



Resolutions put to the World Curling Annual General Assembly 2017

Sunday 17 September 2017

UPDATE TO ANTI-DOPING RULES

Rationale

In order to improve the handling of Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRV) at the Olympic Winter Games the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) have set up a new process. This will be run by CAS at arms-length from the IOC. However, under the current rules the IOC and CAS would only have authority to issue punishments relating to the Games, there would need to be a second hearing process to assess any punishment for an ADRV after the Games which requires to be run by the International Federation. In discussion with the IOC and CAS it has been agreed that it would make more sense for CAS to handle any cases from start to finish and for the IF to authorise CAS to act on their behalf as well. This should simplify the process for everyone involved.

Resolution APPROVED

For Anti-Doping Rule Violations committed at the Olympic Winter Games 2018 the World Curling Federation (WCF) agrees to accept the authority and procedure of the IOC Anti-Doping Rules in force for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games and the process of the Arbitration Rules of the CAS Anti-Doping Division. The WCF agrees to recognise any verdicts delivered by the CAS Anti-Doping Division relating to the curling event at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. This resolution supersedes the current WCF Anti-Doping Rules for the period of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

UPDATE TO THE SPORTS BETTING AND MANIPULATION OF RULES

Rationale

The current WCF Rules on Sports Betting and Manipulation of Results were introduced prior to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games and were based on best practice at the time. The IOC have now adopted a new Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions which was introduced ahead of the Rio Olympic Games. The IOC have now asked that all Winter IFs, either adopt this Code or rules compliant with this Code ahead of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The WCF Governance Commission and Board believe the best approach is to adopt the IOC Code in full as this will ensure we are always kept up-to-date with best practice and we will have access to IOC support including their Integrity Hotline for whistle-blowers.

Resolution APPROVED

Effective immediately the WCF will replace its existing rules on Sport Betting and the Manipulation of Results with the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions.



PROPOSALS RELATING TO CHANGES TO THE FORMAT OF COMPETITIONS

- i) Introduce a Pre-Qualifying Event for the Olympic Qualification Event:

Rationale

In order to give the greatest possible chance of qualification for the Olympic Games and possibly prolong Member Associations' access to NOC funding a new event would be introduced. This would be an Event open to all Member Associations who were not eligible to enter a team directly into the Olympic Games or the Olympic Qualification Event for Men or Women. At this time, no proposal is made for Mixed Doubles this will be reconsidered once the format of any Mixed Doubles competition at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games is known.

Recommendation APPROVED

The WCF shall introduce an open Pre-Qualifying Event (PQE) for the 2021 Olympic Qualification Event (OQE) for Men and Women. Two teams shall qualify from PQE to the OQE in each of the Men's and Women's competitions.

Supported by the Competitions and Rules (C&R) Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

- ii) To increase the number of teams in the World Wheelchair Curling Championship to 12:

Rationale

The Paralympic Winter Games now has 12 teams and the standard and number of MAs involved in the discipline has increased to the extent that 12 teams at the world championship level would give a better balance between the World Wheelchair Curling Championship and the World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship event. Three teams would be promoted from and relegated to the B championship each season.

Recommendation APPROVED

From the World Wheelchair Curling Championship 2019 increase the number of competing teams to 12 from ten, with three teams promoted and relegated from the B championship each season.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES



iii) To increase the number of teams at the World Curling Championships (Men and Women) to 16:

Rationale

Since the increase in the number of teams competing at the World Championships increased from ten to 12 the number of Member Associations and the standard of play within WCF events have continued to grow, now would seem to be an appropriate time to increase the size of the World Curling Championships to ensure that more WCF members have a chance to compete at the highest level and to give the WCF a bigger marketing and broadcasting opportunity.

Recommendation REJECTED

From the World Championships (Men and Women) in 2018 increase the number of competing teams to 16 from 12. The 16 teams would be made up as follows: two from the Americas Zone, four from the Pacific-Asia Zone and ten from the European Zone. The host would automatically qualify and would be allocated one of the places from their home zone. The format is as outlined in appendix two to these papers.

Supported by the C&R Commission – NO
Supported by the Athlete Commission – NO

Amendment – Belgium

Adjust the game schedule to remove the free mornings during the week to avoid the potential for teams to have to play four games in 27 hours and introduce ranking games for places 9-16. This format is outlined in appendix two.

Amendment

Additionally, from the World Curling Championships (Men and Women) in 2019 introduce a World Qualifying Event with a format as outlined in Appendix 2 to these papers. (NOTE: to be clear if this amendment is accepted then the 2018 World Curling Championships will run as a 16-team event with no qualifier, the qualifier would be introduced in the following season).

iv) To increase the number of teams at the World Curling Championships (Men and Women) to 13:

Rationale

The standard in the Pacific-Asia zone has increased over the last few years to the point where including a third team from that zone at the World Curling Championships (Men and Women) is justified for performance reasons.



