

2012-13 Index of Changes to USCA Rules Book

NOTE: The USCA Rules of Curling & Competition takes precedence if there is any discrepancy between the following list of changes and the Rules Book.

- **Title** changed to “The USCA RULES of CURLING & Competition”
- **Information that changes annually** such as deadline dates, locations, and chairperson information is now located within a separate document titled “2012-2013 USCA Championships Schedule.” It is located on the Championships page of the Web site in the left-side menu items under “2012-13 Playdowns.”
- **Section IV - Rules of Curling moved to front** of the manual and is now Section I. Section II is the USCA Championship Policies, Section III concerns the individual USCA Championships, and Section IV contains the Event Procedures information.
- **Individual topics within the General Eligibility rules of Section II have been titled respectively.**
- Under **General Rules and Guidelines, 2. General Eligibility, Level of Competition**, new text: “Parents or legal guardians of minors are responsible for registering their children.”
- Under **General Rules and Guidelines, 3. Entry Process, Deadlines and Fees** section; where to go to register for playdown events has been further defined. “Incomplete entries will not be accepted. Teams are encouraged to enter at least two weeks prior to the deadline date to avoid disqualification due to incomplete entries.” – has been added. The following text: “The USCA will make every attempt to return incomplete entries for re-submittal if submitted early.” – has been omitted. Information that specified that “signed” forms were required (now “completed” is used instead) has been changed because registration is done through the online registration system now.
- **General Rules and Guidelines, 3. Entry Process, Deadlines and Fees, Proof of Citizenship** includes information on type of proof accepted and methods of submission. Now includes the new method of acceptable proof – enhanced drivers licenses.
- **General Rules and Guidelines, Travel stipends** information no longer valid and has been removed.
- **General Rules and Guidelines, 9. Fifth Players.** This information has been further clarified: in any competition where a team represents a State or Region, the added fifth player must be a resident of that same State or Region; new text: unless the region represented would not be different had the added fifth player signed up prior to the registration deadline. Also under “Personnel;” new text: A team may start a competition with three of their registered four or five players. Clarification of statement; new text: Regarding all four-person team events, no team can play more than five players through and including the finals. Additionally, the sentence “Said teams may request to substitute only one player for legitimate hardship only, by submitting the request in writing to the USCA Chief Operating Officer within seven days after the completion of the National Championships, provided the player being replaced voluntarily resigns from the team” – the last portion of the sentence from the comma before “provided” and to the end has been omitted. Following the text “Teams registering five players at entry time have NO option to add an additional player for any reason except at the World Championships as noted above,” is;

new text: The Request for Ruling Committee may grant exceptions to this rule for extreme hardship.

- Under **General Rules and Guidelines, Coaches** information, “There are no restrictions regarding adding a coach to a team,” has been removed. New text: “Coaches of junior teams should register as early as possible, as background checks are required and can take up to ten days to complete; longer for international applications. Adult representation is required of teams at the Junior National Championships.”
- Under “**Uniforms**” information; new text: the skip’s name must appear on the back of his or her top outer garment. It previously stated that it was the “state” name that must appear. Also under “Uniforms” information; new text: At the Mixed Doubles Nationals and the Senior Nationals, players are encouraged but not required to wear like uniforms. Under “e.,” the text “The USCA reserves the right that” - has been removed to add emphasis.
- **General Rules and Guidelines, 13. Drug Testing:** - the final sentence which said, “At the Junior Championships, Juniors are subject to being tested for alcohol.” – has been removed as #4 Alcohol Consumption Policy, already states this.
- **General Rules and Guidelines, 16. Refund/Withdrawal Policy:** New text: Teams that withdraw from events that they registered to compete in, will not receive a refund. Certain teams may qualify for an exception under the following conditions: (1.) Event was cancelled due to a lack of entered teams (and team does not wish to travel to a proximate region to compete) (2.) Online registration system errors (3.) Registered and unknowingly ineligible because his or her club is not a member of USA Curling (4.) Certain hardship exceptions (to be evaluated on a case by case basis). -- All refunds will have online processing fees deducted. Individuals declared by VP Championships/staff administrator, as eligible for a refund and withdrawal from a championship event, must submit a written request, including complete contact information, specific event title and region (if applicable), and amount of the entry fee paid.
- Moved to **General Rules and Guidelines, 4. Alcohol Consumption Policy** - Players who are under the age of 21 are subject to the same rule as for Junior championships, which is as follows: Consumption of alcohol by the players under 21 is prohibited from the time of departure from the city of home/school residence, through the competition, and until the return to the city of home/school residence, including, without limitation, any banquet or post championship/event celebration.
- **General Rules and Guidelines, 5. Field of Play Contributions**, information no longer includes detailed amounts.
- **General Rules and Guidelines, 7. USCA Format Policy**, Women’s Challenge changed to a knockout (from previous round robin).
- **General Rules and Guidelines, 17. Prohibited Substances:** The use of all performance-enhancing drugs, whether taken knowingly or otherwise, is unethical and prohibited.
- **General Rules and Guidelines, 18. Inappropriate Behavior:** Improper conduct, foul or offensive language, equipment abuse, or willful damage on the part of any team member is prohibited. Any violation may result in suspension of the offending person(s) by the curling organization having jurisdiction.

