WORLD CURLING

COMPETITION FORMATS AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

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Introduction

The following general considerations apply to World Curling competition formats, depending on the specific event structure.

- For all competitions with multiple groups, seeding is based on the World Association Ranking (World Ranking). MAs that have no records in a discipline over the past 4 years are allocated to the groups randomly.
- For qualifier events where different numbers of MAs are indicated for qualification or promotion, the applicable number will depend on whether a host spot is allocated for the following year's event. If a host spot is allocated, the number of MAs qualifying or being promoted will be adjusted accordingly to account for the host MA's participation.
- For all open entry events, World Curling reserves the right to adjust the system of play depending on the number of entries and the sheets of ice available. The format is worked out to give every team a chance to win the event or qualify and to play an appropriate number of games.

Olympic Winter Games (OWG) – Men & Women and Mixed Doubles

Qualification: The qualification system will be agreed between the IOC and World Curling. It will be published on the World Curling website as soon as it is approved by the IOC.

Competition format: Teams placed in one group, playing a round robin to establish the top four ranked teams.

Play-off System: Semi-finals with 1 v 4 and 2 v 3; winners play in the final (for the gold and silver medals), losers play in the bronze medal game.

Paralympic Winter Games (PWG) – Mixed Gender Teams and Mixed Doubles

Qualification: The qualification system will be agreed between the IPC and World Curling. It will be published on the World Curling website as soon as it is approved by the IPC.

Competition format: Teams placed in one group, playing a round robin to establish the top four ranked teams.

Play-off System: Semi-finals with 1 v 4 and 2 v 3; winners play in the final (for the gold and silver medals), losers play in the bronze medal game.

Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG)

Qualification: The qualification system will be agreed between the IOC and World Curling. It will be published on the World Curling website as soon as it is approved by the IOC.

Winter University Games (WUG) – Men & Women University Students

Composition: The qualification system is decided by FISU and published on their website.

World Curling Championships – Men (WMCC) & Women (WWCC)

Composition - 18 teams:

- 14 highest ranked MAs from the previous year's WMCC/WWCC
- 3/4 highest ranked MAs from the previous WCQ.
- For the MAs hosting any of these events, a host spot may be granted if the MA has not yet qualified and if the MA is ranked among the top 24 in the World Association Ranking for that gender.
- Exception: For the 2026-2027 season, the 18 teams will consist of the 12 highest ranked MAs from the 2026 WMCC/WWCC and the 6 highest ranked MAs from the previous WCQ.

Competition format: Teams placed in two groups, playing a round robin to establish the top three teams in each group.

Play-off system: The teams ranked 1st in each group get a bye to the semi-finals. The teams ranked 2nd and 3rd in each group play in qualification games (A2 v B3 and A3 v B2). The winners of those qualification games advance to the semi-finals. In the semi-final games, A1 will play the winner of A3 v B2; B1 will play the winner of A2 v B3. The winners of the semi-finals play in the gold medal game, the losers of the semi-final play in the bronze medal game.

Relegation: The bottom 2 MAs from each group (A8, A9 and B8, B9) will be relegated to the next WCQ.

World Championships Qualifiers – Men (WCQM) and Women (WCQW)

Composition - 16 teams:

- 4 MAs relegated from the previous WCCs
- 8 MAs from the previous WCQ
- 4 MAs from the WCPQ
- Exceptions:
    - For the 2026-2027 season, the 16 teams will be determined as follows: the last ranked MA from the 2026 WCCs, the 5 MAs from ECC-A 2025 and PCCC-A 2025 that did not qualify for WCC 2026, the 2 highest ranked MAs from both the ECC-B 2025 and PCCC-B 2025, the 2 highest ranked MAs from the World Association Ranking that did not already qualify and 4 MAs from WCPQ (2 from each region).
    - For the 2027-2028 season, the 16 teams will be determined as follows: the 4 MAs relegated from the previous WCCs, 6 MAs from the previous WCQ and 6 MAs from the WCPQ.

