nova Scotia Stick Curling Association

Curling Canada 20 (g)

Sweeping / brushing is allowed by the delivering team only from the hog line to the back line at the skip / receiving end.

Sweeping / brushing is allowed by the opposition team from the tee line to the back line at the skip / receiving end

Curling Canada 20 (j)

An extra end shall be played from the far end (skip end) to the near end (closest to the glass)
If an extra end is a blank, another end is played using the extra end format. Each player will deliver their stones from the end of the rink where they finished the previous extra end.