

Annual General Assembly

Budapest, Hungary

0930, 9th September 2018

Agenda

1. Reading of Notice of Assembly.
2. Report on Credentials of Representatives and Quorum.
3. Exclusion/suspension of a Member Association.
4. Approval of the Agenda.
5. Reading of the Minutes of the last General Assembly and approval thereof.
6. Business arising out of the Minutes.
7. Minute of Remembrance for Friends and Colleagues no longer with us.
8. Report of the President.
9. Report of the Executive Board and Committees.
10. Report of the Auditors
11. Receive the Finance Report, Audited Statement and Discharge to the Board
12. Appointment of the Auditors
13. Presentation of the Budget.
14. Approval of Annual Subscriptions
15. Resolutions.
16. Further business.
17. Elections.
18. Acceptance of a new Member Association.
19. Date and location of next General Assembly.

12. Appointment of Auditors

Resolution

To appoint Mazars as the auditors for the World Curling Federation

14. Approval of Annual Subscriptions

No change is proposed to the rate of the Annual Subscriptions for the 2019/2020 season.

15. Resolutions

The following resolutions have been received by the World Curling Federation in line with the timelines laid down in the Constitution. Where relevant the views of the Competition and Rules Commission and the Athlete Commission are noted.

Any amendments to these Resolutions must be received by the Secretariat by **18 August 2018**.

a) Update to WCF Classification Rules

Rationale

The International Paralympic Committee have introduced a new Standardised Classification Code. Voting for this resolution would require the WCF to ensure that moving forward the WCF Classification Code meets the requirements of the IPC Code.

Resolution

The WCF Classification Code will meet the requirements of the International Paralympic Committee's Classification Code and will be updated moving forward as required to ensure compliance is maintained.

b) Proposals relating to The Rules of Curling:

i) R15(g) (iii) Blanked End due to Equal Measure

In the current Mixed Doubles rule a team loses the choice of stone placement if an end is blanked. That is also the case if two stones in the house are considered equal and the end is blanked. We recommend the following should be added to rule R15 (g) (iii):

In the case of a blanked end due to an equal measure, the team that had the decision on the placement of the "positioned" stones shall not change for the next end.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

ii) LSD Chart Update for 12 team round robin

The LSD chart with the minimum required LSD stones per player does not include 12 round robin games, which we now have at the World Men's and Women's. Amend the chart to include:

12 games, 24 stones, 5 stones, 2 clockwise + 2 counter-clockwise.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

iii) LSD Chart Update for events with groups of different sizes

Currently we have a policy to only count the same number of LSD stones when playing in groups of different sizes, but that is not reflected in the LSD chart. Add to the chart on page 39:

"Considered" to the title 'Round Robin Games' and **"Considered"** to the title 'Number of LSD stones'.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

iv) C8(d)(i) LSD delivered by the alternate

Rule C8 (d) (i) needs changed to ensure LSD stones delivered by the alternate can be combined at the end of the round robin with only one other player, so that this player fulfils the minimum required number of LSD stones.

New wording for C8(d)(i): LSD stones delivered by the alternate can be combined at the end of the **games that are considered in the calculation of the DSC** with only one other player, so that this player fulfils the minimum required number of LSD stones.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

v) C9(b)(iv) Clarify when players have reached their minimum number of LSD stones

We have a rule to count the same number of LSD stones when playing in groups of different sizes. We now need to clarify that the players have to reach their minimum number of LSD stones within the considered games.

Add a new sentence in C9 (b) (iv):

Where there is more than one group and these groups are of differing sizes, to ensure the DSC is calculated in the same way, only the LSDs from the first 'equal number' of games will be used. **All players need to fulfil their minimum requirements within those considered games.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

Amendment: from Japan Curling Association: Clarification

The intention of this change is reasonable but JCA feel it also needs to be included in C8(d) which is where LSD minimum requirements are defined: The new wording is shown here in red:

Based on the Original Team Line-up form, the four players (2 in Mixed Doubles) have to fulfil the minimum number of LSD deliveries in games that are considered in the calculation of the DSC.

vi) C2(c) Establish a deadline for changing team personnel

Currently we have teams that want to register, or change the team personnel, at different periods throughout an event. To establish a deadline, change Rule C2 (c):

The players and team officials for each event must be declared at least 14 days prior to the start of the competition. Any changes / additions must be declared by the end of the team meeting.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

vii) Timeline for the Americas Challenge

Currently the rule book says the Americas Challenge must be completed by the end of January. With the new WQE this is too late, so we need to change the dates.

