



NEXT GEN 2026/27

CURLINGONTARIO.CA

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Curling Ontario is pleased to open intake to our Next Gen Program for the 2026-27 Season.

Curling Ontario's Next Gen Program is designed to support athletes who have proven competitive success over time and help advance them along the [LTAD pathway](#) as individual athletes and teams.

Curling Ontario wishes to recognize the continued support of our stakeholders of this program and others: The Government of Ontario, Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario (CSIO), Curling Canada, and the Coaches Association of Ontario.

PROGRAM SCOPE

Curling Ontario will support twelve (12) teams through its Next Gen Program. The program is specifically directed towards improving the opportunities for teams to improve their development and is NOT intended to be direct competition support.

Only Teams/Athletes that are actively planning to train and compete for the 2026-27 season will be considered. Teams will need to submit an application to be considered for selection.

Overall package scoring is weighted to put a higher priority on proven competition results over time. Competition results comprise 75% of a team's overall score while the written submission package comprises the additional 25% of a team's overall score. Please note that submissions MUST have both components to be considered. If the written submission package is not included in the application then the application will not be considered.

Tier 1: Four Teams will be supported at a rate of \$7,000.00 per team. These teams will be supported specifically through our Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative (OHPSI) partnership with the Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario.

- One female U20 team from Ontario competing in the North region (see definition under eligibility).
- One male U20 team from Ontario competing in the North region (see definition under eligibility).
- One female U20 team from Ontario competing in the South region (see definition under eligibility)
- One male U20 team from Ontario competing in the South region (see definition under eligibility)

Tier 2: Eight (8) teams will be supported at a rate of \$4,000.00 per team

- One female U18 team from Ontario competing in the North Region
- One female U18 team Ontario competing in from South Region
- One male U18 team Ontario competing in from North Region
- One male U18 team Ontario competing in from South Region
- Two Mixed Doubles (U27) Teams from Ontario competing either region
- One Female U27 Team from Ontario competing in either region
- One Male U27 Team from Ontario competing in either region

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- In order to be considered, all athletes must be residing in and training in Ontario for the majority of the season (May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027). Exceptions to this criteria will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Athletes must play in their appropriate Ontario playdowns (north or south) – i.e., Teams who have athletes living out of province OR Athletes with a residence in Ontario, but who play out of province will not be considered for the program. Failure to enter provincial playdowns will result in a forfeiture of available funding after Jan. 1, 2027.
- Teams are ineligible for Next Gen support if any of their athletes are current National Team Program Athletes or are selected to the U25 category of Curling Canada's National Next Program.
- No athletes who have previously received Sport Canada A or D Card funding (Sport Canada AAP Funding) are eligible.
- Athletes and Coaches must adhere to the current Curling Ontario's Code of Conduct and must participate in Curling Ontario's Safe Sport Program by Aug. 30, 2026.
- All athletes and coaches must complete the Curling Ontario Athlete Agreement.
- No member of the team or coach can have been disciplined by ANY sports organization within the last 12 months, be currently under suspension or have an open investigation of Code of Conduct or UCCMS violations. Teams to whom this applies are INELIGIBLE and should not apply. If it is discovered that a team that has applied has a player or coach with a violation or an open investigation, all members of that team and listed coach will be immediately disqualified from the Next Gen program for this season. No "reapplication" will be accepted.
- All teams MUST have an NCCP Comp. Int. Certified Coach or Higher working full time with their team for the season. If the submission package is not prepared by the coach directly, the team coach should be familiar with the content as they will be the primary contact with Curling Ontario and responsible for the implementation of the planning portions of that submission. If no coach is listed then the submission will

not be considered. It is expected that this coach will be with the team for the entire season however, we recognize that issues can arise. If a coach and team cease working together during the season the expectation is that the team will find another certified coach to continue the year.