Recommendation APPROVED with amendment

From the World Curling Championships (Men and Women) in 2018 increase the number of competing teams to 13 from 12. The 13 teams would be made up as follows: two from the Americas Zone, three from the Pacific-Asia Zone and eight from the European Zone. The host would automatically qualify and would be allocated one of the places from their home zone. The format is as outlined in appendix two to these papers.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment

Additionally, from the World Curling Championships (Men and Women) in 2019 introduce a World Qualifying Event. (NOTE to be clear if this amendment is accepted then the 2018 World Championships will run as a 13-team event with no qualifier, the qualifier would be introduced in the following season).

v) Motion from Curling Canada for new World Mixed Doubles format **REJECTED**

vi) Motion from RCCC for new World Mixed Doubles format **WITHDRAWN**

PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE RULES OF CURLING

i) Rule R3 d (i) – Injured player returning to the Field of Play

Rationale

An injured player is allowed to return to a game if an alternate was not brought in to replace them. The current rule allows them to re-enter the game at any time during an end before their stones have been delivered. However, this could mean if the player was a third that the lead had already delivered three stones and the second only a single stone. It is felt that it would be cleaner to only allow a player to return at the start of an end, which would bring this rule into line with the rule regarding the introduction of an alternate.

Recommendation APPROVED

As of 1 October 2017, rule R3 d (i) should be changed to indicate that a player who has left the game as they are unable to continue may only re-join the game at the start of an end.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES



ii) Rule R5 – Wrong team delivering the first stone of the end

Rationale

Currently there is no rule in place to cover this situation.

Recommendation APPROVED

Effective 1 October 2017 to adapt the existing Rule R5 as follows:

- If the error is discovered after only the first stone has been delivered, the end shall be replayed.
- If the error is discovered after the second stone of the end has been delivered, play continues as if the error had not occurred.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

iii) Rule R6 (b) Changing from a four stone Free Guard Zone (FGZ) to a five stone FGZ

Rationale

Games played under the five stone Free Guard Zone rule provides the sport of curling with the following improvements:

- A rule that provides equality for both teams
- Increased offense
- A decreased quantity of blank ends
- An improved ability to comeback when facing a deficit
- Fewer early finishes

Recommendation APPROVED

Effective 1 October 2018 Rule R6 (b) be changed to the following:

If, prior to the delivery of the *sixth stone* of an end, a delivered stone causes, either directly or indirectly, an opposition stone to be moved from the FGZ to an out-of-play position, then the delivered stone is removed from play, and any displaced stones are replaced, by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place.

Proposed by the Athlete Commission, supported by the C&R Commission

iv) Rule R11 and C5 Playing the Minimum Number of Ends vs Arithmetically Eliminated

Rationale

Currently the rules relating to playing the minimum number of ends and ending a game when you are arithmetically eliminated can come into conflict with teams being arithmetically eliminated before



reaching the minimum number of ends. It is suggested to change the rules to ensure the minimum number of ends are played.

Recommendation APPROVED

Effective 1 October 2017 adapt the rules to ensure that a minimum number of ends are played regardless of the score, once the minimum number of ends have been played a team that has been arithmetically eliminated may complete the current end but no new end may be started. However, if a team is arithmetically eliminated in the last end of a game, the game should stop when this occurs and the end will not be finished.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

v) R13 (d) Delivery Stick

Rationale

Following consultation with WCF Member Associations attending the open meetings in Beijing and athletes and officials during the 2017 World Wheelchair Curling Championship, the WCF Board advised of its intention to propose restricting the types of Delivery Sticks that could be used in WCF events during the 2017-2018 Season.

This rule is being introduced following concerns raised that some of the current and proposed future stick designs could be considered as contrary to the existing WCF rule regarding equipment, which provides an excessive reliance on mechanical aids to the delivery.

The WCF Board believes that it is fair to allow all devices that were in the Field of Play at this year's successful WWhCC to continue to be allowed but to prevent any new or enhanced devices to be used in competition without due consideration, analysis and consultation to determine what the sport feels is fair and appropriate to help the discipline develop in the coming years.

During the 2017 WWhCC all head assemblies used were photographed and catalogued to allow comparisons to be made.

To be clear no new or enhanced head assembly designs will be allowed to be used during WCF controlled events next season. The WCF Board further signal the intent to consult further on new rules on delivery stick and head constructions for the next Paralympic cycle.

Recommendation APPROVED

Effective 1 October 2017 only head assemblies used during the 2017 World Wheelchair Curling Championship will be allowed to be used during the 2017-2018 season in WCF controlled wheelchair curling events, including the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES



CHANGES TO THE RULES OF COMPETITION

- i) Rule C2 (j) Allowing a team to start a competition with three players

Rationale

A team may start a competition with three players under extenuating circumstance with the approval of a panel of three persons, currently WCF President or representative, event Technical Delegate and event Chief Umpire. It is proposed to alter this initial panel to provide an appeal route if required.

Recommendation APPROVED

Effective 1 October 2017 the initial three-person panel shall be the WCF Director of Competitions or representative, event Technical Delegate and event Chief Umpire. If required an appeal would be heard by the WCF President or their representative.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

- ii) Rule C3 (a) Fix light and dark colours for team uniforms

Rationale

There is continued confusion caused by the selection of some 'dark' colours for light team uniforms. This can cause challenges for officials particularly timers.

