

MoPac Policy and Process for U18 Berth Selection To the U18 USA Curling National Championships

I. Policy

1. **Purpose:** The Mountain Pacific Curling Association (“MoPac”) Policy for U18 curlers sets out the guiding principles in support of under-18 curler players as well as providing the process by which berth selection is conducted for the region.
2. **Policy Statement:** The MoPac region supports and encourages young curlers ages 18 and under to participate in competitive curling events. Youth curlers are the future of the sport and creating a positive, welcoming and supportive experience provides youth within the MoPac region with an opportunity to do their best and hopefully make the sport a lifelong endeavor.
3. **Definitions:** See the *USA Curling Rules of Curling and Competition* for definitions used in this Policy. In addition, the following definitions shall be used by the MoPac region.
 - A. Youth Selections Committee. The group tasked with reviewing MoPac Berth applications in situations where no playdowns are held due to a lack of more than one boys or one girls teams. The group shall consist of at least the MoPac Youth Committee Chair, the MoPac Competitions Chair and the region’s President or Vice President. Email: YouthSelections@mopacca.org.
 - B. USA Curling U18 National Championships: A regional-based, geographic championships aimed at determining our top under 18-aged teams from within the USA Curling regions. *See section 5 below.* U18 National Champions do not advance to world play.
 - C. Competitions Chair: The MoPac Competitions Chairperson.
 - D. Youth/Juniors Committee Chair: The MoPac Committee Chairperson who oversees the MoPac Youth aka MoPac Juniors event planning, monitoring and acting as liaison to USA Curling on junior events.
 - E. Region’s President and Vice President: the two current, principal MoPac Board officers who serve as President and Vice President.
4. **Selection Guidance:**
 - A. The MoPac Under 18 selection process attempts to allow the region’s young curlers the opportunity to hone their curling skills.
 - B. The primary goals of youth participation is to gain experience in the competition system, to practice their sportsmanship and to learn about the collaborative work involved in team competitions.
 - C. The selection process shall judge the qualifications of the curlers based upon the application. Parents’ and guardians’ advice on the skills of their young curlers outside the application process will not be considered for purposes of the selection process.

- D. The coaches of any selected teams shall adhere to all USA Curling Rules of Competition and shall be presumed to have knowledge of the same.

II. Procedures

1. **Purpose:** MoPac Policy for U18 Berth Selection includes guidance on the process for berth selections. USA Curling annually provides the MoPac region with regionally-based berths for one (1) boys and one (1) girls teams to attend the National Championships which typically take place on dedicated ice outside of the region. The MoPac region shall accept applications for U18 teams, or individual curler(s) not part of a team, and may conduct playdowns where more than one boys or one girls team registers their interest in participation.
2. **Event Eligibility:**
 - A. Any player who is less than 18 years of age at any time during the 30th day of June of the year immediately preceding the year (ie. June 30, 2023 for 2024 season) the competition is to take place, and is a resident (no minimum residency required) of the United States as of registration deadline. Residency is established by lawful and continuous presence within the United States for a period of 12 months immediately prior to April 1st of the year in which the competition is to take place, except for brief and infrequent trips outside of the United States and except, as to full-time foreign students, for school vacation periods. U.S. citizens are eligible for all events without regard to residency.
 - B. All players must be dues-paying members of a USA Curling member club within the MoPac region. The dues must be current as of the date of the application submission.
 - C. As stated, all players must be dues-paying members of the MoPac region. This does not bar a player who is also a dues-paying member of a different region so long as the player is also a current dues-paying fees member of a MoPac club as defined in Section B. A ruling by the Youth Selection Committee shall be required for any player designating their homeclub as outside of the MoPac region.
 - D. When self-forming teams, the teams and/or their parents/guardians acknowledge that in the spirit of curling, it is preferred that all members of a team designate a MoPac club as their primary club for USA Curling membership. However, a MoPac primary club designation may not always be possible and youth curlers holding a primary membership in a club outside of MoPac may still register with a MoPac team so long as the eligibility requirements of all team members are met as explained above.
 - E. All coaches and team officials must be at least 21 years of age and have an updated profile on MyUSACurling with SafeSport requirements, review MAAPPs and have an updated Background Screen. USA Curling coaches are required for all USA Curling junior events. Legal Guardian consent forms are required for all minor athletes giving consent to a supervising adult or coach when a legal parent or guardian is not present or accompanying a minor athlete. Consent forms are to be carried by all designated

coaches and supervising adults. Further all coaches must hold a current USA Curling membership of Competitor/Coach level.

Note: MoPac is required to follow USA Curling Rules of Curling and Competition and Event Eligibility requirements and will not advance any player to the selected team who currently competes or competed during the season in question on a team at another region's playdown leading to an U18 berth to the National Championship.