- U27 Four person same gender teams must have a cumulative age of 108 years or less as of June 30, 2026. U27 Mixed Doubles teams must have a cumulative age of 54 years or less as of June 30, 2026.
- All four members of U20 or U18 fours teams must be under 21 years of age as of June 30, 2026.
- Applicants are eligible under both four person categories AND Mixed Doubles. That is, if an athlete is part of a four person team selected to either Tier 1 or Tier 2 they may also be selected as part of a Tier 2 Mixed Doubles team.
- U18 teams may apply for Tier 1 spots and do NOT have to submit multiple applications in order to be considered for Tier 2 spots. Your application will automatically be considered at the highest level and, if unsuccessful will be re-considered for the appropriate Tier 2 spot.
- Individuals can be successful in two different categories of fours. That is, if a player qualifies on one team for a U20 Tier 1 spot, they may also qualify with a different team for a Tier 2 U18 spot. However, teams with more than one common player will not be eligible for multiple spots. In such instances, if two teams that have two or more common players, the team that was assessed higher will be awarded one spot (the highest level they can qualify for) and the other team will be removed from contention in any fours category.

PROGRAM OFFERING

Eligible Expenses

Payments are subject to the Engage and Unlock system. All teams will start with a base amount of funds. As they complete tasks, they will unlock funds. Unlock tasks have due dates and if an unlock task is not completed by its assigned due date then teams will forfeit that portion of their funding. Tasks include:

- Completion and approval of an appropriate Season Plan by the Manager of High Performance Due Oct. 16, 2026
- Fitness testing results (2x per season) - BOTH test results will be required to unlock and have due dates
- Training reports (Due December 18, 2026 / February 26, 2027)
- Year end update (Due March 30, 2027)

In addition, Tier 1 teams will be expected to have at least one in person training session (min. 4 hours) with the Manager of High Performance OR an approved substitute pre-approved by the Manager of High Performance. Timing and content of the session will be negotiable based on team and coach availability and determined needs but is expected to be arranged by Nov. 30, 2026. The expenses for this will come out of the team funding and will not exceed \$850.

Additional details will be provided in the Orientation Package that teams will receive once selected to the program. Minimum and maximums will apply to various funding areas and will be shared with successful teams.

Eligible Expense Categories

- Mentor Coach Services / Fees for Consultant (20-80% funding eligible -Curling Ontario rates apply See Schedule A)
- Sports Science / Sports Medicine - Integrated Support Team Fees (20-80% funding eligible - *See Schedule B for Qualification requirements)
 - Mental Performance Training
 - Strength and Conditioning Coaches
 - Nutritionist/Registered Dieticians
 - Medical professionals
 - Gym Membership Fees
- Team Coach Expense (Maximum 10% eligible)
 - Education Fees
 - Travel / Accommodation costs
- Competition Entry Support (Maximum 10% eligible)
 - Only Competition Entry Fees are eligible under this category

In addition to reimbursing Training Expenses, Curling Ontario will offer selected teams the following:

- Referrals to Integrated Support Personnel
- Access to Coach Services (Virtual or In-person) – Fees for Coach Services deducted from Team Training Budgets.
- Remote Video Analysis
- Access to the Curling Ontario ONFORM software account (or equivalent)
- Free access to any Educational Webinars for athletes and Team Coaches.
- Inclusion to the Interprovincial Education program offered through Curling Canada

- Free (priority) access to rental equipment (timing devices, instrumented brushes, wireless mics)
- Team Coach Development
 - Free access to Archived Webinars for Professional Development Credits

PROGRAM FEES

Teams selected into the program must pay a user fee (Team Coaches exempt).

Tier 1: \$437.50/athlete (four athletes)- \$1,750 / team

Tier 2: \$300/athlete (four athletes) - \$1,200 / team

All fees are due by Aug. 21, 2026

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY ACTIVITIES

OHPSI:

Teams selected to the Tier 1 Next Gen level will be a part of the Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO) OHPSI (Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative) program. OHPSI Teams will be required to have their submitted and updated season plan approved by the Manager of High Performance Development for the 2026/27 season, by September 25, 2026. Teams will be required to update the plan as the season progresses as part of the unlock portion of the program.

Tier 2 teams must also submit season plans to the Manager of High Performance Development by September 25, 2026. Those plans will be reviewed and must be approved as part of the unlock portion of the program.

Teams that have not received approval for their season plans by October 16, 2026 will forfeit the "Locked" portion of their funding for this item.

Tier 1 teams will be required to have two training update meetings with the Manager of High Performance Development, one before Nov. 20, 2026 and the second before Jan. 29, 2027 to review their progress to the established plan. Teams may schedule in person training sessions with the Manager of High Performance Development as well to help with development.