Amend the chart on page 56 of the rule book:

- 1 May – prior to this date registration forms sent out by WCF Secretariat
- 31 May – deadline date for registration (forms returned to the WCF Secretariat)
- 31 July – prior to this date the hosting venue and dates approved by WCF
- the Challenge to be completed in October or November (or agreed date)

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

viii) Number of teams in the Youth Olympic Games

The Winter Youth Olympic Games was played with 16 teams, but the IOC has now approved 24 teams.

Adapt the rule book (page 45) to match the new system approved by the IOC.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

ix) C8(b) Alternate Delivering LSD

The current rule C8 (b) states that: A player (alternate) that delivers an LSD stone does not have to play in that game. This covers deliveries, but not sweeping.

For clarification, change rule C8(b) to read: A player (alternate) that delivers or sweeps an LSD stone does not have to play in that game.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

x) R13(h) Number of Athletes on Field of Play in Wheelchair Curling

In R13 (h) additional wording is required to fix the anomaly in wheelchair curling of “must have 4 players during each end” and “alternates can only enter at the start of an end”.

If a player leaves during an end because of illness, accident or other extenuating circumstances (excluding ejection by an umpire):

- a) the player may return to the game, provided they deliver all their allocated stones.
- b) if the departing player's stone(s) need to be delivered in that end, an alternate must be immediately brought into the game in the position of the departing player to deliver those stone(s), and the team still needs to be composed of both genders. Failure to do so results in forfeiture of the game. At the start of the next end the team may change the team line-up if desired (the revised rotation of play will apply for the remainder of that game), and the replaced player may not re-enter the game.
- c) if both stones have been delivered by the departing player, at the start of the next end the team must bring in an alternate and may change the team line-up if desired (the revised rotation of play will apply for the remainder of that game), and the replaced player may not re-enter the game.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

xi) C5(a) Minimum Number of Ends

Currently rule C5 (a) says: In competitions in which 10 ends are scheduled, a minimum of 6 ends must be completed in round robin games, and 8 ends must be completed in play-off games. There is nothing mentioned about any other post round robin games.

Change the rule to read: In competitions in which 10 ends are scheduled, **a minimum of 8 ends must be completed in play-off games and a minimum of 6 ends must be completed in all other games.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

xii) C9(b)(vi) Ranking of Teams

Currently rule C9 (b) (vi) says: In events where a single loss eliminates a team from the competition, teams eliminated during the same session will be listed alphabetically, by their three-letter code, and ranked equal. However, we need a clear ranking after the completion of the WMCC, WWCC and WWhCC because of the distribution of the Olympic and Paralympic qualification points.

Add to the rule: **For the two losers of the qualification games in the WMCC, WWCC and WWhCC, the team ranked higher after the round robin will be ranked 5th, the other team will be ranked 6th.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

xiii) R11(d) Observing Measurements

Part of rule R11 (d) says: The person in charge of the house from each team is allowed to observe any measurement that is made by a measuring device.

Change to: **Any one person** from each team is allowed to observe any measurement that is made by a measuring device.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

Amendment: By Japan Curling Association: Clarification of who may observe

The current wording could be confusing and not prevent team officials or coaches from observing.
Change the wording to:

Change to: **Any one person player on the ice** from each team is allowed to observe any measurement that is made by a measuring device.

xiv) Remove 2018 Specific Regulations

Remove from the rule book on page 49:

For the 2018 World Men's and Women's Championships there are 13 teams, selected in this manner:

- 2 American Zone (including host)
- 3 Pacific-Asia Zone
- 8 European Zone

Effective for the 2019 World Men's and Women's Championships there are 13 teams, selected in this manner:

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

xv) Qualification for teams for the World Qualification Event

On page 49 of the rule book is an explanation of the number of teams participating in the new WQE. Below this, add how teams qualify from each of the Zones.

