



2023-24 USA Curling College Tour Guidelines

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I. USA Curling College Championship Guidelines Disclaimer

These Guidelines are intended to provide specifics for Qualifying Events and the Championship Event related to the USA Curling College Championship. All rules of play related to the sport of curling not specifically mentioned in this document, are considered to be covered by those rules found in the most recently published [USA Curling Rules of Competition](#) document. This includes, but is not limited, to the length of games and method of play. If you have any questions in this regard, please contact college@usacurling.org to request clarification.

II. Mission and Goals

USA College Curling, affiliated with USA Curling, is the administrative branch of college curling in the United States. Our mission is to promote the growth of college curling within a diverse and vibrant collegiate community. We provide competitive curling opportunities for college students, including the oversight of the annual national USA Curling College Championship, and support athlete instruction and club development within a collegiate environment.

The Goal of the USA Curling College Championship is the promotion and development of on-campus curling clubs and curling activities. Collegiate curling teams play for their schools, not as individuals. Collegiate curling teams must be in communication with their cognizant school regarding their intent to compete using the school name. Normally, college curlers are part of a recognized campus club, recognized student organization or are otherwise be formally affiliated with their school. If students have difficulty accessing legitimacy and/or recognition within their school, students may contact college@usacurling.org for assistance. Affiliation with one's school affords opportunities to access student funding, as well as other resources the college provides for its students. Most collegiate curling teams curl at a local community curling club or on ice provided by their school. In addition to the USA Curling College Championships, USA college curling promotes regional college bonspiels and smaller Head-to-Head meets to make frequent and regular competitions between college curling clubs possible.

Notice:

USA Curling policy is to promulgate its rules in advance of the competition affected by those rules, through its due process of committee and board meetings. The USA Curling College Championship Rules may be changed, in whole or in part, before the playdown process.

This includes championship berth allotments for specific schools or individuals, as granted in these rules. Any mistakes, omissions or ambiguity may be subject to clarification by the College Curling Committee. The schools and individuals are not guaranteed a berth beyond the current USA Curling College Championship. The rules for one year's championship will not be construed to give or imply any right for future championships.

III. Qualifying and Championship Event Summary

The USA Curling College Championship is designed to recognize through competition the best college curling school in the United States. Sixteen schools will be invited to participate in this event. The event will feature a Split Round Robin format, with the sixteen schools seeded into four groups of four. The groups will be realigned based on their round-robin record and vie for the National Championship.

Schools earn a berth to the Championship by accumulating enough merit points to earn an invitation. Merit points may be earned through hosting, participating in, and winning Qualifying Events. These events can be head-to-head “Match Play” against one other school or college bonspiel events. Schools in the emerging region may also earn points through participation in the community curling club leagues and non-college bonspiels. In all cases, it will be the **SCHOOL** that earns an invitation to compete at the USA Curling College Championship. At Qualifying Events, schools will be permitted to accumulate Merit Points for up to two teams per event in which they participate. At the USA Curling College Championship, schools will be invited to bring up to six curlers and are encouraged to substitute freely between draws.

IV. Qualifying Events

1. General Rules of Curling

“General Rules and Guidelines” Reference- Except as stated otherwise below, all participants must abide by the “USA Curling Championship Policies - General Rules and Guidelines” found in the current “[Rules of Competition](#)” document.

2. Location

All USA Curling College Tour and Championship events must be supervised by a current USA Curling Member.

3. Individual Participant Eligibility

Individual Participant Eligibility Standard for the USA Curling College Championship and its Qualifying Events include:

- a. For participation in the USA Curling College Championship and its Qualifying Events, a participant must, at all times, be enrolled as a Full-Time Undergraduate or Graduate student at an institution that is a regionally accredited, degree-granting college or university located in the United States.
 1. “Full Time” will be considered 12 credits for undergraduate students and 9 credits for graduate students unless evidence is presented that an institution has a different standard for that definition (the submission of a webpage link providing that evidence will be accepted).
 2. Exclusions for this definition include any inter-semester and summer semester periods. During these times, the status of the individual at the end of the previous semester will apply.
 3. A participant whose status changes and who no longer fits the definition of “Full Time” is expected to self-report in a timely fashion and withdraw from further competition. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of any team points earned as the result of the participation of the disqualified student. Additional penalties, up to and including disqualification of the school from participation in the next USA Curling College Championship, may be applied by the College Curling Committee depending upon the severity of the infraction and other factors.
 4. If there is any question regarding a student meeting this requirement, said student might be required to produce a current transcript validating their compliance.
 5. Rules for club sport participation set by the participant’s institution that are more restrictive than those outlined in this document take priority in determining eligibility. These eligibility

restrictions include but are not limited to age, admission status, academic status, and online credits.