Recommendation APPROVED

Effective 1 October 2018 unless otherwise approved by the WCF a light-coloured uniform will be predominantly white or yellow in colour. Approval for any alternative colour must be requested at least eight weeks prior to an event or may be requested at the start of a season for multiple events.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment – Luxembourg WITHDRAWN

Using the word 'predominantly' is not clear of precise, therefore 'predominantly' should be replaced by 'a minimum of 75%'



iii) Rule C4

Rationale

At the coach feedback meetings during the World Curling Championships we have been asked to clarify who can deliver stones during pre-event, evening and post round robin practices.

Recommendation REJECTED

Effective from 1 October 2017 only players will be allowed to deliver stones during all practice sessions.

Supported by the C&R Commission – NO

Amendment

Effective from 1 October 2017 with the exception of Mixed Doubles only players will be allowed to deliver stones during the pre-event and evening practice sessions.

Supported by the C&R Commission – NO

iv) Rule C6 (a) Mixed Doubles Thinking Time

Rationale

At the coach feedback meetings during the World Curling Championships it has been suggested that an additional two minutes Thinking Time should be added for Mixed Doubles as the ends have become more complex and require more discussion.

Recommendation REJECTED

Effective from 1 October 2017 Thinking Time for Mixed Doubles will increase from 22 minutes to 24 minutes.

Supported by the C&R Commission – NO
Supported by the Athlete Commission – NO

v) Rule C6 (j)(i) Placement of stationary stones in Mixed Doubles

Rationale

At some events, there are not enough officials or volunteers to place the stationary stones at the start of each end therefore the players will have to do it and this cuts into their time between ends.



Recommendation APPROVED

Effective from 1 October 2017 where players are responsible for placing the stationary stones before each end then 30 seconds will be added to the time between ends.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

vi) Rule C8 Last Stone Draw (LSD)

Rationale

Currently the rule does not cover the situation where a team plays an entire event with only three players.

Recommendation APPROVED with amendments

Effective 1 October 2017 where a team plays an entire event with only three players, the LSD stone requirements of the missing player are shared amongst the other players.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment

For the sake of clarity the word 'equitably' should be inserted between 'shared' and 'amongst'.

Amendment

The recommendation does not cover the situation where a team starts the competition with a complete team but then circumstances change. It is therefore proposed that if a team starts a competition with a complete team as per the rules but then for any reason a player cannot fulfil their minimum LSD requirements, then the maximum of 199.6cm will be recorded for each of their missed LSD stones.

vii) Rule C9 (b) (iv) Draw Shot Challenge

Rationale

In events with more than one group and where the groups are of differing sizes the number of Last Stone Draws played to make up the Draw Shot Challenge (DSC) is different. It is felt this is unfair and as the DSC is used to achieve ranking across the groups the same number of LSDs should be counted.



Recommendation APPROVED

Effective from 1 October 2017 where there is more than one group and these groups are of differing sizes to ensure the Draw Shot Challenge is calculated in the same way only the Last Stone Draws from the first 'equal number' of games will be used.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

viii) Tie-breaks and play-off systems – Rule C9 (c)(d)(e) etc...

Rationale

Tie-breaks add uncertainty to the format of competitions which makes it difficult for organisers, spectators and broadcasters. Through discussion with the Athlete Commission it is felt that by adjusting the play-off systems at events with more than ten teams in a round robin pool then a fair system can be achieved without the need for tie-breaks.

Recommendation APPROVED without amendment

Effective from 1 October 2017 in competitions with a round robin pool of more than ten teams six teams will progress to the knock-out stages of the competition. The two top ranked teams will progress to the semi-final stages with the four next highest ranked teams playing in quarter-finals (3v6 and 4v5), the winners of these games progressing to the semi-finals i.e. the semi-finals would be as follow”

- 1 vs the lowest ranked team left following the quarters
- 2 vs the highest ranked team left following the quarters
- In competitions with a round robin of ten or fewer teams the Olympic semi-final system will be used
- There will be no tie-breaks and in competitions with more than one pool teams will be placed into the play-off games based on their ranking (Rule C9)

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES
Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

Amendment

The six-team play-off system should be used in competitions with a single round robin pool of more than eight teams. With the Olympic semi-final system used where there are single round robin pools of eight or fewer teams.

Supported by the C&R Commission – NO
Supported by the Athlete Commission – NO



ix) Rule C9 – Ranking teams after tie-breakers

Rationale

This change was approved by the Members following the procedure for taking emergency decisions. The constitution now requires the approval of the Member Associations at the Annual General Assembly.

Recommendation APPROVED

Effective immediately teams that have qualified for the play-offs and do not need to play in tie-breaker games, keep their ranking for the play-off games as was determined after the round robin.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

x) Glossary of Terms – recognition of left-handers

Rationale

The current definitions for an in-turn or out-turn do not take into account left-handed curlers. The definition should be updated to incorporate them.

Recommendation APPROVED

In the next edition of the Rule Book insert at the end of the in-turn definition “for left-handed curlers it is a counter-clockwise rotation” and the out-turn “for left-handed curlers it is a clockwise rotation”

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES

Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES