

WORLD CURLING FEDERATION



ANNUAL
REVIEW
2019 / 2020





This striking image, by World Curling Federation senior photographer Richard Gray, captures the drama of the enthralling closing ceremony of the World Junior Championships at the Crystal Ice Arena in Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

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Once again, it is my pleasure to introduce the World Curling Federation's Annual Review.

As you will see on these pages, the 2019-2020 season saw many important developments in all aspects of our sport, as well as the successful staging of championship and qualifying events as the season progressed. However, this curling season, as is the case in all walks of life, will be remembered for the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which shook everything to its roots.

As we all battle through this crisis, I know that, among our 64 Member Associations, there will be many friends, colleagues, team-mates, and families who have been touched directly, and our thoughts and sympathies go out to everyone. Here in the World Curling Federation we are mindful that our colleague and great friend Christian Leibbrandt succumbed in April. The virus has taken one of our own, and our sincere condolences are with his family and the Dutch curling community.

This time last year, we were in Cancun for our Congress. Our Mexican hosts did a great job in creating a relaxed atmosphere, but we had some important discussions that will play their part in determining the future for our sport.

Before the enforced cancellations at the end of the season, we had competitions in China, Finland, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. While all were successful and well-organised by enthusiastic local organising committees and their dedicated volunteers (as ever, our thanks to them – our events simply would not take place without them), two competitions really stand out.

The World Juniors took place in Krasnoyarsk in Russia – the Siberian city that had successfully hosted the Winter Universiade Games in 2019 and, in the city's brand-new Crystal Ice Arena, we had a truly world-class venue. This was simply one of the best events I have ever attended, with the closing ceremony quite spectacular.

Before that, curling took full advantage of our involvement in the third Youth Olympic Winter Games. These were hosted in Lausanne, the Swiss Olympic city, with 96 teenage curlers from 24 nations taking part. The curling competitions took place in the familiar surroundings of the Champéry Curling Arena and the young competitors – aided and encouraged by athlete role

models John Morris of Canada and Switzerland's Marlene Albrecht – did our sport proud, particularly in the unique mixed doubles competition which sees curlers from different nations forging new partnerships to compete, reflecting the true spirit of curling and the values of the Olympic movement.

While our competitions grab the headlines, this season has seen much progress in our development of the sport. Our team of Curling Development Officers are working across the globe and in different ways to take our sport forward as you will see outlined in this Review – my grateful thanks to them.

Among the highlights of this work was the launch of the World Curling Academy – a unique initiative developed in partnership between our Federation and the World Academy of Sport which will become the home of all World Curling online courses and a source for development resources. Our Federation's membership of the World Academy of Sport is an important development that will play a role in ensuring robust education development for all.

Elsewhere in this Review you will see that, although restricted this season, our Olympic Celebration Tour programme continues, thanks again to support from the California-based Foundation for Global Sports Development. This season's cancellations thwarted our plans to reach our 50th event since the programme started in 2013, but this is only a postponement and we look forward to reaching that milestone soon.

We are also making progress in other areas – our broadcast and media platforms continue to reach new levels and our influence as an Olympic sport continues to grow. There are also exciting developments in China as the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 come ever closer.

However, there is no denying it will take time to recover from the impact of COVID-19 and I should add that we have set up a Medical Advisory Group who are working closely with us and keeping in close contact with the World Health Organisation advice.

Whilst the Federation will doubtless be adversely affected financially, it is important for me to emphasise that our prudent approach to financial management and investments over the years gives us the resilience to manage an effective recovery. I am glad to say that our Federation is going from strength to strength, and long may that continue.

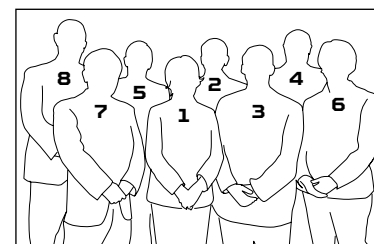
President's Message



“...I know that, among our 64 Member Associations, there will be many friends, colleagues, team-mates and families who have been touched directly and our thoughts and sympathies go out to everyone...”

Board & Staff

BOARD



- 1 Kate Kaithness CBE** *President:* Scotland, elected to 2022
- 2 Bent Ramsfjell** *Vice-President Europe:* Norway, elected to 2023
- 3 Graham Prouse** *Vice-President Americas:* Canada, elected to 2021
- 4 Hugh Millikin** *Vice-President Pacific-Asia:* Australia, elected to 2020
- 5 Hew Chalmers MBE** *Board Director:* Scotland, elected to 2021
- 6 Catherine Lindahl** *Board Director:* Sweden, elected to 2020
- 7 Toyo Ogawa** *Board Director:* Japan, elected to 2023
- 8 Beau Welling** *Board Director:* United States, elected to 2022

STAFF

Colin Grahamslaw Secretary General

Scott Arnold Head of Development

Eeva Roethlisberger Head of Competitions

Darrell Ell Competitions and Development Officer

Jiri Snitil Competitions and Development Officer

Karri Willms Competitions and Development Officer

Cameron MacAllister Head of Media (until April 2020)

Christopher Hamilton Acting Head of Media (from April 2020)/ Digital Media Officer

Emily Dwyer Media Officer

Richard Harding Head of Broadcast

Belinda Bantle-Carboni WCTV Production Manager

Sylvie Aubrit Distribution, Booking and Servicing Manager

Liz Munro Office Manager

Gill Amatt Administrator

Thelma Black Finance Controller

Susan Keith Anti-Doping Officer

Rhona Howie Equipment and Logistics Officer

Ashley Melville IT Officer

Saskia Mueller-Gastell Projects Officer

Key Facts & Figures



Instagram
exceeds
25,000
followers



Record
40
teams compete in the
2019
World Mixed



World
Curling
Academy
LAUNCHES
in June



Chinese social media channel
Sina Weibo
reaches
95,000
followers
IN FIRST YEAR

Dominican Republic,
India and Kuwait



become
Member
Associations
increasing the
number to
64



World
Curling TV
[YouTube channel]
exceeds
62,000
subscribers



Ranked
Third
of the
Olympic Winter Sports
in the Association of International
Olympic Winter Federation
[AIOWF]
Governance Audit



Nigeria
break ground on
first
dedicated
curling rink
in Africa



Eight year
World Championship
hosting partnership
with
Curling Canada



Three-year
hosting partnership
with
Curl Aberdeen
signed for
World Mixed
Championship



Brazil
opened
first
dedicated
curling rink



Operations & Integrity

Staffing

Following the staffing changes made last summer, Richard Harding, the new World Curling Federation Head of Broadcast was joined in the World Curling TV team by Belinda Bantle-Carboni, Production Manager and Sylvie Aubrit, Rights, Distribution, Booking and Servicing Manager. This new management structure recognises the ever-growing nature of World Curling's broadcast operation and the complexities of managing relationships with more broadcasters.

At the end of April, Cameron MacAllister left his position as Head of Media to join Scottish rugby union team the Glasgow Warriors, to lead their Marketing and Communication team. The process for replacing him has been interrupted by the COVID-19 situation and in the interim Christopher Hamilton has taken on the role of Acting Head of Media.

The year finished with all staff working from home following the global pandemic. The Perth Office was closed in late March and has yet to fully re-open. However, this did not prevent the staff continuing to operate the Federation, delivering all the work to prepare for the coming season from their own homes. Their commitment and flexibility in making things work has been very encouraging and is a credit to all involved.

Anti-doping

Over the past 12 months 80 tests have been conducted both in and out of competition. They have resulted in no adverse findings.

The World Curling Federation was due to deliver the latest edition of its successful Anti-Doping Outreach, #CurlClean, at the World Men's Curling Championship but this was cancelled when the championship was cancelled.

The World Curling Federation have now signed an agreement with the Court of Arbitration for Sport Anti-Doping Division, for them to run the hearing process for any future Anti-Doping Rule Violations under the World Curling Federation Anti-Doping rules. Additionally, the Federation has been working with WADA – The World Anti-Doping Agency – to update the World Curling Anti-Doping Rules to be compliant with the new WADA 2021 Code. The proposed rules will be presented to the membership at the 2020 Annual General Assembly for approval.

Integrity

There have been no reported concerns around World Curling competitions either through the hotline or via the International Olympic Committee's Irregular Betting Information System, which monitors major events for unusual betting patterns.

The World Curling Federation make use of the International Olympic Committee's Integrity Whistleblowing line. Discussions continue with the International Olympic Committee's Integrity Unit around ways to further develop the education processes. This followed a review of the use of the International Olympic Committee education materials at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.



Governance

The World Curling Federation's Governance Commission is constantly monitoring and looking for initiatives to improve governance within the organisation, as well being a resource for Member Associations that need guidance or help with governance-related issues.

The biggest task of the Governance Commission in the recent year has been assisting and recommending to the Board regarding the governance situation in one of the Member Associations – Poland.

For years, the Federation has received reports of concern about Poland. Recently, the Federation has actively aided the Polish Curling Association and the Polish curling community to try to resolve issues based on governance best practices. However, since October 2018 the Polish Curling Association has failed to respond satisfactorily to requests for information and clarification.

In October 2019, the Polish Minister of Sports and Tourism approached the Polish courts with an application for dissolution of the Polish Curling Association based on the findings of several audits. This court process is still on-going.

The Governance Commission has not seen any sign of willingness from the Polish Association to provide requested information and to resolve outstanding governance issues. Meanwhile, the

Polish Curling Association continues to operate outside the terms of their existing constitution. This has led to the recommendation from the World Curling Federation Governance Commission to the World Curling Federation Board to suspend the Polish Curling Association's membership of the Federation.

As of Friday 31 January 2020, that suspension has been in place. The World Curling Federation Board considers the Polish Curling Association to be in breach of the Word Curling Federation Constitution by "bringing the sport into disrepute" (section 6.6.2.3).

At the General Assembly 2020 this suspension will be voted on by the Member Associations taking part.

In addition, the Governance Commission continues to review best practice policies and procedures to ensure that World Curling Federation governance maintains its high standards.

In the latest AIOWF (Association of International Olympic Winter Federations) Governance Audit the World Curling Federation was ranked third of the seven Winter Olympic Sports and more importantly, significantly ahead of the benchmark score that all International Federations are expected to achieve.



World Mixed Curling Championship

Aberdeen, Scotland, 12-19 October 2019

The World Mixed Curling Championship is an open entry event for all World Curling Federation Member Associations and, in its fifth year, the 2019 championship took place at Curl Aberdeen, in the north-east Scottish city of Aberdeen.

With Kosovo and Nigeria making their World Mixed debuts, a new record of 40 Member Associations were represented and split into five groups:

Group A: Belarus, **Canada**, Estonia, **Germany**, Hong Kong, Kosovo, Nigeria and **Slovakia**

Group B: Andorra, Croatia, Czech Republic, **Denmark**, **Norway**, New Zealand, **Poland** and Wales

Group C: Australia, Brazil, **Spain**, **Hungary**, Kazakhstan, Latvia, **Sweden** and **United States**

Group D: Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, **Scotland**, Slovenia, Chinese Taipei and **Turkey**

Group E: Austria, Belgium, England, Finland, France, **Korea**, **Russia** and **Switzerland**.

Following round-robin play, the top three teams in each Group, along with the best fourth-place finisher, progressed to the play-offs, ranked from one to 16.

(bold denotes all play-off qualifiers)

The four semi-finalists were:

- Canada, who had knock-out wins over Sweden and Denmark
- Norway, who beat Slovakia and Hungary
- Germany, who were winners over Poland, then Scotland
- Korea, knock-out winners over Russia and Switzerland.

In the semi-finals, Canada beat Norway by 6-5, while Germany beat Korea by 6-4. Norway then beat Korea by 6-5 to take bronze medals, while Canada took gold against Germany, with another 6-5 score-line, to retain the title they had won for the first time in 2018.

