

OFFICIAL RULES

THE ALBANY CURLING CLUB, INC.

(adopted 08/11/2011)

The Curling Club of Albany, Inc., shall apply The Rules of Curling of the World Curling Federation (WCF), the nearly identical Rules of the United States Curling Association (USCA), the Rules of the United States Women's Curling Association (USWCA) and Rules of Curling of the Grand National Curling Club (GNCC) in almost all matters of play and are not repeated herein in their entirety. A copy of these rules and those of the WCF or USCA will be posted prominently in the Club and a link to the rules on the WCF or USCA website will appear on the Albany Curling Club website. Rules and variations particular to our Club follow below.

I. Rules for Play - General

1. Duration of all games will be at least eight ends with the following exceptions: Informal competitions or leagues requiring three or more draws may have shorter games only with Board approval in advance. Unless otherwise predetermined, in case of a tie, extra ends will be played until a winner is determined.
2. Any curler may play as a substitute, with the following restrictions:
 - a. Men's and women's competitions require substitutes of like gender.
 - b. Whenever possible, substitutes in mixed competitions shall be of the same gender as the player being replaced.
 - c. In intra-club bonspiels, substitutes must be supplied by the committee, using a curler of equal ability as much as possible. Substitutes shall be made from the names on the sign-up sheet first. Unless otherwise stated in the following rules for a specific event, in a women's or men's competition a substitute may be placed in the same position as the curler being replaced or in the lead position, at the discretion of the skip. In mixed competitions a male substitute may be placed at either male position and a female substitute may be placed in either female position.
 - d. Student curlers (ages 18 through 21) shall be eligible for regular play in adult leagues and intra-club bonspiels.
 - e. Junior curlers (ages 16 through 17 only) shall be eligible for play as substitutes in adult leagues, only on the ice with their parent or legal guardian. No junior curler shall play more than four (4) times in any adult league in any one season, nor more than three (3) times in any one-half season.
 - f. In all league play except Open leagues, no more than two skips may play on any team at any time, unless the team was originally drawn with three skips. This restriction applies only to skips in the same type of competition (i.e., there cannot be three mixed league skips on a team in a

mixed competition, nor three women's skips on a team in a women's competition, nor three men's skips on a team in a men's competition.)

g. (1) In Women's league play:

If the normal skip of a team is absent and none of the remaining team members is a league skip, then skips may be used at the lead and second positions, with the highest-ranking playing lead. If a skip is used as a single substitute, she **MUST** play lead. If two substitutes are required and one of the two is a skip, the substitute skip **MUST** play lead. Regular team members **MUST** move up in position. A first year curler may, if she desires, request that she not be moved up into the house. The player moving up will perform all of the duties normally performed in that position, as defined in the WCF Rules. A violation here constitutes a forfeit.

(2) In Men's and Mixed league play:

A skip may replace an absent player with a player of the same rank or lower who may play that position or any lower position. The skip may replace the absent player with a player no more than one position (rank) higher, who then **MUST** play lead. If the skip is the absentee, a skip may be chosen as a substitute, but the vice-skip **MUST** move up and the substitute must play at the vice-skip or lower position. If the skip **AND** vice-skip are both absent, a skip and vice-skip may be chosen and one of these substitutes may play in the skip position, but one of these subs must play in the lead position. In all of the above, the substitute's rank will be defined as that player's highest regular ranking in the same type of competition. (e.g., for a substitute in men's leagues, the highest position in any men's competition that curling season or half season is the determinant.)