Promotion: 4 MAs from this event will qualify for the following WCCs

- Exception:
    - For the 2026-2027 season: 6 MAs from the WCQ will qualify for the WCCs 2027

Competition format: Teams placed in two groups, playing a round robin to establish the top three teams in each group.

Play-off System: The teams ranked 1st in each group get a bye to the semi-finals. The teams ranked 2nd and 3rd in each group play in qualification games (A2 v B3 and A3 v B2). The winners of those qualification games advance to the semi-finals. In the semi-final games, A1 will play the winner of A3 v B2; B1 will play the winner of A2 v B3. The winners of the semi-finals play in the gold medal game, the losers of the semi-final play in the bronze medal game. The top 4 teams in the final standings qualify their MA for the WCC.

- Exception: For the 2026-2027 season, the play-off system used, is: teams ranked 1st and 2nd in each group advance to the semi-finals (A1 v B2 and A2 v B1) and qualify their MA for the WCC. The winners of the semi-finals will play in the gold medal game, the losers of the semi-final will play in the bronze medal game.

  Additional qualification games (as 6 MAs are to qualify from this season's event): the teams ranked 3rd in each group will play each other (A3 v B3) and the winner qualifies their MA for the WCC. The teams ranked 4th in each group will play each other (A4 v B4), the loser is eliminated. The winner of A4 v B4 will play the loser of A3 v B3 and the winner of this game qualifies their MA for WCC.

Relegation: The bottom 2 MAs from each group (A7, A8 and B7, B8) will be relegated to the following WCPQ.

World Championships Pre-Qualifiers – Men (WCPQM) and Women (WCPQW)

Composition: Open to MAs that have not already qualified for the next WCQ or WCC.

Promotion: 4 MAs from this event will qualify for the following WCQ.

- Exception: For the 2026-2027 season, 6 MAs will qualify for the following WCQ.

World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WMDCC)

Composition – 20 teams:

- 16 highest ranked MAs from the previous WMDCC.
- 3/4 highest ranked MAs from the previous WMDQE.
- For the MAs hosting this event, a host spot may be granted if their team has not yet qualified and if the MA is ranked among the top 26 in the World Association Ranking.

Competition format: Teams placed in two groups, playing a round robin to establish the top three teams in each group.

Play-off System: The teams ranked 1st in each group get a bye to the semi-finals. The teams ranked 2nd and 3rd in each group play in qualification games (A2 v B3 and A3 v B2). The winners of those qualification games advance to the semi-finals. In the semi-final games, A1 will play the winner of A3 v B2; B1 will play the winner of A2 v B3. The winners of the semi-finals play in the gold medal game, the losers of the semi-final play in the bronze medal game.

Relegation: The bottom MAs from each group (A10 and B10) will be relegated to the next WMDQE. There will be relegation games between A8 v B9 and A9 v B8 where the losers of these games will also be relegated to the next WMDQE.

World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event (WMDQE)

Composition: Open to MAs that have not already qualified for the next WMDCC.

Promotion: 3/4 MAs will qualify from this event for the following WMDCC.

World Wheelchair Curling Championship (WWhCC) – Mixed Gender Teams

Composition - 12 teams:

- the 8 highest ranked MAs the previous WWhCC
- 3/4 highest ranked MAs from the previous WWhBCC.
- For the MA hosting this event, a host spot may be granted if their team has not yet qualified and if the MA is ranked among the top 16 in the World Association Ranking.

Competition format: Teams placed in one group, playing a round robin to establish the top six ranked teams.

Play-off System: The teams ranked 1st and 2nd get a bye to the semi-finals. The teams ranked 3rd to 6th play in qualification games (3 v 6 and 4 v 5). The winners of those qualification games advance to the semi-finals. The 1st ranked team will play against the winner of the 4 v 5 game and the 2nd ranked team will play against the winner of the 3 v 6

game. The winners of the semi-finals play in the gold medal game, the losers of the semi-final play in the bronze medal game.

Relegation: The bottom 4 MAs will be relegated to the next WWhBCC.