The World Mixed Curling Championship 2020 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

World Mixed Curling Championship 2019

MEDALLISTS

🇨🇦 CANADA

Colin Kurz (skip and fourth)
Meghan Walter (third)
Brendan Bilawka (second)
Sara Oliver (lead)
Jim Waite (coach)

🇩🇪 GERMANY

Andy Kapp (skip and fourth)
Pia-Lisa Schoell (third)
Benny Kapp (second)
Petra Tschetsch (lead)

🇳🇴 NORWAY

Wilhelm Naess (fourth)
Ingvild Skaga (skip and third)
Harald Skarsheim Rian (second)
Eirin Mesloe (lead)
Stale Rian (coach)



Around the Zones

In all three of the World Curling Federation's Zones – the Americas, Europe, and Pacific-Asia – much development work is taking place. While COVID-19 has clearly had a profound impact, there is still much to record and celebrate, from all corners of the globe.

AMERICAS

Brazil

Sergio Mitsuo Vilela, Director for Curling at the Brazilian Ice Sports Federation, reports on what was a major highlight: "on January 25th we soft-opened the Ice Brasil Arena, with three dedicated curling sheets and a separate quarter-size hockey/skating rink. This 3,500 square-metre complex hosts the first dedicated curling facility in Latin America (only the second in the southern hemisphere) and was made possible by the World Curling Federation's new facility loan and deferred payment for equipment programmes, in combination with their Development Assistance Programme, and funds from private investors as well as the Brazilian Ice Sports Federation's own funds."

The opening weekend had more than 200 visitors, who took part in workshops and presentations. After this, curling was introduced to an average of 50 visitors a day. However, COVID-19 forced the closure of the facility two months later as well as the official opening, which is now planned for May 2021, to coincide with the hosting of an Olympic Celebration Tour visit.

Canada

Canadian athletes with ambitions of representing the country at international curling events have received a significant funding boost. Nearly \$CAN 3.5 million, including a 43% increase in athletes' prize money at 2019-2020 championships, was made available through various high-performance programmes facilitated by Curling Canada. This increase included a landmark move to equalise the prize money at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and Tim Hortons Brier, Canada's national women's and men's championships, for a total of \$CAN 300,000 at each event. The women's purse update resulted in an 82% increase in prize money compared to the previous season, putting it on par with the men's national championship.



In addition, Curling Canada and the World Curling Federation announced an eight-year extension to the agreement that sees either a men's or women's world championship hosted in Canada, till 2028.

Guyana

The Guyana Curling Federation launched its official website at www.guyanacurling.com with the support of the World Curling Federation Development Assistance programme.

With this new online platform, an informative and functional site geared towards curling in Guyana which carries regular news updates and recruitment forms, the Guyana Curling Federation hopes to continue spreading the word about curling to Guyanese both at home and abroad, and attract Guyanese interested in trying the sport.

United States

A major initiative has begun which aims to bridge the gap between high performance athletes and grassroots curlers. It is focusing on younger athletes with the implementation of an under-25 National Team Program and a soon-to-be National Junior Development Program.

USA Curling has also prioritised expanding and improving diversity and inclusion. This initiative began by expanding resources provided to the USA National Wheelchair Curling Team and will continue to be addressed with the reconvening of USA Curling's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

EUROPE

A number of developments have taken place across the Europe Zone, which has 41 member nations.

These include:

- **Denmark:** The Mayor of Silkeborg, Denmark announced in the media that hosting the WWCC 2019 had a great positive impact on the city and that Silkeborg is eager to host future events
- **Finland:** Olli Rissanen, President of the Finnish Curling Association – and a World Curling Federation representative for 22 years – stepped down from the international scene, with thanks. He was a former President of the European Curling Federation
- **Netherlands:** There are now approximately 30-40 ice rinks, and curling clinics are always the most popular among ice sports
- **Norway:** the successful hosting of the Lillehammer Youth Curling Camp
- **Romania:** Brasov, Romania hosted the ECC-C, which attracted a good number of spectators and raised awareness of curling in the country
- **Sweden:** A survey has noted that curling is always among the top ten sports of what people want to see on TV (out of 72 sports).

The Europe Commission is also considering how to use the European Curling Federation Monetary Legacy (some \$USA 100,000). Viable projects for being awarded grants could include those that especially target youth, promote development and/or enhance cross-border cooperation.



PACIFIC-ASIA

This was another exciting season for the Pacific-Asia region. Highlights included:

- The successful holding of the PACC in **Shenzhen, China** - a great sign for the upcoming Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022
- Continued growth throughout the region with additional dedicated rinks in **Japan, China, Korea** and **New Zealand**
- The now-cancelled Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2020 was scheduled to be held at a new dedicated curling facility in **Wakkanai, Japan**
- Continuing investigations into facilities opportunities in **Australia, Hong Kong, Qatar** and **Nigeria**
- A growing focus on **junior participation** by most member nations
- Continuing work on successfully delivering curling for the **Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022**, including increased participation levels throughout China
- Continuing expansion of the **Pacific-Asia Championships**, now with a potential field of up to 17 Member Associations. The championships are now in a position where change is required to reflect different levels of play and number of teams. A proposal for this change is being developed.

Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2019

MEDALLISTS

WOMEN

🇨🇳 CHINA

Yu Han (skip and fourth)
Lijun Zhang (third)
Xindi Jiang (second)
Ruiyi Zhao (lead)
Jiaxin Yu (alternate)
Marco Mariani (coach)

🇯🇵 JAPAN

Ikue Kitazawa (fourth)
Chiaki Matsumura (third)
Seina Nakajima (skip and second)
Hasumi Ishigooka (lead)
Emi Shimizu (alternate)
Yusuke Morozumi (coach)

🇰🇷 KOREA

Un Chi Gim (skip and fourth)
Min Ji Um (third)
Su Ji Kim (second)
Ye Eun Seol (lead)
Ye Ji Seol (alternate)
Dong Ho Shin (coach)

MEN

🇰🇷 KOREA

Chang-Min Kim (skip and fourth)
Ki Jeong Lee (third)
Hak Kyun Kim (second)
Ki Bok Lee (lead)
Myung Sup Lim (coach)

🇯🇵 JAPAN

Yuta Matsumura (skip and fourth)
Tetsuro Shimizu (third)
Yasumasa Tanida (second)
Kosuke Aita (lead)
Shinya Abe (alternate)
Bob Ursel (coach)

🇨🇳 CHINA

Qiang Zou (skip and fourth)
Zhiyu Wang (third)
Jiafeng Tian (second)
Jingtao Xu (lead)
Peng Han (alternate)
Soren Gran (coach)



The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2019 took place at the Shenzhen Universiade Sports Center in Shenzhen, China, with eight women's teams and ten men's teams representing ten Member Associations. This included Nigeria, who became the first African team to take part in the Pacific-Asia event.

The women's teams were: Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea and Qatar.

At the end of the round-robin, three teams – China, Korea and Japan – were tied at the top of the rankings with six wins and one loss. Results from the draw shot challenge



gave first place to Japan, who then faced fourth-placed Hong Kong in the semi-final and beat them by 12-5. In the other semi-final, third-placed China beat second-ranked Korea, 8-2.

In the bronze medal game, Korea beat Hong Kong by 13-2, while China took gold with a 10-3 win over Japan in the final.

With these results, China and Japan qualified directly for the World Women's Curling Championship 2020, while Korea and Hong Kong secured their places in the World Qualification Event.

The ten men's teams were: Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, New Zealand, Nigeria, and Qatar.

Korea finished the round-robin undefeated with nine straight wins and faced fourth-placed New Zealand in the semi-finals, winning that game too, by 10-6. In the other semi-final, Japan, second-placed after the round-robin, beat third-ranked China by 7-5.

China then beat New Zealand, by 9-4, for bronze medals, while, Korea beat Japan, by 11-2, in the final. With their victory, Korea also qualified directly for the LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020, while Japan and China qualified for the World Qualification Event.

The Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2020 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Pacific-Asia Curling Championships

Shenzhen, China, 2-9 November 2019



Athlete Commission

The Athlete Commission held in-person meetings for two full days following the European Championships in Helsingborg, Sweden.

Discussions revolved around the future function of the Commission and how it best represents athletes. Proposals were put on the table for discussion with the World Curling Federation Board, including changes to the Commission's Terms of Reference. Through these proposals, the Commission has a goal of ensuring continuity of knowledge within the group, as well as ensuring that the Terms of Reference best represent the athletes' voice.

These proposals have now pushed back one year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission will use this new timeline to review these proposals before re-presenting them.

The athlete vote for Commission members – two Men's, Mixed Doubles and Wheelchair Curling representatives – was also delayed one year due to the pandemic and limited resources to run a full athlete vote. All members who were supposed to rotate off or be up for re-election accepted one additional year on the Commission to support the World Curling Federation.

In addition:

- Two Commission members are actively involved in the World Curling Federation's **Maximizing the Value** commission
- Two Commission members are actively involved in the World Curling Federation's **World Team Ranking working group**
- The Commission Chair, Nolan Thiessen (Canada), sits on the World Curling Federation **Constitution and Rules Commission**, to provide athlete opinion.

The Commission's key future points of focus include:

- **Help provide athlete support** for return to play once safe to do so after the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Continue to evolve** the mechanisms that the Commission uses to speak to athletes and keep athletes informed
- **Open channels of communication** – using digital tools, including developing a regular webinar series – to provide athletes with updates on the status of various projects.

Other mechanisms, including social media offerings for the Commission, are being considered.

Arguably the biggest contribution the Athlete Commission makes is to sit on other Commissions to provide the athlete opinions in real-time.

Technical Commission

The Technical Commission was first established at the end of 2018 with the purpose of “providing advice and support to achieve the highest level of playing conditions possible at all levels of the game, and to assist in the development of curling facilities around the world, both new and existing”.

Since then, and following an inaugural meeting at Greenacres, Scotland – where much of the World Curling Federation equipment is stored, including various sets of stones – the commission started its activities through three main areas of focus:

- **To produce a guide on how to build a modern curling facility**
- **To produce a technical site visit manual**
- **To develop educational programmes.**

Guide on how to build a modern curling facility

The guide to “*Building a Modern Curling Facility*” was published in April to aid the World Curling Federation Member Associations in building modern dedicated curling facilities.

The guide includes technical specifications for each aspect of the project, including equipment required by ice technicians in their maintenance of the facility.

Along with the guide, a number of case study white papers were released to showcase the variety available. The guide and case studies are available in multiple languages on the World Curling Federation website.

Technical site visit manual

To meet the need to identify potential issues at proposed event venues much earlier than is currently happening, a bullet point questionnaire has been created for use by those with interest in hosting an event. As a result, an on-line form of technical site visit questionnaire is currently being reviewed, before final publication.

Educational programmes

In its work to develop educational programmes, the Commission has recognised the need to bring back levels of certification for Ice Technicians. The World Curling Federation's partnership with the World Academy of Sport saw the launch of the Ice Technician Level 1 online course as the initial offering from the World Curling Academy.



Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2019

MEDALLISTS

WOMEN

◎ SWEDEN

Anna Hasselborg (skip and fourth)
Sara McManus (third)
Agnes Knochenhauer (second)
Sofia Mabergs (lead)
Johanna Heldin (alternate)
Wayne Middaugh (coach)

◎ SCOTLAND

Eve Muirhead (skip and fourth)
Lauren Gray (third)
Jennifer Dodds (second)
Victoria Wright (lead)
Sophie Sinclair (alternate)
Nancy Smith (coach)

◎ SWITZERLAND

Alina Paetz (fourth)
Silvana Tirinzoni (skip and third)
Esther Neuenschwander (second)
Melanie Barbezat (lead)
Pierre Charette (coach)

MEN

◎ SWEDEN

Niklas Edin (skip and fourth)
Oskar Eriksson (third)
Rasmus Wranaa (second)
Christoffer Sundgren (lead)
Daniel Magnusson (alternate)
Fredrik Lindberg (coach)

◎ SWITZERLAND

Yannick Schwaller (skip and fourth)
Michael Brunner (third)
Romano Meier (second)
Marcel Kaeufeler (lead)
Lucien Lottenbach (alternate)
Bernhard Werthemann (coach)

◎ SCOTLAND

Ross Paterson (skip and fourth)
Kyle Waddell (third)
Duncan Menzies (second)
Michael Goodfellow (lead)
Craig Waddell (alternate)
Ian Tetley (coach)



26 national Member Associations contested the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2019, in Helsingborg's The Olympia Rink, Sweden.