Tier 2 teams may schedule an update meeting as well but also may submit written updates. Updates on training progress must be submitted by Dec. 18, 2026 and again by Feb. 12, 2027.

All team coaches of selected teams will be required to participate in the upcoming Ontario Coach and Technical Leader development program as part of the team's admittance into

the Next Gen program. More information will be shared on this initiative as it becomes available.

OHPSI Tier 1 teams will be required to work with at least one Consultant / Mentor Coach. The Mentor Coach(es) can be used for practice support or as competition support. Selection of Mentor Coaches will be the responsibility of the teams but will require pre-approval from Curling Ontario in order to qualify for funding in this area. There is a mandatory minimum amount of money that must be spent on the Consultant / Mentor (See Schedule A for payment schedule). Consultant / Mentor Coaches will be Competition Development "In- Training" and ideally will be Competition Development Certified. Mentor Coaches may also be former or current athletes who have significant national or international competitive experience. Before any expenses related to the Mentor Coach are approved, the coach must be confirmed with and approved by the Manager of High Performance Development. All Mentor Coaches will be required to complete Safe Sport training if they have not already done so.

Teams may choose to work with the Manager of High Performance in training sessions as their Mentor coach support. Only travel and accommodation costs will be deducted from the team budget in this case. Sessions are dependent on availability.

Fitness Testing for the entire team will be required twice (minimum) within the season to unlock funds. The first fitness test must be completed before October 30, 2026. There should be a minimum gap of 3 months between fitness tests with the second one not due before January 30, 2027 so that progress can be appropriately assessed. If both tests are not received by their respective due dates teams will forfeit this locked portion of their funding.

All Next Gen Teams will be required to enter their provincial playdowns. Failure to do so will mean a forfeiture of any remaining funding available after Jan. 1, 2027 of the funding and disqualification for each athlete on the team from applying to the program next season.

Application

Applications will only be received ONLINE and can be accessed by clicking the links below. The application must be completed in one sitting, once you have left you will not be able to access it again. Incomplete applications will be deleted without contacting the applicant. Applications should NOT be attempted on a smartphone or tablet. It is strongly suggested that a computer is used for the submission. The submission requirements are listed below and applicants are encouraged to prepare the required documents prior to starting the application form.

[U18/U20 Fours Application](#) | [U27 Fours Application](#) | [U27 Mixed Doubles Application](#)

Application Deadline:

All applications must be received by **Tuesday July 14, 2026 at 9:00 am.**

Late applications will not be considered.

Submission Requirements

The following information will be required in your submission. It is advised to collect the information detailed below before starting the submission. Some items require file uploads that can be uploaded within the form however in order to upload files the submitter must be logged into their google account. IF the submitter does not have a google account, then the required files can be uploaded to a dropbox folder instead. The link to that dropbox folder is in the application form. If the dropbox option is used then teams should clearly name the files with their team names and what the files are. E.g., teamsmith-Gapanalysis.xls

Submitted files (points form, written submission, gap analysis, team photo) MUST be in one of the following formats:

- Word
- Excel
- PDF
- JPG / PNG (for team photo only)

If other formats are submitted the application will be returned to the applicant and the team may submit the requested file formats as long as the resubmission is received by the original due date. *NO EXTENSION WILL BE GIVEN IF THE TEAM SUBMITS AN INELIGIBLE FILE FORMAT.*

Section 1: Demographics

- Team Contact Name (First and Last)
- Team Contact Email
- Team Contact Phone

All demographic information must be provided for each team member and coach.

- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email

- Parent/Guardian information for athletes under 18 years old.
- Date of Birth
- Number of years the athlete has previously been in the Next Gen Program.
- Team Photo
- NCCP Number (Coach)

Section 2: Past Performance (75% of application weight)

Performance results from the 2024/25 and 2025/26 seasons will be counted.

Curling Ontario recognizes that it takes time and funds to develop athletes. To provide athletes the best opportunity to reach their potential, the competition points value of previous Next Gen program athletes increases with the amount of time an athlete has spent in the program. Athletes who have already been in the program will be given a multiplying factor of 0.05 x each year in the program to be applied to their submitted Past Performance points. For example, if an athlete has been in the program for 1 year and has 10 performance points, they will receive a multiplier of $1.05 \times 10 = 10.5$ total performance points. If that same athlete had spent 2 years in the program, they would receive a multiplier of $0.05 \times 2 = 0.1$ and their total performance points would be $10 \times 1.1 = 11$ points.

