

 CURLING ONTARIO	Policy Name: OCC Membership Policy Number: PSO-028 Date Approved: May 7, 2025 Next Review Date: July 2026
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PREAMBLE

The Ontario Curling Council (OCC) is the Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) for Curling in Ontario as recognized by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI). The OCC represents its Members, the Ontario Curling Association (Curling Ontario) and the Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA). Curling clubs (member clubs) in turn belong to one of the two Members of the OCC. Individuals (participants or members) participating in curling do so through membership in a local curling club.

The OCC and its Members represent a diverse group of curling participants. Participants come from across the province, including rural and urban facilities. Participants are competitive curlers and grass roots curlers of all ages and abilities, backgrounds, coaches, ice technicians and officials. Volunteers also play a vital role in the sport of curling in Ontario.

The OCC, through its members, also organizes and operates a championship system for U15 (Youth under age 15), U18 (Youth under age 18), U20 (Youth under age 20), Men's, Women's, Mixed, Mixed Doubles, Seniors (aged 50 and older), Masters (aged 60 and older) and Wheelchair athletes. With the exception of U15, each of these championships lead to a Canadian (National) championship.

PURPOSE

This policy defines the categories of participants, related programs and services provided for those participants and participant fees.

DEFINITIONS

Provincial Sport Organization (PSO):

A provincial governing sport body recognized by the Ministry of Sport. The Ministry of Sport provides sport funding to the PSO.

Participant:

- a) is an individual who is serviced on an ongoing basis through an Ontario Curling Council or Member delivered program, service or activity and pays a membership fee. ("Ongoing basis" means a deliverable provided, or benefit given to members, at regular and multiple intervals. This excludes a one-time event or competition, and the services, benefits or activities that are mandatory requirements of the Ministry's Sport Recognition Policy (i.e. rules; insurance; competition guidelines; Annual General Meetings; communication, including website access; risk management policies; etc.),
OR;
- b) Individuals that paid a fee to register with Ontario Curling Council or a Member, but do not meet the definition in part (a) above,
OR;
- c) Athletes that did not pay a membership fee to the Ontario Curling Council but are registered with a member club or affiliated league, organization, club and/or association (as defined in part (a) above).

Long Term Athlete Development Model (LTAD):

A systematic framework for curling which identifies optimal training, competition and recovery principles and practices for our athletes through sequential stages from childhood through to adulthood. It recognizes there are three distinct streams in curling – the lifetime recreational sport, competitive and performance. Curling refers to their LTAD Model as the [Long Term Curling Development Framework](#).

Volunteer:

Is an individual who freely gives of their time to undertake a task within an Ontario Curling Council or Member delivered program, service or activity.

POLICY

1. **Categories** – The Corporation has one Membership Class.
2. **Composition of Members** - The Corporation shall be composed of the following members:
 - a) Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA), and
 - b) Ontario Curling Association (Curling Ontario).
3. **Participants** - Participant groups include Athlete, Coach, Official, and Ice Technicians. Individuals may be members of more than one participant group.

a) Athlete

Athletes may be considered (but are not limited to) recreational or competitive.

Recreational Curlers

LTAD Stage	Commonly Used Curling Terminology	Description
FUNdamentals	Elementary School Curler Little Rockers	Elementary school aged curlers who join the club to participate in programs designed for athletes of their age and stage of development
Learning to Train Active for Life	Club Curlers	Members of any age, stage, or ability of development who join and play within the club or interclub leagues

Competitive Curlers

LTAD Stage	Commonly Used Curling Terminology	Description
Training to Train	U20, U18, U15 High School Curler	Each age and stage of development may vary depending upon the age the athlete entered the sport.
Learning/Training to Compete	U20 University/College Curler	
Learning/Training to Excel	Men's, Women's and Mixed Curler Doubles Curler Senior Curler Master's Curler	

b) Coach

The OCC recognizes coaches from the Competency-Based NCCP System

- Club Coach – Youth
- Club Coach
- Competition Introduction Coach
- Competition Development Coach
- Canada Winter Games Professional Development Training
- Advanced Coaching Diploma
- Level 4/5 Certified Coach

c) Official

- Timekeepers
- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4

d) Ice Technicians

- Assistant Curling Ice Technician
- Curling Ice Technician
- Championship Curling Ice Technician

4. Services, Benefits and Activities

The Ontario Curling Council, through collaboration with its Members, makes available programs and services that provide benefits to participants.

These services, benefits and activities may include but are not limited to:

a) Athlete Development:

- Skill Awards Program
- Hit Draw Tap
- U20 Curling Camps
- High Performance Camps
- High Performance Support Services
- High Performance Centre (Mobile)

- Access to Expert Support – Mental Performance Trainers, Fitness Trainers, Nutritionists
- Learn to Curl Clinics
- Clinic Team Services
- Youth Challenges/U15 Triples
- Development Camps
- Quest for Gold Athlete Assistance Program (where required by the Ministry of Sport)
- Next Gen Program

b) Coach Development

National Coaching Certification Program Workshops

- Club Coach: Youth
- Club Coach
- Competition Coach
- Professional Development Opportunities including but not limited to:
 - o In person training
 - o Webinars/virtual training
 - o Coach Developer Training, Certification and Professional Development
 - o Adult Learn to Curl Train the Trainer Programs

c) Competitions

- Each Member offers a variety of provincially sanctioned competitions which contribute to the meaningful development of our athletes and provide access to compete in national events
- Competitive Events are available for all ages/stages of the LTAD and for athletes with a disability
- Province wide competitions will be operated by the Ontario Curling Council (Ontario Winter Games, ParaSport Winter Games, Canada Winter Games)

d) Officials Training

- Timekeeper Training
- Level 1 Official Training
- Level 2 Official Training

e) Ice Technician Training

- Assistant Curling Ice Technician
- Curling Ice Technician
- Championship Curling Ice Technician (offered by Curling Canada)

f) Other

- Access to programs funded by the Ministry of Sport
- Application support when applying for Provincial Grants
- Website Access

5. Fees

The OCC shall collect a membership fee from its Members (Curling Ontario and NOCA) annually. The fee shall be calculated annually based on the agreed upon rate in the current Inter-Association Agreement.

On behalf of the OCC, Members will also collect an additional \$5.00/athlete/competition from athletes competing in any sanctioned competition leading to a national championship to subsidize high performance programming in the province.

6. Volunteer

Volunteer opportunities exist within Ontario Curling Council or Member delivered programs, services and activities. Including but not limited to:

- Ontario Curling Council – Councillors
- NOCA – Board of Directors
- Curling Ontario – Board of Directors
- Ad-hoc Committee Participants
- Event organization and delivery

Volunteers will not be charged a participant fee. Fees may be charged for benefits to volunteers (Event admission, Event clothing).