

## TCA Goldline Men's Championships

### 2026 Rules

The Toronto Curling Association's Goldline Men's Curling Championships are for club level teams composed of male curlers in the Toronto area clubs that have been approved to participate.

- Each team shall consist of four players from the same club who must be active members and participate in club draw(s).
- Rental league players are eligible and encouraged to participate.
- Teams from a major league are ineligible unless members of the same home club, including spares.
- Participants may not play on any other team as regular players within their division. Teams and/or individuals may, however, play in more than one division (for example, Open and Master/Grandmaster, Senior and Master/Grandmaster). Participants are discouraged from registering in multiple divisions in the same timeslots (for example, Novice/Open/Senior divisions or Master/Grandmaster divisions) as scheduling conflicts will not be accommodated.
- Teams must remain unchanged in personnel in all events throughout the competition except as provided in "spares".

The Canadian Curling Association rules shall apply.

### **Note:**

All entries must be made in accordance with the directions on the TCA website at [www.TorontoCurling.com](http://www.TorontoCurling.com).

An e-mail notification will be sent to confirm the entry. All teams registered will be posted on the TCA website.

Some of the clubs used for the TCA Goldline Men's Championships have dress codes. Please call the club directly if you need clarification.

### **Team Registration:**

All skips are required to indicate the four regular members of the team **on the registration form prior to their first game**. By signing the form they also acknowledge that the rules specific to this competition have been read and are fully understood.

### **General Eligibility: Age**

|                           |                                                    |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Open &amp; Novice:</b> | 19 years of age and over as of start of the event. |
| <b>Senior:</b>            | 50 years of age and over as of start of the event. |
| <b>Master:</b>            | 60 years of age and over as of start of the event. |
| <b>Grandmaster:</b>       | 70 years of age and over as of start of the event. |

### **General Eligibility:**

The TCA Goldline Men's Championships Committee welcomes all adult male curlers to enter the Championships, including competitive / elite curlers. However, as the Championships is intended for club-level teams, we ask that all teams meet the spirit of club-level eligibility and consist of players playing in positions they would normally play during club-level Men's competition.

For divisions - Open, Novice, Senior, Master and Grandmaster:

- No player shall play a position more than one position lower than they would normally play during **club-level** Men's competition. **That is, a Skip**

**may not play Second or Lead and a Vice may not play Lead. This rule does not apply to the Novice and Grandmaster divisions.**

- **Only 2 members of a main event winning team in any division may play together the following year in that division.** The Grandmaster division is exempt from this rule. This is a one-year restriction.

For Novice division:

- Novice teams shall have a total, aggregate number of years of curling experience of 20 years or less (including any youth curling experience). For example, 4 players of 5 years experience each would qualify. The current curling season does not count towards the years of experience.

### **Specific Ineligibility: Front End**

Players who meet any of the following criteria shall be **ineligible** to play front end in divisions - Open, Novice, Senior, Master and Grandmaster:

- Anyone who has thrown Skip or Vice rocks in the main event final game within a division of the TCA Men's Championships during the last season. Grandmaster division, spares and Novice players playing in other divisions are exempt from this rule.
- Anyone who has thrown Skip or Vice rocks in the Provincials for the Men's **Curling Club Championship**, Senior Men's or Master Men's competitions in Ontario, or in a similar competition in any other jurisdiction, during the last season. **Grandmaster division is exempt from this rule.**

### **Team Eligibility:**

A team that does not have three players ready to start the game at the time designated by the draw shall be assessed a penalty of one point and one end shall be considered played for every 10 minutes the start of the game is delayed. When the game does start, the penalty for playing with three men may also apply (see below.) The offending team will throw first.

If after a 30-minute delay, one team does not have three players, then that team shall lose the game by default.

### **3 Person Teams:**

The committee strongly discourages the use of three person teams. However, it does appreciate that 3 person teams are allowed in club play; therefore, every team shall be allowed to play **two games** with 3 players **without** penalty. If the fourth player is expected to arrive, the offending skip must inform the opposing skip what position the missing player will play when he arrives. He will be allowed to enter the game prior to the completion of the 4th end without penalty. After the completion of the 4th end, the game is considered to have been played with three players; however, the fourth player may still participate in the remaining ends of the game.

For the third offence and each subsequent game if a team **starts** the game with three players, the following penalty will be assessed:

- One end is considered played.
- The non-offending team will be awarded two points.
- The offending team will throw the first rock.
- The team will throw 3-3-2.

For the third offence and each subsequent game, if the fourth player is expected to arrive but does not arrive before the completion of the 4th end, he may not enter the game.

The host club umpire will inform the Drawmaster or the Umpire-in-Chief of any offenses under "Three Person Teams". Repeat offenses may result in the disqualification of the offending team.

