CSCA National Championship Format Change FAQ April 2026

Q: Why did the CSCA choose to move to a new format with a National Championship Grouping and a National "Challenge" Championship Grouping both containing Women's, Men's and Mixed divisions for the 2026 National Event in Nova Scotia?

A: To meet the stated goal of the CSCA: **The role of CSCA is to encourage and promote the growth and development of 2-person stick curling in Canada through our member provincial associations as well as through local grass roots independent curling clubs with the on-going provision of competitive and recreational opportunities for stick curlers.**

Q: How do I ensure that my partner and I get a spot to play at the National event regardless of whatever Grouping we might participate?

A: You simply need to be one of the first 18 teams per gender division to register and pay the entry and participation fees. All entries will be time stamped and any team that remains on the waiting list after registrations are closed and confirmed will receive a full refund if not called in the case of last minute cancellations. Only two exceptions to the time stamp is the 1) guarantee of one entry per Province / Territory in the "Challenge" Grouping overall and 2) the guaranteed entries of Provincial Champions until confirmation is received.

Q: If my team wins their provincial championship are they guaranteed an entry into the National Championship Grouping?

A: Yes, if your province or territory conducts a scheduled Provincial / Territorial Competitive Championship utilizing Women's, Men's, Mixed or an Open division and you win that championship you are guaranteed an entry into the National Championship Grouping.

Q: What happens if a Provincial / Territorial Champion chooses not to attend the National Championship?

A: The spot is offered first to the Silver Medallist and if they choose not to attend it is offered to the Bronze medallist and so on until the Provincial / Territorial CSCA Representative confirms their representative.

Q: What happens if a Province / Territory that conducts a championship is not able to select a team to represent them in the Championship Group?

A: The spot is released to the backfill process. See approved backfill process document in Hosting Package. Priority list would change depending on what area of the country the championship is conducted in. The Host Committee would work with the CSCA Championship Liaison. Options to include:

- Silver Medallist from National Championship the year prior in that gender division
- Bronze Medallist from National Championship the year prior in that gender division
- Bronze Runner-Up from National Championship the year prior in that gender division
- Silver Medallist from Host Province / Territory if a Championship conducted there (gender applicable)
- Bronze Medallist from Host Province / Territory if a Championship is conducted there (gender applicable)
- Silver Medallist from balance of Eastern, Eastern Central and Western locations depending on where the championship is held
- Reigning gold medallist from list of regional events below dependent on location of championship
- Winner of Alberta Club Championship
- Winner of Alberta Stick Tour Championship
- Winner of Maritime Championship
- Winner of Manitoba Competitive Tour
- Winner of Nova Scotia Competitive Tour
- Reigning silver medallist from list of regional events above dependent on location of championship
- Ranked teams from previous year's CSCA National Championships

Q: How do I find out if my team is playing in the National Championship Grouping or the National "Challenge" Grouping?

A: At the close of registration the host scheduler and the CSCA Championship Committee Liaison will begin the process to identify the teams that have qualified for the National Championship

Grouping. All teams left over after that process is done will be slotted into the National “Challenge” Grouping. You should first receive a confirmation that your entry has been confirmed to compete at the event and then you should receive a confirmation within a week or two that notes which Grouping you are playing.

Q: How many teams will be playing in each division of the National Championship Grouping?

A: The goal is to qualify 12 teams for each division of the National Championship Grouping

Q: How many teams will be playing in each division of the National “Challenge” Grouping?

A: That will depend on the balance of the registrations and where they fall as far as the divisions go. Please also keep in mind that in any given year if the number of teams in any one division left in the “Challenge” Grouping do not meet the minimum number required (5) that group will automatically be moved into the National Championship Grouping for that division.

Q: If my team won the National Championship in the two years previous will we still receive a guaranteed entry to the National Championship Grouping?

A: Yes, in 2026,as long as the two players remain together on the entry. In 2027 and beyond and until such time as more provinces or territories conduct championships only the previous year’s National Championship Group division winners will receive a guaranteed entry along with the National Challenge Group division winners. As time passes if the number of provinces or territories that conduct a championship equals 12, the previous year’s National Championship Group winners will become the first priority for the backfill process.

Q: If my team wins the National “Challenge” Championship Grouping will we receive a guaranteed entry into the National Championship Grouping in the following year?

A: Yes, the National “Challenge” Championship Gold medal winners will receive a one year exempted guaranteed entry into the National Championship Grouping (in their respective division) the next year as long as the two players remain together on the entry and until such time as more provinces or territories conduct championships At that point the National Challenge Group winners will become part of the backfill process for the next National Championship Group.

Q: If my Province / Territory does not conduct a Championship can my team get into the National “Challenge” Championship Grouping?

A: Yes if they are the first time stamped entry in the registration process ahead of any other entries from that Province / Territory regardless of division choice. Only one entry across all divisions in this case.

Q: Will there be awards for the National “Challenge” Championship Grouping?

A: Yes there will be a set of awards balanced equally with the National Championship Grouping? The budget for that is preset by the number of total entries into the event.