



2020 USA Curling College Tour Guidelines

August 2019

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College Curling Links

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Summary of Significant Changes from 2019 Guidelines

- **Modified Section 1.b.iv to reflect minimum age for player participation and registration, and penalties for violations of this age limit.**
 - Modified Section 2.e. with updated SafeSport language.
 - New Section 4.b. Qualifying Event Roster Submissions.
- New Section 4.d Qualifying Event Game Timing and Game Timeouts.
 - New Section 4.e Small Event Deadline Change
- New Section 4.h Qualifying Event Team Acceptance Priority.
 - Modified Section 7.e.vi for clarification.
 - Section 10.g Six player limit at Championship.

ITEMS IN GREEN ARE PENDING; REVISIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER

September 3, 2019

2020 USA Curling College Championship 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 [2019-2020 USCA RULES of CURLING & Competition](#). 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 info@collegecurlingusa.org to request clarification.

II. Mission and Goals

The Mission of the USA Curling College Championship is to promote the growth of college curling through the establishment of a national championship, that encourages and rewards curlers attending a college or university, who compete against their peers at other academic institutions throughout the school year.

Trying to juggle classwork and curling can make it very difficult for students to dedicate an entire weekend to a traditional bonspiel. By keeping the time commitment to a minimum, permitting event format flexibility, and not locking the on-ice rinks to specific individual curlers, more students can participate in more competitive events over the course of a season.

There is great potential for alternative formats such as a “head-to-head” format, triangular or quad meets to make frequent and regular competitions between college curling clubs possible. Maintaining a smaller event size also makes it easier for college clubs to organize and host events and minimizes ice time requirements if rental costs are involved.

The Goal of the USA Curling College Championship is the promotion and development of on-campus curling clubs and curling activities. While many college/university campuses have curlers who participate in curling activities at nearby community curling clubs, few have formally organized into campus clubs. There are many advantages to being a recognized campus club, including increased student body exposure to curling activities and access to student organization funds that may help defray the costs of curling activities.

Notice:

USCA 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 USCA’s 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 USCA 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 against one other school, triangular, quad, and larger format 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. Individual Participant Eligibility

- a. "General Rules and Guidelines" Reference- Except as stated otherwise below, all participants must abide by the USCA General Rules and Guidelines in the USCA Rules of Curling & Competition. Download at <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/Events/Championships-microsite/Inside-the-Championships/Rules> , see Section 2, Rule 2, page 19.
- b. Individual Participant Eligibility Standard for the USA Curling College Championship and its Qualifying Events-
 - i. For participation in the USA Curling College Championship and its Qualifying Events, a participant must be, at all times, 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" would be expected to self-report to CCUSA in a timely fashion and withdraw from further merit point competition. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of any team merit 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 CCUSA championships, may be applied by the 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.

1.b. Individual Participant Eligibility (cont.)

- ii. All individual participants MUST register at <https://forms.gle/QP5Vs6AjcXxw2mKT8> by 11:59 pm Central Time, January 31, 2020.
- iii. There is no cost associated with this registration.
- iv. Individuals who do not register by the deadline date and time will not be eligible for the USA Curling College Championship, nor will they be eligible to earn points after February 10, 2020, until the registration list reopens.
- v. All individuals MUST be members of the US Curling Association no later than January 31, 2020. Schools will lose all points earned by teams with a participant who does not become a member of the USCA by the deadline.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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).
- viii. Participants are not required to be citizens of or reside in the United States.
- ix. No individual may play for more than one school in any given school year.

NOTE (1): USCA MEMBERSHIP AND PLAYER REGISTRATION ARE TWO SEPERATE ACTIONS. PLAYER REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY USCA MEMBERSHIP. USCA MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE ADDRESSED THROUGH YOUR LOCAL CURLING CLUB, USUALLY THROUGH MEMBERSHIP DUES WITH THAT CLUB.

ROSTER ELIGIBILITY INTERPRETATION: OUR PLAYER REGISTRATION WINDOW IS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 (APPROXIMATELY) TO THE FOLLOWING JANUARY 31. THOSE WHO ARE REGISTERED AS OF JANUARY 31 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ALL EVENTS UNTIL FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 1. 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 (SEE SECTION 4.C.) AND THEIR TEAM'S POINTS WILL BE VALID PROVIDED THEY MEET REGISTRATION QUALIFICATION AND REGISTER THE FOLLOWING FALL.

