

Curling Conference Call Meeting Minutes

Date: Nov 19, 2014

Time : 8 pm to 9 pm

Location:

Toll-free dial in number: (866) 269-6685

Conference code: 8003959138

Special Olympics
Ontario



Call to order

Attendance

Provincial Convenor: Kevin Payne

Brush Conference: Frank Hoevenaars, Dee Hoevenaars, Darlene Wood, Jane Larkworthy

Button Conference: Shelley Bellamy

Guard Conference: Linda Milbert, Barbara Pallister-Smith, Charlie Holmes, Kimberly Hotrum, Steve Dawe

Hacks Conference: Stuart Reid, Bill McCormick, John Murphy, Ulysse Nevrumont, Louise Staranczak, Catherine Croteau

House Conference: Joanne Woods

Slider Conference: Heather Strain, Nancy Leeson, Janet Anning

Special Olympics Ontario: Dia Sue-Wah-Sing, Jennifer Findlay

Regrets: Ted Lister, Georgia Klym-Skeates, Debbie (samdeb@bmts.com)

1. Overview of Sport Rules

1. Recent Changes

-The 2014-2015 Curling Rule Supplement was discussed for the majority of the call. There were a number of questions regarding the process used to make changes to the document and how the document was distributed.

Comments included:

Did not receive rule supplement

Was decision made in agreement with all coaches or just at the top level

As a new coach I do not know where to go for information and the Rule supplement was not sent out

The rule supplement is a document which, for the last 7 years, has been updated on a yearly bases by the Curling Technical Team and posted prior to the start of the season. This year feedback was gathered by the Sport & Coach Developer from last years competition hosts. The newly appointed Curling Provincial Convenor along with the Sport & Coach and Sport & Competition Developers worked on updating the rule supplement in lieu of a curling technical team as there were no Conference Convenors identified at the time.

ATHLETE'S OATH

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



Conference Convenors will work with the Provincial Convenor on any future updates to the Rule Supplement.

The Rule Supplement, similar to the Sport Rules, do not get sent out to all coaches. One of the reasons a pre-season coaches call is held is to ensure all coaches are aware of where to find the rules, and to discuss any issues or concerns regarding the rules.

-Concerns were also raised regarding the change to the time that teams have prior to starting their 4th end.

Comments included:

How are athletes supposed to play a game in 50 minutes

15 minute ends are tight

The new supplement reduces the time limits by 20 minutes

As part of an overall realignment with the SOC and generic rules the change was made to point 4 of the supplement.

Games are not to be finished in 50 minutes, teams have up to 50 minutes to start their 4th end.

Consistance through competition streams were discussed and the fact that the timing falls in line with the generic side of the sport and for the timing which is used at National Games.

A point of clarification was also made regarding rule amendments for invitational competitions. As stated in the competition host guidelines on the information portal ([11.05.2](#)) invitation hosts can make rule amendments by submitting the amended rule for approval to the Sport & Competition Developer and including the approved rule amendment in the competition invitation. If hosts have the ice time and would like to allow for longer ends at their competition they can do so by following the above stated procedure.

The timing as outlined in the rule supplement will be used at the North Bay Provincial Games. Provincial Games coaches will have an opportunity to discuss this further on their Sport Tech phone conference.

Some coaches suggested that latitude will need to be made for the C & D level teams attending Provincial Games and because the athletes will be playing 6 end games and things will start to slow down

A clarification was made regarding stop time, as outlined in the [SOC Curling Rules](#) stop time will still be used: "Playing time excludes time outs, mid-game break, fair play time outs and injury time."

The discussion was recapped by the Sport & Coach Developer:

The timing will stay as it stands for the 2014-2015 season



We need to try this out and give the athletes a change to play to these standards

Feedback is always welcome and encouraged

Kevin mentioned to the group that Conference Convenors are needed. A committee will be formed with the conference convenors to work on the rule supplement prior to the 2015-2016 season.

-A clarification was asked for regarding point 9 iv of the rule supplement regarding how 3 games will be played for a 3 team division

For the purpose of advancement all teams that are in contention to advance at a qualifying competition must play 3 games. In a 3 team division that means that after the round robin a final is played between the 1st and 2nd place teams.

-A coach asked to close the topic with the following question

Why is SOO not willing to change the document when it is supposed to be fluid

The SOO Rule Supplement, similar to the OCA Rule Supplement is created prior to the start of the season and it is in place for the season. A committee convenes prior to each season to make recommendations and changes to the document. SOO follows the same process.

Athletes and coaches need to give the new parameters a chance and work towards meeting the SOO and generic timing.

2. Upcoming Competitions

1. Barriers

1. A definition regarding competition barriers was asked for. In the case of SOO competitions, barriers could include: teams not having the budgets to travel to multiple competitions, coaches being unavailable to travel, multiple competitions for various sports being held on the same weekend, and athletes not wanting to or being unable to travel for competition.
2. Wheel Chair curling was discussed
 1. Will SOO cover the cost to have ramps built and installed?- No, we can work with clubs and curling centres to help identify possible grant opportunities.
 2. SOO did not create the rule regarding Wheel Chair curling, rather are aligning with the CCA rules. You can access the CCA rules through [section 14](#) of the [Information Portal](#).



2. Non traditional options
 1. Non traditional options were briefly discussed, these could include: practice swaps-teams in close proximity could choose to alternate attending each others practice sessions to hold friendly competitions.
 2. SOO is also looking into virtual options, this would be more of a skills and drills competition. Awards will be handed out and the website will be fun and accessible for the athletes.

3. Coaching Opportunities

1. Training
 1. Shelley Bellamy attended a recent OCA competitive Coaching Clinic- there was lot of valuable information provided and she highly recommends coaches take the course.
2. Curling Forum
 1. All coaches are encouraged to start using the [Curling Forum](#); ask questions, share ideas, look for updates and coaching opportunities.
3. Convenor positions
 1. We are looking for volunteers to fill the convenor positions for all conferences except for the Button conference. Conference Convenors will work with the Provincial Convenor to advance the sport of curling in SOO. The convenors will work together as a committee on rule changes, rule supplement updates and tournament format guidelines. If you are interested in being a conference convenor please connect with [Jenn Findlay](#) or [Kevin Payne](#).

4. New Business

1. Database clean up
Action: All coaches are asked to check their club registration report (ask your community council for one). Ensure the correct athletes and coaches are on the report and have any updates or changes made that are needed.

5. Questions

1. Is Curling going to be an SOI sport at World Games
 1. SOO has been advocating for the inclusion of curling at the world games level. It is not currently on the list of sports to be held at the 2017 SO World Winter Games in Austria.

6. Next Conference Call Date & Time

To be determined. Coaches asked for another call to be held in early December. SOO is currently looking for volunteers to fill Conference Convenor positions. Conference Convenors would be responsible for hosting calls for the coaches from their conference. This will make the calls more manageable and will allow for more



targeted call agendas depending on the need of the coaches in a certain conference.

Action: Coaches were asked to send feedback to Kevin over the next couple of weeks regarding topics they would like to discuss on the next call. Kevin will use the provided information to set the next conference call agenda.

Action: Anyone interested in taking on the role of Convenor for their conference please connect with [Jenn Findlay](#) or [Kevin Payne](#).

Adjournment

9:20pm