3. All games must begin on time as scheduled. In any intra-club or league match, any team failing to appear, ready to play, at the scheduled starting time shall be penalized one point and one end for each ten-minute period of tardiness. The skip of the tardy team shall enforce this rule by posting the end(s) and point(s) on the scoreboard. A match not started after thirty minutes is a forfeit by the tardy team. The official clock is the wall clock in the ice shed. If neither team can play at the time scheduled, each gets a loss. (*Note: USCA Rules dictate 15-minute periods which will apply to inter-club competitions.*)
4. Two hours after the start of any scheduled *intra-club* eight-end game, the first two lead stones must have been delivered in an end, or that end may not be played and the score at the end of the last fully played end will be considered final. This rule does not apply to games scheduled for more than eight ends, or to extra ends in case of a tie. This rule is modified to a new "scheduled starting time" when delayed by a prior game which goes into extra ends.
5. The skip has full control of the game for the team.

6. Only the skip, acting skip, vice-skip or acting vice-skip will call for sweeping.
7. Our acoustics do not allow the use of corn-shaped fabric or foam brooms, and therefore this type of broom is not allowed in intra-club competition.
8. There shall be no foul, abusive, or offensive language during competition.
9. There shall be no smoking on the premises.
10. There shall be no glass containers and no beverages (other than water) in the ice shed.
11. The Rules Committee Chairman shall investigate any complaint by a skip regarding alleged violation of the rules. Complaints must be submitted in writing within forty-eight hours to the Rules Committee Chairman. If the decision of the Chairman is not satisfactory to the involved parties, an appeal may be made in writing to the Board of Directors within two weeks of the Rules Committee Chairman's decision. The ruling of the Board of Directors is final.

II. League Play-General

1. Skips will select their rinks to curl in each competition by numbered lot, to determine order of selection. The Men's and Women's Curling Committees may choose to give first-time skips the advantage of first selection. Players will be picked from the list of eligible members who have signed up for league play. Position on the team will be determined by the skip and need not reflect the round in which the player was chosen, i.e., the skip may arrange rotation of his/her team in any way he/she sees fit. Once set, it will remain so through that season (or half season if teams are redrawn for the second half season). The skip must notify the Schedule Chairperson if the final rotation is different from the order in which players were chosen.
2. A curler may skip in only one women's or men's league competition in any one year.
*If circumstances dictate, the Board may amend this rule for a given year.
3. When drawing players for league competition, a skip may not select, as one of the team members, one who is his/her skip in another competition in the same season or half-season.
4. Upon being notified by the Schedule Chairperson of their position as skips, all skips must certify that they expect to be available to fulfill the position a minimum of 75% of the league schedule for the season or half-season.
5. Skip vacancies in all competitions will be filled by the Albany Curling Club Board upon the advice of the Whisk Executive Committee and Vice President-Women's

Curling or the Men's Curling Committee and Vice President-Men's Curling. They will be selected and considered for retention each year according to the following criteria:

- demonstrated curling ability
 - sportsmanship
 - reliability
 - participation in Club activities (see Rule 6 below)
 - responsibility to the Club
 - consideration for the winner of the Junior Skip Bonspiel for women and the Non-Skip Bonspiel for men
6. Skips are expected to participate in Club activities/bonspiels, be involved in administration of the Club, encourage their team members to become active also in Club activities/bonspiels, and involve team members (especially their new members) in the game strategy in a way that teaches them the game.
 7. Once rinks have been drawn, additional new members will be assigned by the Schedule Chairperson, based on order of application approval and order of draw. If a member of a three-person rink recruits a new curler for The Albany Curling Club, that new member will be given preference for the team of the recruiting member.
 8. If a member of a rink is unable to play, the skip must be notified as soon as possible. The Board will notify the skip of any curler suspended for failure to remain in good standing (dues and fees current, for example). It is the skip's responsibility to obtain a substitute.
 9. If a member of a rink is unable to complete a season of curling, he/she may be replaced by another curler, appointed by the Schedule Chairperson.
 10. A schedule of all games shall be posted on the bulletin board and given to each skip by the Schedule Chairperson. Skips must inform their players of the dates and times of scheduled games.
 11. Winning and losing scores for each league game shall be posted by the winning skip or vice-skip.
 12. All league games must be played on the dates and at the times scheduled. Games may be cancelled by the President or Schedule Chairperson only when it becomes necessary to cancel ALL games at a certain time due to extreme weather, unsafe rink conditions or other unforeseen critical conditions. These games will be moved to the end of the season or half season. The only exception to this rule appears in Rule 13 below.