Pacific-Asia Zone: There are two places available at the WQE for Pacific-Asia MAs (not including the host). They will be allocated to the two highest ranked MAs in the PACC who have not qualified for the World Championships.

Americas Zone: There is one place available at the WQE for the Americas MAs (not including the host). If there are only two MAs registered to play in the Americas Challenge and the challenge is played, the winning MA qualifies for the WCC and the other MA qualifies for the WQE.

If the two MAs agree that the challenge need not be played because one MA concedes, the MA winning by forfeit qualifies for the WCC, the other MA qualifies for the WQE.

If more than two MAs are registered to play in the Americas Challenge, the challenge must be played. The winning MA qualifies for the WCC, the second ranked MA qualifies for the WQE.

European Zone: There are four places available at the WQE for European MAs (not including the host). Two spaces will be allocated to the MAs that finish 1st and 2nd in the B-Division of the ECC, two spaces will be allocated to the two highest ranked MAs in the A-Division who have not qualified for the WCC.

If an MA chooses not to accept their place at the WQE then the slot will be offered to the next highest placed MA in the A-Division not already qualified for the WQE. Failing that, it will be offered to the highest ranked MA in the B-Division not already qualified for the WQE.

To clarify, there is no direct route from the ECC B-Division to the WCC as there would no longer be the best-of-three World Challenge at the ECC. The path to the Worlds is still open via the WQE for the B-Division MAs.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

xvi) Rule R5(j) Delivering too many stones

Rule R5 (j) says If a player inadvertently delivers too many stones in one end, the end continues as if the mistake had not occurred and the number of stones allocated to the last player of the offending team shall be reduced accordingly.

It is not clear what happens if the last player of a team is the person that delivered too many stones in an end.

Add for clarification: **If the player delivering the last stones of an end is the player that inadvertently delivers too many stones, the last delivered stone will be removed from play and any displaced stones are replaced, by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

xvii) C8(f) & (h) Choice of Stone and Handle Colour

Rule C8 (h) says: In post round robin games where the team delivering the first stone in the first end has been pre-determined, the team delivering the first stone of the first end has the choice of stone handle colour.

If C8(f) is adapted as follows:

When round robin play (one group) is used at WCF competitions, with each competing team playing all other teams, **stone colour and** first stone in the first end of post round robin games is determined as follows:

- (i) The team with the better win/loss record has the choice of **stone colour and** playing first or second stone in the first end.
- (ii) If the teams have the same win/loss record, the winner of their round robin game has the choice of **stone colour or** playing first or second stone in the first end.
- (iii) Notwithstanding (i) and (ii), for competitions that use the Page play-off system, the team that wins the 1 versus 2 game has the choice of **stone colour or** delivering the first or second stone in the first end of the gold medal game; the team that loses the semi-final game has the choice of **stone colour or** delivering the first or second stone in the first end of the bronze medal game.

Then C8(h) is no longer required as it is covered in C8 (f) and (g) and C8(h) should be **removed from the rule book.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

xviii) Minimum Age for team officials

Currently there is no minimum age for team officials which has led to situations where minors have been declared as a team official to gain a free accreditation.

Insert in C2 a new point as (h) and re-letter the subsequent items: **To be eligible to be a team official at any WCF competition, an official must be not less than 16 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June of the year immediately preceding the year in which the competition is to take place.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

xix) New C9(f) Teams not starting or finishing a competition

For a variety of reasons a team may not start or finish a competition, the rule book needs to cover how this is dealt with in each of the different circumstances.

Add a new rule C9 (f) to clarify "Special Circumstances for a team not starting or not finishing a competition".

