

Manitoba Open / Manitoba HALFspiel

FAQs 2017

1. What clock do they use for ringing the bell?

The "Club Clock" on the ice MUST be used as the official time clock. The athletes and the Event Assistant must be able to see this clock.

2. Can we use a spare?

Spares are allowed up until the 16s in the main three events (Asham, Nott Autocorp and Free Press). At that time the teams must sign the back of the cards provided by CurlManitoba.

3. Is there practice ice or time outs?

No practice ice or time outs are allowed in the Bonspiel

4. When is an end considered complete?

An end is considered complete (and the next end is considered in progress) when the final stone of the end has crossed the delivery end Tee line. At this time you finish the end you are on and play one more end.

Unless specified, a game may be conceded at any time.

In the event of a tie, the game is to proceed until a point is scored to decide the winner. Extra ends are to be played in rotation NOT necessarily toward the home end.

5. When is a team penalized for being late?

At the scheduled starting time for games, the Event Assistant shall ring a bell to signify the start of the game. If a team is unable to commence play at the designated time, the team shall be assessed the following penalty:

- If the delay of the start of play is 1-15 minutes, then the non-offending team receives one point after one minute and will have last stone in the first end of actual play. One end is considered complete.
- If the delay of the start of play is 16-30 minutes, then the non-offending team receives one additional point after 16 minutes and will have last stone in the first end of actual play. Two ends will be considered completed.
- If play has not started after 30 minutes, then the non-offending team is declared the winner by forfeit after 31 minutes. At that time the non-offending team may access the ice for practice.
- The official score is 2 – 0 in favor of the team present.

6. Can a team play with 3 players?

A team may play any game with three players. The first two throwers must throw three stones consecutively.

7. Can a player leave and come back in the game?

A player who has left a game because of illness, accident or other extenuating circumstances may rejoin their team.

A player can ONLY enter a game between ends or during an end already in progress providing the player is able to deliver a stone within the team's established delivery rotation.

NOTE: A player cannot enter to sweep only.

8. When can a fifth or late player enter the game?

A player may enter a game between ends or during an end already in progress providing they are able to deliver a stone within the team's established delivery rotation.

9. When can a team's throwing rotation be changed during a game?

When a team replaces a player during an end in progress the team can re-declare the team rotation at the end of the end.

A player can only enter an end if they can throw at least one stone in the correct rotation.

10. Who is ineligible to advance to the Viterra Championship?

Any Team that has a member in one of the following categories:

Gender Specific (female)

Throwing with a stick

Any player/team who has already earned a berth to the Viterra Championship

Has one team member (**including the 5th**) who is ineligible

Any player who is NOT a member of a member curling club of CurlManitoba

NOTE: Winnipeg Teams must be members of the same club

Rural Teams must be members of a club within their Sport Region

11. How do you measure?

Measure the inside of the rock (side nearest the button) in a clockwise motion. Refrain from leaning on the measuring device

12. What happens when a player delivers out of the proper rotation?

If the opposing teams agree that a stone has been missed but are unable to determine which player missed his/her turn, the lead of the team that missed a turn shall play the last stone of the end.

Manitoba Open

What will the format of the Manitoba Open be? (The same format as recent years) All teams will compete in the Asham Event. With the first loss, each team will drop either to the Winnipeg Free Press or Nott Autocorp Event. With subsequent losses, the teams will drop into one of the other five events below those two. As in the recent past, each team is guaranteed six games. The first game will be Thursday evening with three games Friday and two Saturday (or two Friday, three Saturday) to reach the sixth game. With only 256 teams, one draw Monday is all that will be required.

Will there still be Viterra Berths in the Bonspiel? There will be three Viterra Championship invitations available. These will go to the winner (if eligible) of the Asham Event, Winnipeg Free Press and Nott Autocorp events. (based on published rules).

Is it fair to have a Women's team beat a Men's team trying to win a Viterra Berth? For as long as championship berths have been available, ineligible teams have been playing in the bonspiel and beating teams who were trying to win a berth. In this regard a women's team is not different from a team visiting from Saskatchewan, United States or China OR a Manitoba team which has already won a Viterra berth.

Why has the Manitoba Open been limited to 256 teams? CurlManitoba has observed a plateauing of the bonspiel entry at about 320 teams along with a general downward trend. There are perfect draw numbers (32, 64, 128, 256, 512) and it was deemed desirable to target one of these numbers, rather than continue facing the challenges of creating 'odd-number' draws – especially since the draw for 2017 is pre-iced in its entirety.

Manitoba HALFspiel

Why the HALFspiel? Many curlers who have not previously played in the bonspiel are hesitant to commit to the time required. The HALFspiel is an opportunity for these curlers to enjoy the bonspiel experience for the first time. We expect they'll enjoy the bonspiel so much they will return next year for the full bonspiel experience. In addition, many curlers have told us that they cannot participate for the full length of time of the traditional bonspiel but that they still wish to participate. This is especially true for rural curlers who have the added challenge of considerable expenses to participate in the bonspiel.

Why has the HALFspiel entry been limited to 64 teams? As with any new idea, it is appropriate to test the concept on a limited basis. Again, 64 teams is a perfect number draw so the pre-icing can be accomplished well in advance.

Will the HALFspiel be played in the same clubs? Yes, all of the curlers in the Manitoba Open and the Manitoba HALFspiel will have the opportunity for 'luck-of-the-draw' opportunities to play in every participating club.

What will the format of the Manitoba HALFspiel be? The bonspiel will feature four events and a three game guarantee. Teams will play starting at 6:00 PM or 9:00 PM Friday. Draws Saturday and Sunday may be 9:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM. The HALFspiel finals will be Sunday.

Will spares be allowed? In the Manitoba HALFspiel, a team may play with an unregistered spare in any game, so long as the spare is not entered in the HALFspiel or the Manitoba Open on another team.