13. In league play, a game may be rescheduled to a date no later than two weeks beyond the originally scheduled date only if **ALL** the following conditions are met:
- The rink requesting the change has MORE than two members (or **TWO** members, if officially a three-person team) participating in an authorized bonspiel.
 - The Schedule Chairman is notified and agrees.
 - The opposing skip is notified and agrees.
 - Not more than one substitute per rink will be needed at the new date.

If the above conditions are not **ALL** met, the rink unable to curl at the scheduled time **MUST** forfeit.

14. League skips may apply in writing for a leave of absence from skipping of **up to a maximum of one year or one curling season only**, and, upon acceptance by the Board of Directors, be eligible to re-enter the same league the following year for which he or she skipped the last curling season. If, in the last active curling season, the skip rankings would have placed the applying skip in a higher- or lower-ranked competition the following year, then the skip will be qualified for that higher or lower league upon return.

A skip granted a leave of absence is **NOT** guaranteed a position to return to if, for example, diminished membership and fewer teams are formed in the year of return. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the return to the original or earned position but this does not override the rules dictating the number of new skips that must be accommodated (III. Women's Leagues, Rule 2, and IV. Men's Leagues, Rule 2). In the event that an equivalent position in the same *or earned* league is not available upon return, the Board should allow the privilege to extend to the following curling year as long as the applicant remains an active ACC league curler.

III. Women's Leagues

- There may be four regular women's competitions: the Ailsa Craig, Fort orange, Heather and Thistle. The number of teams in each competition will be decided by the Whisk Executive Board. There is a trophy for each competition and each player of the winning team will be awarded a pin. Additional competitions of lower rank may be established by the Board.
- At the beginning of each curling season, as long as there are willing, qualified and approved applicants, the last place skip(s) from the previous season may be replaced by these applicants or previous skips wishing to return. If, in any league, there are 6 teams or fewer, one skip may move down. If there are 7 to 9 teams, two skips may move down. If there are 10 or more teams, then three skips may move down.

IV. Men's Leagues

1. There may be four regular men's competitions: the President's, McLaughlin, Directors' and John Waite in that order as to rank of skips. The number of teams in each competition will be determined by the Men's Curling Committee. There is a trophy for each competition and each player of the winning team will be awarded a pin. Additional competitions of lower rank may be established by the Board.
2. A minimum of two skips shall be offered the opportunity to move up to the next higher competition each year, and an equal number of skips shall move down. In most cases, three positions, or 30 percent of the total number of teams in the league, whichever is greater, shall be made available. The skips moving up shall be those with the best win-loss record for the prior *entire* season, but in no case shall a skip with a losing record the prior season be awarded a position in the higher competition. As long as there are Board-approved skips available, a minimum of two positions will be offered in the lowest-ranked league and an equal number of skips shall be removed. In most cases, the number of newly active skips in each season will be three, or 30 percent, whichever is greater.

V. Mixed and Informal Leagues

Mixed and informal leagues will follow the above rules of general league play with the only exceptions to be approved by the Board.

VI. Intra-Club Bonspiels (including playdowns) - General

1. Entrants must be in good standing (dues and fees current, for example) at bonspiel closing date to be eligible.
2. All bonspiel ties will be decided by playing an extra end.
3. Team fees will be decided by the bonspiel committee within the maximum limit set by the Board.
4. Skips will be chosen by the committee in order of league standing at the time of the draw.

VII. Women's Intra-Club Bonspiels

1. All-American
 - a. This competition must follow all USWCA Rules.
 - b. Skips will be selected by the Whisk Executive Committee and the event chair from those entered, according to their standing in league play one week before the scheduled event.
 - c. Substitutions will be made by the event chair.