3. Team Selection:

Committed Teams must submit a completed application via email to YouthSelections@mopacca.org by 11:59pm PDT on October 15th of the current year. The Competitions Chair will share the applications with the Youth Selections Committee. Teams will be notified of selection by November 1st of the current year if no playdown is necessary. If a playdown is necessary due to seeding two or more same-sex teams, the teams shall be notified by October 25th of the current year. Please note:

- A. A selections committee, consisting of at least the Youth/Juniors Committee Chair, Competitions Chair and the MoPac President will consider the following when making team selections: past curling history (including league, bonspiel, competitive play, participation in camps or other training), history of playing together as a team, willingness to grow and improve the sport, and positive representation of the spirit of curling.
- B. Because of the geographic size of the region, the Youth Selections Committee does not want to place more burden on junior teams. If multiple teams submit applications, the MoPac Region reserves the right to conduct a playdown to determine the team that shall proceed to nationals. That said, playdowns may be required as a way to determine which team may receive a coveted berth. If playdowns are necessary, MoPac reserves the right to collect playdown registration fees from the competing teams.
- C. Playdowns may be necessary when more than one same-sex team applies for the U18 berth. However, playdowns may also be necessary when enough individual players register to make up at least two teams. In such situations, the individual players, through their legal guardians/parents, shall be encouraged to form teams. The Youth Selection Committee shall, in these circumstances, share contact information among the individuals' legal guardians so they can self-determine their teams. Those self-selected teams shall then be scheduled for a playdown to determine the team to receive the berth. Similarly, if one team registers and at least four other individuals register separately, the four individuals registering shall be considered a team and entered as such into a playdown.
- D. In situations where only five or six curlers apply as individuals and two separate teams cannot be formed, the Youth Selections Committee reserves the right to designate a 5th player from the applicant pool if a team registers. MoPac cannot guarantee that such team formation will result in a team that works as a harmonious unit but such situations

may allow youth curlers the opportunity to improve communications styles that can enhance team dynamics.

- E. All members of teams selected, except in cases of major injury, illness, or other exceptional circumstance, are expected to participate in the U18 National Championships. If it becomes known that a player on a team that is selected submitted their name as part of the application process with no intention of moving on to the championship, the team may be disqualified. It is important to keep the Spirit of Curling at the forefront and not apply if a player has no intention of playing in the championship.
- F. A one time \$500 stipend shall be awarded to (1) boys team and (1) girls team that is selected for the MoPac berth. Stipend use is limited to direct costs such as uniforms, competition brush heads, or the USA Curling Team Registration Fee. The stipend may not be used to cover the Coach membership level or any Coach registration fee. Teams are responsible for all travel costs and meals, including coach travel and meal expenses. Itemized receipts of purchases made with the stipend must be sent to treasurer@mopacca.org within 30 days of the national championship event finals.

4. **Applying for position on team:**

Submission of an application does not guarantee that the applicant will represent the MoPac region in the U18 National Championships. If multiple U18 curlers apply and form more than one boys and one girls team, a playdown shall be required to seed the team to take the berth. Hence, the Application is merely a way to show interest in a team position and to request consideration by the Selection Committee.

- A. **Deadline Observance.** All deadlines for applications for the MoPac berth shall be posted by MoPac. Any U18 curler or U18 team must follow all instructions to apply including the observance of deadlines. Applications submitted after the deadline shall not be considered for the U18 berth selection.
- B. **Application Forms.** All teams must complete the following forms:
 - 1) The Team Application Form, which should be completed by a coach or parent/legal guardian.
 - 2) The Individual Achievement Form, which must be completed for each team member. (Players applying as individuals need not fill out the Team application form.)
- C. **Form Submission.** To be considered for a position, the completed application package must be emailed to YouthSelections@mopacca.org. Providing the form to a MoPac coach is not sufficient submission. All applications shall receive an email confirmation for the forms receipt. It is the responsibility of the submitting party to ensure the application for was received.

5. **Region Withdrawal.** The MoPac region may relinquish its berth for a season in situations where the region lacks sufficient number of players to seed a 4-person team. Before the berth is returned to USA Curling, the MoPac Competitions Chair together with any MoPac Junior/Youth Committee, and MoPac Junior Coach shall exhaust all requests to seek eligible U18 participants.
6. **Excuse letters.**
 - A. **Playdowns.** Should a MoPac playdown be required which would mean an U18 curler missing school letters can be provided to submit to the U18 player's school to help explain their absence. Parents/guardians can contact the Competitions Chair, competitions@mopacca.org to request a letter for the U18 curler they hold legal custody over.
 - B. **National Championship.** Upon request, those U18 curlers who are selected for the MoPac berths and therefore missing school to compete in the USA Curling U18 National Championship can be provided letters to submit to their school to help explain their absence while participating. Parents/guardians can contact competitions@mopacca.org to request a letter for the U18 participant they hold legal custody over.
7. **Practice and Play:** Parents' information about their youths' skills is welcomed by coaches, however, coaches should be allowed to provide the strategy training necessary to ensure the youths have the most beneficial learning experience possible. Unless a parent is the team coach a parent should not attempt to coach their youth during a practice or game.