Examples:

- 1) a player registered by January 31, 2020, is eligible to participate in any event until September 1
- 2) a player who did not register by January 31, 2020, is not eligible for any event until September 1, 2020, and must register by January 31, 2021, for their team's point to be valid
- 3) a new curler who did not participate in any event prior to February 11, 2020, may play and earn points for their team on or after February 11, 2020, provided they meet eligibility requirements and register during the next registration window.

2. Relevant USCA Policies

a. Alcohol Consumption Policy –

- i. The USCA Alcohol Consumption Policy will be in effect for ALL College Curling Qualifying Events.
- ii. 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 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. Older players on a team with younger players who cannot drink alcohol may not encourage drinking by the underage members of their team.
- iv. Teams found to be in violation of this policy will, along with sanctions mentioned in said policy, have all Merit Points for the current school year voided and will be ineligible to play in the USA Curling College Championship for that year.

See “[2019-20 USCA Rules of Curling & Competition, Section II, Rule 4, p. 21](#)”.

NOTE: This link will take you to the current version available, which may be the 2018-19 Rules.

b. Transgender Policy -

- i. The USCA Transgender Participation Policy will be in effect for all College Curling Qualifying and Championship Events.
- ii. Full text of the USCA Transgender Policy may be downloaded at the following link (Left Column): <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/Events/Championships-microsite/Inside-the-Championships/National-Championship-Events>.
- iii. If a student has a problem or concern, they should call the USCA 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 USCA, 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 USCA, Anti-Doping Policy go to: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/For-Athletes/Anti-Doping>
- iv. For information regarding banned substances go to the USADA website: <https://www.usada.org/athlete-reminder-prohibited-list-in-effect/>

See “[2019-20 USCA Rules of Curling & Competition, Section II, Rule 11, p. 25](#)”.

NOTE: This link will take you to the current version available, which may be the 2018-19 Rules.

Section 2. Relevant USCA Policies (cont)

d. Athlete/Coach Code of Conduct –

- i. The USCA Athlete/Coach Code of Conduct Agreement applies to all USA Curling College Qualifying and Championship events.
- ii. This agreement may be found at <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/Events/Championships-microsite/Inside-the-Championships/Rules>)

e. USCA 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/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-SafeSport-Code-04.15.19-Hyperlinked.pdf>

- ii. The USCA 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.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/Sport-Education/SafeSport/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 USCA 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.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/Sport-Education/SafeSport/Report-an-Incident>

Section 2.e. USCA SafeSport Policy (cont)

- 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.uscurling.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).

3. Uniforms/Advertising/Cresting

- a. Uniforms- For Qualifying and Championship events, team members (including coaches) are encouraged but not required to wear like uniforms, including shirts, jackets, pants, and headgear. Names are not required on any uniform.
- b. 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 USCA. Teams should request approval for all sponsors cresting by writing and submitting a digital copy of the logo to the national office (entries@usacurl.org) at least two weeks in advance of the event.
 - i. Sponsors that will be categorically denied for this event include those that may not provide healthy lifestyles (bars, pubs, breweries, tobacco products, etc.).
 - ii. A USCA College Curling Committee representative may direct any team or player to remove or cover any advertising deemed objectionable by the USCA, before being allowed on the ice.
 - iii. 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.
- c. All Uniform/Advertising/Cresting rules not specifically addressed in parts Sections 3.a or 3.b above are subject to [2019-20 USCA Rules of Curling & Competition, Section II, Rule 7, p. 24](#).

NOTE: Link will take you to the current version available, which may be the 2018-19 Rules.