- i. All individual participants MUST be USA Curling members.
- ii. Individuals who do not register by the deadline date and time will not be eligible for the USA Curling College Championship. In addition, their school will lose points from any event in which an ineligible person was listed on a team roster.
- iii. Any individual who has not reached their 18th birthday is not eligible to participate in any USA Curling College Tour or Championship event.
 1. Any individual who participates before their 18th birthday will be ineligible to compete in any College Tour Qualifying or Championship for three years from the date of the latest infraction.
 2. Any school which lists a player on roster who is under the age of 18, knowingly or otherwise, will lose all earned points for that season, be ineligible to compete in that year's Championship and be ineligible to participate in any USA Curling College Tour event for a period of one year from the last known infraction.
- iv. All individuals must have and be able to present on request a current, valid, student ID and a photo ID card with birth date (can be student ID card) at any USA Curling College Tour Event.
- v. Participants are not required to be citizens of or reside in the United States.
- vi. No individual may play for more than one school in any given school year.

NOTE (1): USA CURLING MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE ADDRESSED THROUGH THE SPORT:80 LINK ABOVE OR YOUR LOCAL CURLING CLUB, USUALLY THROUGH MEMBERSHIP DUES WITH THAT CLUB.

ROSTER ELIGIBILITY INTERPRETATION: *PLAYER REGISTRATION WINDOW IS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO THE FOLLOWING JANUARY 31. THOSE WHO APPEARED ON ROSTERS BUT DID NOT REGISTER (I.E., THOSE FOR WHOM TEAM POINTS WERE VOIDED) ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL THE NEXT REGISTRATION WINDOW OPENS SEPTEMBER 1. NEW CURLERS, WHO HAVE NOT APPEARED ON TEAM ROSTERS BEFORE ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN QUALIFYING EVENTS AND EARN POINTS AS OF THE START OF THE NEW POINTS SEASON AND THEIR TEAM'S POINTS WILL BE VALID PROVIDED, THEY MEET REGISTRATION QUALIFICATION AND REGISTER THE FOLLOWING FALL AS A USA CURLING MEMBER.*

Examples:

- 1) *a player registered by January 31, 2024, is eligible to participate in any event until September 1, 2024, as long as they are eligible students as defined by Individual Participant Eligibility (IV. 2)*
- 2) *a player who did not register by January 31, 2024, is not eligible for any event until September 1, 2024, and must register by January 31, 2025, for their team's point to be valid*
- 3) *a new curler who did not participate in any event prior to February 13, 2023, may play and earn points for their team on or after February 13, 2023, provided they meet eligibility requirements and register during the next registration window.*

4. Relevant USA Curling Policies

- a. Alcohol Consumption Policy –
 - i. The U21 & Under Alcohol Policy and Testing Consent Form will be in effect for ALL USA Curling College Tour and Championship Events.
 - ii. Players who are under the age of 21 are subject to the same rule as for USA Curling Junior Championships, which is as follows: Consumption of alcohol by players under 21 is prohibited from the time of departure from the city of home/school residence, through the competition, and until they return to the city of home/school residence, including, without limitation, any banquet or post-championship/event celebration.
 - iii. Players over 21 are encouraged to remain alcohol free during competition. Colleges and universities may have alcohol policies which prevent alcohol consumption by athletes of any age during school sanctioned events.

- iv. Psychotropic (mind-altering) drug use, whether legal or illegal is prohibited during competition unless the student is taking medication prescribed by a licensed medical professional.
 - v. Teams found to be in violation of this policy will, along with sanctions mentioned in said policy, have all Points for the current school year voided and will be ineligible to play in the USA Curling College Championship for that year.
 - vi. Full text of the U21 & Under Alcohol Policy and Testing Consent Form may be viewed and downloaded at the following link:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f34a2ea0d87a44cac1ebfb0/t/6011df21ee98da73d23efe0e/1611783969827/U21+Alcohol+Policy.pdf>
- b. Transgender Policy –
- i. The USA Curling Transgender Participation Policy and Guidance will be in effect for all College Curling Qualifying and Championship Events.
 - ii. Full text of the USA Curling Transgender Participation Policy and Guidance may be viewed and downloaded at the following link:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f34a2ea0d87a44cac1ebfb0/t/61636679d6630c68d6541867/1633904249314/Policy+21-14+Transgender+Participation+Policy+and+Guidance.pdf>
 - iii. If a student has a problem or concern, they should call the USA Curling national office at 715-344-1199.
- c. Anti-Doping Policy –
- i. By entering any competition, all players acknowledge that they are subject to testing for substances banned by the USA Curling, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) substance abuse program, in accordance with the USOC/USADA testing standards and procedures, and that by failing such a test, or by refusing to be tested, the player will be subject to disqualification.
 - ii. It is the responsibility of each athlete to be aware of banned substances and whether he/she must file a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE), and to follow through with all requirements in this regard.
 - iii. For information on the USADA, Anti-Doping Policy go to: <https://www.usacurling.org/anti-doping>
 - iv. For information regarding banned substances go to the USADA website: <https://www.usada.org/athlete-reminder-prohibited-list-in-effect/>
- See [USA Curling Rules of Competition](#). **Relevant USA Curling Policies (cont.)**
- d. Athlete/Coach Code of Conduct –
- i. The USA Curling Athlete/Coach Code of Conduct Agreement applies to all USA Curling College Qualifying and Championship events.
 - ii. This agreement may be found at
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f34a2ea0d87a44cac1ebfb0/t/605e35efd1c64d79d4165f2e/1616786927353/Athlete+Coach+Code+of+Conduct.pdf>
- e. USA Curling SafeSport Policy
- i. The SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements applies to all USA Curling College Tour and Championship events. The SafeSport Code is available at the following link:
<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/>

- ii. The USA Curling abuse and harassment policy, which is contained in the USA Curling SafeSport Handbook will be in effect for ALL College Curling Qualifying and Championship Events. Full text of the policy may be downloaded from the following link:
<https://www.usacurling.org/usa-curling-safesport-handbook>

NOTE: Updates are made to the USA Curling SafeSport Handbook as required by law, the U.S. Olympic Committee, and the U.S. Center for SafeSport. The most recent version of the document can be found at the link below. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are referencing the most recent version of the policy.