For further questions about this policy contact: the MoPac Youth Selections Committee at YouthSelections@mopacca.org

Appendix

TEAM APPLICATION

Coaches or team organizers should complete a single Team Application for each U18 team entry. This form will be used to track Individual Achievement forms submitted by coaches and/or players. If an individual with no organized team wishes to be considered they should submit an Individual Application.

Team Gender: male female

Information about Coach:

Coach must be over 21, registered with the USA Curling Coaches Association, pass a background check, and complete the USOC SafeSport training.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Phone: _____

Information about SKIP/Player 1:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Phone: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Years of Curling Experience: _____

Information about Player 2:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Phone: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Years of Curling Experience: _____

Information about Player 3:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Phone: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Years of Curling Experience: _____

Information about Player 4:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Phone: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Years of Curling Experience: _____

Information about Player 5:

While a fifth is optional, information about a fifth applying with the team should be completed below.

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Phone: _____ 8

Club Affiliation: _____

Years of Curling Experience: _____

By submitting this Team Application I, on behalf of the team members and their legal custodians, agree to the region's terms and conditions and I affirm that I have all permissions from the players and their legal custodians to make this claim.

TEAM ACHIEVEMENT FORM

All teams are **REQUIRED** to submit the Individual Achievement Form. If an individual player would like to submit an additional optional achievement form they are welcome to. Please use the Team achievement form as a template.

All forms must be received by 11:59pm PST on _____ to be considered.

Please note: All participants must be less than 18 years old as of June 30, 20____, and be a resident of the United States. Proof of residency (school ID, driver's license, etc) must be either attached to this form (see below), emailed to YouthSelections@mopacca.org by the application deadline.

By submitting this form all team members and team coach(es) agree to respect the decision of the MoPac Youth Selections Committee on the selection of the team given the berth.

All information **MUST** include applicant name, position, and name of skip/Player 1.

First and Last Name of Team Skip/Player 1: _____

(expected) 3rd Position on Team: _____

(expected) 2nd Position on Team: _____

(expected) 1st Position on Team: _____

(optional) 5th Alternate Position on Team: _____

Please note your participation (and place finished, when appropriate) in each of the categories that apply below:

Competitive Championships and Events (include event name, club/region in which event was held, skip's name, teammates (if different than team applying), and where you finished in the standings):

Bonspiels (include name of bonspiel, club at which bonspiel was held, year, skip's name, teammates (if different than team applying), and where you finished in the standings):

League play (include type of league, club at which league took place, year, skip's name, teammates (if different than team applying), and where you finished in the standings) Note: list all leagues including those played with adults:

Camps attended (*include name of camp, year attended*):

Other curling achievements:

Please include a few sentences explaining why you would like your team to be chosen for this event:

Proof of Age and Residency – Required for each team member

Proof of age and residency (school ID, driver's license, etc) can be submitted along with this application.

If you cannot attach the proof to this application, submit by email to YouthSelections@mopacca.org by

_____ 20_____.

INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION

Coaches or individuals can complete an Individual Application when a player is not part of an organized U18 team entry. This form will be used to track Individual Achievement forms submitted by coaches and/or players.

Gender: male female

Information about Coach:

If the individual has a coach, the coach must be over 21, registered with the USA Curling Coaches Association, pass a background check, and complete the USOC SafeSport training (if individual is selected and coach attends).

Name: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Phone: _____

Information about Individual Player

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Phone: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Year(s) of Curling Experience: _____

By submitting this Individual Application I, on behalf of the player and their legal custodians, agree to the region's terms and conditions and I affirm that I have all permissions from the player and their legal custodians to make this claim.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT FORM

All players are **REQUIRED** to submit the Individual Achievement Form.

All forms must be received by 11:59pm PST on _____ to be considered.

By submitting this Application you agree to honor the decision of the Youth Selections Committee. Further you pledge to always bring the Spirit of Curling to your game.

Please note: All participants must be less than 18 years old as of June 30, 20__, and a resident of the United States as of the date of registration. Proof of residency (school ID, driver's license, etc) must be either attached to this form (see below) and emailed to YouthSelections@mopacca.org by the application deadline. All information **MUST** include applicant name, and preferred position.

First and Last Name of Player: _____

Please note your participation (and place finished, when appropriate) in each of the categories that apply below:

Competitive Championships and Events (include event name, club/region in which event was held, skip's name, teammates, and where you finished in the standings):

Bonspiels (include name of bonspiel, club at which bonspiel was held, year, skip's name, teammates, and where you finished in the standings):

League play (include type of league, club at which league took place, year, skip's name, teammates, and where you finished in the standings):

Camps attended (include name of camp, year attended):

Other curling achievements:

Please include a few sentences explaining why you would like to be chosen for this event:

Proof of Age and Residency – Required for each team member

Proof of age and residency (school ID, driver's license, etc) can be submitted by placing the file here. If you cannot place the file, submit by email to youthselections@mopacca.org by _____.