4. 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 USCA rule R11(a). Concessions prior to 6 ends of play are discouraged unless a team is behind by 10 points or more. 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 Large Round Robin and Bonspiel event formats as defined in Section 4.b., 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. 6-Game Limit- Merit Points for Head to Head, Triangular, and Quad events (as defined in Section 4.b.i) between any two specific schools will be limited to no more than six games overall through the season.
 - vii. Intraschool Points- Points earned in Large Round Robin events and Bonspiels when two teams from the same school play against each other. Intraschool points will not be permitted from Small Events or Conferences.
 - viii. **Validated Points – Points earned are “provisional” until all members of the team’s roster have registered as a player. Once a team’s full roster has registered, the “provisional” points they earned become “validated” points.**
- ##### b. Roster Submissions
- i. **All rosters for Tour Bonspiels and Large Events must be submitted before the start of the event using the form found at <https://forms.gle/5QC5qFohnAmjLmoX9>. For other events, including any Small-Event, Emerging Region Club-League event, or Emerging Region Non-College Bonspiel, rosters are submitted with the results report.**

Section 4.b. Qualifying Events-Roster Submissions (cont)

- ii. No on-ice substitutions are permitted from outside the submitted roster, and no roster substitutions are permitted once the roster is submitted.
- iii. Position players (Skip, Third, Second, and Lead) may only appear on one roster per event.
- iv. Alternates may appear on more than one roster per event provided they do not appear as a position player on any roster at an event.
- v. Teams submitting a three-person roster (Skip, Third, and Second, only) may not register an "Alternate" and must play with only three players. Failure of one of those players to participate will result in a "Forfeit" and zero points for that game. No "emergency" substitutes are permitted.

Example: An individual may appear as an Alternate at a particular bonspiel on more than one team. A position player (Skip, Third, Second, or Lead) may not appear as an "Alternate" on the roster of another team.

c. Event Type Definitions

- i. Small Events
 1. Head-to-Head- Consists of two schools playing directly against each other only.
 2. Triangular- Consists of three schools, each of which plays both other competing schools an equal number of times.
 3. Quad- Consists of four schools, each playing a complete round robin against the other three competing schools and doing so at one location in no more than two consecutive days.
 4. Small Round Robin- Consists of five schools, each playing a complete round robin against the other competing schools and doing so at one location in no more than two consecutive days.
- ii. Large Events
 1. Conference- Any event in which six or more schools compete, and each school plays against all other competing schools an equal number of times.
 - a. These events may take place over more than two dates and at more than one location.
 - b. Conference schools may play each other multiple times, but ALL must play an equal number of games against all other schools.
 - c. Any games in excess of the above minimum will be assigned to Head-to-Head status and the games will be reallocated towards the "6-Game Limit". If a pairing has otherwise exhausted its "6-Game Limit" no points can be earned.

EXAMPLE: A conference of six schools is established. The six schools play a complete round robin and begin a second-round robin. One of the six schools cannot compete in the second round-robin. The games played in the first-round robin fall under the "Conference" umbrella in terms of the "6-Game Limit" count. The games of the second-round robin fall outside of the "Conference" umbrella and are added to each school pairing count. The "Conference" provides the advantage of by-passing the "6-Game Limit" and some aspects of the "open and advertised" rule (7.e.1 below) but imposes a level of commitment from those schools involved.

Section 4.c.ii. Qualifying Events-Event Type Definitions (cont)

2. Large Round Robin- Consists of eight or more teams divided into pools. Large round-robin events most conform to the following requirements:
 - a. Minimum pool size is 4 teams.
 - 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.
 - 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 the 8-team minimum.
 - f. If unequal pool sizes result in a different number of games played per pool, pool play points will be normalized to the mean number of pool-play games played per team across all pools, per Appendix A (Page 24).

EXAMPLE: A pool play event with 14 teams results in 2 pools of 5 teams with each playing 4 games, and 1 pool of 4 teams playing 3 games each, the pool play points will be normalized to 3 2/3 games for all teams.

3. Bonspiel- Consists of eight or more teams from five or more schools participating in a bracketed or Schenkel format event that leads to a unique, typically undefeated 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.
- d. **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. **In-game timeouts for the purposes of coaching interaction are not permitted at any College Tour Qualifying Event, nor are players permitted to leave the ice to consult with a coach/player-coach while a game is underway.**
 - e. **Deadline for Small Qualifying Events, as defined above: Events held between February 11, 2019, and February 2, 2020, inclusive, with results posted no later than February 3, 2020, will be considered for the 2020 USA Curling College Championship qualifications.**
 - f. **Deadline for Large Qualifying Events, as defined above: Events held between February 11, 2019, and February 9, 2020, inclusive, with results posted no later than February 10, 2020, will be considered for the 2020 USA Curling College Championship qualifications.**
 - g. **Merit 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 Merit Point consideration is February 9, 2020 (January 31, 2020 for Head-to-Head and other "Small Events". February 10, 2020 is the first date that an event may take place for consideration for the 2021 USA Curling College Championship. Hence, an event that takes place the weekend of February 17, 2020, or later will be credited to the 2021 USA Curling College Championship.