**Teams advancing to games on the closing day of the Championships must have 4 players meeting all eligibility rules outlined herein.**

## **Spares:**

1. All teams must have two original members to be legal.
2. Spares are permitted in any game on notification to and approval of the host club umpire before commencing the game.
3. A member of the team that was listed on the registration form on the opening day must throw the final two rocks of each end. However, in the absence of the original skip, a spare shall be allowed to call the game.
4. The spare shall be from the same club as the team.
5. The spare may have been a member of another team in the current year of the Championships provided that said team was eliminated in the third game of the Open, Novice, Senior, Master or Grandmaster competitions. Exceptions: A Master or Grandmaster may spare in the Open or Senior division at any time. A Novice may spare in any other division at any time.
6. Every spare must qualify as to rating under “General Eligibility” and age.
7. A spare may play in any position. **The exception is point 3.**
8. A spare is allowed to spare for multiple teams during the entire Championships.
9. A team may use up to a maximum of six players for the duration of the competition: four regulars and two spares. If a team uses a seventh player, they will be disqualified.
10. Despite point 4, should a team be unable to source a spare from their home club on the **closing day** of the Championships, they may select an eligible spare from a spares pool formed from the host club.
11. Despite point 5, on the **closing day** of the Championships, a spare may have been a member of another team in the current year of the Championships. If the spare’s team was eliminated after the third game of the competition, the spare must play front-end. The point 6 exception still applies.

### **Rescheduling Games:**

All games shall be played as scheduled except in the case of a weather-related problem or mechanical problem at the hosting club.

The host club umpire may postpone or delay the starting time for any game with the authorization of the Umpire-in-Chief for extenuating and impartial reasons.

### **Equipment:**

1. The use of a curling “stick” is permitted.
2. Players are required to use commercially available broom heads (that is, any broom head sold by retailers and club pro shops). Hair brooms and ‘home made’ brush heads with waterproof fabric can no longer be used as a sweeping device.
3. Directional sweeping is allowed.

### **General:**

1. The Chairman of the TCA Goldline Men's Championships Committee shall appoint the Umpire-in-Chief and a host club umpire shall be appointed at each club.
2. All games shall be 8 ends including semi-finals and finals. Teams mathematically eliminated from a game must concede.

#### **3. Despite point 2:**

- **For Novice, Open and Senior divisions: after 1 hour and 40 minutes of game play, teams may finish the end they are in and play one more end.**
- **For Master and Grandmaster divisions: after 1 hour and 50 minutes of game play, teams may finish the end they are in and play one more.**

**Extra ends will still be played to break ties in accordance with point 4. This rule does not apply in the finals.**

- 4. On opening Saturday, ties will be broken by a draw to the button by any member of the team with sweeping allowed for the throwing team only. Ties in all other games will be broken by a full extra end(s).**
5. Practice is not permitted prior to the game.
6. The flip of a coin will determine which team has the choice of hammer or rock colour.
- 7. The “no tick” rule is not in effect (i.e. tick shots are permitted).**
8. Notices relating to the Championships shall be sent to the sponsoring clubs. These notices shall be considered sufficient notification to the participants.
9. In the case of an emergency breakdown occurring at a club during the playing of the Championships, whichever team has the highest score after the completion of 6 ends of the 8 end game shall be, at the discretion of the host club umpire, declared the winner.
10. Should the Umpire-in-Chief declare a team “disqualified” during the Championships, only the previous game’s result will be reversed.
11. Games in these Championships take precedence over league games. Teams have the right to ask their league executives to give them every opportunity to reschedule conflicting league games. Withdrawals will be accepted up to 72 hours before the Championships commences with no punitive measures.
12. If a team defaults both of their first two scheduled games, they will be ineligible to compete in any further games in the competition.
13. Teams participating in the Thursday games must declare to the host club umpire, prior to the start of play, if they are available to participate in the remainder of the Championships. If they are not available, they will forfeit the game and will receive the non-winners prize. The non-offending team will advance. If a team fails to declare their intent, all members of the team will be disqualified from play for two years and will forfeit any prize eligibility in the current year.

- 14.** A skip may list a spare on the score card for the final game for the purposes of recording in the TCA Goldline Men's Championships record and on the trophy and/or plaque should they be the winner.

## **Curler's Code of Conduct**

- I will play the game with the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- I will conduct myself in an honorable manner both on and off the ice.
- I will never knowingly break a rule, but if I do, I will divulge the breach.
- I will take no action that could be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate or demean my opponents, teammates or officials.
- I will interpret the rules in an impartial manner, always keeping in mind that the purpose of the rules is to ensure that the game is played in an orderly and fair manner.
- I will humbly accept any penalty, that the governing body at any level of curling deems appropriate, if I am found in violation of the code of ethics or rules of the game.

## **Fair Play**

- Fair play begins with the strict observance of the written rule; however, in most cases, fair play involves something more than even failing observance of the written rule. The observance of the spirit of the rules, whether written or unwritten, is important.
- Fair play results from measuring up one's own moral standards while engaged in competition.
- Fair play is consistent demonstration of respect for teammates and opponents, whether they are winning or losing.
- Fair play is consistent demonstration of respect for officials, an acceptance of their decision and a steadfast spirit of collaboration with them.
- Sportsmanlike behavior should be demonstrated both on and off the ice. This includes modesty in victory and composure in defeat.