



## **Bonspiel Guide for Organizers**

---

**2018-2019 Season**

**Version 1.0**

**Please e-mail all questions and concerns  
regarding this Bonspiel Guide to  
[albertajuniorcurling@gmail.com](mailto:albertajuniorcurling@gmail.com)**

**Created: August 9, 2018**

**Last Updated: August 27, 2018**

## Introduction

Thank you for registering your bonspiel with the Alberta Junior Curling Tour (AJCT). We appreciate your support in helping us fulfill our mandate of improving the caliber of junior curling in the province, and our ultimate goal of having Alberta teams stand atop the podium at National competitions.

This booklet has been created for you, the bonspiel organizer, for the intent to provide some consistency of the junior and U18 bonspiels throughout the province. By following these best practices and our recommendations, the AJCT will be able to accurately award points based on results, and rank teams accordingly. By working with Curling Alberta (the new ACF) and the new Alberta Excel Program, we will be able to provide these teams with added value by having consistent formats, helping them prepare for regional playdown and Provincial Championships.

The Excel Program qualifies teams for additional funding through Curling Alberta, and provides sport science services such as strength and conditioning, nutrition and sports psychology. Three U21 teams and eight U18 teams of each gender will qualify for the program based on Curling Alberta's ranking system, which relies heavily on the AJCT.

Our secondary purpose of providing this booklet is to help make better bonspiels. This will attract higher caliber teams to your event and increase sponsorship potential. We want your event to be as successful as possible and teams to leave your club thinking that they will want to return again next year. The AJCT is here for you and can provide any assistance that you need. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

**The most important change for the 2018-2019 season is the addition of the 5-rock rule for all levels of competition.** Please ensure that your bonspiel is following this rule.

If we deem necessary, and only in extreme cases, the AJCT may not award points to teams participating in your event if the format does not suit our needs and the needs of the curlers. Please take the time to read through our guidelines and incorporate our suggestions in to your event. If you have any questions, please contact us by email at [albertajuniorcurling@gmail.com](mailto:albertajuniorcurling@gmail.com).

## Recommended Bonspiel Formats

We appreciate that clubs will have different restrictions when running a Junior Bonspiel, including number of sheets, ice availability, staff, payout, etc. These are the recommended guidelines for hosting an AJCT events that we encourage all bonspiels to follow.

Item	Acceptable Minimum	Recommended - Best	Acceptable Maximum
Number of Teams per Gender	8	16	24
Genders		All AJCT Events must be split between Female and Male teams	
Entry Fee	\$200	\$250-\$300	\$500
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Prize	\$800	\$1000-\$1200	
Guaranteed # of Games	3	4	
Qualification for Playoffs		Pools or Triple Knockout	
# of Qualifiers for Playoffs	4	8	8
Seeding	Random seeding	Based on current AJCT Standings	
# of Ends	8	8	10
Game Tiebreaking	Draw to the Button (single or team)	Extra End (as many as needed)	
Free Guard Zone		<b>All events <u>must</u> use the new 5-rock rule</b>	
Pre-Game Practice	None	2 rocks per player each direction	
Determination of Hammer	Coin toss	Draw to the button	
Playoff Seeding	Round Robin record	Round Robin record + draw to button score	

## POOL PLAY

If your bonspiel is using pools to determine the playoff qualifiers, the following is recommended.

- More playoff qualifiers than number of pools
  - Example (**Acceptable**): 4 pools of 4 teams, 8 qualifiers
  - Example (Unacceptable): 5 pools of 4 teams, 4 qualifiers
- Be clear on how teams will qualify for the playoffs
  - Example: Top 2 from each pool
- Have clear tiebreaking procedures
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Head-To-Head
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Draw to the Button or other Skills Competition
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tiebreaker game

## TRIPLE KNOCKOUT

If your bonspiel is using a triple knockout draw to determine playoff qualifiers, please keep the following in mind.

- Seed teams based on current AJCT Standings
- Ensure the loser's bracket crosses over appropriately
- For example draws, please contact the AJCT

## PLAYOFFS

- Ensure that all quarter-final and then semi-final games are played at the same times (Example: All QFs at 9am, Both SFs at 11am)
- Seed teams based on round robin results (1 vs 8, 4 vs 5, 2 vs 7, 3 vs 6)
- Higher seeded team get choice of hammer or practice/rock colour

## Rules of Play

- All events will follow the 2018-2022 Curling Canada Rules for General Play.
- Please note that all bonspiels registered on the AJCT **must** use the new 5-rock Free Guard Zone rule.
- All events must follow AND enforce the Curling Canada Moratorium on Brush Head use. Only approved brush heads (mustard yellow colour with manufacturer serial number) may be used. Please be strict.
- A designated member of the Organizing Committee will handle all disputes as it relates to the event.
- If present, an AJCT rep will handle all disputes regarding the AJCT.