The ten A-Division women's teams were:

Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia (qualified from last season's B-Division), Germany, Latvia, Norway (qualified from last season's B-Division), Russia, Scotland, Sweden (defending champions), and Switzerland.

Following round-robin play, table-leaders Sweden faced Russia in the semi-finals, with Sweden winning, by 9-3, while Scotland beat Switzerland, by 3-2, after an extra end.

Switzerland beat Russia, by 6-5, for the bronze medals. While in the championship final, Sweden's reigning Olympic champion skip Anna Hasselborg played a raise double take-out to score two points in the tenth end and retain her European crown, defeating Scotland, by 5-4.

At the other end of the rankings, Norway and Latvia were relegated to the B-Division.

The ten B-Division women's teams were:

Belarus, England, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, and Turkey.

Italy topped the B-Division, with Turkey second to qualify both for next season's A-Division and give them places in the World Qualification Event. At the foot of the table, Poland and Lithuania were relegated to the C-Division.

The ten A-Division men's teams were:

Denmark (qualified from last season's B-Division), England (qualified from last season's B-Division), Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Scotland (defending champions), Sweden, and Switzerland.

Sweden went through the round-robin undefeated to face fourth-placed Scotland in the semi-final, with Switzerland playing Denmark. The Swedes then beat Scotland, by 8-4, in the semi-finals, while Switzerland were 8-5 winners over Denmark.

Scotland beat Denmark, 7-2, for bronze, while Sweden beat Switzerland, by 9-3, in the gold medal game. This win gave Swedish skip Niklas Edin a seventh European title, and added the European crown to his team's world title. At the foot of the A-Division, Russia and England were relegated to next season's B-Division.

The men's B-Division was split into two Groups:

(Group-A): Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Slovakia, Spain, and Wales.

(Group-B): Austria, Belarus, France, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Turkey.

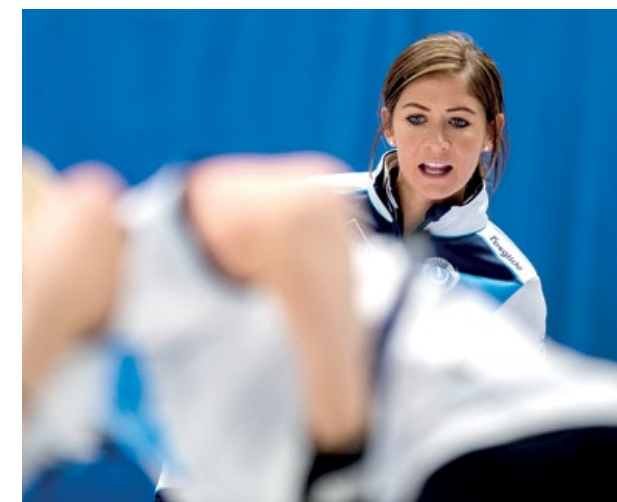
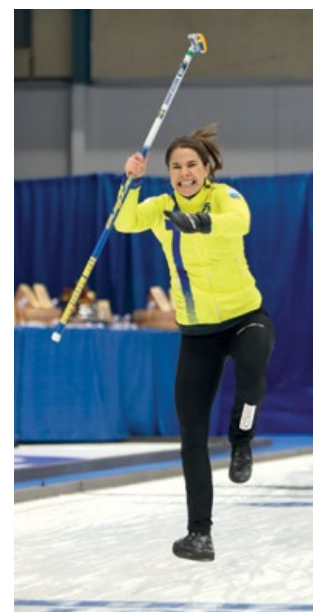
Czech Republic were B-Division winners, with Finland second, qualifying both for the A-Division as well the World Qualification Event. Slovakia and Israel were relegated to the C-Division.

The Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2020 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



European Curling Championships

Helsingborg, Sweden, 16-23 November 2019





World Junior Curling Championships

Krasnoyarsk, Russia, 15–22 February 2020

The World Junior Curling Championships 2020 were staged in Russia for the second time, at the Crystal Ice Arena in Krasnoyarsk. Previously, the Siberian city made its international curling debut in March 2019 when it hosted the Winter Universiade Games.

This was the 45th edition of these championships, and to be eligible to compete, “a player must be less than 21 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June of the year immediately preceding the year in which the championship is to take place”. A total of 20 teams competed at the event representing 15 World Curling Federation Member Associations.

With Russia qualifying as event hosts, the other participating teams either qualified directly through their performances in the World Junior Curling Championships 2019 or by qualifying from the World Junior-B Curling Championships 2019, which had been staged in Lohja, Finland during November.

The women’s teams were:

Host (and defending champions): Russia

Qualified from World Junior Curling Championships 2019 (in qualification order): Canada, Switzerland, Korea, Sweden and Norway

Qualified from World Junior-B Curling Championships 2019 (in qualification order): Japan, Latvia, Denmark and Hungary.

After round-robin play, Korea were undefeated at the top of the table and faced fourth-placed Japan in the semi-finals, while Canada, second overall, played third-placed Russia.

Korea beat Japan, by 8-4, while Canada were 9-8 winners over Russia. In the bronze medal game, Russia beat Japan, by 14-4, while Canada beat Korea, by 7-5, to take gold and the title.

The men’s teams were:

Host: Russia

Qualified from World Junior Championships 2019 (in qualification order): Canada (defending champions), Switzerland, Scotland, Norway, United States and New Zealand

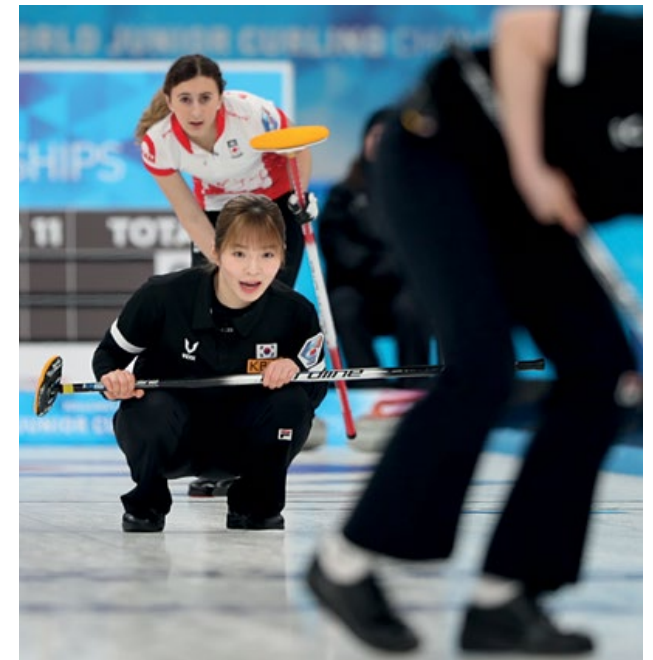
Qualified from World Junior-B Curling Championships 2019 (in qualification order): Sweden, Italy and Germany.

The semi-finalists were top-ranked Scotland, Canada, Germany and Switzerland. In the semi-finals Switzerland beat Scotland, by 9-6, while Canada were 7-4 winners over Germany.

Scotland then took bronze, beating Germany, by 6-5, while a golden Canadian double was sealed when they beat Switzerland, by 7-2, adding to their women’s gold medals.

At the closing ceremony, Sportsmanship Awards – for the players voted on by the others as best exemplifying the spirit of curling – were awarded to Norway’s women’s skip, Maia Ramsfjell and New Zealand’s men’s vice-skip Anton Hood.

The World Junior Curling Championships 2021 will be held in Beijing’s Ice Cube from 18-28 February 2021 and will serve as a test event for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.





World Junior Curling Championships 2020

MEDALLISTS

WOMEN

🇨🇦 CANADA

Mackenzie Zacharias (skip and fourth)
Karlee Burgess (third)
Emily Zacharias (second)
Lauren Lenentine (lead)
Rachel Erickson (alternate)
Sheldon Zacharias (coach)

🇰🇷 KOREA

Minji Kim (skip and fourth)
Seungyoun Ha (third)
Hyerin Kim (second)
Sujin Kim (lead)
Taei Yang (alternate)
Sungjun Lee (coach)

🇷🇺 RUSSIA

Vlada Rumiantseva (skip and fourth)
Vera Tiuliakova (third)
Irina Riazanova (second)
Anastasia Mishchenko (lead)
Aleksandra Kardapolitseva (alternate)
Andrey Drozdov (coach)

MEN

🇨🇦 CANADA

Jacques Gauthier (skip and fourth)
Jordan Peters (third)
Brayden Payette (second)
Zachary Bilawka (lead)
Thomas Dunlop (alternate)
John Lund (coach)

🇨🇭 SWITZERLAND

Yves Stocker (fourth)
Yves Wagenseil (skip and third)
Felix Eberhard (second)
Marcel Gertsch (lead)
Marco Hoesli (alternate)
Rodger Schmidt (coach)

🇸🇬 SCOTLAND

James Craik (skip and fourth)
Mark Watt (third)
Blair Haswell (second)
Niall Ryder (lead)
Angus Bryce (alternate)
Iain Watt (coach)



World Wheelchair Curling Championship

Wetzikon, Switzerland, 29 February - 7 March 2020

World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2020

MEDALLISTS

RUSSIA

Konstantin Kurokhtin (skip and fourth)
Andrei Meshcheriakov (third)
Vitaly Danilov (second)
Daria Shchukina (lead)
Anna Karpushina (alternate)
Anton Batugin (coach)

CANADA

Jon Thurston (fourth)
Ina Forrest (third)
Dennis Thiessen (second)
Mark Ideson (skip and lead)
Collinda Joseph (alternate)
Wayne Kiel (coach)

SWEDEN

Viljo Petersson-Dahl (skip and fourth)
Mats Ola Engborg (third)
Ronny Persson (second)
Kristina Ulander (lead)
Zandra Reppe (alternate)
Alison Kreviazuk (coach)

The World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2020 was staged in the Curling Hall, Wetzikon, in Switzerland.

This was the last World Curling Federation championship of the 2019-2020 season to be completed before the cancellations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 12 teams competed – the same number that will take part in the Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 – with hopes of claiming the world title and gaining Paralympic Qualification Points.

Based on the final ranking at the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2019, eight teams secured their spot in this year's competition.

They were (in ranking order): China, Scotland, Korea, Norway, Slovakia, Russia, Estonia and Latvia.

In addition, the top three finishers at the World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship 2019 (staged in Lohja, Finland) – Canada, Sweden and Czech Republic all secured a place.

Hosts, Switzerland completed the field.

After 17 round-robin sessions, unbeaten leaders China and second-ranked Sweden qualified directly for the semi-finals. Behind them, in two qualification games, third-placed Canada beat sixth-placed Korea, by 5-4, while fifth-placed Russia overcame fourth-ranked Norway, by 6-4, to move on to the semi-final stage.

In those games, Canada beat Sweden, 3-2, while Russia ended the unbeaten run of defending champions China, with a 9-4 victory. Sweden then defeated China, by 5-2, stealing three points in an extra end, while a tight 5-4 win over Canada gave Russia – who had single-point steals in both the seventh and last ends – their fifth world wheelchair title.

At the closing ceremony the Sportsmanship Award – for the player voted on by their peers as best exemplifying the spirit of curling – was awarded to Czech Republic's vice-skip, Radek Musilek.

