

Unionville Curling Club

Men's Section Competitive Team Entry Curling Rules

1. **Format**
 - a) Individual members of the men's section choose who they would like to play with and what positions they will play. The teams are seeded based on previous team performance and play in divisions. Points earned during the season qualify teams to play down for the men's team entry club championship.
2. **Definitions**
 - a) **Curling Season** Curling season is from the installation of the ice in September-early October to the removal of the ice in April.
 - b) **Skip** The person who is listed in the skip's position on the annual competitive team entry form. His name shall appear on the standing board representing the team.
 - c) **Team Entry** Team members and playing positions are determined by the players on the team.
 - d) **Vice-Skip** The person who is listed in the vice-skip's position on the annual competitive team entry form.
3. **Amendment to Men's Team Entry Curling Rules:**
 - a) These rules may only be changed in one of the two follow ways:
 - i. The rule change is proposed and passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Men's Section.
 - ii. A rule change is proposed and approved by a majority of declared skips prior to the start of a series or in the case of the playoffs a rule change is approved by a majority of the declared skips who have qualified to participate in the playoffs. Rule changes made in this way are temporary, and apply only to the series and/or playoffs in question.
 - b) During a series or the playoffs, should a situation not covered by existing rules arise that requires a rule interpretation or a new rule, a rule specific to the situation can be made by a consensus of the Men's Committee Chair and at least two other Men's Committee members. If the situation may reoccur, the rule shall be formally reviewed, amended, if necessary and adopted following the amendment procedures described in 3 (a).
4. **Team Declaration**
 - a) A team must declare its four players prior to each series and designate specific players as "Skip" and "Vice-Skip".
 - i. Players can rotate or change actual positions played for any game subject to the restrictions of the Ontario Curling Association Rules.
 - b) At the start of each curling season the team declaration must be done by:
 - i. Completing the appropriate entry form provided in the annual membership renewal package; or
 - ii. Notifying the Men's Committee in writing.
 - c) At the start of the curling season, the full team must be declared by one week after the men's opening stag night or the team's eligibility will be forfeited.
 - d) A full team consists of four players.
 - i. A team cannot declare more or less than four players.
 - e) A player cannot be declared on more than one team.
 - f) If a team does not declare its four players in writing prior to the start of either the second or third series, it will be assumed that the team will be remaining intact as it was for the previous series.
 - g) A declared player must be a member in good standing of the Men's Section of the Unionville Curling Club.
5. **Player Substitution**

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- a) The following substitution rules apply:
 - i. A team must have two of its declared players participating for the entire game.
 - ii. Substitutes can play at any position.
 - iii. During divisional series play, a team must have at least three players participating for the entire game.
 - iv. During playoffs, a team must have four players participating for the entire game.
 - v. During divisional season play, the substitute(s) must be from another division.
 - vi. During playoffs the substitute(s) must be a declared player from a team that has been eliminated from the playoffs at the time of the scheduled game.
 - b) Any team unable to comply with the substitution rules defaults the game(s) in which the team failed to comply.
 - c) A substitute player must be a member in good standing of the Men's Section of the Unionville Curling Club.
6. **Number of Teams**
- a) The teams will be divided into four divisions of eight teams ("A" division; "B" division; "C" division and "D" division) or as many divisions as can be filled with 8 teams to a maximum of four divisions.
 - b) The number of teams competing shall be limited to no more than 32.
 - c) If more than 32 teams want to enter, up to an additional four teams may be accepted. The additional teams will compete in a Qualifying Division ("Q" division) which will be incorporated within a Draw schedule.
7. **Season Format**
- a) Teams will be digned in divisions.
 - b) There shall be three series each curling season.
 - c) The first and second series shall be a seven game round robin with each team scheduled to play the other teams within their division once.
 - d) The third series should also be seven games, but may be shortened if ice time is insufficient.
 - i. In a shortened scheduled, the games missed shall be from the end of the schedule.
 - e) For each series in the season the draw will be consistently based on team seeding within each division.
 - f) Games must be played on or before their scheduled date.
8. **Divisional Alignment**
- a) At the conclusion of each series teams will be redigned according to the following formula:
 - i. The teams finishing first and second in "B", "C" and "D" divisions will be promoted to the next highest division ("B" to "A"; "C" to "B"; "D" to "C")
 - ii. The teams finishing seventh and eighth in "A", "B", and "C" shall be demoted to the next lowest division. ("A" to "B" ; "B" to "C"; "C" to "D")
 - iii. If there are at least two (2) teams in "Q" Divisions, the teams finishing seventh and eighth in "D" division will be demoted to "Q" division and the two "Q" division teams will be promoted to "D" division. If there is only one "Q" division team, the "Q" division team will replace the "D" division team finishing in eighth place.
 - b) For the purpose of determining team alignment and seeding, the first series of each year is considered to be a continuation from the last series of the previous year.
 - c) A team may retain its divisional standing in the next competitive series if one of the following criteria is met:
 - i. Three members of the team continue to curl together.
 - ii. The declared skip wishes to retain the entry.
 - iii. Two members of the team, one of which is the declared vice-skip continue to curl together.
 - 1. If conflicts arise: A overrides B and C; B overrides C.

