



## Curling Canada 'Under 18' Competition (Commencing in 2016-2017 season)

### Proposal

We propose the creation of an event that would meet the needs of the sport of curling in Canada filling the gap in our Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model.

Curling Canada embarked on developing our LTAD model over 10 years ago under the direct tutelage of LTAD specialists. Under their supervision, the gap analysis exercise identified two key areas of concern. The "Train to Train" and "Train to Compete" stages of curling's LTAD were missing two key components: a structured talent Identification / Development program and, an Under 18 National Championship.

We developed a program called the "Podium Project" which was operationalized on a coast-to-coast basis via our Regional Training Centres and their respective development coaches. This initiative was partially funded by Own The Podium and Sport Canada with additional funding provided by Curling Canada and the Provincial / Territorial Associations.

For the past 8 years, Curling Canada and the Member Associations have been discussing how to implement an Under 18 Championship, as it is not age or stage appropriate (and perhaps even detrimental) to have 14 and 15 year olds compete against 19 and 20 years old at the current Canadian Juniors (Under 21) Championship.

The biggest hurdle to implementing of an event of this kind has been meeting the financial expectations of a national championship. Finally, we have been given this incredibly rare opportunity to realize this truly national event, through partial funding by a donor, as part of a much larger youth curling development program, which is referred to as the "Feeder System".

The Feeder System will represent an enhancement and expansion of the Podium Project in that we will increase our capacity to identify and develop young talent across the country with two objectives in mind. One is to ensure we optimize the podium pathway experience for our young talent pool and therefore, maintain our international ranking for years to come. And the second objective is to keep as many young athletes as possible in the game at this critical stage of participation.

The Feeder System will channel young aspiring athletes into a series of age/stage appropriate competitions, culminating in an annual Under 18 National Championship.

We are well aware that the champions of tomorrow are developed in the Train to Train and Train to Compete stages of the LTAD. When we reverse engineer a world-class curling athlete, research shows what the athlete was doing between the ages of 13 and 17 years, was the most critical stage to the athlete's development. We plan to further invest in our podium potential by developing structured programming based on irrefutable performance standards.

This holistic approach will see consistent and equal curling development opportunities for youth, from coast to coast to coast to help engage and retain young people in our sport. This benevolence is a tremendous opportunity to fill the LTAD gap, provide meaningful development opportunities for our future champions and to revolutionize the sport of curling for future generations.

### **Timing**

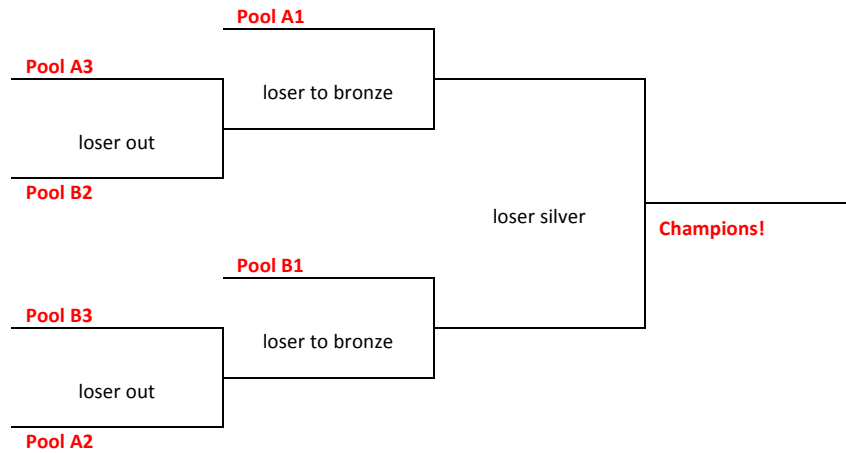
The current championship schedule is crammed with international events, national events, World Curling Tour & Slam events, provincial / territorial events and other club events. While finding the ideal date(s) will be a challenge, it would be prudent to suggest we continue to operate on the dates already established by the Optimists. Therefore the proposed dates for **2017** would be **April 5-9**. [Note: Easter Sunday is April 16, 2017.]

### **Eligibility**

Eligible players must be 17 years of age or under on December 31, 2016. Each team will be comprised of four (4) males plus one (1) coach or four (4) females plus one (1) coach. Additional team members will not be recognized; i.e. alternate players, team leaders. The coach will have at minimum Competition Coach certification. "Free Agency" as allowed for the Brier and Tournament of Hearts **is not** allowed. Players **must be** residents of Canada and must satisfy the applicable Member Association's eligibility rules. [Note: we **do not** require athletes to be Canadian citizens.]

### **Format**

- Two pools per gender; seeding based on a three-year win total of the Canadian Juniors [this will end in 2019 when the three-year win total for the Canadian U18 will be used].
- Games will be eight (8) ends in length with full extra ends.
- Teams will be assigned thirty (30) minutes of thinking time for eight (8) ends with four (4) minutes and thirty (30) seconds for any extra end.
- Teams will be allowed two (2) ninety (90) second time-outs per game plus one (1) time-out for any extra ends. Teams will also be allowed one (1) Fair Play time-out.
- Electronic handles will be used when available.
- Assuming all 14 MAs participate, each team will play 6 games. Following the round robin, the top three teams from each pool will advance to the playoff round [tie-breaker games will not be played]:



- All non-playoff team members will participate in the ‘unofficial’ U18 Mixed Doubles competition. There will be thirty-two (32) boys and girls matched according to the final round robin ranking but will not be matched with a teammate or their coach. They will play a single knockout during and around the playoff draws. Medals for gold, silver and bronze will be presented.

