

Stay-to-Play Policy

Effective with the start of the 2026–2027 season, all teams, athletes, and/or coaches participating in Curling Canada Championship Events are required to stay at the designated Curling Canada Host Hotel(s) and book their accommodations through the event's official booking channels in order to be eligible to compete.

Curling Canada is implementing this Stay-to-Play Policy to help ensure the long-term sustainability and success of its championship events, balancing the needs of host committees and competing teams.

In recent years, an increasing number of teams have chosen accommodations outside of the designated host hotels. While we understand that teams may have a variety of reasons for making these decisions, this trend has had a significant impact on the overall sustainability and viability of hosting Curling Canada events.

As fewer participants stay within the official hotel blocks, accommodation costs for teams have increased, valuable grant funding tied to hotel room nights has been lost, and interest from prospective host communities and hotel partners has declined. Host hotels play a critical role in the success of these events, and strong room block pickup is often a key factor in securing competitive hosting agreements, financial support, and the overall ability to host championship events.

While we understand that all teams have differing needs when preparing to compete for a National Championship and to ensure peak performance, the Stay-to-Play Policy also promotes fairness and consistency by ensuring all participating teams have equitable access to official accommodations and a shared event experience.

Ultimately, this policy is intended to strengthen partnerships with host communities and hotels, support the long-term sustainability of Curling Canada events, and help ensure the continued delivery of high-quality championship experiences for all participants.

Recognizing that the introduction of this policy may present challenges for some teams—particularly those who have already made alternative accommodation arrangements—Curling Canada is providing additional flexibility for the 2026–2027 season for teams competing in **events prior to January 1, 2027**.

For these events, teams will be required to reserve a minimum of **two rooms** at the designated Host Hotel. For the fall of the **2026–2027 season only**, these rooms may be occupied by athletes, coaches, and/or family members or friends. To satisfy the Stay-to-Play requirement, teams must complete and submit the official Hotel Booking Form to confirm their reservation.

We recognize and appreciate the concerns raised by teams regarding the Stay-to-Play policy, particularly for those who earned the opportunity to compete before the policy was introduced and were expecting greater flexibility in their accommodation choices. We understand that the policy represents a change in how teams participate in our championships and that it may create inconvenience for some competitors. Host committees make significant financial commitments and rely on accommodation partnerships to reduce risk, attract community investment, and deliver a high-quality championship experience and we have to ensure that the long-term sustainability of that hosting model is protected. While we acknowledge the impact on individual teams, we believe this approach provides transition period flexibility and supports the broader sustainability of our championship system and the long-term health of the sport.