- d) If any team(s) loses their divisional standing as a result of player changes for the next series, the spot(s) will be filled by moving all the lower ranked teams in all divisions up the appropriate number of places based on the previous final seeding.
- e) For the purpose of determining seeding within a division for the next series draw:
 - i. The teams going into a higher division will be seeded as the seventh and eighth teams respectively within the higher division.
 - ii. The teams going down into a lower division will be seeded first and second within the lower division.
- f) Teams that did not change divisions will be seeded from third to sixth based on the points the teams earned in the previous series.
- g) If there are less than 32 eligible declared teams from the previously played series, the rating committee will be asked to rate new previously undeclared teams to determine their divisional alignment and seeding for the next series.
 - i. A newly declared team cannot be seeded higher than an eligible declared team from the previously played series.
- h) "A" and "B" divisional teams shall play on Tuesday nights alternating between 7:30 and 9:30 draws.
- i) "C" and "D" divisional teams shall play Wednesday nights alternating between 8:30 and 9:30 draws.
- j) In special situations, if the ice is available earlier the starting times may be moved up 30 minutes. At least one week's notice must be given to the skips, if the change in time is not indicated in the schedule.

9. Divisional Series Game Points

- a) Teams will be awarded points on the following basis:

Division	Win	Tie
A	10	5.0
B	9	4.5
C	8	4.0
D	7	3.5
Q	6	3
- b) Ties in final team standings within a division at the end of each series that will affect which team(s) are promoted or demoted will be decided as follows:
 - i. Results of games between the teams tied.
 - ii. If not conclusive, the teams will throw one rock each team (any player) with sweeping. Closest to the button – touching the rings wins. Throw off is to occur immediately following the last scheduled game.
- c) The vice-skips are responsible for entering and initiating game results in the game results binder following each game played.

10. Playoffs

- a) At the conclusion of the third series there will be playoffs to determine the Team Entry Club Champion.
- b) Teams will qualify based on the total divisional series game points the team has earned over the season.
- c) To be eligible for playoff play, a team must place in the top twenty teams.
- d) Ties in points to determine team seeding for the playoffs will be broken using the following criteria:
 - i. Results of games between teams tied.
 - ii. If still tied, team starting the third series in a higher rated position.
 - iii. If still tied, team with the higher number of points starting the third series.
 - iv. If still tied, a throw off using one rock, by any declared player of the team, with sweeping. Closest rock to the button, on the rings wins.
- e) The four teams accumulating the most points in divisional series play over the curling season shall be granted a bye for the first two rounds.
- f) Teams will be seeded for the playoffs based on their accumulated divisional series points.

- g) The draw will be initially setup to match the team with the highest seeding against the team with the lowest seeding.
 - h) The playoff shall be a single knock out competition.
 - i) Based on ice availability, playoff games shall be scheduled to minimize conflict between playoff games of other Sections or Divisions of the club in which male members are eligible to play.
11. **Bell Rule**
- a) The Bell rule will be followed for the early draw.
 - b) If the skips agree before hand to follow the bell rule for the late draw, the bell rule will be followed. If the Bell rule is not discussed or agreement reached, the Bell rule will not be followed for the late games.
12. **Rules of Play:**
- a) Unless otherwise noted Ontario Curling Association Rules apply.