## Funding

- Curling Canada will provide a travel fund for teams. The fund will be **\$60,000** and teams will access this fund based on a calculation that will use the ‘as-the-crow-flies’ distance between the venue and the home curling clubs. All the distances will be totalled then divided into \$60,000. This **example** is based on the event held in Toronto. Teams may choose their own method of transportation, however, the compensation will not change. (e.g. choose to drive from Winnipeg to Toronto; the team would still receive \$1,718.32)

Home	to Toronto (in miles)	x 2 teams	Payout/team	x 2 teams
Whitehorse	2538	5076	\$4,640.69	\$9,281.39
Yellowknife	1908	3816	\$3,488.75	\$6,977.50
Iqaluit	1456	2912	\$2,662.27	\$5,324.55
Victoria	2105	4210	\$3,848.96	\$7,697.92
Edmonton	1681	3362	\$3,073.68	\$6,147.37
Regina	1268	2536	\$2,318.52	\$4,637.04
Winnipeg	940	1880	<b>\$1,718.78</b>	\$3,437.55
Ottawa	222	444	\$405.92	\$811.85
Montreal	317	634	\$579.63	\$1,159.26
Charlottetown	818	1636	\$1,495.70	\$2,991.40
Halifax	790	1580	\$1,444.50	\$2,889.01
Moncton	738	1476	\$1,349.42	\$2,698.84
St. John's	1315	2630	\$2,404.46	\$4,808.92
Sault Ste Marie	311	622	\$568.66	\$1,137.32
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,407</b>	<b>32,814</b>	<b>\$29,999.95</b>	<b>\$59,999.91</b>

- All teams will pay an entry fee of **\$120 per team** (GST included) to be collected at the source by the respective Member Association as part of their entry fees. All teams will pay the fee at the first level of the competition in their jurisdiction.
- Curling Canada will provide and pay for umpires and any staff / equipment necessary to stage the event similar to the field of play set-up for the Canadian Juniors.
- All and any other expenses are the responsibility of the team. Teams will not receive any other Curling Canada funding except for the travel fund.

## Proposed Schedule

Date	Time	Event
Monday, April 3	All Day	Teams Arrive
	7:00pm	Pre-Competition Practice (for teams on site early)
Tuesday, April 4	9:00am	High Performance Session (group A)
	9:00am	Pre-Competition Practice (for remaining teams)
	12:00pm	High Performance Session (group B)
	3:00pm	Free Time
	5:00pm	Opening Ceremonies
	6:00pm	Draw #1
	9:00pm	Draw #2
Wednesday, April 5	8:00am	Draw #3
	11:15am	Draw #4
	2:30pm	Draw #5
	5:45pm	Draw #6
	9:00pm	Draw #7
Thursday, April 6	8:00am	Draw #8
	11:15am	Draw #9
	2:30pm	Draw #10
	5:45pm	Draw #11
	9:00pm	Draw # 12
Friday, April 7	8:00am	Draw #13
	11:15am	Draw #14
	2:30pm	Mixed doubles
	3:30pm	Mixed doubles
	5:00pm	Mixed doubles
	7:30pm	Quarter-Finals
Saturday, April 8	9:00am	Semi Finals & Mixed Doubles
	10:00am	Mixed Doubles
	12:00pm	Mixed Doubles
	1:30pm	Mixed Doubles Medal Games
	3:00pm	Medal Games
	5:30pm	Closing Ceremonies
	7:00pm	Victory Party
Sunday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>	All day	Teams depart

## Proposed Draw Schedule

	hockey rink					curling rink		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tuesday 6:00pm	A3-A2	A7-A1		B3-B2	B7-B1	A4-A5	B4-B5	
Tuesday 9:00pm		C3-C2	C7-C1	D3-D2	D7-D1		D4-D5	C4-C5
Wednesday 8:00am	A4-A1	B2-B7	B4-B1	A2-A7		A6-A3		B6-B3
Wednesday 11:15am	D4-D1		D2-D7	C4-C1	C2-C7		D6-D3	C6-C3
Wednesday 2:30pm	A5-A6	B5-B6	A3-A4		B3-B4	A1-A2	B1-B2	
Wednesday 5:45pm	C5-C6		C3-C4	D5-D6	D3-D4	C1-C2	D1-D2	
Wednesday 9:00m	B4-B6	A2-A5	B2-B5	A4-A6			B7-B3	A7-A3
Thursday 8:00am	D5-D6	C5-C6	C2-C5		D2-D5	D7-D3	C7-C3	
Thursday 11:15am	B5-B1		A6-A7	B6-B7	A5-A1		A2-A4	B2-B4
Thursday 2:30pm		D6-D7	D5-D1	C6-C7	C5-C1	D2-D4		C2-C4
Thursday 5:45pm	A6-A2		B5-B7	A5-A7	B6-B2	B1-B3	A1-A3	
Thursday 9:00pm	D5-D7		C5-C7	D6-D2	C6-C2	C1-C3		D1-D3
Friday 8:00am	A3-A5		A7-A4	B3-B5	B7-B4	B1-B6		A1-A6
Friday 11:15am		C3-C5	C1-C6	D1-D6	D3-D5	C7-C4		D7-D4

- Note: ice allocation & stone assignment yet to proofed
- Teams play 7 games in about 66 hours

### Other items for discussion

- Cresting opportunities for uniforms to raise funds to offset expenses
- Potential opportunity for a cultural experience while on site
- Potential for national sponsorship

### Pros

- Now a Curling Canada operated event.
- Fills gap in our Long Term Athlete Development pathway.
- Exposure to mixed doubles training.
- Committed to a stadium ice experience like the Juniors
- Shortened event = less costs / less expenses for teams

### Cons

- Not everyone plays everyone.
- International teams no longer invited.
- Different funding model for MAs meaning there may be chance not all MAs will participate (if this is the case, what is the contingency plan?)