- iii. Actual or perceived incidents of physical abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, harassment, or hazing, as defined in the USA Curling SafeSport Handbook, and sexual misconduct, as defined in the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement, at USA Curling events or perpetrated by individuals such as certified coaches, instructors, ice makers, or officials must be reported to USA Curling and/or the US Center for SafeSport.

Reporting information can be found on the USA Curling website:
<https://www.usacurling.org/report-an-incident>

- iv. Covered Individuals (as defined in the USA Curling SafeSport Handbook) **MUST report to the U.S. Center of SafeSport** conduct of which they become aware that could constitute (a) **sexual misconduct** (b) **misconduct that is reasonably related to the underlying allegation** of sexual misconduct and (c) **retaliation related to an allegation** of sexual misconduct.

Reporting methods include:

Telephone: 720-524-5640

Online: [SafeSport.org](https://www.usacurling.org/safesport) (online reports are accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Mail: U.S. Center for SafeSport, C/O Response and Resolution Office, 1385 South Colorado Boulevard, Suite A-706, Denver, CO 80222

- v. Reporting such conduct to the U.S. Center for SafeSport does not satisfy an Adult Participant's obligation to report to law enforcement or other appropriate authorities consistent with section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. § 20341).
 - vi. Sexual Misconduct - The U.S. Center for SafeSport encourages anyone who experiences or becomes aware of an incident of Sexual Misconduct involving a Participant to immediately report the incident to the Center and/or to law enforcement if the matter involves possible criminal conduct. Persons are encouraged to report incidents regardless of whether the reporter believes there is criminal conduct or not.
- f. Uniforms/Cresting
- i. Uniforms- For Qualifying and Championship events, team members (including coaches) are encouraged but not required to wear similar uniforms, including shirts, jackets, pants, and headgear. Individual Names are not required on any uniform. Schools should have their college name or recognized school icon on their uniform. Materials such as sequins, glitter, heavy fleece, or other 'shedding material' are discouraged as they may leave debris on the ice and interfere with ice quality.

- ii. Sponsor Crests- Advertising (cresting) shall be permitted on a player's on-ice uniform and equipment and shall consist of embroidery, patches, screen printing, sublimation, or other design integration or adhesion (particularly in the case of equipment) in the exact same positions for each team member, must be neatly attached or incorporated into the uniform or on the equipment, and be professional in appearance. Sponsor crest/advertising on team uniforms must be pre-approved by the USA Curling. Teams should request approval for all sponsors cresting by writing and submitting a digital copy of the logo to the national office at least two weeks in advance of the event.
 - 1. Sponsors that will be categorically denied for this event include those that may not provide healthy lifestyles (bars, pubs, breweries, tobacco products, etc.).
 - 2. A USA Curling College Curling Committee representative may direct any team or player to remove or cover any advertising deemed objectionable by the USA Curling, before being allowed on the ice.
 - 3. Teams and players are also representing their respective school and must conform with their school's policy regarding sponsorships and the display of sponsor crests.
- iii. All Uniform/Advertising/Cresting rules not specifically addressed above are subject to the rules found in the most recent "[Rules of Competition](#)" document.

5. Qualifying Events

a. Definition of Terms

- i. School- any single post-secondary organization that is defined by a single internet URL ending in ".edu," and a single campus that is part of a state or region-wide university network of campuses.
- ii. Host school - school(s) responsible for organizing and running a qualifying event
- iii. Team - any group of three or more individuals, consisting of any gender combination, with no set gender order of play. Schools are required to field the maximum possible number of 4-person teams at Qualifying Events.
 - 1. If 4-7 individuals represent a school at an event, at least one 4-person team must be fielded; if 8-11 individuals represent a school at an event, at least two 4-person teams must be fielded, etc.
 - 2. Waivers from this rule may be granted for significant events such as illness or weather conditions and must be approved in advance by the College Curling Committee.
- iv. Game - A match scheduled for 8 ends of play. Normally, a minimum of 6-ends shall be played, or until out of rocks as per USA Curling rule R11(a). Concessions prior to 6-ends of play are discouraged unless a team is behind by 10 points or more after 6-ends. In circumstances where ice facility time is limited (e.g., rental ice) games may be scheduled for the available time, not less than 2 hours in length. Deviations from this rule must be approved in advance by the College Curling Committee.
- v. Split School Team - any team that consists of individuals from more than one school. Split School Teams:
 - 1. Must consist of four players;
 - 2. Must have at least two individual players from one school;
 - 3. Points will be allocated to the associated schools proportional to the makeup of the individual team players;
 - 4. Teams with 2 or more individuals from the same school, will add toward the school count, and Host points in determining the number of schools participating in any qualifying event.
 - 5. Will be limited to Bonspiel Events as defined in Section 5.b.ii., with no school permitted to field more than a total of three individuals on Split Teams in any given event. Individuals

from Host schools serving as spares to fill out 3-person teams to full 4-person teams shall not be counted toward this limit.