Section 4. Qualifying Events (cont)

- h. **Qualifying Event Team Acceptance Priority:**
 - i. Teams will be accepted into College Tour Qualifying “Large” Events in the following order of priority up to the events stated size limit.
 1. First (4-player) team from the Host School.
 2. First (4-player) team from any school other than the host, in the order received.
 3. Split team submissions, if 2 or more players are with a school not represented by any other team (4-players required).
 4. Second (4-player) team from any school other than the host, in the order received.
 5. Second (4-player) team from the Host School.
 6. Split team submissions, if 3 or more players or more players are with a school not represented by any other team (4-players required).
 7. Third (4-player) team from any school other than the host, in the order received.
 8. Third (4-player) team from the Host School.
 9. Any 3-player team.
 10. Any additional team required to fill a bracket/pool.

5. Qualifying Event Formats

- a. Approved formats for Qualifying Events are defined in Section 4.b.
- b. Formats other than those listed are permitted if they meet the following standards:
 - i. Alternative formats must be submitted for approval by the USCA College Curling Committee at least two weeks in advance of the event. 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.
 - ii. Merit 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 one week for the review process.
 - iii. A maximum of two teams may participate from any hosting school(s); a host school may add a third team only if necessary, to make for an even number of teams in the event, and all other entries have been accepted. (See Section 4.g for team entry prioritization)
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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 3-4 draws.
 - vi. Maximum size of large events is 16 teams. Waivers of this rule may be obtained, providing the host can assure the integrity of the event.

6. Emerging Region

- a. 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. 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 11, 2019, and February 9, 2020, inclusive, with results, submitted or confirmed by a community club official and received no later than February 10, 2020.
 5. Merit Points will be awarded according to Section 7.a
 - ii. Results from participation in non-college only bonspiel events between February 11, 2019, and February 9, 2020, inclusive, with results submitted and confirmed by the event organizer and received no later than February 10, 2020 (schools claiming these points need to provide contact information of a club official who can verify the claim). 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 the USCA website <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-curling/events-section> (search under "Bonspiel") will be accepted.
 - iii. If you are uncertain as to an event's eligibility contact the USA Curling College Committee Chair for review. Please allow one week for the review process.
 - vii. Merit Points will be awarded according to Section 7.a.

7. Merit 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. All Bonspiels and Large Round Robin Events as defined in Section 4.b.ii.
 1. One point per person on-ice for the winning team.
 2. One-half point per person on-ice for the losing team.
 3. The sum of the points awarded above will be normalized to adjust for the potential of an unequal number of games due to bracketing or unequal pool sizes, according to the equation and Table Found in Appendix A (Page 24).
 4. Four bonus points will be added after the points are normalized for the winner of a Qualifying Event Championship game.
 5. Two points will be added after the points are normalized for the loser of a Qualifying Event Championship game.
 6. The “Championship Game” and the path to it must be clearly identified in the pre-event draw sheet.
 - ii. For all other event formats as listed in section 4.b., points will be awarded as follows, one point per person on-ice for the winning team, one-half point per person on-ice for the losing team.
 - iii. Points awarded to Emerging Region events will be as follows:
 1. For non-college bonspiels, one point per person on-ice for the winning team, one-half point per person on-ice for the losing team.
 2. For club-league play, two points per win (regardless of the number of participants), zero points for a loss.
 - iv. The number of people on-ice at the start of any game will be used for calculating points for that game.

EXAMPLE: A team playing with 4 players will receive 4 points per win and 2 points per loss. A team playing with 3 players will receive 3 points per win and 1 1/2 points per loss. A team that starts a game with 4 players, but one withdraws due to injuries will receive points for 4 players.

- b. Host Schools (as defined in Section 4.a.ii) will earn Merit Points for events larger than two 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 or Conference as defined in Section 4.b.
 - ii. Games outside of Event’s advertised format (i.e. “pick-up games”) will not be accepted, except as follows:
 1. If more teams register than the event’s advertised format can accommodate, and ice time is available, head to heads may be scheduled at the same time as the advertised event.
 2. Members of the head to head teams may **NOT** play in the advertised event and vice-versa, even as alternates.