2. Junior Skip
 - a. The type of competition and the number of games to be played will be decided by the Whisk Executive Committee and the event chair. The competition will consist of two or more games played by each rink, with a minimum of eight ends per game.
 - b. Skips will be selected by the Whisk Executive Committee from those non-Board-certified skips signed up according to length of membership and demonstrated curling ability.
 - c. Skips will decide the order in which they select curlers and their draws by lot.
3. Other women's intra-club events may be added at the discretion of the Board.

VIII. Men's Intra-Club Bonspiels

1. Horton-Bennett
 - a. Skips shall be selected from the President's competition in order of cumulative standing the week prior to the event. Additional skips shall be selected on the same basis from the McLaughlin, Directors' and John Waite competitions in that order.
 - b. Skips will select their teams and draw by numbered lot.
 - c. Finals will be 10 ends in the Horton and Bennett events.
2. Non-Skip
 - a. Skips will be selected by the Men's Curling Committee from those non-Board-certified skips signed up according to length of membership and demonstrated curling ability.
 - b. Teams will be selected by the committee. The most highly ranked league skips must play lead. As the selections decrease in rank, then seconds and thirds may be drawn from the skips that have signed up.
 - c. Draws will be selected by lot.
 - d. All games will be eight ends.
3. Other men's intra-club events may be added at the discretion of the Board.

IX. Mixed Intra-Club Bonspiels

1. Early Bird
 - a. Selection of skips and teams will be at the discretion of the committee.
 - b. It will not always be possible to place spouses on the same team.
2. Valentines

Husband and wife entrants *MUST* be placed on the same team.

3. Lads and Lassies
 - a. If possible, male skips will be used and they will be selected in order of league standing the week prior to the event.
 - b. NO husband and wife combination shall curl on the same team.
4. Other mixed intra-club events may be held at the discretion of the Board and under rules determined by the Board.

X. Inter-Club (Invitational) Bonspiels

1. General
 - a. Entrants must be in good standing (dues and fees current, for example) at the bonspiel closing to be eligible.
 - b. When two bonspiels are scheduled on the same weekend, and have the same closing date, no Member shall sign up for more than one event. When closing dates do not coincide, a member eliminated from one bonspiel may enter the other, provided he/she does so before the closing date of the second.
 - c. Bonspiel entrants shall sign up as teams, except that an individual may post his/her name as an alternate, and substitutes should be made from among such alternates.
 - d. If more teams sign up than openings available, playdowns will dictate placement, except in response to personal invitations to out-of-town bonspiels which place teams on a first-come/first serve basis.
 - e. Playdowns will be scheduled by and under the supervision of the Bonspiel Chair or his/her designee. Failure to meet that schedule with a full team shall constitute a forfeit. Teams are limited to one substitute who can play any position desired by the skip.
 - f. If only two teams play down, the winner will be determined by two out of three games.
 - g. All bonspiel playdowns with a two-event format will be decided as follows:
 - Albany #1 – winner of the first event
 - Albany #2 – winner of the second event
 - Albany #3 – loser of the first event
 - Albany #4 – loser of the second event
 - Albany #5 and #6 – drawn out of a hat for position from the losers of the first event semi-finals
 - Albany #7 and #8 – drawn out of a hat for position from the losers of the second event semi-finals
 - h. All bonspiel matches ending in a tie will be determined by extra ends until a winner is determined.
 - i. The chairpersons of inter-club bonspiels shall make substitutions of the same gender as the team member being replaced and from the playdown participants, signed-up playdown alternates, or bonspiel participants.

- j. A substitute MUST play in the vacated position (per WCF Rules).
- 2. Dutch Shoe
The Dutch Shoe Invitational is held in alternate years, usually in January or February of the even year.
- 3. Governor's Bowl
The Governor's Bowl Invitational is held every year usually in late January.
- 4. The Albany Mixed
The Albany Mixed Invitational ("TAM") is held in alternate years, usually in early March of the odd year.
- 5. Other invitational competitions may be held as approved by the Board of Directors.