

# **POLICY FOR RESIDENCY**

## **The Canadian Men's & Women's Curling Championships**



The Canadian Men's and Women's Curling Championships involves the participation of teams that are made up of individuals that are Canadian Citizens, residents of Canada and a minimum of three [3] of the team members [four [4] including the alternate] must be bona fide residents within the geographic area of the Member Association they are intending to represent. A maximum of one [1] "Free Agent" will be allowed per team. Teams requesting this exemption must identify their "Free Agent", notify both Member Associations involved, seek their approval and provide the required documentation proving the remaining players [3 or 4] are bona fide residents of the Member Association they are intending to represent. To ensure that all individuals are treated equally, a policy has been established that clearly outlines what an individual must be able to provide to be considered a resident for playdown purposes. Individuals claiming to be bona fide residents of the curling jurisdiction they wish to represent and individuals engaged in the exemption process may be requested to participate in Curling Canada's "Whereabouts" Program, as administered by the Director of High Performance to validate their residency or the merit of their request for an exemption.

It is understood that an individual can only participate in one province/territory in any championship season. This includes individuals that apply for and receive exemptions and individuals that have "free agent" status on their Tournament of Hearts or Brier Team. All individuals must comply with the club membership criteria of the province/territory they wish to represent including the acquisition of a competitors card. (Explanation – an individual may only participate in the playdown process in one Member Association in one championship year – this includes all championships that lead to a national event. These include Masters, Juveniles, The Travelers Club Championship, etc. It is understood that the Canadian Mixed, held in November, will be part of the previous year's group of competitions even though it is dated in the following year. For example – the 2017 Canadian Mixed held in November of 2016 will be considered a part of the 2015/16 Championship season for residency purposes.)

An individual claiming to be a bona fide resident of the specific curling province/territory whose playdown structure he or she wishes to enter, must be able to provide a minimum of three of the following four items to the Member Association (if requested):

- \*\* Current Drivers License (or valid travel picture ID) from that province/territory
- \*\* Current Health Care Card from that province/territory
- \*\* Letter from employer confirming employment within the province/territory
- \*\* Statement from landlord (if renting) or bank (if owned) confirming residency within the province/territory – a copy of a property tax invoice for non-mortgaged property is also adequate. Recommend a statutory declaration be obtained.

**IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING THE ABOVE DOCUMENTATION AN INDIVIDUAL MUST SPEND THE MAJORITY OF THEIR NON-COMPETE TIME IN THE PROVINCE/TERRITORY IN WHICH THEY ARE CLAIMING TO BE A BONA FIDE RESIDENT.**

Traditional, on-campus, full time students will be allowed to establish residency by providing a confirmation letter from their school's Registrar's Office confirming full time status and class enrollment for the academic year. This policy defers to the institution that the student attends in terms of defining full-time student status.

To participate in the Canadian Championships identified above, individuals **MUST** be bona fide residents of the province/territory in which they wish to enter playdowns prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the championship season (for example – prior to Sept 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016 for the 2016/17 championship season). This time frame may be shortened in the following circumstances:

- Transfer due to employment
- School attendance
- Military service and transfer

Exemptions may be made in exceptional circumstances if granted by two Member Associations where:

- Individuals live within a short distance of a provincial/territorial boundary

- Full-time on campus students that are attending a recognized post secondary educational institute may either play out of the province/territory in which they are attending school or the province/territory in which they are maintaining a residence. An individual may be requested to provide proof of registration and semester transcripts.
- Individuals that reside in province/territory “A” and conduct the majority of their work outside of province/territory “A”, may represent province/territory “A” on the assumption that they can validate that the majority of their non-work and non train/compete time is spent in province/territory “A”.
- Individuals that have a primary residence in province/territory “A”, a temporary/secondary residence in province/territory “B” and conduct the majority of their work in province territory “B” may represent province/territory “B” on the assumption that they can validate that the majority of their work related time is spent in province/territory “B”. **(The individual must be able to provide positive proof that their predominant employment from September 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, of the curling season the exemption is being requested for, will be located with the geographical area of the Member Association they wish to represent\*).**

### **Process for Exemption Requests**

- Exemption requests must be received by Curling Canada and applicable Member Associations a minimum of 30 days prior to the Member Association’s entry deadline.
- Detailed information will be required with the exemption request
- The respective Member Associations will review all information and approve or deny the application. If Member Associations cannot agree on a decision, a committee that includes the following three individuals will make the decision and their ruling will be considered final:
  - CEO of Curling Canada
  - Director, High Performance of Curling Canada
  - Chair or Vice-Chair of the Operations (ED) Council

- (\*) Individuals who have employment in two curling jurisdictions may be required to participate in a formal interview that will include the identified employer, a representative of the Member Associations and the Director of High Performance of Curling Canada.
- Individuals that meet exemption criteria will be considered bona fide residents of the province/territory granting the exemption. They are not considered free agents.

For Canadian championships that do not lead to World Championships, there may be unique circumstances that allow a curler to be residing outside of Canada and still be eligible to compete. In these circumstances, the respective Member Association[s] must provide approval. For example – Point Roberts, Washington residents may be eligible to compete in Curl BC events leading to Canadian Juvenile, Masters and Travelers competitions if granted an exemption by Curl BC.

In the case when a team enters the Provincial/Territorial/Canadian Championship playdown and are found not to be in compliance with the residency policy, the entire team risks being suspended for 1 year from Curling Canada and Member Association sanctioned events. Suspension shall only be implemented subsequent to due process and it is determined that residency and/or exemption related information has been provided in a fraudulent manner.

### **Process for Challenges**

It is understood that this policy will be a national policy and, in the event the policy is challenged, Curling Canada will assist in the defense of any challenge at the MA level and/or protect Curling Canada's interest and its costs, as the Associations mutually deem appropriate.