Next year's World Wheelchair Curling Championship taking place from 6-13 March 2021, will be the test event for the Paralympic Winter Games 2022 at the Ice Cube in Beijing, China.





World Qualification Events

World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event 2019

Greenacres, Scotland, 7-12 December 2019

Following the decision to end the open entry format for the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2020, Greenacres curling club in Scotland staged the first-ever World Mixed Doubles Qualification event in December 2019.

Altogether 28 nations were represented, vying for the final four places at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2020 in Kelowna, Canada.

The teams were divided into four groups:

Group A: China, Denmark, Germany, Guyana, Kosovo, Ukraine and Wales

Group B: Belgium, Brazil, France, Ireland, Romania, Saudi Arabia and Turkey

Group C: Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia

Group D: Austria, Belarus, Korea, Lithuania, Netherlands, Nigeria and Slovakia.

After Group play, eight teams moved on to the double knock-out play-off stage: Austria, China, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Latvia and Turkey.

By winning two play-off games, both Germany and Italy took the direct route to qualification.

Germany first posted a 13-6 victory over Latvia before going on to beat Turkey, 7-5. Italy followed up an 11-4 win over France by edging past Korea, by 6-4.

These two teams were later joined by China and Korea to complete the World Championship line-up. It took an extra-end for China to beat Turkey by 8-7 while Korea beat Austria, by 7-2.

World Qualification Event 2020

Lohja, Finland, 13-18 January 2020

The World Qualification Event 2020 was staged in the Kisakallio Sports Institute in Lohja, Finland in January 2020, with eight women's and eight men's teams competing for two places in their respective world championship line-ups.

These included a first-ever appearance at this level by women's and men's teams representing Mexico, who had gained the right to be there through their debut participation in the Americas Challenge earlier in the season.

The eight women's teams were: Australia, Estonia, hosts Finland, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Norway and Turkey.

After round-robin play, unbeaten Korea topped the table, with Italy second and Turkey third.

Korea then secured victory and a world championship place in the 1-v-2 Play-off game, beating Italy, by 6-5, with a draw to the four-foot ring to score the one point needed, after carving out single point steals in both the seventh and eighth ends.

Italy then went back onto the ice to face third-placed Turkey for the second world championship slot. With an 8-4 win, the Italians successfully qualified.

The eight men's teams were: China, Czech Republic, England, hosts Finland, Japan, Mexico, Poland and Russia.

At the end of the seven round-robin sessions, the top three teams to go forward to the play-offs were: China, Russia and Japan.

China faced Russia in the 1-v-2 Play-off game and scored four points in the tenth end to complete a 10-5 win that put them into the world championship.

Russia then faced third-placed Japan for the last available world championship position. In the eighth end, Russia skip Sergey Glukhov played a precise double tap-back on two Japanese counters to score four points and take an 8-3 lead.

Although Japan responded with a score of three points in the ninth end, Russia went on to secure their World Championship place, winning by 8-7.

Olympic Celebration Tour

The Olympic Celebration Tour is a series of instructional events, launched in 2013, which introduces Olympic curlers to newcomers to the sport. This year, the Tour was once again supported by the California-based Foundation for Global Sports Development.

However, COVID-19 curtailed this season's activities to just two stops. But both of these were significant, with the Tour being staged in both Canada and Scotland for the first time.

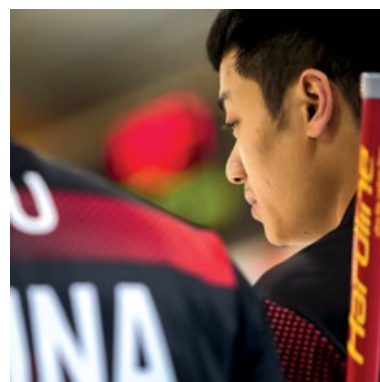
In February, Great Britain's 2014 Olympic silver medallist Tom Brewster, along with 1992 Olympic demonstration medallist and World Curling Federation Curling Development Officer Karri Wilms, visited the Prince George Golf and Curling Club as that British Columbia town was gearing up to host the World Women's Championship.

Later, in early March, Great Britain's 2014 Olympic silver medallist team-mates David Murdoch, Greg Drummond and Michael Goodfellow took part in the first-ever Tour stop in Glasgow, where they were joined by Great Britain's 2014 Olympic Bronze Medallist Vicki Chalmers. At the time, like Prince George in Canada, Glasgow was building up to host another world championship - the LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020.

During the Glasgow event, a Member of the Scottish Parliament, Christina McKelvie MSP, visited to try her hand at floor curling along with school children from the nearby town of Hamilton.

Later, Olympic Celebration Tour stops that were scheduled for Anchorage, United States, as well as in two brand new curling facilities - in Kiev, Ukraine and Sao Paulo, Brazil - had to be cancelled, as were two further stops scheduled in Japan.

Arrangements are being developed to stage these events at a later time, with the visit to Sao Paulo likely to coincide with the official opening of their new dedicated facility.



Before 2012, the Federation presented the World Curling Freytag Award to recognise outstanding contribution to the sport. From 2012, inductees into the World Curling Hall of Fame have been presented with the Freytag Medal to mark their induction.

The World Curling Freytag Award is a tribute to the late Elmer Freytag of the United States Curling Association, one of the prime movers in the establishment of the World Curling Federation.

Previous winners of the Elmer Freytag Award and the World Curling Freytag Award have all been inducted to the World Curling Hall of Fame.

There are two classes of honour:

Curler: awarded to athletes who have achieved extraordinary distinction and outstanding results, and have demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship and character, in the sport of curling.

Builder: awarded to individuals who have accomplished distinguished service and have made major contributions to the development and advancement of international curling.

During the 2019-2020 season, the World Curling Federation inducted its second elite curling team (and first women's team) into its Hall of Fame - Sweden's Team Elisabet Gustafson, the four-time World Women's Curling Champions and Olympic bronze medallists. (Elisabet Gustafson, Katarina Nyberg, Louise Marmont and Elisabeth Persson).

Another two recipients, Canada's Gordon Craig and Sweden's Leif Öhman, were inducted as Builders. With their work in television and ice making respectively, this pair have been instrumental in establishing the current status of curling in the world of sport.



Team Gustafson

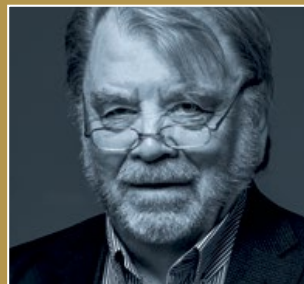
Elisabet Gustafson is already a member of the World Curling Hall of Fame. She was inducted in 2012 and with this announcement, the remainder of her team, third Katarina Nyberg, second Louise Marmont and lead Elisabeth Persson now join her.

In 2017, Ernie, Arnold, Garnet and Wes Richardson of Canada, were the first complete international curling team to be inducted.



Gordon Craig

Gordon Craig (Canada) was the visionary behind Canada's dedicated sports channel, The Sports Network, or TSN. He was influential in the first television broadcasts of the World Men's Curling Championship and the Canadian men's national curling championship, The Brier, in the 1960s, while at the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC) Craig went on to establish TSN, Canada's first 24-hour sports channel. In 2016, Craig was a recipient of the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest civilian honours.



Leif Öhman

Sweden's **Leif Öhman** has been vital in the development of dedicated curling ice since the 1980s.

Öhman was Chief Ice Technician at three Olympic Winter Games - Nagano 1998, Salt Lake City 2002 and Torino 2006. He was Technical Delegate for the Games in Russia at Sochi 2014 and in South Korea, at PyeongChang 2018. He was also the Chief Ice Technician at eight World Curling Championships between 1985 and 2005.



Mike Thomson (2019 Alumnus)

The cancellations of the 2020 World Championships have precluded presentations to these recipients during the 2019-2020 season, as well as to 2019 nominee **Mike Thomson** (Scotland). These presentations will be made as soon as is practicable.

Induction into the World Curling Federation Hall of Fame is the highest 'non-playing' honour that the World Curling Federation can bestow on someone and recognises outstanding contribution to the sport of curling whether through on-ice achievements or off-ice endeavours.

More information about the World Curling Hall of Fame, including all recipients, can be found at worldcurling.org

Youth Olympic Games

Lausanne, Switzerland, 10-22 January 2020

Youth Olympic Games
Lausanne 2020

MEDALLISTS

TEAM

🇳🇴 NORWAY

Grunde Buraas (fourth)
Nora Oestgaard (third)
Lukas Hoestmaelingen
(skip and second)
Ingeborg Forbregd (lead)

🇯🇵 JAPAN

Takumi Maeda (skip and fourth)
Momoha Tabata (third)
Asei Nakahara (second)
Mina Kobayashi (lead)

🇷🇺 RUSSIA

Valeriia Denisenko
(skip and fourth)
Mikhail Vlasenko (third)
Alina Fakhurtdinova (second)
Nikolai Lysakov (lead)

MIXED DOUBLES

🇭🇺🇨🇦 HUNGARY/CANADA

Laura Nagy
Nathan Young

🇫🇷🇷🇺 FRANCE/RUSSIA

Chana Beitone
Nikolai Lysakov

🇨🇳🇨🇪 CHINA/CZECH REPUBLIC

Junhang Pei
Vit Chabircovsky

96 curlers from 24 nations, aged between 15 and 18 years, took part in the third edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games.

Although the multi-sport event was hosted in the Olympic capital, Lausanne, Switzerland, curling took place 63 kilometres south, in the familiar setting of the Champéry Curling Arena.

This was the largest curling field ever at these Games, a total of 24 gender equal teams - increased from 16 teams at the 2016 Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

The curlers first represented their nations in team curling, then at the conclusion of that competition, took part in the 48-team mixed doubles discipline - with each team's athletes in this event coming from different National Olympic Committees.

The mixed team competition took the form of a 15-session round robin, with the teams split into four groups:

Group A: Canada, Estonia, Poland, Republic of Korea, **Russian Federation** and Spain

Group B: Brazil, Denmark, **Germany**, Hungary, People's Republic of China and **Switzerland**

Group C: France, Great Britain, **New Zealand**, Norway, Slovenia and Turkey

Group D: Czech Republic, **Italy**, **Japan**, Latvia, Sweden, United States of America
(**bold** denotes quarter-final qualifiers)

In the semi-finals, Norway beat Russian Federation, by 7-2, while Japan were 8-4 winners over New Zealand.

Norway beat Japan, 5-4 to win the gold medals, scoring the winning single point in an extra end. At the same time, Russian Federation took bronze medals after defeating New Zealand, 9-5.

For the mixed doubles portion of the Games, team selections were based on individual performances from the mixed team event. In a straight knock-out competition, one male and one female player from different



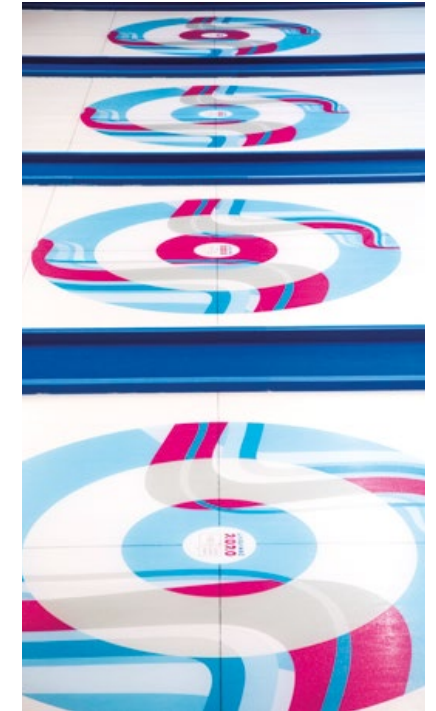
National Olympic Committees were placed together to compete for Youth Olympic medals as one unit.

After 11 sessions of knock-out games, six teams faced each other, with the three winners moving onto the semi-finals. The semi-finalists were: HUN/CAN; CHN/CZE; and FRA/RUS. The fourth semi-final team, JPN/FRA, advanced based on having the best draw shot challenge.