- vi. Game Limit - Points earned from participation in all **Match Play** Events, as defined in Section 5.b.i, between any two specific schools separated by less than 100 miles will be limited to no more than six games overall throughout the season. Official distances will be determined by the shortest driving distance results of a Google search indicating the two schools in question. (Example: The Google search “driving distance Penn State to University of Toledo” yields the result “342 miles.” In this case, there would be no limit on the number of Match Play Events between these two schools.)
- vii. Intraschool Points - Points earned in Bonspiel Events when two teams from the same school play against each other. Intraschool games occurring in Match Play Events will not be recognized or accepted.
- viii. Validated Points – Points earned are not earned until all members of the team’s roster have registered as a player with the USA Curling College Tour AND have become members of USA Curling.
- ix. The “Emerging Region” for purposes of the USA Curling College Championship, consists of all schools situated in the following states; Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming.

b. **Event Type Definitions**

- i. Match Play Events – Events consisting of two or fewer teams with only **one** team per school.
 - 1. Match Play - Consists of teams from two schools playing directly against each other only.
- ii. Bonspiel Events – Events consisting of three or more teams
 - 1. Bonspiel Event formats must be submitted to the College Curling Committee as soon as possible and no later than five days prior to the beginning of the event.
 - 2. Bonspiel Events will be limited to 16-teams. A waiver of the 16-team limit may be granted if the host(s) can demonstrate that they are capable of hosting such an event at their facility and meet all Quality of Play requirements set out in Section 6.b.
 - 3. Pool-Play- Consists of eight or more teams divided into pools. Pool-Play events must conform to the following requirements:
 - a. Pool size is a minimum of 4 teams, except as noted below in “Small Bonspiel” formats.
 - b. Pools must be of equal size if there are an even number of teams or no more than one different if an odd number of teams, except as noted below in “Small Bonspiel” formats.
 - c. Event organizers should set a maximum number of teams and format for each event, consistent with available ice time and scheduling constraints described in Section 6.b.
 - d. Each team must play all other teams within their pool.
 - e. No school may have more than one team per pool unless it is required to bring the event to 8-teams.
 - 4. Bongspiels –
 - a. Large Bongspiels consist of eight or more teams participating in a bracketed or Schenkel format event that leads to a unique undefeated winner, or a pooled event that leads to a unique winner. Bonspiel organizers should endeavor to avoid teams from the same school from meeting prior to semifinals for any event (intraschool games). Event organizers should set a maximum number of teams and format for each event, consistent with available ice time and scheduling constraints described in Section 6.b.

- b. Small Bonspiels consist of from five to seven teams of the following permitted formats:
 - i. 5-teams: Single complete round-robin. The winner will be the team that completes the round-robin undefeated or the winner of the game between two tied teams.
 - ii. 6-teams: Pool-play of three teams in each pool, with one cross-over game for three games total. The winner of each pool will playoff to determine the overall winner. Tiebreakers are in order: 1) Head-to-head between tied teams, 2) team records without the crossover game, 3) Draw Shot Challenge between tied teams, 4) coin toss.
 - iii. 7-teams: Strongly discouraged, contact USA Curling College Committee for guidance.
 - c. Schools with a team submitting a three-person roster (Skip, Third, and Second, only) may not register an "Alternate." Failure of one of those players to participate will result in a "Forfeit" for that game. **No "emergency" substitutes are permitted.**
 - d. Alternates may appear on more than one roster for a school per event provided they do not appear as a position player on any roster at an event.
 - e. Game Timing and Coaching Timeouts
 - i. Game timing is not required at any College Tour Qualifying Event.
 - ii. Game timing is optional at the event host's discretion, but that fact must be communicated to the participants, or potential participants at least two weeks prior to the event.
 - iii. If game timing is provided, ALL games must be timed. No team or teams may gain an advantage from lack of complete timing for all games at an event.
 - f. In-game Player/Coach Interaction
 - i. In-game timeouts for the purposes of coaching interaction are not permitted at any College Tour Qualifying Event.
 - ii. Players are not permitted to leave the ice, signal through a viewing window, or by any electronic means consult with a coach/player-coach while a game is underway.
 - g. **Deadlines for Match Play as defined above:**
 - i. Events held between February 13, 2023, and February 12, 2024, inclusive will be accepted
 - ii. Event results must be posted no later than February 13, 2024, to be considered for the 2024 USA Curling College Championship qualifications.
 - h. **Deadline for Bonspiel Qualifying Events, as defined above:**
 - i. Events held between February 14, 2023, and February 12, 2024, inclusive will be accepted
 - ii. Event results must be posted no later than February 13, 2024, to be considered for the 2024 USA Curling College Championship qualifications.
 - i. All points will be reset to zero the day following the final closing date for reporting results for any given. Results from events dated prior to the closing dates will NOT be accepted for inclusion in the "new year."
- EXAMPLE: This year's final date for event inclusion in Point consideration is February 12, 2024 (February 5, 2024, for Match Play Events). February 14, 2024 is the first date that an event may take place for consideration for the 2025 USA Curling College Championship.*
- j. **Qualifying Event Team Acceptance Priority:** Teams will be accepted into College Tour Qualifying Bonspiel Events in the following order of priority up to the events stated size limit.
 - i. First (4-player) team from the Host School.
 - ii. First (4-player) team from any school other than the host, in the order received.
 - iii. Split team submissions, if 3 or more players or more players are with a school not represented by any other team.