A team does not start (DNS)

- If the draw is re-worked, the team is not listed anywhere.
- If the draw cannot be re-worked, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DNS'.

A team does not finish the competition (DNF)

- During the round robin, all played games keep their results, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DNF'.
- After the end of the round robin, all played games keep their results. If the team has qualified for the start of the play-offs, the team exchanges ranking with the next highest ranked team. This exchange needs to occur at least 2 hours before the scheduled play-off game time. If that cannot be arranged, their next opponent will win the game by forfeit.
- During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game(s) and is ranked accordingly.

A team is disqualified from a competition (DSQ)

- During the round robin, all played games keep their results, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'.
- After the end of the round robin, all played games keep their results. The team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ', all lower ranked teams move up one position.
- During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game, and is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'. The final result of their last game is changed to W/L.
- After the competition, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'. All lower ranked teams move up one position.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – **YES** ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – **YES**

Point of Clarification

A query was received regarding the allocation of world ranking points and Olympic/Paralympic Points. Teams that are DNF will be allocated points relating to where they are finally ranked in the event, teams that are DSQ will receive no world ranking or qualification points.

Amendment 1: From Scottish Curling: Where a DNF team is ranked

It is not necessarily a team's own fault that they DNF therefore they should not be penalised by being placed last in the ranking list. The wording should be amended as follows:

A team does not finish the competition (DNF)

- During the round robin, **if a team does not finished all their scheduled games, all played games keep their results, any subsequent games are forfeited and the team is ranked as per Rule C9. the team is ranked last with the comment 'DNF'.**
- After the end of the round robin, all played games keep their results. If the team has qualified for the start of the play-offs, **the team assumes the ranking of the highest ranked team outside the play-offs and others above that position move up to fill the gaps exchanges ranking with the next highest ranked team. This exchange recalibration needs to occur at least 2 hours before the scheduled play-off game time. If that cannot be arranged, their next opponent will win the game by forfeit.**
- During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game(s) and is ranked accordingly.

Amendment 2: From Scottish Curling: Treatment of results from a DSQ decision

It is not fair on teams that have played their games against a DSQ team that their results should stand as this could have an impact on the final ranking. The wording should be amended as follows:

A team is disqualified from a competition (DSQ)

- During the round robin, ~~all played games keep their results~~ **all results from a DSQ team will be removed**, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'.
- After the end of the round robin, ~~all played games keep their results~~ **all results from a DSQ team will be removed**. The team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'. ~~all lower ranked teams move up one position.~~
- During the play-offs, the team forfeits the game, and is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'. The final result of their last game is changed to W/L.
- After the competition, the team is ranked last with the comment 'DSQ'. ~~All lower ranked teams move up one position.~~

xx) Rule Changes relating to the Delivery Stick in Wheelchair Curling

Following the recent Delivery Stick Summit and the consultations with players and officials over the past season the following Rule Changes are proposed to R10, R13 and C3.

- I. *New format for Rule 10(e) – (iv) (v) (vi) order changed, (iii) (iv) (v) addition of “For non-wheelchair curling”, addition of (vii)*

R10 - Equipment

(e) The use of a delivery stick shall be restricted as follows:

- (i) The delivery stick may not be used in any WCF competition or qualifying event, except wheelchair events.

- (ii) Players choosing to deliver with a delivery stick must use that device for the delivery of all their stones during the entire game.
 - (iii) For non-wheelchair curling, the stone must be delivered along a straight line from the hack to the intended target.
 - (iv) For non-wheelchair curling: The stone must be clearly released from the delivery stick before either foot of the player delivering the stone has reached the tee line at the delivery end. A stone is in play, and considered delivered, when it reaches the hog line at the delivery end.
 - (v) For non-wheelchair curling: If a stick delivery violation occurs, the delivered stone shall be removed from play, and any displaced stones shall be replaced, by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place.
 - (vi) The delivery stick shall not convey any mechanical advantage other than acting as an extension of the arm/hand.
 - (vii) All delivery sticks must conform to the Wheelchair Curling Policy.
2. Replacing “by the use of an approved delivery stick” with “using a delivery stick conforming to Wheelchair Curling Policy”

R13 - Wheelchair Curling

(d) The delivery of the stone is undertaken by the conventional arm/hand release or using a delivery stick conforming to the Wheelchair Curling Policy.