In the semi-finals, HUN/CAN beat JPN/FRA, 6-2, while FRA/RUS defeated CHN/CZE, 10-5.

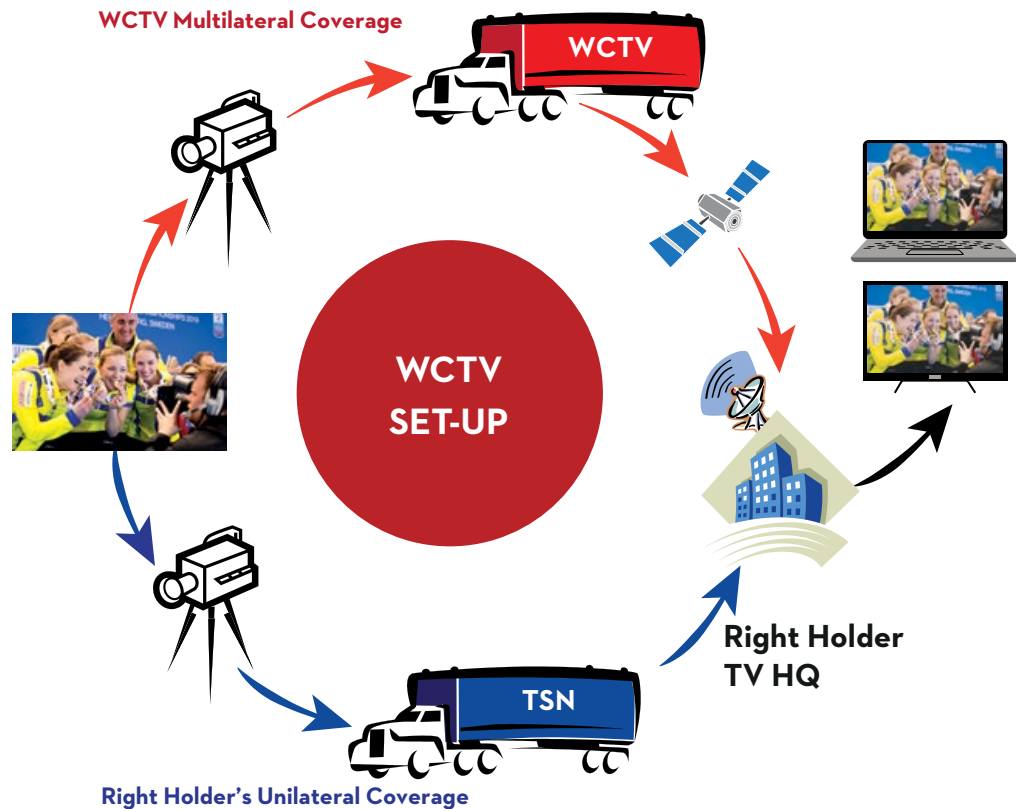
In the medal games, HUN/CAN took gold after a 9-5 win against FRA/RUS, while CHN/CZE won bronze against JPN/FRA with a 7-3 victory.

As part of the Youth Olympic Games educational remit, all curlers were mentored by curling role models - **John Morris** from Canada and Switzerland's **Marlene Albrecht**.





Broadcast



BROADCAST AND WORLD CURLING TV

From its beginnings at the 2004 Le Gruyère European Championships held in Sofia, Bulgaria, World Curling TV has been integral in bringing the major World Curling championship events to ever-growing audiences, while helping to spread curling's global popularity and making it more attractive for sponsors and partners alike.

In recent times, every season, World Curling TV produces coverage of:

- The Pacific-Asia Championships
- The European Championships
- The World Junior Championships,
- The World Women's Championship
- The World Men's Championship
- The World Mixed Doubles Championship.

In addition, World Curling TV has produced coverage of the Curling World Cups and Olympic Qualification events, as well as other special projects such as a number of World Curling Tour events and "Curling Night in America" – a made-for-TV curling package made in partnership with United States broadcaster NBC, which has used six different venues in its six-year history to date.

In its complicated role as "host broadcaster", World Curling TV draws together different strands of a set-up that brings live and recorded curling action to viewers across the globe through an ever-changing network of routes and platforms.

To do so, and while working with partners such as local organising committees, sports federations, national governments, broadcast rights-holders and others, World Curling TV must establish and manage an array of resources.



This includes assembling a team of specialist broadcast contractors, including programme directors, camera operators, commentators, technical video and audio engineers, production engineers, and satellite-link operators. World Curling TV must also procure and manage all the equipment needed to generate the coverage – Outside Broadcast trucks, tv cameras, audio microphones, graphics equipment, and other production facilities – as well as the satellite uplink trucks, cables, connections and fibres that bind everything together.

As well as ensuring that the resources to broadcast the action are in place, another key – and growing – role for World Curling TV is arranging distribution of competition coverage across the globe.

On behalf of the World Curling Federation, for every individual championship, World Curling TV negotiates contracts with TV/radio/mobile/broadband rights holders and distributors such as national and international broadcasters – for example TSN (Canada), NBC (USA), NHK (Japan), CCTV (China) and Eurosport (Europe) – to name a few.

World Curling TV aims to balance the need to maximise coverage while achieving revenue from the broadcasters to help meet the costs of the production. Negotiations also take place with various broadcast "Unions" across the globe, including the European Broadcast Union, the Asia-Pacific Broadcast Union and their equivalent organisations in other continents and regions. Various news agencies, including famous names like Reuters and Associated Press, are also involved, in particular to generate coverage to broadcast news outlets.

While broadcast remains a key distribution route for World Curling TV output, other digital media platforms – web streaming and social media platforms such as the World Curling Federation's YouTube and Facebook channels – are increasingly important. Under normal circumstances, World Curling TV provides a blend of output:

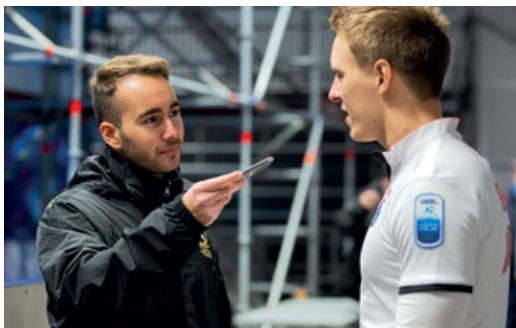
- **Play-by-play "live" game action** (with individual game selection influenced by broadcaster demand)
- **Game highlights packages** (suitable for use in news sports programmes and round-ups)
- **"feature" articles** (to add colour and attraction to the regular coverage)

Technically speaking, World Curling TV provides both Multilateral coverage and Unilateral coverage.

Multilateral involves a general "offer" of coverage, available – by prior negotiation – to individual broadcasters and rights holders.

Unilateral coverage involves "extra" activities negotiated in partnership with an individual organisation, serviced to an agreed level. For example, broadcasters may choose to send full crews to World Curling events, negotiate the presence of their own commentators, or even request that World Curling TV performs "extra" broadcast activities on their behalf (e.g. native-language athlete interviews).

The role of World Curling TV is complex and continually changes in a sporting broadcast world full of innovation and new challenges. By keeping pace in that ever-changing environment, World Curling TV has a significant role to play in promoting curling across the world.



Increasing and educating the audience in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 was the priority for the media team coming into the 2019-2020 season.

In pursuit of this goal the team developed written and video resources explaining qualification to the Games while developing the Sina Weibo channel for the Chinese Audience.

Sina Weibo became a significant success for the media team, with the Chinese platform becoming the Federation's largest social media channel, breaking the 95,000 followers count in its first year. This would also see the channel receive recognition as one of the Top Ten Annual Industry-leading Digital Media outlets for winter sports, in China, at the fourth Winter Sports Tops Awards held in in Beijing.

With the 2019-2020 season being incomplete due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the loss of four

world championships brought a significant decrease in the traffic to www.worldcurling.org. Despite this, the average time users spent on the newly developed website increased by 71%.

The Federation's social channels continue their steady organic growth, with Instagram breaking the 25,000 follower count and World Curling TV's YouTube channel passing 62,000 subscribers during the season despite the drop in available live broadcast content.

During the shortened season, the media team worked with Scottish based, QTV Sports to produce a series of archive video broadcast for the Federation's Facebook channel. This production allowed the curling community the opportunity to watch historic World Championship finals including the 2009 World Women's final featuring China's Team Bingyu Wang against Sweden's Anette Norberg and the 2009 World Men's final between Scotland's Team David Murdoch and Canada's Team Kevin Martin.

The Sports Media Trainee Programme provided six more aspiring journalists and photographers the opportunity to cover an international curling event. Trainees attended the Europeans in Helsingborg, Sweden and the World Juniors in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. However, two of those trainees were scheduled to attend the cancelled World Mixed Doubles in Kelowna, Canada. Both trainees have been invited to an event during the 2020-2021 season.

Looking ahead, the success of the Sina Weibo channel led to the extension of the partnership with iX.co - Infront Sports and Media's digital company - until the summer of 2022 with a remit to continue the growth of the channel while also attending the World Junior Curling Championships 2021 and the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2021 to develop content exclusively for the Chinese audience.



World Women's Curling Championship

Prince George, Canada, 14-22 March 2020
World Women's Curling Championship 2020

The World Women's Curling Championship 2020 was the first World Curling Federation event to be cancelled as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak.

This would have been the 41st Women's Worlds to be staged, and while Canada is no stranger to hosting World Curling Federation Championships, this was to have been a first visit to Prince George, the largest city in northern British Columbia.

The teams had qualified through five different routes for this championship:

Host: **Canada**

From the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2019, held in November in Shenzhen, China (in qualification order): **China and Japan**

From the Le Gruyère AOP European Championships 2019, held in November in Helsingborg, Sweden (in qualification order): **Sweden, Scotland, Switzerland, Russia, Germany, Czech Republic and Denmark**

From the Americas Zone: **United States**

From the World Qualification Event 2020, held in January in Lohja, Finland (in qualification order): **Korea and Italy.**

This event was also going to start the qualification process for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 women's curling competition, but the rules of Olympic qualification have now had to be altered.

China automatically qualify as the host of the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, and a total of ten National Olympic Committees will compete at the Games.

With no qualification points available from the 2020 world championship, the World Curling Federation proposed to the International Olympic Committee – and had approved – that the top six

Member Associations in the World Women's Curling Championship 2021 will qualify their National Olympic Committees for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. If China were to finish in the top six, only five additional nations would qualify from the World Women's Curling Championship 2021 to the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

After this, the remaining Member Associations that do not qualify for the Games from the World Women's Curling Championship 2021 will join any Member Association that had a place in the 2020 world championships in an expanded Olympic Qualification Event, in December 2021. A further three women's and men's Member Associations - or four if China finish in the top six at the World Curling Championships - will qualify for the Games via the Olympic Qualification Event.

Due to the cancellation of the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2020, the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2020 and the Americas Challenge 2020, the qualification process for the LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2021 will also have to be altered.

Full information on the new qualification process will be made available on the World Curling Federation website - www.worldcurling.org

The LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2021 will take place in Schaffhausen, Switzerland from 20 - 28 March 2021.



World Men's Curling Championship

Glasgow, Scotland, 28 March - 5 April 2020
LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020

The LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020 was the second World Curling Federation event to be cancelled as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak. This would have been the first visit to Scotland for a World Men's Curling Championship since 2000.

The teams had qualified through five different routes for this championship:

Host: **Scotland**

From the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2019 held in November in Shenzhen, China: **Korea**

From the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2019, held in November in Helsingborg, Sweden, (in qualification order): **Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Norway and Germany**

From the Americas Zone: **Canada and United States**

From the World Qualification Event 2020, held in Lohja, Finland, in January (in qualification order): **China and Russia.**

This event was also going to start the qualification process for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 men's curling competition, but with this event cancellation the rules of Olympic qualification have now had to be altered.