- iv. Split team submissions, if 2 or more players are with a school not represented by any other team.
- v. Second (4-player) team from the Host School.
- vi. Second (4-player) team from any school other than the host, in the order received.
- vii. Third (4-player) team from the Host School.
- viii. Third (4-player) team from any school other than the host, in the order received.
- ix. Any 3-player team.
- x. Any additional team required to fill a bracket/pool.

6. Qualifying Event Formats

- a. ALL BONSPIEL organizers must submit their proposed pools/playoffs or brackets to the College Curling Committee at least five days prior to the beginning of the event. Failure to do could result in decertification of the event and no points of any kind being awarded to the host school(s).
- b. Quality of Play - The committee reserves the right to reject the format provided if it feels the format is not in the best interest of the participants or the College Curling Championship.
 - i. Point allocations for significant adaptations of the presented formats or use of other formats cannot be guaranteed unless presented to the College Curling Committee for review beforehand. Please allow three days for the review process.
 - ii. A maximum of three games per day for any team in the competition draw. Waivers of this rule may be obtained, providing the host can assure the integrity of the event.
 - iii. 2½ hours must be scheduled between draws (with an additional ¼ hour if LSD tiebreakers are required). It is highly recommended that time is scheduled for a scrape every three draws.

7. Emerging Region

- a. Curling schools located in the Emerging Region are given special consideration in earning merit points, due to the relative lack of potential competition in those areas. Emerging Region special events consist of:
 - i. Community Club League Participation.
 - 1. Any regularly scheduled Community Curling Club League game that consists of six ends or more.
 - 2. This will be limited to no more than two teams per school and designated prior to the start of Community Club League Play.
 - 3. To earn points in this special category, the on-ice team must consist ONLY of eligible college players from one school.
 - 4. Participation and results of games must be submitted for games played between February 14, 2023, and February 12, 2024, inclusive, with results submitted or confirmed by a community club official and received no later than February 13, 2024.
 - 5. Starting February 14, 2024, league results will be accepted and applied toward the 2025 Championship.
 - 6. Points will be awarded according to Section 8a.iii.
 - ii. Results from participation in non-college only bonspiel events between February 14, 2023, and February 12, 2024, inclusive, with results submitted and confirmed by the event organizer and received no later than February 13, 2024 (schools claiming these points need to provide contact information of a club official who can verify the claim). Starting February 14, 2024, non-college bonspiel results will be accepted and applied toward the 2025 Championship.
 - iii. For the EVENT to be considered "point eligible," the games must be:
 - 1. Scheduled for a minimum of 6 ends.
 - 2. Widely advertised and open to all individuals.

3. In general, events listed on collegecurlingusa.org website will be accepted.
- iv. If you are uncertain as to an event's eligibility, contact the USA Curling College Committee Chair college@usacurling.org for review. Please allow one week for the review process.

8. Points

- a. National Championship Event Berths can be earned by accumulating points through hosting, participating in, and winning college only events. Points will be awarded in the following manner:
 - i. Match play events (formats as listed in Section 5.b.i.) - Points will be awarded as follows: two points for a win, one point for a loss.
 - ii. Bonspiel Events (formats as listed in Section 5.b.ii.) Points will be awarded based on a participation component and an excellence component as follows:
 1. Participation – First Full (4-person) team from each school at an event: 4 points
 2. Participation – Second Full team from each school at an event: 2 points
 3. Participation – Third team from each school at an event: 0 points
 4. Participation – Split teams will be allocated points pro-rated by school based on whether the individuals are the school's first or second team in the event (subsections 1 and 2 immediately above)
 5. Excellence – A/ 1st Event quarterfinals or later: 2 points
 6. Excellence – All other wins - 1 point
 7. Excellence – Split-team points will be prorated based on school composition
 - iii. Points awarded to Emerging Region events will be as follows:
 1. For non-college bonspiels, points will be awarded in accordance with the Bonspiel Events point allocation in subsection (ii) immediately above.
 2. For club-league play, one point per win, zero points for a loss.
- b. Host Schools (as defined in Section 5.a.ii) will earn Points for events larger than three schools according to the following formula: Number of Participating Teams divided by 4, rounded up to the next integer (maximum of 5 points per event).
- c. Qualifying Event Merit Point Limitations
 - i. Split School Teams are not permitted in any Small Event.
 - ii. Games outside of Event's advertised format (i.e., "pick-up games") will not be accepted.
 - iii. Small Events as defined in Section 5.b.i
 1. No school is permitted to field more teams than any other school.
 2. Events with four or fewer teams will use a complete Round Robin format only. Incomplete Round Robin events must be justified in advance by the event organizer.
 - iv. Multiple Teams from One School-
 1. Not permitted for any Small Event.
 2. Bonspiel Events- Event slots should be prioritized in favor of visiting schools. It is recommended that no more than 25% of the field be from any one school. (See Section 5.j)
 3. Large Pool Play Events - One team per school is permitted per round-robin pool. Intraschool points are permitted in the post-pool play only.
 4. Two Team Limit- If more than two teams from any school participate in a Bonspiel or Large Round Robin, points will be earned only by the two best finishers from that school.
- d. Invitational Events- Are not permitted for any Bonspiel Event.
- e. All Bonspiel Events must be "open and advertised," published on the College Curling USA calendar