3. Addition of rule C3 (j) regarding penalties for equipment which will be outlined in the policy.

Rule C3 – Uniforms/Equipment

(j) For wheelchair curling equipment please refer the Wheelchair Curling Policy.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

xxi) Rule Changes proposed by the Chinese Curling Association

1. Curling Competition Rules R11. Scoring (c) *The score of an end is decided when the skips or vice-skips in charge of the house agree upon the score. If stones that may have affected the points scored in an end are displaced prior to that decision, the non-offending team receives the benefit that might have accrued from a measurement.*

What to do in the case of the stone being touched by players from both teams (at the same time). Suggestion is to use VAR (when available) to playback the incident and assist the umpire in making a decision or if both teams agree, replay that rock.

2. Curling Competition Rules R11. Scoring (d) *When determining the score of an end, if teams cannot visually decide which stones are closer to the tee, or whether a stone is touching the house, a measuring device is used. Measurements are taken from the tee to the nearest part of the stone. The person in charge of the house from each team is allowed to observe any measurement that is made by a measuring device.*

This rule only stipulates how to measure the stone but nothing in the rule indicates which player or umpire can remove the stones which do not need measuring. Suggestion is to have the umpire remove all “undesired” stones or, the umpire should supervise players as they remove their “undesired” stones which belong to their team.

3. Curling Competition Rules C10. Umpires *(f) All matters pertaining to the rules are adjudicated by an umpire. In the event that there is an appeal against an umpire's decision, the decision of the Chief Umpire is final.*

This rule stipulates that only the umpire can make all decisions during the game. If a team appeals the decision of the umpire during the game then the Chief Umpire’s judgment is final. Suggestion is to have a deadline for the appeal with a limit of 12 hours after each game. Also, there should be a third party involved in the final judgement on the appeal. The Technical Delegate or the arbitration commission should be involved in the process.

4. Curling Competition Rules C2. Participating Teams *(k) While a game is in progress, the coach, the alternate player, and all other team officials are prohibited from communicating with their team or being within the playing area except during specifically designated breaks or a team time-out. This restriction applies to all verbal, visual, written, and electronic communication, including any attempt to signal for the implementation of a team time-out. The coach, the alternate player, and one team official may participate in the pre-event and the pre-game practices, but may not communicate with their team during the LSD. During the game, there shall be no unauthorised communications or broadcasts of any sort from the coach bench to anyone who is not sitting in that designated area. Coaches and other team personnel sitting on the coach bench cannot watch or listen to broadcasts. For any violation, the offending person will be removed from the coach’s bench for that game.*

This rule stipulates that coaches, alternates and other team officers cannot communicate with the players except during specifically designated breaks or a team time out but it does not stipulate emergency situations that may occur during a game. This invariably creates a problem for players whose native language is not English. Players should be allowed to have the assistance of their coach, team leader or translator when they cannot communicate with umpires or opponents. This will avoid any confusion and remedy the situation much quicker.

Comment:

Umpires at WCF sanctioned events should become more proactive and less reactive.

Recommendation:

These are NOT supported by the C&R at this time. They feel there needs further discussion of the proposals and the implications of umpires being more pro-active in the field of play.

17. Elections

President

Kate Caithness (SCO)

Director (Position 4)

Beau Welling (USA)

18. Acceptance of a New Member Association

To accept Afghanistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kyrg Republic, Portugal and Nigeria as Provisional Members of the World Curling Federation.

19. Future Meetings

Open Meetings for Member Associations will be held in Stirling, Scotland at the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 8-9 March 2019 (TBC)

The 2019 Annual Congress will be held in Cancun, Mexico, Open Meetings 4th and 5th September, Annual General Assembly 6th September.