World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship (WWhBCC) – Mixed Gender Teams

Composition: Open to MAs that have not already qualified for the next WWhCC.

Promotion: 3/4 MAs will qualify from this event for the following WWhCC.

World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WWhMDCC)

Composition: Open to all MAs

World Junior Curling Championships (WJCC) – Junior Men & Junior Women

Composition - 16 teams for each gender:

- 12 highest ranked MAs from the previous WJCC
- 3/4 highest ranked MAs from the previous WJBCC
- For the MAs hosting this event, a host spot may be granted for each gender if the MA has not yet qualified and if the MA is ranked among the top 22 in the World Association Ranking for each gender.
- Exception: For the 2026-2027 season, the 16 teams for each gender will consist of 1 team from the Host MA, if not already qualified, 10 MAs that participated in the previous WJCC and the 5/6 highest ranked MAs from the WJBCC in December 2026.

Competition format: Teams placed in two groups, playing a round robin to establish the top three teams in each group.

Play-off System: The teams ranked 1st in each group get a bye to the semi-finals. The teams ranked 2nd and 3rd in each group play in qualification games (A2 v B3 and A3 v B2). The winners of those qualification games advance to the semi-finals. In the semi-final games, A1 will play the winner of A3 v B2; B1 will play the winner of A2 v B3. The winners of the semi-finals play in the gold medal game, the losers of the semi-final play in the bronze medal game.

Relegation: The bottom 2 MAs from each group (A7, A8 and B7, B8) will be relegated to the next WJBCC.

World Junior-B Curling Championships (WJBCC) – Junior Men & Junior Women

Composition: Open to MAs that have not already qualified for the next WJCC.

Promotion: 3/4 MAs from this event will qualify for the following WJCC.

- Exception: For the 2026-2027 season, 5/6 MAs (5 for Junior Women, 6 for Junior Men) will qualify for the WJCCs 2027.

World Junior Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WJMDCC)

Composition - 16 teams:

- 12 highest ranked MAs from previous WJMDCC
- 4 highest ranked MAs from previous WJMDBCC.
- Exception: For the 2026-2027 season, the 16 teams will be the 16 highest ranked MAs based on the combined rankings from WJMDCC 2025 and 2026.

Competition format: Teams placed in two groups, playing a round robin to establish the top three teams in each group.

Play-off System: The teams ranked 1st in each group get a bye to the semi-finals. The teams ranked 2nd and 3rd in each group play in qualification games (A2 v B3 and A3 v B2). The winners of those qualification games advance to the semi-finals. In the semi-final games, A1 will play the w inner of A3 v B2; B1 will play the winner of A2 v B3. The winners of the semi-finals play in the gold medal game, the losers of the semi-final play in the bronze medal game.

Relegation: The bottom 2 MAs from each group (A7, A8 and B7, B8) will be relegated to the next WJMDBCC.

Note: This competition will be played at the same time and in the same venue as the WJMDBCC. As a result, no host spot will be allocated. The host Member Association will play in either competition according to the applicable ranking criteria.

World Junior Mixed Doubles B-Curling Championship (WJMDBCC)

Composition: Open to all MAs that have not already qualified for the WJMDCC in the same year.

Promotion: 4 MAs will qualify from this event for the WJMDCC of the next season.

World Mixed Curling Championship (WMxCC)

Composition: Open to all MAs

World Senior Curling Championships (WSCC) - Men & Women

Composition: Open to all MAs

European Curling Championships (ECC) - Men & Women

Composition: 12 teams for each gender

- the highest 11/12 European MAs in the World Championship pathway of the previous season.
- For the MAs hosting this event, a host spot may be granted for each gender if the MA has not yet qualified and if the MA is ranked among the top 16 in the World Association Ranking for each gender.

Competition format: Teams placed in two groups, playing a round robin to establish the top two teams in each group.

Play-off System: The teams ranked 1st and 2nd in each group play semi-finals (A1 v B2 and A2 v B1). The winners of the semi-finals play in the gold medal game, the losers of the semi-final play in the bronze medal game.