Players on newly formed teams will carry $\frac{1}{4}$ of their previous teams points for application purposes.

U18/U20 Fours Teams

- Teams must download and complete the U18/U20 Next Gen Points form and insert totals into the application form.
- Teams must attach (upload)the completed form in their application.
- [U18/U20 Fours Points Form LINK](#)

U27 Fours Teams

- Teams must download and complete the U18/U20 Next Gen Points form and insert totals into the application form.
- Teams must attach (upload)the completed form in their application.
- [U27 Fours Points Form LINK](#)

U27 Mixed Doubles

- Teams must download and complete the U27 Mixed Doubles Next Gen Points form and insert totals into the application form.
- Teams must attach (upload) the completed form in their application.
- [U27 MD Points Form LINK](#)

Section 3: Written Submission (25% of application weight)

Teams will be selected based on a ranking system of past Competition results and a two part written submission

Part 1: Not to exceed 1000 words explaining:

- How would being involved in the Next Gen program accelerate your teams' development?
- What services would be particularly important in improving your team?
- How would you plan to take advantage of what the program is offering? (e.g. what gaps do you have that could be closed through participation in the program?)
- What portion of the Next Gen funding would be applied to the services you identify as important to your team? (i.e. how much money are you spending on the various categories?)
- How have you determined your gaps?

Part 2: Planning Portfolio - Teams will also be required to submit the following:

- Season Outcome Goals
- Gap Analysis supporting their written submission and to get a start on their overall season plan. The format of that Gap Analysis should include analysis in the following areas:
 - Technical
 - Tactical
 - Physical (fitness)
 - Mental
 - Social
- A first draft of the season plan that clearly outlines a plan to address the gaps and shows progress towards the Outcome Goals. Successful teams will review this with the Manager of High Performance and will refine it prior to the due date to unlock that portion of their funding. The season plan is NOT only a competitive schedule,

but a detailed development plan that results from the Goals and Gap analysis that takes the competitive schedule into account.

For Planning Purposes teams will be asked:

- If you are a successful OHPSI team – are there any IST services you would like to access specifically through the CSIO? (file submission optional) – This is for planning purposes only and if accepted, the team will be asked to confirm their plan to utilize CSIO services. Again, once this confirmation is received from the team and submitted to the CSIO, the cost for PLANNED services with CSIO resources will be deducted from your team's budget. You are NOT required to use CSIO resources for your IST needs.
- Provide a team photo.

Remember, submitted files (points form and written submission) MUST be in one of the following formats:

- Word
- Excel
- PDF

A complete application will therefore include:

- A completed form (links above)
- Submitted points document (links above)
- Written submission
- Outcome Goals
- Gap Analysis
- First Draft of the Season Plan
- Team Photo

Scoring Committee

Submissions will be reviewed by the Next Gen Performance committee in a fair and objective manner. Appeals to the committee decisions will be settled in accordance with Curling Ontario Policy for Dispute Resolution which can be found at this [LINK](#).

QUESTIONS

Questions about this program should be directed to Sean Turriff, Manager High Performance Development.

Email*: sean@curlingontario.ca

By phone during business hours – 905-831-1757 x206

**Preferred communication.*

APPENDIX A

FEES FOR MENTOR / CONSULTANT COACH SERVICES

The following Fee schedule must be followed to ensure equity for all teams and coaches.

Coaches providing services will be paid by the teams who then can submit expenses to Curling Ontario on an Curling Ontario Expense form. Coach expense submissions should detail the payments according to the following pay schedule:

1. \$30/hour for facetime with the team (can be in person or via skype/webcam, etc...)
2. \$15/hour for return travel to work with a team
3. \$0.50/km for return travel (Rate subject to change)
4. Per Diem if time with team or travel to meet team goes over a meal period in the amounts of (\$15/breakfast, \$20/lunch, \$30/dinner)
5. Prep Time – i.e. if coach needs to do preparation for a session with the team – they are compensated at \$15/hour to a maximum of ¼ of the time spent with the team. I.e. For a 2 hour session, the coach can add \$7.50 for the 30 minutes of prep.
6. Hotels - \$250/night or less wherever possible.