7.c Qualifying Event Merit Point Limitations (cont)

- iii. Small Events as defined in Section 4.b.i
 1. No school is permitted to field more teams than any other school.
 2. Events with five 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 or Conference.
 2. Bonspiels- 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 4.g, Page 12)
 3. Large Round Robin- 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.

EXAMPLE: If an event is held with three schools, two of which bring two teams, it will be considered a Triangular event with one team from each school playing in the Triangular plus a Head to Head event between the second teams from each of the two schools which brought them.

- d. Invitational Events- Are not permitted for any Qualifying Event with more than 3 schools participating, except "Conferences."
 - i. All Qualifying Events planned for 4 or more schools must be: "open and advertised," published on the College Curling USA website calendar, and open to all registrants. Failure to do so will result in non-recognition of the event.
 - ii. Conferences must initially be "open and advertised" to potential members for a period of four weeks. After the first draw has begun, that grouping is closed for the remainder of the season. Conferences should reopen and advertise annually.
- e. 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. Three-person teams and 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. For Emerging Region Club-League play, the Opposing Skip may act as the disinterested third party,
 2. Large Events- For each event:
 - i. 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.

Section 7.e Reporting Merit Points (cont)

3. Disinterested third party:
 - a. For Large College Tour Events as defined in Section 4.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.
- iii. Report submission responsibility
 1. For Small Events as defined in Section 4.b.i both skips will be responsible for submitting an event report along with their team rosters.
 2. For Large Events, each team will be responsible for submitting their roster report, but not for submission of event results with exceptions as noted in 7.e.i.
- iv. POINT REPORTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION.
- v. The Roster/Results reporting form will be available online at the College Curling USA website, our Facebook Page, and emailed to the contact person for each school available.
- vi. Point Validation
 1. Submitted rosters will be checked against the list of registered players.
 2. All game results are considered provisional until all players are registered with as members of the United States Curling Association. If a listed player does not register by January 31, 2020, that game will be forfeited, the opposition will be awarded the points they earned, and the offending team will be awarded 0 points.
 3. If both teams have unregistered players listed after the deadline, the game results will be nullified.
 4. If teams lose points because of ineligible players in head-to-head, triangular and/or quad events, the game will still count towards the maximum allowed against that opponent.

V. Championship Event

8. Invitations to USA Curling College Championship

- a. Invitations for the field of sixteen will go to the schools with the most validated Merit Points at the end of the season.
- b. 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 points the previous year. 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 that earned the most points three (3) years prior, and so forth until the tie is broken.
- c. All point and roster reports are due no later than 11:59 pm, Monday, February 10, 2020.

9. Acceptance of Championship Invitation

- a. Invitations to the USA Curling College Championship will be announced on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.
- b. Schools will have until Noon ET, Monday, February 17, 2020, 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 five days to accept their place in the field of 16.
- d. Any school accepting a position in the field of sixteen 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.

10. Eligibility

- a. Individual participants are eligible to compete if they have met all the requirements outlined in Section 1 above and have appeared on the participating roster for two or more Qualifying Events during the season.
- b. **To participate in the Championship, individual participants MUST RE-REGISTER at <http://leagues.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=769668> by 11:59pm Central Time, March 1, 2020. There is a \$10 fee associated with the registration. Qualifying event individuals who do not re-register will NOT be Championship eligible, and not permitted to compete.**
- c. **The USA Curling College Championship is an ALCOHOL-FREE EVENT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. No alcohol should 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 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 when they did not do so, alcohol testing strips (a saliva test) will be used to determine if a violation has been made. Alcohol testing strips will be administered with at least two officials or event organizers 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.

- 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. Register at <http://leagues.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=769668> by 11:59pm Central Time, March 1, 2020, and pay a \$10 fee associated with the registration.
 - ii. Be designated on the line-up form for each Championship game.
 - iii. Be at least 21 years of age
 - iv. 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.**
 - v. 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>
 - vi. At least two weeks before but no more than two years before the Championship, complete the USOC 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.
 - vii. **Further instructions will be made available when the national SafeSport Code is finalized by the U.S. Center for SafeSport.**

Section 10 Eligibility (cont)

- 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.