www.collegecurlingusa.org and open to all registrants. Failure to do so will result in non-recognition of the event.

f. **Reporting Merit Points**

- i. All point claims for College Tour Qualifying Events must be accompanied by full documentation of those participating in and witnessing the event. This will include, but not be limited to:
 1. **Small Events-** For each game:
 - a. roster of all participants for each team involved submitted by their Skip. The roster will include the digital signatures of the Skip and opposing Skip and email addresses of each. Split-teams are not permitted in small events.
 - b. The time and location of the event.
 - c. The final score and the number of ends played.
 - d. The name and contact information of a “disinterested third party” who witnessed that the event was carried out in a manner consistent with recognized curling rules of play.
 2. **Large Events-** For each event:
 - a. A roster of all participants for all teams involved including alternates/subs and the email address for the team skip. If the team is a “Split-School” team, the school of each participant must be noted.
 - b. Results will be reported by the event organizer.
 3. **Disinterested third party:**
 - a. For Bonspiel Events as defined in Section 5.b.ii the event organizer SHOULD act as the “disinterested third party.”
 - b. Non-College Bonspiels, an event website with posted results or images of a physical draw sheet must be provided, the event organizer or non-collegiate skip in attendance during the game time but not involved in the game will be acceptable as a “disinterested third party,” and the overall number of games won and lost.
- ii. **Roster and Results Report Procedures**
 1. Each college team must declare their probable roster by December 15, 2023. Teams may add eligible students to their roster until January 31, 2024. Eligible students must be USA Curling members and conform to the guidelines in 1V. 3 (Individual Participant Eligibility) The president of each college curling team is responsible for the accuracy of the roster.
 1. For **Match Play Events** as defined in Section 5.b.i the winning skip will submit a single report using the form at this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/armvZ0WAvR>
 2. **Bonspiel Events** as defined in Section 5.b.ii, The bonspiel chair will be responsible for submitting points for the bonspiel: <https://forms.office.com/r/armvZ0WAvR>
 - a. POINT REPORTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION. Students are expected to present a Valid School ID at USA College Curling events. Bonspiel chairs are responsible for confirming that all participants are eligible and over the age of 18.
 - b. Bonspiel chairs should submit and retain a roster of all teams and the names of team players, including alternates/subs. If more than one school team plays in a bonspiel, please designate (Ex: Cornell #1; Cornell #2) the name of each team’s skip.
 - c. **Bonspiel chairs can upload bonspiel spread sheets or results documents for point documentation.**
 3. The Roster/Results reporting form will be available online at collegecurlingusa.org Submitted rosters will be checked against the list of registered players.
 4. All game results are considered provisional until all players are registered with as members of USA Curling. If a listed player does not register by January 31, 2024, that game will be

forfeited, the opposition will be awarded the points they earned, and the offending team will be awarded 0 points.

5. If both teams have unregistered players listed after the deadline, the game results will be nullified.
6. If teams lose points because of ineligible players in head-to-head competition, the game will still count towards the maximum allowed against that opponent, if applicable.

V. Championship Event

1. Invitations to USA Curling College Championship

a. Sixteen (16) teams will be invited to the USA Curling College Championship at the conclusion of each season.

b. **Qualifying positions will be awarded proportionally to the qualifying regions.**

- i. As of the 2023-24 season, there will be two established qualifying regions: East and Midwest. There will also be an Emerging Region for teams not assigned to either established region.
- ii. Each region will earn spots in the National Championship based on how many teams from that region earned points in College Curling events last season.
- iii. Each region is guaranteed a minimum of one (1) position in the National Championship.
- iv. To determine how many spots go to each region, the committee will calculate each region's percentage share of the total number of schools which earned points in the prior season. That percentage will then be multiplied by 16 to calculate the number of berths each region will be awarded.

