CSCA "Championship" Grouping Qualification & Backfill process

(Submitted based on CSCA Championship Committee consensus and Executive Committee feedback and board approved September 16, 2025)

(apply to each division equally but separately)

Reminder that all teams must be registered with all fees paid to be considered eligible.

Notes to reader:

1. As outlined in the CSCA Hosting Package each Province or Territory that conducts a Provincial or Territorial event and has declared they will identify a representative for each division of the National Championship Grouping by October 31 in the year prior to the National Event will be guaranteed a spot in each division. Those that do not conduct a provincial or territorial championship or do not declare a representative for each divsion are guaranteed one spot in the National "Challenge" Group as long as a registration has been submitted and paid. In addition in 2026 the National Champions of the two previous years are guaranteed a spot in the "Championship" Group in their applicable gender division. Beginning in 2027 the previous year's "Challenge" Championship winner will also be guaranteed a spot in the following National "Championship" Group if no more than one additional Province or Territory begins to conduct a Provincial / Territorial Championship. Once these guaranteed spots are confirmed the backfill process will be utilized to reach the targeted 12 teams per division for that given year. Flexibility in this process must be given year to year in order to respond to an additional province or territory beginning to conduct championships.

1a). The backfill portion of this process is applicable only to the “Championship” Group of the CSCA national championship and is based on a philosophy that teams should "earn" their way into the Championship Group while still recognizing geographic balance depending on where the Championship event is held. Balance of direct entries would play in "Challenge" Group divisions.

2. This process document is meant to be utilized by both the CSCA Rules & Events Director (or their designate) and the Host Committee Draw master (or their designate) when finalizing the teams that will make up each division within the Championship Grouping of the National Event. The overarching target for divisions in the Championship Grouping is 12 teams in each division for 2026. Based on 2025 Provincial Championships if all 10 declare a representative in each division the backfill process will only be used to fill two spots in the Mixed Division of the Championship Group in 2026. Beginning with the 2027 championships only the previous year's National Championship Group divisional winners and the previous year's National Challenge Group divisional winners will be guaranteed a spot in the next year's National Championship group and only until such time as an additional province or territories begin to conduct championships. At that point one or both may be relegated to backfill status to keep the total number of 12 teams per division to maintain the 5 game round robin format if at all possible. The priorities in this process will also be utilized as the backdrop for seeding purposes when populating pools of teams in both groups and all divisions.

3. The continued hope is that over time provinces and territories will adopt three division provincial championships making the backfill process much easier to maintain. If and when additional provinces or territories begin to conduct championships this process will be amended accordingly.

4. As the philosophy is that a team should earn its way to the “Championship” Group division; the backfill process will prioritize team selection based first on previous years National Championship Group divisional winners (if applicable) then the silver and bronze medallist, as well as the bronze runner-up teams of the prior year National Championship per division. In the unlikely event further backfill is required this would be followed by the reigning silver and bronze medallists of the host province or territory in that championship year per division, if one is conducted there. This would be followed by the reigning silver medallists of the Provincial / Territorial list order depending on the geographic location of the Championship, then the bronze medallists of the same Provincial / Territorial list. This would be followed by the pre-approved list of sanctioned provincial or regional tournaments and / or tours pre-approved by the Championship Committee each year.

5. The CSCA championship committee will maintain a list of potential sources from which backfill teams can be drawn from based on input from Provincial / Territorial Representatives that conduct Provincial or Territorial Championships and / or Regional Tours or Club Championships. That list will be updated annually.

6. A provincial, territorial or regional sanctioned event is deemed to have met the minimum standards required to be a source of potential backfill teams. It is hoped that over time there will be more regional championships and / or more provinces holding both competitive and club championships. That will broaden the options and teams available to draw upon.

7. The CSCA maintains the right to determine if a regional championship or tour has sufficient rigor and professional standards to qualify for inclusion and can reject, or remove, applicants from the CSCA list as it deems appropriate.

8. The Canadian Stick Curling Championship alternates yearly between the East and West. Functionally the host committees are more likely to be able to draw on backfill teams if required from the geographic area where the championship is being hosted. Priority would be adjusted based on location and ranked events.

Backfill Process Outline (follow each priority step until backfill spots confirmed and completed) Please note that priorities 8 through 21 would change depending on the geographic location of the host

Priority #1 = For a team to be considered for backfill they must be registered through the online entry system with their team entry and participation fees paid

Priority #2 = Gold medallist from previous year's National Championship Group (gender applicable) if not already guaranteed in that year

Priority #3 = Gold medallist from previous year's National Challenge Championship Group (gender applicable) if not already guaranteed in that year

Priority #4 = Gold medallist from two years previous National Championship Group (gender applicable) if not already guaranteed in that year

Priority #5 = Silver Medallist from National Championship the year prior in that gender division (gender applicable) (For 2026 Mixed Division apply highest ranking Mixed Team from Grande Prairie)

Priority #6 = Bronze Medallist from National Championship the year prior in that gender division (gender applicable) (For 2026 Mixed Division apply second highest ranking Mixed Team from Grande Prairie)

Priority #7 = Bronze Runner-up from National Championship the year prior in that gender division (gender applicable) (For 2026 Mixed Division apply third highest ranking Mixed Team from Grande Prairie)