China automatically qualify as the host of the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, and a total of ten National Olympic Committees will compete at the Games.

With no qualification points available from the 2020 world championship, the World Curling Federation proposed to the International Olympic Committee – and had approved – that the top six Member Associations in the World Men's Curling Championship 2021 will qualify their National Olympic Committees for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. If China

were to finish in the top six, only five additional nations would qualify from the World Men's Curling Championship 2021 to the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

After this, the remaining Member Associations that do not qualify for the Games from the World Men's Curling Championship 2021 will join any Member Association that had a place in the 2020 world championship in an expanded Olympic Qualification Event, in December 2021. A further three men's Member Associations - or four if China finish in the top six at the World Curling Championship - will qualify for the Games via the Olympic Qualification Event.

Due to the cancellation of the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2020, the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2020 and the Americas Challenge 2020, the qualification process for the World Men's Curling Championship 2021 will also have to be altered.

Full information on the new qualification process will be made available on the World Curling Federation website - www.worldcurling.org

The World Men's Curling Championship 2021 will take place in Ottawa, Canada, from 3-11 April 2021.



World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship

Kelowna, Canada, 18-25 April 2020
World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2020

The World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2020, due to be held in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada was cancelled as a result of the global COVID-19 outbreak.

This would have been the first World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship to be staged with a capped entry of 20 teams. In previous years, this had been an open entry competition, with a record 48 teams taking part in the 2019 championship, in Stavanger, Norway.

The teams had qualified through three different routes for this championship:

Host: **Canada**

From the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2019, held in Stavanger, Norway (in qualification order): **Sweden, United States, Australia, Japan, Russia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Scotland, England, Spain, Norway, Switzerland, Finland and New Zealand**

From the World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event 2019, held in Greenacres, Scotland (in qualification order): **Germany, Italy, China and Korea**

This event was going to start the qualification process for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 mixed doubles curling competition, but the rules of Olympic qualification have now had to be altered.

China automatically qualify as the host of the Olympic Winter Games, and a total of ten National Olympic Committees will compete at the Games.

With no qualification points available from the 2020 World Championship, the World Curling Federation proposed to the International Olympic Committee

– and had approved – that the top seven Member Associations in the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships 2021 will qualify for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. If China were to finish in the top seven places, the eighth-placed Member Association would qualify their National Olympic Committee.

After this, the remaining Member Associations that do not qualify for the Games from the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in 2021 will join any Member Association that had a place in the 2020 world championship in an expanded Olympic Qualification Event, in December 2021. A further two Member Associations will qualify for the Olympic Mixed Doubles via this Olympic Qualification Event.

Qualification for the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2021 has also been altered.

It is intended that the 20 Member Associations qualified in 2020 retain their places for 2021. However, due to these unique circumstances, the 2021 world championship will be expanded to 24 Member Associations, with the four that qualify from the World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event in 2021 also taking part.

These changes mean that eight Member Associations will be relegated from the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2021 to the following season's qualification event, returning the number competing at the 2022 world championship to 20 teams.

The World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2021 is scheduled to take place from 24 April-1 May. There is no official host for this championship at time of publication.



World Senior Curling Championships

Kelowna, Canada, 18-25 April 2020
World Senior Curling Championships 2020

The World Senior Curling Championships 2020 were intended to be run alongside the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2020 in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada.

Altogether 28 Member Associations were represented when entries closed – 20 women's teams and 26 men's teams.

The women's teams were: Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and United States.

The men's teams were: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany,

Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and Wales.

Unlike the other World Curling Federation championship cancellations, there were no additional consequences to the World Senior Curling Championships 2020 not taking place, given that the championships do not lead to another event and that they remain open entry competitions.

The World Senior Curling Championships 2021 is scheduled to take place from 24 April-1 May. There is no official host for this championship at time of publication.



Sponsorship & Marketing

Perhaps more than other areas, sponsorship and marketing was badly affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the loss of sponsored events such as the World Women's, World Men's and World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships.

Cancellation of the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship was particularly disappointing, as the event had attracted title sponsorship interest for the first time, in the form of Zen-Noh, a past sponsor of the World Women's Curling Championship.

The European Curling Championships continue to receive support from long term sponsors Le Gruyère AOP and Mount 10 and both have reconfirmed for 2020.

LGT, who have main sponsor package for the Europeans as well as the title sponsorship of the World Women's Curling Championship due to be held in Switzerland in 2021, have also reconfirmed their commitment to curling.

Jet Ice continued their relationship with the World Curling Federation.

A new eight-year agreement was secured with Curling Canada, which will see the women's and men's World Curling Championships continue to be held in Canada in alternate years. This is a great example of a successful long-term partnership that works for all those involved.

Our thanks go to Infront and Curling Canada for their continued support as our marketing partners in what are difficult circumstances - we look forward to working with them and our valued sponsors to deliver a tremendous season 2020-2021.



World Curling Federation Board visit to Le Gruyère HQ





The development work of the World Curling Federation has continued this season and, although COVID-19 has caused many restrictions, as can be seen here, there still has been significant progress involving many projects.

The establishment of the World Curling Academy has been a major development. However, the more traditional annual camps and courses, and the Development Assistance Programme remain important resources available to give Member Associations significant financial support with their own development projects.

Speaking about this season's progress, World Curling Federation Head of Development Scott Arnold, said: "Establishing our new World Curling Academy is a real milestone in our exciting partnership with the World Academy of Sport. The World Curling Academy will become an online home for our development programmes and educational resources that will help and accelerate curling's growth across the world. I encourage all our Members to become involved - I'm only too happy to talk with any of them."

The World Curling Academy

The World Curling Academy - a unique initiative developed in partnership between the World Curling Federation and the World Academy of Sport - went live during this season.

This will be the home of all World Curling online courses and a source for development resources. The Academy launched with a rules course as well as ten videos in nine languages explaining how to use FloorCurl to introduce the sport.

Through the summer the Ice Technician Level 1 and Umpire Level 1 courses launched to great success.

The World Curling Academy can be found at: <https://www.worldcurlingacademy.org/>

Development Workshop in China

In addition to being the World Curling Federation's education partner, the World Academy of Sport assisted in creating a development workshop for Chinese curling. For this workshop, the World Curling Federation was joined by ten different groups from China including curling federations, venues and sport promotion groups.

The workshop was hosted by the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) and the Chinese Curling Association. Two days of work provided a roadmap of how to develop curling in China before the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.



Athlete Pathway Programme

The World Academy of Sport also facilitated the inaugural Athlete Pathway Programme.

This was held in Tallinn, Estonia. This workshop focussed on empowering member associations to understand the key elements in developing an athlete pathway for their organisation.

Through the identification of short, medium and long-term goals, the programme highlighted ways to maximise outputs at each stage of the pathway. The programme provided a systematic and practical approach to development that will allow staff from the World Curling Federation to work with the Member Association to implement and activate over the following years. In attendance were 14 representatives for Austria, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Netherlands, and Slovakia.

Development Activities

Once again, Fuessen, Germany was the main hub of ongoing World Curling Federation development activities, with three courses delivered there:

- the **Ice Technician Course** had 11 Member Associations in attendance.
- the **Basic Umpiring Course** saw participants from 14 Member Associations
- the **Instructor Course** had 12 different Member Associations in attendance, learning the methods used to teach curling.

Development



On completion of the Instructor Course, the annual World Curling Junior Curling Camp was staged. At the camp, 120 junior athletes from 21 Member Associations were taught all aspects of the sport and were able to enjoy time with peers from around the world.

The World Curling Federation Adult Curling Camp was once again hosted in Prague, Czech Republic. A fully subscribed camp had participants from 23 Member Associations.

The last camp of the season was held in Barton Grange, England. The Stepping Stone Programme hosted men's, women's and mixed doubles teams from England and Wales and junior teams and a wheelchair team from England. All were taught on and off the ice by internationally renowned experts.

Two Business of Curling symposiums were conducted: one in the United States and one in Sweden. Eight Member Associations took advantage of these opportunities.

Development Assistance Programme

Approximately \$USD 340,000 was awarded for projects using Development Assistance Programme funds. Many projects were not able to be completed – so far – due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the well-documented challenges of the past season, dealing with event cancellations due to COVID-19, the World Curling Federation Audited Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2020 show an organisation well placed to withstand the pressures being brought on the wider sports world by the ongoing global pandemic.

After the cancellation of the World Women's, Men's, Mixed Doubles, Seniors and European C-Division championships at the end of the 2019-2020 season – and the total loss of broadcasting and sponsorship income related to those events – swift action taken by the Board ensured that the financial impact on the Federation in the short-term was minimised.

The decisions taken ensured that the loss of income was offset by reductions in expenditure so that, broadly, COVID-19 had a neutral impact on the end of year position. This was despite the situation with the World Women's Curling Championship 2020 where costs for the event were almost fully committed while no income was realised.

The financial year concluded with the World Curling Federation making an annual surplus of just under \$USD 500,000 – almost \$USD 100,000 more than had been budgeted.

This positive performance against budget was primarily due to realised gains on investments held by the World Curling Federation which had been sold during the year. The selling of investments is normal at this point in the Olympic cycle.

Significant savings were achieved in the broadcasting budgets for the World Men's and Mixed Doubles events, as well as in the competition budgets for those events and the World Seniors and European C-Division championships.

Savings in other areas due to COVID-19 included reductions in staff and board travel costs as all travel ceased. There were also reductions in amounts paid to Infront and Eurosport following the cancellation of events. Additionally, the Development Assistance Programme was lower than budgeted as a number of planned projects were unable to be completed.

Other than the difficulties caused by COVID-19, the ongoing international currency fluctuations continue to make accurate budgeting a challenge. With a US Presidential Election and the implications of the UK transition period from the EU ending on 31 December 2020, this situation is unlikely to stabilise.

There was a significant drop in the turnover of the Federation in the last 12 months following the end of the Curling World Cup, although there was a little additional expense in the closing down of the project which fell into this financial year.

The new World Curling Academy in partnership with World Academy of Sport was launched and as the world moved into lockdown some of the savings achieved in other areas were diverted to speed up the introduction of additional online courses.

The early signs are encouraging, with the new Ice Technician Course covering its set-up costs within a few days of launch. The hope is that existing courses will begin to generate additional income that can be invested into new courses on the site and go towards covering the annual running costs of the platform.

Within Broadcast the costs associated with producing the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships were higher than expected with the additional costs associated with an event in China.

Sponsorship fees had been looking strong until COVID-19 took hold, but the positive news is that LGT have committed to continue their sponsorship for an additional year to replace this year's cancelled world championship.

The Balance Sheet shows a reduction in investments and assets as we would expect at this point in the Olympic cycle as we utilise the monies received from the 2018 Olympic Winter Games for our day-to-day expenses.

Additional facility loans have been made over the past season; however, the Board has now put the loan programme on hold until the impact of COVID-19 on future events becomes clearer.

The retained reserves sit at around \$USD 9.2 Million. The World Curling Federation have a policy with the aim of holding around 18 months' operating capital in reserve. The current level represents 14-15 months based on the budgeted expenditure of the past season.