1. This process will frequently result in regions earning fractional numbers of spots at nationals. In these cases, regions will claim spots in the following order:

- a. Regions with fewer than one calculated National Championship berth (but more than zero) will earn one spot.
- b. All regions will earn the total number of spots awarded (i.e., a region with 6.4 calculated berths will receive six).
- c. Any remaining berths will be awarded one at a time to the regions with the largest remainder of positions after their "whole number" of berths have been awarded. For instance, a region with 4.7 berths would earn a 5th berth before a region with 6.4 berths earns a 7th. No region will earn more than one additional berth through this process.

v. If two or more schools are tied for the final berth(s), then the invitation will go to the school(s) that earned the most wins in qualifying events in the current season. If schools are still tied, then the invitation will go to the school(s) that earned the most points in the previous season. If schools are still tied, then the invitation will go to the school(s) that earned the most points two years prior. If schools are still tied, then the invitation will go to the school(s) that earned the most points three (3) years prior, and so on until any remaining ties are broken.

vi. If a team declines an invitation, its berth will go to the next qualified team in its region. If no such team is available, the team with the highest point total from any region will be invited.

c. Within a region, berths will first be awarded to any automatic qualifiers.

- i. In each established region, the College Curling Committee will designate a late-season bonspiel as a "regional championship" event for qualifying.

- ii. In each of these events, the top two finishing qualified schools from that region will earn automatic berths into the National Championship. If a region has three or fewer berths in the National Championship, only one automatic berth will be awarded.
 - 1. The top-two finishing schools will be defined by their position in the A/1st/Main Event bracket. The overall champion is the first-place team; the runner-up of the championship final is the second-place team.
 - 2. Should both teams in the championship final represent the same school, the third-place team will be awarded the second automatic berth (if a second berth is available).
 - a. The third-place team will typically be the winner of a game between the two semifinal losers from the 1st event bracket. However, this may be adjusted based on the format of the bonspiel. The process for choosing a third-place team must be made clear before the bonspiel begins.
 - b. Should the top three finishing teams all represent the same school, only one automatic berth will be awarded.
- d. The remainder of berths in each region will be awarded to teams that have accumulated the most points throughout the current season and which did not qualify automatically.
- e. All point and roster reports are due no later than 11:59 pm, Monday, February 12, 2024.

2. Acceptance of Championship Invitation

- a. Invitations to the USA Curling College Championship will be announced on Friday, February 16, 2024.
- b. Schools will have until Noon ET, Wednesday, February 21, 2024, to accept their position in the field of sixteen.
- c. Any school failing to confirm their acceptance to participate will be dropped from the field, and the next highest school in national Merit Points listing will be offered their place in the field. The substitute school will have three days to accept their place in the field of 16.
- d. Any school accepting a position in the field of 16 but failing to appear at the Championship will:
 - i. be permitted to participate in all Qualifying Events the following year.
 - ii. be prohibited from the following year's Championship.

3. Individual Participant Eligibility

- a. Individual participants are eligible to compete if they have met all the requirements outlined in Section 3 above and have appeared on the participating roster for two or more Qualifying Events during the season.

b. The USA Curling College Championship is an ALCOHOL AND DRUG-FREE EVENT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.

No alcohol or unprescribed psychoactive drugs shall be consumed by any participant during the entirety of the College Championship event. "Entirety" is defined as "from the time of departure from the city of home/school residence, through the competition, and until they return to the city of home/school residence, including, without limitation, any banquet or post-championship/event celebration." By registering to participate in the College Championship, individuals agree to Alcohol and/or drug testing (as described below) if it is deemed warranted. The entire team of any individual found in violation of this policy will be disqualified from the event.

PROTOCOL: To ensure that no team receives a sanction for a player being accused of drinking alcohol or consuming unprescribed psychoactive drugs when they did not do so, at least two officials or event organizers must be present, at least one as the same gender of the individual. By playing in this event, each curler agrees to be tested to determine the veracity of an accusation should one be made. By refusing a test, the player and his or her team may be disqualified. Testing protocols will be followed in accordance with USACurling anti doping guidelines.

- d. All Individual and Team Eligibility Rules and Uniform/Advertising/Cresting Rules described previously for Qualifying Events apply for the Championship Event (See Rules 1 and 3).
- e. Teams may bring one designated coach. Coaches will sit in a designated area and may meet with the team on the ice during team time outs. All coaches must:
 - i. Be designated on the line-up form for each Championship game.
 - ii. Be at least 21 years of age
 - iii. At least two weeks before but no more than one year before the Championship, successfully complete a background screen by the National Center for Safety Initiatives. More information available at <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/Sport-Education/SafeSport/Background-Checks>. **Allow at least two weeks to complete the check.**
 - iv. At least two weeks before but no more than one year before the Championship, read the SafeSport handbook available at <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/Sport-Education/SafeSport>
 - v. At least two weeks before but no more than two years before the Championship, complete the USOPC SafeSport training modules available at <https://training.teamusa.org/store/details/1>. Anyone who completed the SafeSport training more than two years prior to the event will need to complete the Refresher course, located on the site above. Select “USA Curling” as your organizational association to allow tracking of completion.
- f. Number of Teams- Sixteen schools. In all cases, it will be the SCHOOL that earns the invitations to compete at the Championship. Participants MUST play with the school that matches their student ID. Teams may consist of any gender combination, with no set gender order of play. Split school teams WILL NOT be permitted at the USA Curling College Championship.
- g. Schools will be invited to bring up to six players (four position player and two alternates) and are encouraged to substitute freely between draws.