APPENDIX B

QUALIFICATIONS FOR INTEGRATED SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Integrated Support Personnel (IST) – must satisfy the following educational/professional qualifications in order to have their fees considered under the program.

IST personnel must also complete Curling Ontario's Safe Sport Program for 2025-2026.

Biomechanics, Engineering, and Performance Analysis

- Degree in Kinesiology, Engineering, Physics, or equivalent
- Educational focus in biomechanics, performance analysis, or motor learning

Data Science

- Degree in Statistics, Computer science, Engineering, Physics, Mathematics, or equivalent
- Educational focus in applied statistics, interfacing with databases, and high-performance computing
- *If applicable:* Registered with one of Statistical Society of Canada, Engineers Canada, Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS), Computer Science Canada (CS-Can)
- *If applicable:* Associate Statistician (A.Stat) > Professional Statistician (P.Stat), Professional Engineer (P.Eng), Information Technology Professionals

Medicine (Physicians)

Medical Degree (MD)

- Diploma in Sport & Exercise Medicine (Dip. Sport Med.) + Certificate of Added Competence (CCFP, SEM)
- Registered Sport Medicine Physician with Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine (CASEM)

Nutrition

- Degree in Kinesiology, Human Kinetics, Physiology, or Nutrition
- Educational focus in sport nutrition
- Registered with the Provincial College of Dietitians

Physiology

- Degree in Physiology, Human Kinetics, Kinesiology
- Educational focus on Exercise Physiology
- Certified as an Exercise Physiologist (e.g., CSEP, HFFC)

- In good standing as a Physiologist with the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology (CSEP)

Psychology

- Degree in Kinesiology, Psychology, Clinical Psychology
- Educational focus in sport
- Professional Member of the Canadian Sport Psychology Association (CSPA)

Sport Therapy Services

- Physiotherapy
- Degree Physiotherapy
- Sport Physiotherapy (SPC) Diploma
- Registered with Sport Physiotherapy Canada (SPC)

Athletic Therapy

- Degree
- Health Science Athletic Therapy - BaHSc(AT) or
- BA or BSc Kinesiology, Human Kinetics, Physiology + Certificate in AT or
- Bachelor of Athletic & Exercise Therapy
- Registered with Canadian Athletic Therapy Association (CATA)
- Registered with Provincial Athletic Therapy Association

Massage Therapy

- Registered Massage Therapy (RMT) Diploma
- Registered with Canadian Sport Massage Therapy Association (CSMTA)

Chiropractic

- Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College Degree (DC)
- Degree in Human Kinetics, Kinesiology, Physiology or equivalent

Strength & Conditioning

- Degree in Biomechanics, Physiology, Human Kinetics, Kinesiology
- Educational focus on physical training processes and preparation for sport
- Certified as a Strength and Conditioning Specialist (NSCA, UKSCA, ASCA) or equivalent

APPENDIX C

REGIONAL ELIGIBILITY

Teams must declare when applying what region they intend to represent. They must declare they will be entering either Northern playdowns or Southern playdowns. If a team enters playdowns that are contrary to the region they declared in their application the team will FORFEIT any remaining funds in their season budget and all members of the team including the coach will be ineligible to apply for funding for the 2027/2028 season. This measure is intended to ensure that funds directed towards a specific region are actually awarded to representatives of that region.

Who can apply for what funding?

Northern Teams

Tier 1 - Female U20 team from Ontario competing in the North region

Tier 1 - Male U20 team from Ontario competing in the North region

Tier 2 - Female U18 team from Ontario competing in the North region

Tier 2 - Male U18 team from Ontario competing in the North region

Southern Teams

Tier 1 - Female U20 team from Ontario competing in the South region

Tier 1 - Male U20 team from Ontario competing in the South region

Tier 2 - Female U18 team from Ontario competing in the South Region

Tier 2 - Male U18 team Ontario competing in the South Region

Anywhere in Ontario

Tier 2 - One Mixed Doubles (U27) Team

Tier 2 - One Mixed Doubles (U21) Team

Tier 2 - One Female U27 Team

Tier 2 - One Male U27 Team

ONLY Teams representing clubs that are located in the North region and plan to play in the former NOCA playdowns are eligible to apply in categories identified as "North" region categories.

Only teams representing clubs that are located in the South region region and plan to play in the region formerly known as "Curling Ontario