Income and expenditure account

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020 \$USD	2019 \$USD
Income		
Membership subscriptions	39,350	37,750
IOC monies	5,386,766	5,356,528
Marketing fees	355,792	1,033,301
Bank interest	18,375	64,206
Dividend income	159,717	109,211
World Cup income	-	3,405,000
Realised profits on investments	373,563	43,478
Rights fees	25,414	526,083
Programs and services clinics	80,300	77,296
Miscellaneous income	84,363	78,073
Broadcasting	<u>176,022</u>	<u>903,640</u>
	<u>6,699,662</u>	<u>11,634,566</u>
Expenditure		
Board expenses & congress	371,187	400,289
Standing/ad hoc committee expenses	44,921	50,321
Operations	1,651,560	1,580,064
Programs and services – development	533,589	769,642
Programs and services – facilities and technical	18,950	21,878
Programs and services – other	119,812	75,661
Competitions	714,242	881,039
World Cup	38,259	3,592,676
Finance	21,438	18,348
International and corporate relations	(4,218)	9,592
Media expenses	302,187	257,569
Administrative expenses	6,420	331
Marketing	371,968	759,940
Broadcasting	1,745,438	2,403,708
Bad debts	-	153,484
Gain on capital assets	(6,369)	-
Olympic Games	75,266	(13,223)
World Anti-Doping Agency	71,671	86,910
Exceptional item – deficit on property revaluation	-	-
Loss on foreign exchange transactions	<u>134,919</u>	<u>190,998</u>
	<u>6,211,240</u>	<u>11,239,227</u>
Surplus for the Year	488,422	395,339
Reserves Brought Forward	<u>8,740,258</u>	<u>8,344,919</u>
Reserves Carried Forward	<u>9,228,680</u>	<u>8,740,258</u>

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2020

	2020 \$USD	2019 \$USD
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	1,623,204	1,563,431
Investments	<u>13,897,791</u>	<u>16,886,577</u>
	<u>15,520,995</u>	<u>18,450,008</u>
Other Assets		
Stock	137,584	202,714
Debtors and prepayments – due after one year	<u>1,759,282</u>	<u>1,678,261</u>
	<u>1,896,866</u>	<u>1,880,975</u>
Current Assets		
Debtors and prepayments – due within one year	1,380,731	2,831,290
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,671,619</u>	<u>2,350,949</u>
	<u>3,052,350</u>	<u>5,182,239</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	<u>6,060,936</u>	<u>6,411,773</u>
Net Current Liabilities	<u>(3,008,586)</u>	<u>(1,229,534)</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>14,409,275</u>	<u>19,101,449</u>
Long Term Liabilities		
	<u>5,180,595</u>	<u>10,361,191</u>
Total Assets Less Total Liabilities	<u>9,228,680</u>	<u>8,740,258</u>
Represented by:		
Retained reserves	<u>9,228,680</u>	<u>8,740,258</u>

World Rankings

In these tables, the Mixed and Wheelchair rankings reflect the Member Associations' positions after this season's championships. The Women's, Men's and Mixed Doubles rankings remain the same as the 2018-2019 season due to the cancellation of their 2020 championships.

Mixed

	Member Association	Points	+/-
1	Canada	88.182	0
2	Scotland	60.568	1
3	Norway	59.045	1
4	Russia	52.273	-2
5	Germany	50.053	5
6	Sweden	36.780	-1
7	Korea	36.455	6
8	Switzerland	36.386	0
9	Spain	35.636	-3
10	Turkey	32.295	-1
11	Czech Republic	31.386	-4
12	Denmark	27.053	2
13	Hungary	25.682	3
14	United States of America	18.182	-2
15	Estonia	16.455	-4
16	Poland	16.364	2
17	Slovakia	15.348	5
18	Japan	15.091	-3
19	Ireland	12.848	10
20	Belarus	12.621	3
21	Finland	12.121	-2
22	Italy	10.742	-2
23	England	10.462	2
24	Slovenia	10.265	-3
25	Wales	8.742	1

Wheelchair

	Member Association	Points	+/-
1	China	80.714	0
2	Norway	67.679	0
3	Russia	64.167	1
4	Canada	61.488	2
5	Korea	55.833	-2
6	Scotland/Great Britain	50.238	-1
7	Switzerland	37.857	0
8	Sweden	36.536	4
9	Slovakia	34.821	-1
10	Germany	25.417	-1
11	United States of America	21.071	-1
12	Latvia	20.381	2
13	Finland	18.810	-2
14	Estonia	18.226	-1
15	Czech Republic	10.595	0
16	England	8.631	0
17	Italy	8.607	0
18	Slovenia	8.429	3
19	Denmark	7.452	0
20	Turkey	7.250	3
21	Poland	6.560	-3
22	Japan	6.262	-2
23	Lithuania	5.476	-1
24	Hungary	2.143	2
25	Israel	0.952	-1

Women

	Member Association	Points	+/-
1	Sweden	81.569	0
2	Korea	65.907	4
3	Canada	63.382	-1
4	Switzerland	59.559	1
5	Japan	56.520	2
6	Russia	55.588	-2
7	Scotland/Great Britain	50.098	-4
8	United States of America	45.441	0
9	China	40.147	0
10	Denmark	27.059	0
11	Czech Republic	19.593	0
12	Germany	19.338	0
13	Italy	13.284	0
14	Finland	12.627	0
15	Latvia	10.186	2
16	Norway	9.461	-1
17	Turkey	8.980	2
18	Hungary	8.873	-2
19	Estonia	8.863	-1
20	England	7.235	0
21	Hong Kong	6.716	8
22	New Zealand	5.824	-1
23	Lithuania	5.804	7
24	Poland	5.706	-1
25	Spain	5.167	2

Men

	Member Association	Points	+/-
1	Sweden	89.020	0
2	Canada	75.980	0
3	United States of America	71.029	0
4	Switzerland	65.196	0
5	Scotland/Great Britain	52.059	0
6	Japan	44.118	1
7	Norway	40.392	-1
8	Korea	35.343	0
9	Italy	34.461	1
10	Denmark	24.520	-1
11	Russia	19.412	1
12	Germany	18.578	1
13	China	18.358	-2
14	Netherlands	16.951	1
15	Finland	12.333	-1
16	Czech Republic	8.863	0
17	Austria	8.784	0
18	Poland	8.324	2
19	Latvia	7.461	-1
20	Slovakia	7.147	-1
21	New Zealand	7.039	1
22	England	6.922	1
23	Israel	6.299	1
24	Chinese Taipei	5.985	3
25	Spain	5.696	3

Mixed Doubles

	Member Association	Points	+/-
1	Canada	84.608	0
2	Switzerland	66.569	0
3	United States of America	47.721	4
4	Norway	46.814	-1
5	China	46.152	-1
6	Russia	39.118	0
7	Korea	39.049	-2
8	Sweden	34.422	2
9	Finland	32.230	-1
10	Czech Republic	25.941	1
11	Japan	21.902	2
12	Scotland/Great Britain	21.029	0
13	Australia	19.069	9
14	Estonia	17.740	0
15	Hungary	17.451	-6
16	Turkey	12.529	0
17	England	11.559	2
18	Italy	11.490	-3
19	Spain	9.578	-2
20	Latvia	8.863	-2
21	New Zealand	7.113	3
22	Denmark	6.539	-1
23	Austria	6.520	-3
24	Slovakia	6.132	-1
25	Belarus	5.784	2

Competitions

“...It was not easy to make those decisions, but looking back, it was the right thing to do...”



As World Curling Federation Head of Competitions, Eeva Roethlisberger was more involved than most in the decision-making of the tumultuous 2019-2020 season.

Looking back on the enforced cancellation of the World Women's Championship, the LGT World Men's Championship, the World Mixed Doubles Championship and the World Senior Championships, she said, "I was absolutely sad and devastated. It's not what you ever expect to have to do. It was not easy to make those decisions, but looking back, it was the right thing to do," adding, "every season brings new adventures and challenges and this season was definitely a challenge – it was amazingly good until we had to stop."

The enforced cancellations affected 2020 Olympic qualification, and new proposals were sent to the International Olympic Committee – which have now been approved.

Explaining the actions taken, Eeva said: "The Rules Commission, the Athlete Commission and the Board worked on proposals then, having discussed them with our members, we sent them onto the International Olympic Committee. We involved our Commissions and the membership to make sure we had their input. Not everyone is 100% happy, but we can't see any other way."

In this unique season, for the first time ever, play was disrupted at the European Championships by a fire alarm evacuation during live play.



Speaking about that Eeva explained: "We reflected on what happened. We looked at the rules and realised we have no formal procedure on how to handle such a situation. We needed to put something together and will go to the membership for changes to the rules – for example, if the stones have to be removed for ice preparation, then the end should be replayed. We're working to make sure we have a procedure if something like this happens again. We were taken by surprise, but we are learning from the surprise."

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Eeva also confirmed further World Curling Federation planning, "To keep everyone safe, we have to come up with procedures suggested by our medical advisory group and implement them. We need methods in place to deal with local regulations all the way up to World Health Organisation regulations." She cautions, "we don't want to rush into it, but we don't want to run out of time either."

Regardless of the 2019-2020 disruptions, the future of World Curling Federation competitions remains under the spotlight with debate surrounding several issues – one of which is the ongoing discussion around the game length of eight ends versus ten ends, which has supporters on both sides of the argument.

About this, Eeva said, "We have put together a project group called 'Maximising the Value'. It's not all about eight versus ten. There are so many things to consider. We are collecting a lot of information to try to find out what everything means.



"Is it really eight or ten ends, or is it the speed of the game? Other points to be thought about are: Are the end-breaks too long? Should we get rid of team time-outs? What about blank ends? Other things that can influence the whole direction of the game are under discussion." She added, "In all of this, it is important for us to understand who the stakeholders are in our sport – sponsors, media, broadcast, in-venue spectators, tv audience, athletes, coaches – everybody. We need to see the effects of any change to them. We want to make sure we have the right information so that when the Member Associations come to vote, they can make the right decision. We need to think out of the box a bit – if we go to eight, we can't go back in a couple of years, so the right decision has to be made in the right way."

Reflecting generally Eeva said, "We're trying to improve our competition conditions to provide more of a level playing field and it's nice to see that the quality we offer is not only stable but improving," before adding, "with every year that passes, and while we professionalise everything more and more, the bedrock of our events remains the army of local volunteers, so the biggest of thank-yous to them."

“...our actions will always be decided with the best interests of our people and the integrity of our sport at the forefront...”

Looking forward to what a new season will bring has never been more uncertain for the World Curling Federation.

COVID-19 has affected almost every aspect of life across the globe and, as I write, we may have to consider further event and championship cancellations. However, as we make these decisions to cancel or postpone, the safety and well-being of our athletes, officials, volunteers, and other stakeholders have been our top priority – which is just as it should be.

We have done a lot of work to ensure that, when we can, we will recover. Advised by the Constitution and Rules Commission and after taking soundings with other stakeholders, our Board has adopted a number of possible pathways and solutions for the various championship and qualification disruptions that we may encounter during the season. Sometimes these have been difficult decisions to make, but our actions will always be decided with the best interests of our people and the integrity of our sport at the forefront. Meanwhile, we have been working hard during this period of lockdown. For example, we have developed new online courses, covering various specialisms and in various languages, to make expertise as accessible as possible. Much of this activity has come from our Member Associations – a real example of our curling family at work.

We have also been looking at how we can make our game safer for everyone involved. Our fans in the stands are important as are our fans behind the screen, and we need to accommodate them both. In this work, we are sharing experiences with other sports to help us find the best way forward and I'm sure that we will.

COVID-19 has not been the only catalyst of change for us. As we look to consolidate our position as an important, dynamic, and admired Olympic sport, we are facing up to potential big changes in how we play and govern our sport and how we present curling to the outside world.

The work of our Strategic Review Group and the considerations of our 'Maximising the Value' working group are both coming to the point where fundamental decisions will have to be made. At this time, it is important that we have as much discussion and debate among Member Associations, players, and stakeholders as we can.

The major decisions that we make – for example on the number of ends in a championship game – will be permanent, with little prospect of going back if we don't like how things develop.

These decisions will not only be about what happens on the field of play but will address other governance issues including where we go with our current governance set-up, as the existing model, based on having three geographic Zones, is under review. Board Gender Equality has been another issue for the Strategic Review Group, as well as possibly setting up a new Commission to help develop new Board members for the future.

All this activity reflects the global growth of our sport and our desire to constantly make improvements. Just because we want to make those improvements doesn't mean that we're unhappy with what we have just now – clearly what we have has already proven to be fit for purpose. However, as in all things to do with sport, we're looking for continuous improvement in order to make progress and to make things better. We can't stand still; the world of sport is always developing.

