

## U18 MEN'S and WOMENS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1. Overview:** the USCA U18 National Championships are a regional-based, geographic championship aimed at determining our top under 18-aged teams from within the USCA regions. Teams move through the playdown process via the traditional state and regional championships. See section 5 below. U18 National Champions do not advance to world play.
- 2. Event Eligibility:** Any player who is less than 18 years of age at any time during the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June of the year immediately preceding the year the competition is to take place, and is a citizen of the United States as of registration deadline. All players must be league playing member of a USCA member club within the registered region.
- 3. Entry Process and Playdown Window:** The playdown entry deadline and playdown windows are set to ensure no conflicts with the Junior National Challenge round dates.

\*All regional playdowns must be completed at a minimum of three weeks prior to the national event.

- 4. Playdown Process and Format:** Twelve U18 Men's and twelve U18 Women's teams will be selected as follows:
  - (i) One team is allotted from each of the following regions: Alaska, Colorado/At-Large, GLCA, Illinois, MACA, MOPAC, Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin. In addition, two teams will be allotted for the GNCC.
  - (ii) Fill Policy – In the event that one or more regions are unable to field a team, the vacant slot(s) will be filled to a total of twelve teams, beginning with the host club, and proceeding with the other regions in order of number of entries.

**(a) Regional Competition Advancement:** Each region is responsible for determining its representatives to the U18 National Championship. Regions are encouraged to use the USCA format formula as described in Section II, but not required.

**(b) Finals Format:** The championship finals will be a split round-robin event, with two divisions of 6 teams each. Seeding will be determined by the Junior Development Director. The round robins may be set up in a way that allows marquee matches in prime viewing time, as long as the drawmaster determines that the round robin schedule remains fair in terms of time of play and sheet repetition. The top two teams from each division advance to semifinals (A1 v. B2, B1 v. A2). The semifinal winners play in the gold medal game, the semifinal losers play in the bronze medal game. When teams are tied for a play-off position, a maximum of one session of tie-breakers will be played to determine which team(s) advances to the play-offs. Team(s) can be eliminated, without playing an extra game, if more than one session of tie-breakers would be required. The relative ranking of the advancing teams will be determined by the Chief Umpire according to Section IV (O).

- 5. International Representation:** The winning teams shall represent the USA at the U18 Players Championship Slam (Canada). Curling Canada U18 Championship