- Under **Section III** – previously Section II; **events are listed the same as they are on the Championships Schedule** with domestic events (Club and Mixed National Championships) first and the events that lead to a World or Olympic event next beginning with Juniors, Mixed Doubles, National Men’s and Women’s events, Senior Men’s and Senior Women’s, Wheelchair Tryouts and WWUGs).
- **Under Section III – previously section II; Club National Championships**, new text: Regions may choose their own early entry deadline (or may use the national deadline), and are encouraged not to conflict playdown dates with the Men’s and Women’s National Championships playdown dates.
- **Redundant information was removed** from the Section III individual championships listings as it is already included within the General Eligibility section.
- **The Section III Junior Nationals Playdown Process and Format section has been updated** and includes information regarding the High Performance Team inclusion.
- **The Section III National Men’s and Women’s Championships**, includes information regarding the inclusion of two High Performance teams plus two teams from the OOM list. This information has been updated with the current season’s format policies.
- **Attachment C: Order of Merit (OOM) points determination** has been updated.
- **Section III Youth Olympic Games has been omitted and the Winter World University Games information has been included.**
- **Section IV Event Procedures, A. Appointment of Officials**, the number 3 point has been re-worded.
- **Section IV Event Procedures, C. Draws**, the sentence stating that “State and Regional draws will be the responsibility of the states and regions.” – has had the portion that began after the word “draws” and continued as saying “other than the National Championship qualifiers” – omitted. Under “Assignment of Practice Time and Stone Handle Color,” the sentence now begins with “For round robin draws.” A sentence has been added between the two paragraphs that previously existed, “For knockout draws, teams will flip a coin for choice of stone handle color or practice time.”
- **Section IV Event Procedures, D. Notification and Photos; All Championships**; “If a region is not sending a team, the playdown chair must report the vacancy prior to the National Playdown deadline.” – has been removed since the national office generates the participant reports which determine if teams have or have not registered and winner certification forms are required from regional playdown chairs when this “potential” information would come to light. The information required from the regional playdown chairs has been copied from the winner certification form and inserted in this section for consistency.
- **Section IV Event Procedures, E. Peer-Seeding Process**: “Ballots should be ranked beginning with #1 for the strongest team and so on, according to the viewpoint of the person completing the ballot. Ballots are to be completed by team skips or another designated team member.” – Seeding ballot instructions have been added.
- **Section IV Event Procedures, H. Team meeting** “Fifth players may be added by teams at any time.” – has been removed as it is redundant.
- **Section IV Event Procedures, J. Pre-game Practice and Game Times**, the third paragraph text “include one minute of slide time, followed by six minutes of throwing/sweeping practice “ - has been removed. This sentence now states, “Practice will be 9 minutes in length.” Additionally, in the following paragraph, the first sentence has removed “...following schedule will be used” – and “25” has been changed to “15 minutes before

the start of the game. Each practice will be 6 minutes in length followed by 1 minute for the LSD. For post round robin play, each team will have 8 minutes practice time.” The previous text which was omitted stated “...18 minutes – second practice; 11 minutes is provided for the ice to be cleaned (but not re-pebbled). Practice will include one minute of slide time followed by five minutes of throwing/sweeping practice.” A “NOTE” has been included and states as follows: “The Chief Umpire, in consultation with the ice man, may reduce the practice time to reduce wear on the pebble.

- **Under Section IV Event Procedures, L. Team Line-up**, the last sentence has been omitted. It read “A team must start a competition with four players delivering stones.”
- **Under Section IV Event Procedures, O. Tie Breaking Procedures:** “For the Men’s and Women’s Qualifier rounds, the Championship Committee will provide to each site a set of tie break rules to be used for the particular number of qualifier and challenge spots for that site.” – has been omitted, as has the remainder of that sentence.
- **Under Section IV Event Procedures, R. Post Round Robin Advantages**, section (c) Special page rules, the following text has been removed “...if the round robin records of the opposing teams were ties, and a tie-break game between those teams was used to break the tie, the team that won the tie-break game shall have the choice of first or second stone.” The phrase is not necessary any longer because we rank teams without playing tie-breaker games.
- **Under Section IV Event Procedures, S. Event Officiating, Violation guidelines**, 1. Rules Violations, a) the reference “See R5(d)” has been added; b) “See R8” has been added; c) “See R7(g)” has been added; d) “For example, for displaced stationary stones, see rule R9. For ice damage, see rule R10(a)” has been added. In 2. On-ice Conduct Violation Guidelines, under the bullet point “Pulled stone” the text “on-ice” has been inserted to clarify the type of penalties that can be administered for conduct violations. “On-site” Board of Review was changed to Board of Review.
- **Under Section IV Event Procedures, T. Disagreements and Rulings**, the following sentence has been changed: If a rules decision or event procedures decision of the Chief Umpire is appealed, the Chief Umpire is directed to call one of the advisors selected by the USCA VP Championships to discuss the issue, and the decision of the selected advisor will be final.” It now refers to the “VP Championships” rather than the “head official.” Also because the request for ruling form is now located on the USCA Web site, the text “may be obtained from the USCA office” has been eliminated. The text “at the end of this booklet” has been removed from the sentence relating to the grievance process.
- **The application form and junior health form have been removed** from the publication due to the size change. Anyone unable to register themselves online can call the national office to request assistance with registration if necessary.
- The **Glossary of Terms has been moved** to the back of the manual just before the Index.
- The **code of conduct has been updated**.
- **Other** minor format, spelling or text edits.

October 2012 Revision