

# WISCONSIN STATE CURLING ASSOCIATION

## U18 INFORMATION



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## U18 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U18 National Championships are held in January each year. The past few years, the Rock Creek Curling Club has hosted U18 Nationals and is scheduled to host again this year on Jan 9-12, 2025. There are 12 boys and 12 girls teams that qualify for the event. The qualification process is based on curling regions and each region is guaranteed representation at the event. The regions are as follows:

- Alaska
- Dakota Territory
- Grand National (GNCC)
- Great Lakes (GLCA)
- Midwest
- Mid America
- Minnesota
- Mountain Pacific (MOPAC)
- Pacific Northwest
- Wisconsin



If a region is not represented, their spot goes to the region with the highest number of teams that attempted to qualify within that region. This continues until all the spots are filled. There is also a host team (if at least 3 members of the team come from the host club) that is awarded as thanks for hosting the event.

The Wisconsin U18 Qualifier for 2025 will be held in Stevens Point on December 7-8, 2024. The winners will represent Wisconsin at the National Championships and be crowned the Wisconsin State Junior Champions.

## **BASIC ELIGIBILITY RULES:**

**Athlete must not turn 18 before July 1 of the year prior to the event (example: for the 2025 Nationals, the athlete could not turn 18 before July 1, 2024). There must be at least 2 members of the team that have permanent residence in the region. The others can be from other regions. Because the WSCA financially supports the qualifier, the WSCA requires that all members of the team be a member of a Wisconsin curling club. They do not need to be league playing members but must be a member of one of the Wisconsin Clubs.**



## **INFORMATION FROM THE USCA:**

### **U18 BOYS and U18 GIRLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 1. Overview.** The USA Curling U18 Boys and U18 Girls National Championships are region-based, national championships that determine our top teams under 18 years of age. U18 National Champions do not advance to world play.
- 2. Event Eligibility.** To be eligible to play in the U18 National Championships and qualifying events, athletes must be less than 18 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June of the year immediately preceding the year in which the national championship is to take place. U.S. citizenship or residency is required (see Section I). Players must have a USA Curling Competitor Membership.
- 3. Playdown.** There is no formal playdown window. Recognized Regional Associations (RRAs) may choose their own entry deadline. USA Curling encourages RRAs to hold their playdowns at least five weeks in advance of the U18 Nationals and avoid conflicts with other competition dates as much as possible.
- 4. Entry and Qualifying Process.** Twelve (12) Boys and twelve (12) Girls teams will advance to the U18 Nationals as follows: a. One (1) team from each of the following: Alaska, At-Large or GNCC, Dakota Territory, Great Lakes (GLCA), Mid-America (MACA), Midwest, Minnesota, Mountain Pacific (MOPAC), Pacific Northwest (PNWCA), Wisconsin. (If there is an At-Large playdown, it will be run by USA Curling.) b. The RRA with the greatest number of entries per gender will receive an additional berth. In the event there are two regions with the same number of entries, the number of entries in the previous season will be used to break the tie. If the tie remains, the RRA with the highest finish in the previous U18 Nationals will receive the berth. 1. The host club will receive berths in U18 Boys and U18 Girls Nationals. Should a team from the host club win the regional playdown, that team will receive the regional berth and the host club is still entitled to an additional host club berth. \*Fill Policy – In the event that one or more RRAs or the host club are unable to field a team, or the defending champions are not eligible, the vacant berth(s) will be filled to a total of twelve teams per gender, beginning with the RRA that has the most playdown entries, and proceeding with the other RRAs in order of number of entries. In the event there are two RRAs with the same number of entries, the number of entries in the previous season will be used to break the tie. If the tie remains, the RRA with the highest finish in the previous U18 Nationals will receive the berth. If a tie still remains, a coin flip will determine which region receives the additional berth. \*\*RRAs are not required to have more than one team registered for a playdown in order to secure their berth in the 2025 U18 Nationals.
- 5. Team Selection.** Each RRA is responsible for determining its representatives to the U18 National Championships. RRAs are encouraged to use the USA Curling format formula in Section I. 23
- 6. Championship Format.** The championship will be a split round-robin event, with two divisions per gender of six teams each. Round-Robin play may be set up in a way that allows marquee matches in prime viewing time, as long as the

draw-master 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 the semifinals (A1 v. B2, B1 v. A2). The winners of the semifinals play in the gold medal game, while the losers of the semifinals play in the bronze medal game. Tiebreakers will be determined according to the World Curling Rules of Curling. All games will be eight ends.

## **REGISTRATION:**

**Registration for the event is done through the USCA on the Sport 80 website. You will need to create an account to register as well as pay the fees through the website. If your team wins the event, you will also need to pay a team fee in order to compete at Nationals.**

**Registration Website: <https://usacurling.sport80.com/>**

**All teams must have a coach, and that coach will need to complete registration through the same website. The coach will also need to complete a Safe Sport training program, go through a background check, and pay the fee for registering as a coach.**

**Registration questions can be directed to the USCA through Aaron Kaylor ([aaron.kaylor@usacurling.org](mailto:aaron.kaylor@usacurling.org)) or the WSCA Junior Chair, Jim Wendling ([jwendling72@gmail.com](mailto:jwendling72@gmail.com) or 715).**