As I move into my second-last season as President, I'm mindful of my promise when I first came to office of ensuring that financially the Federation would have something in reserve for a rainy day. Well, it's raining now, and I'm happy to say we are in a strong financial position. My ambition now is to make sure that this continues and the Federation is in good shape when I hand over the reins to my successor.

Meanwhile, no doubt like you, I look forward to the day when curlers can get back on the ice, competing safely and fairly and I have the opportunity once more to meet you all face-to-face.

President's Look Forward



President Kate Caithness on an inspection visit of the "Ice Cube" in Beijing - home to curling at the Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022

Thank You!

The Board and staff of the World Curling Federation are helped by many individuals to deliver the Federation's competitions, clinics, programmes and other activities around the world.

With sincere apologies to anyone who may be accidentally left out, these pages list many who have contributed during 2019–2020 season, with the thanks of the Federation for doing so.

Maximising The Value

Graham Prouse - Chair
Darrell Ell
Richard Harding
Kathy Henderson
Naoki Iwanaga
Susan Kesley
Stefan Lund
Hugh Millikin
David Murdoch
Jill Officer
Allison Pottinger
Bent Ramsfjell
Fred Randver
Eeva Roethlisberger
Morten Sogard

Structural Review Group

Beau Welling - Chair
Bruce Crawford
Colin Grahamslaw
Terri Johnson
Michael Marklund
Willie Nicol
Amy Nixon
David Sik
Karen Wauters
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela

Athlete Commission

Nolan Thiessen – Chair
Kim Forge
Anna Kubeskova
Patrick McDonald
David Murdoch
Jill Officer

Technical Commission

Toyo Ogawa – Chair
Tom Brewster
Mark Callan
Greg Ewasko
Gyorgy Nagy
Leif Ohman

Stefan Roethlisberger
Hans Wuthrich

Competitions and Rules Commission

Hugh Millikin – Chair
Paul Ahlgren
John Brown
Hans Frauenlob
Danny Lamoureux
Graham Prouse
Mark Swandby
Olga Zharkova

Finance Commission

Cathrine Lindahl – Chair
John Anderson
Lauri Ikävalko
Leland Rich
John Shea

Governance Commission

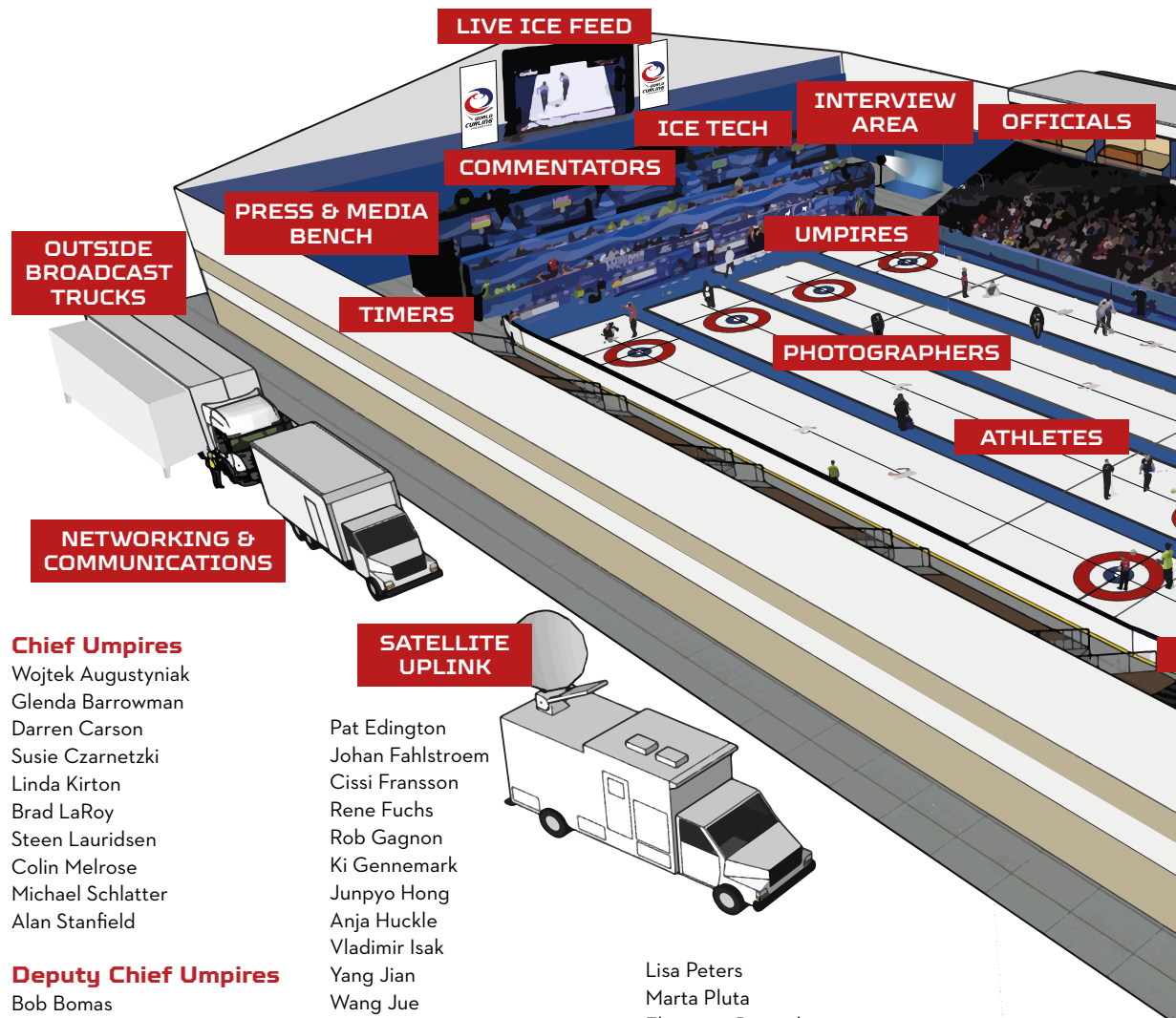
Bent Ramsfjell – Chair
Willie Nicol
Gregor Rigler
Jennifer Stannard

Medical Advisory Group

Dr Irantzu Garcia
Dr Janice Harvey
Dr Young-Hee Lee
Dr Robert McCormack
Dr Alan Stanfield

Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee

Dr Janice Harvey - Chair
Dr Ross Duff
Dr Young-Hee Lee
Dr Robert McCormack



Chief Umpires

Wojtek Augustyniak
Glenda Barrowman
Darren Carson
Susie Czarnetzki
Linda Kirton
Brad LaRoy
Steen Lauridsen
Colin Melrose
Michael Schlatter
Alan Stanfield

Deputy Chief Umpires

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Franziska Christ Buttler
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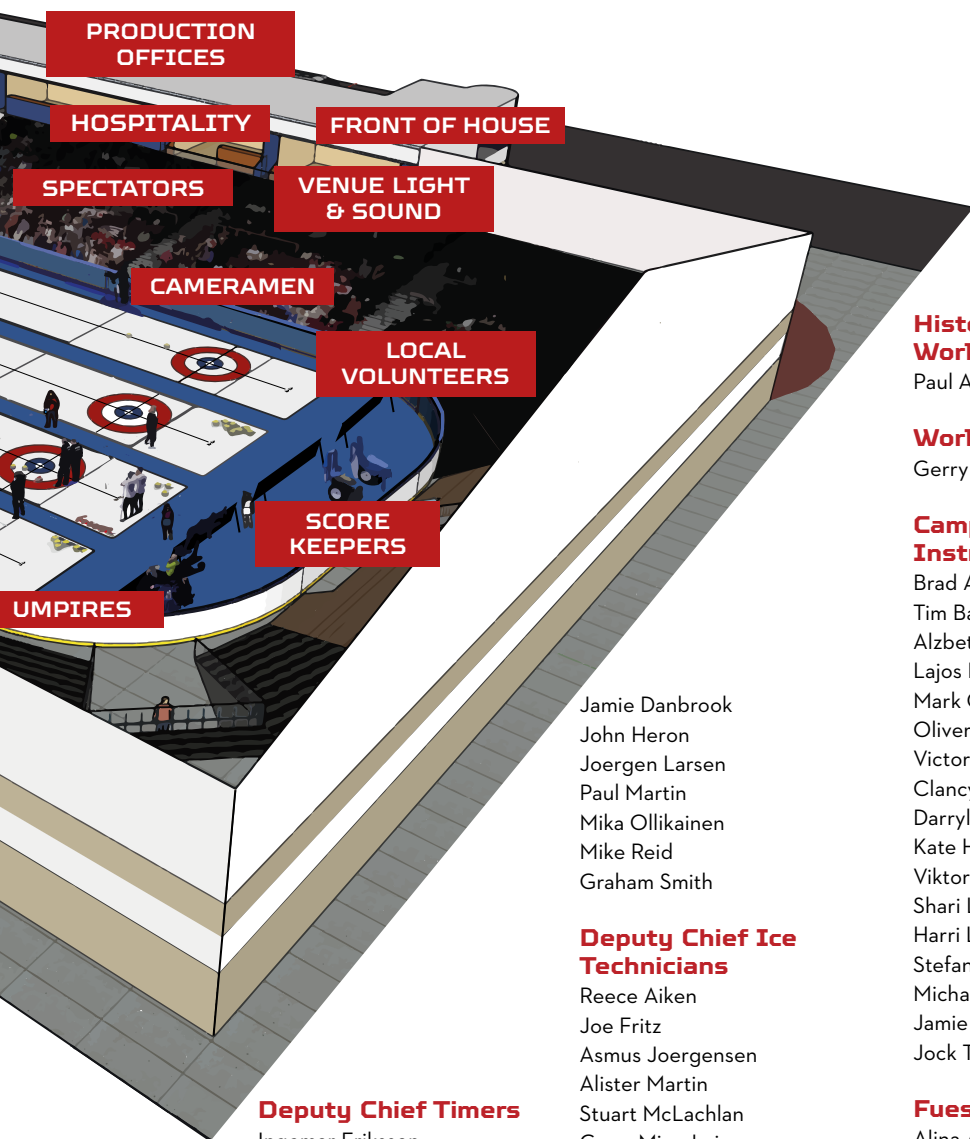
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Events calendar

2020–2021 Season

9th World Curling Congress	(Online Annual General Assembly)	6 September 2020	
World Mixed Curling Championship 2020	Aberdeen, Scotland	10-17 October 2020	CANCELLED
World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship 2020	Lohja, Finland	31 October – 6 November 2020	POSTPONED
Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2020	Wakkanai, Japan	7-14 November 2020	CANCELLED
Americas Challenge 2020	Chaska, Minnesota, United States	12-15 November 2020	CANCELLED
Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2020	Lillehammer, Norway	21-28 November 2020	CANCELLED
World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event 2020	Erzurum, Turkey	5-12 December 2020	
World Junior-B Curling Championships 2021	Lohja, Finland	3-11 January 2021	CANCELLED
World Qualification Event 2021	Lohja, Finland	12-17 January 2021	CANCELLED
30th FISU Winter World University Games	Lucerne, Switzerland	21-31 January 2021	
World Junior Curling Championships 2021	Beijing, China	18-28 February 2021	
World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2021	Beijing, China	6-13 March 2021	
LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2021	Schaffhausen, Switzerland	20-28 March 2021	
World Men's Curling Championship 2021	Ottawa, Canada	3-11 April 2021	
World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2021	TBC	24 April – 1 May 2021	
World Senior Curling Championships 2021	TBC	24 April – 1 May 2021	
European Curling Championships C-Division 2021	TBC	1-8 May 2021	

For more information about all of the World Curling Events visit www.worldcurling.org/events

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2019-2020 CHAMPIONS