11. 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 a 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. Parents or legal guardians must sign the participant release for students under the age of 18 on the day that the championship begins.
- c. All player's names will be checked against the championship registration list of eligible players (see Section 10.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

12. Championship Rules and Procedures

- a. Full Championship procedures may be found in "[2020 College Championship- Event Procedures Document.pdf](#)".

NOTE: Link will take you to the current version available, which may be the 2019 Championship Event Procedures Document or a "Draft" version of the 2020 document. Use this document for planning purposes only. The "Final" 2020 version will be available by early February 2020 and will be similar to the 2019 version unless announced well in advance of the invitation process. The "Final" 2020 version will be distributed to all Championship invitees.

13. Championship Format

- a. For Game Format, Pools, Pool Play, Draw Shot Challenge (DSC), and Medal Round details, see *Section 8 of "2020 College Championship- Event Procedures Document.pdf"* at the link found in Section 12.a above.
- 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 12.a above.
- d. Group Round
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Schools will initially be seeded into groups in descending order according to their overall accumulated Merit 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

- iii. 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, head-to-head win-loss record during qualifying events, home curling club, prior Championship pairings, and other factors the committee may deem appropriate.
- e. Championship Round
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Gold/Silver/Bronze medallions plus banners will be awarded to the Championship Bracket in accordance with traditional results. Championship 4th place and the Consolation Bracket winner will also receive banners, but no medallions.
 - iv. After the Group Round is completed, team placement into the Championship or Consolation Bracket will be according to the following criteria.

Situation 1 (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.

Section 13.e.iv. Championship Format (cont)

Situation 2 (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 (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 have 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 LSD (best five of six). For the first round, draw assignments will be based on 1-8, 2-7, etc. with a fixed bracket thereafter.

APPENDIX A - Bonspiel Event Point Normalization Procedure

Bracketed Events		Pooled Events (round-robin games only)	
Number of Teams	Normalized Value (NV)	Number of Teams	Normalized Value (NV)
8-9	3.0	4-4, 4-4-4, 4-4-4-4	3.0
10-13	3.5	4-4-5	3.33
14-19	4.0	4-5	3.5
20-27	4.5	4-5-5	3.67
28-45	5.0	5-5, 5-5-5	4.0

In normal Bonspiel Bracketed Events that do not have a number of teams equaling a power of two (such as 8, 16 or 32), participants end up playing an unequal number of games simply due to the bracket design. This penalizes those teams in "short brackets" and rewards those in "long brackets." This results in the potential for a runner up to earn more points than an event winner.

For an event with eight teams, a single event winner can be determined in three games (16 teams would require four games, 32 teams would require 5 games, and so forth).

MATH GEEK SECTION:

Note that this is a logarithmic relationship of $\frac{\log(\text{teams})}{\log(2)}$. That means the theoretical number of games to determine a winner of a 13-team field would be $\frac{\log(13)}{\log(2)} = 3.71$ games.

In practice, some teams will play 4 games; others will play 3 games.

MERIT POINTS CORRECTION:

The Math Geek Section relationship has been simplified into the table above. To calculate the points awarded to any bonspiel participant, the following formula will be used (Assuming that the team plays with 4 players).

$$\text{Points} = \frac{((4*W)+(2*L))*NV}{(W+L)}$$

Where NV = normalized value

The overall winner/runner-up bonus will be applied AFTER the other points are normalized.

Examples:

- A winner (4-0) in a spiel with a NV=4 would be $((16 + 0) * 4)/4 = 16.0 + 4$ (overall winner bonus) = 20.0
- B winner (3-1) in a spiel with NV=4 would be $((12 + 2) * 4)/4 = 14.0$ (no change, same for D-winner in Eastern spiel)
- C winner (3-2) in a spiel with NV=4 would be $((12 + 4) * 4)/5 = 12.8$ (note loss of 4.2 points)
- B runner up (2-2) in a spiel with NV=4 would be $((8 + 4) * 4)/4 = 12.0$ (no change)
- C runner up (2-3) in a spiel with NV=4 would be $((8 + 6) * 4)/5 = 11.2$ (note loss of 2.8 points)
- Wooden spoon (0-3) in a spiel with NV=4 would be $((0 + 6) * 4)/3 = 8.0$ (note gain of 2.0 points)