4. Championship Event Check-In

- a. Participant documentation- All players for all teams must present a valid student ID for the school they represent and a valid photo ID with their birth date.
- b. Participant Release- All players must present a signed Participant Release or have electronically signed a Participant Release as part of the Player Registration process, to be qualified to play.
- c. All player’s names will be checked against the championship registration list of eligible players (see Section 11.b.)
- d. Coaches will be required to check-in on arrival. Procedural details will be made available when the national SafeSport Code is finalized by the U.S. Center for SafeSport

5. Championship Rules and Procedures

- a. Full Championship procedures may be found in the 2024 College Championship- Event Procedures Document when it becomes available.

6. Championship Format

- a. Consult the 2024 USA Curling College Championship Event Procedures Document for Game Format, Pools, Pool Play, Draw Shot Challenge (DSC), and Medal Round details, when that document becomes available.
- b. The Championship will consist of two rounds of play. A “Group Round” followed by a Championship Round.”

- c. All event games will be timed. Game timing details may be found in at the link found in Section 13.a above.
- d. Group Round
- The sixteen invited schools will be seeded into four groups of four schools each. Within each group, the four schools will play a 3-game Round Robin format.
 - Schools will initially be seeded into groups in descending order according to their overall accumulated Points.

Seeding- "Serpentine Seeding"			
Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1 st Seed	2 nd Seed	3 rd Seed	4 th Seed
8 th	7 th	6 th	5 th
9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
16 th	15 th	14 th	13 th

- Non-student members of the College Curling Committee will adjust this arrangement based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to maximizing "regional diversity" within the groups, strength of play during season, qualifying bonspiels won during season, win-loss record, Match Play win-loss record during qualifying events, home curling club, prior Championship pairings, and other factors the committee may deem appropriate.
- e. Championship Round
- For all games after the Group Round, including Tiebreakers, the pre-game DSC becomes a Last Shot Draw and will not affect the final DSC totals.
 - Eight schools will be placed in the "Championship Bracket," and the remaining eight will be placed in the "Consolation Bracket" with single elimination playdowns from there and a 3rd place game for each bracket.
 - Gold/Silver/Bronze medallions will be awarded to the Championship Bracket in accordance with traditional results. Championship 4th place and the Consolation Bracket winner will receive awards.
 - After the Group Round is completed, team placement into the Championship or Consolation Bracket will be according to the following criteria.

Situation 1 (Number of schools with 3 or 2 wins equals 8):

If the total number of schools with 3-0 plus 2-1 records in the Group Round equals eight, those schools will be placed in the Championship Bracket. The remaining schools with 1-2 and 0-3 records will be placed in the Consolation Bracket.

Situation 2 (Number of schools with 3 or 2 wins is greater than 8):

If there are more than eight schools with 3-0 and 2-1 records in the Group Round, those schools with 2-1 records will be seeded according to their best five of six LSD shots.

- The appropriate number of schools, with the highest LSD totals, required to result in exactly eight Championship slots being filled will play a single tiebreaker game.
- Tiebreaker pairing(s) will be made via the "best" versus "worst" method.
- The tiebreaker winner(s) will remain in the Championship Bracket the loser(s) will be relegated to the Consolation Bracket.
- The tiebreaker winner(s) will not gain advantage within the Championship Bracket by having a 3-1 record; they will remain at the bottom of that bracket's seeding. The tiebreaker loser(s) will be seeded at the top of the Consolation Bracket according to their LSD totals.

Example: If a total ten schools have a 3-0 or 2-1 record after group play, the schools seeded 7th, and 10th based on their best five of six LSD total will play each other, and the schools seeded 8th, and 9th based on their best five of six LSD total will play each other. The two winners will be seeded 7th and 8th in the Championship Bracket; the two losers will be seeded 1st and 2nd in the Consolation Bracket.

Situation 3 (Number of schools with 3 or 2 wins is less than 8):

If there are fewer than eight schools with 3-0 or 2-1 records in the Group Round, those schools with 1-2 records will be seeded according to their best five of six LSD shots.

- The appropriate number of schools, with the lowest LSD totals, required to result in exactly eight Championship slots being filled will play a single tiebreaker game.
- Tiebreaker pairing(s) will be made via the “best” versus “worst” method.
- The tiebreaker winner(s) will advance to the Championship Bracket the losers will remain in the Consolation Bracket.
- Note: No penalty will be assessed to the tiebreaker loser(s) within the Consolation Bracket because of a 1-3 record. The tiebreaker loser(s) will be seeded at the top of the Consolation Bracket according to their LSD total(s).

Example: If a total of seven schools has 3-0 or 2-1 records after group play, the top two schools with 1-2 records, based on their best five of six LSD total will play in the tiebreaker draw. The winner will be the number eight team in the Championship Bracket; the loser will be the top seed in the Consolation Bracket.

f. **Championship Round Bracket Seeding:**

Seeding for both the Championship and Consolation Brackets will be based first on W-L record (not including any tiebreaker) and then by total DSC (best five of six). For the first round, draw assignments will be based on 1-8, 2-7, etc. with a fixed bracket thereafter.