Note to Reader: In the unlikely event that the backfill process is not completed by this point the priorities below would be utilized which at first appears to onerous but will be useful for seeding purposes if needed

Continued Backfill Process Outline when held at the **Eastern Host Site** of (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island)

Priority #8 = Silver Medallist from Host Province / Territory if a Championship conducted there (gender applicable) Provincial Representative to determine highest ranking teams if only running an "Open"

Priority #9 = Bronze Medallist from Host Province / Territory if a Championship conducted there (gender applicable) Provincial Representative to determine next highest ranking teams if only running an "Open"

Priority #10 = Silver Medallist from balance of Eastern location listing moving left to right starting after Host location: New Brunswick / Nova Scotia / PEI

Priority #11 = Silver Medallist from balance of Central location listing moving left to right: Quebec / Northern Ontario / Ontario

Priority #12 = Silver Medallist from balance of Western Site listing moving left to right: Manitoba / Saskatchewan / Alberta / BC

Priority #13 = Repeat Priorities 7 through 9 applying Bronze Medallists

Priority #14 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Maritime Championships

Priority #15 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Nova Scotia Competitive League Championships

Priority #16 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Manitoba Competitive Tour

Priority #17 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Alberta Club Championships

Priority #18 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Alberta Stick Tour

Priority #19 = Repeat Priorities 11 through 15 applying Silver Medallists

Priority #20 = Repeat Priorities 11 through 15 applying Bronze Medallists

Priority #21 = Highest through lowest ranking beyond Bronze runner-up from the National Championship the year prior

Created by: Rick Thurston

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Continued Backfill Process Outline when held at **Western Host Site** of (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia)

Priority #8 = Silver Medallist from Host Province / Territory if a Championship conducted there (gender applicable) Provincial Representative to determine highest ranking teams if only running an "Open"

Priority #9 = Bronze Medallist from Host Province / Territory if a Championship conducted there (gender applicable) Provincial Representative to determine next highest ranking teams if only running an "Open"

Priority #10 = Silver Medallist from balance of Western Site listing moving left to right starting after host location: Manitoba / Saskatchewan / Alberta / British Columbia

Priority #11 = Silver Medallist from balance of Central location listing moving left to right: Northern Ontario / Ontario / Quebec

Priority #12 = Silver Medallist from balance of Eastern location listing moving left to right: New Brunswick / Nova Scotia / Prince Edward Island

Priority #13 = Repeat Priorities 7 through 9 applying Bronze Medallists

Priority #14 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Manitoba Competitive Tour (switch priorities 11 and 12 if event held in Alberta or BC)

Priority #15 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Alberta Club Championships (switch priorities 11 and 12 if event held in Alberta or BC)

Priority #16 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Alberta Stick Tour

Priority #17 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Maritime Championships

Priority #18 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Nova Scotia Competitive League Championships

Priority #19 = Repeat Priorities 11 through 15 applying Silver Medallists

Priority #20 = Repeat Priorities 11 through 15 applying Bronze Medallists

Priority #21 = Highest through lowest ranking beyond Bronze runner-up from the National Championship the year prior

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Continued Backfill Process Outline when held at **Eastern / Central Host Site** of (Northern Ontario, Ontario, Quebec)

Priority #8 = Silver Medallist from Host Province / Territory if a Championship conducted there (gender applicable) Provincial Representative to determine highest ranking teams if only running an "Open"

Priority #9 = Bronze Medallist from Host Province / Territory if a Championship conducted there (gender applicable) Provincial Representative to determine next highest ranking teams if only running an "Open"

Priority #10 = Silver Medallist from balance of Central location listing moving left to right starting after host location: Northern Ontario / Ontario / Quebec

Priority #11 = Silver Medallist from balance of Eastern location listing moving left to right: New Brunswick / Nova Scotia / Prince Edward Island

Priority #12 = Silver Medallist from balance of Western Site listing moving left to right: Manitoba / Saskatchewan / Alberta / British Columbia

Priority #13 = Repeat Priorities 7 through 9 applying Bronze Medallists

Priority #14 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Alberta Club Championships

Priority #15 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Alberta Stick Tour

Priority #16 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Manitoba Competitive Tour

Priority #17 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Maritime Championships

Priority #18 = Reigning Gold Medallist from Nova Scotia Competitive League Championships

Priority #19 = Repeat Priorities 7 through 11 applying Silver Medallists

Priority #20 = Repeat Priorities 7 through 11 applying Bronze Medallists

Priority #21 = Highest through lowest ranking beyond Bronze runner-up from the National Championship the year prior

In any given year if the number of registrations does not allow for a "Challenge" Championship to be conducted in any division the Silver Medallist of the "Championship" Grouping in that gender division will be deemed the "Challenge" Champion receiving a guaranteed entry in the "Championship" Grouping next year if applicable, but would only receive the monetary amount designated for the Silver Medallist in the "Championship" Group

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Suggested list of regional events to draw from in the backfill process dependent on geographic location of the National Event

Maritime Championships

Alberta Club Championships

Manitoba Competitive Tour

Nova Scotia Competitive League Championships

Alberta Stick Tour