



## **U18/U21 Next Generation Program 2017-2018 Program Information**

This protocol defines the procedures for team selection to the Ontario Curling Council's U18/U21 "Next Generation" Program. All program selections are for the 2017-2018 Season only. Access to the program is for one year only and all teams will exit the program at the conclusion of the 2017-2018 season.

### **About the Program**

The goal of the Ontario Curling Council (OCC)'s Next Generation Program is to support the implementation of Curling Canada's Podium Pathway, a high performance development system, in Ontario. It is intended to ensure a progressive stream of athletes and coaches are being trained to standards required to win Olympic and World Championships. Our focus is on athletes who are 9-12 years away from Curling Canada's National Team Program. Program will be individualized for each team – to ensure they are receiving what they need to advance their development.

Program will run from July 1, 2017-March 31, 2018. Teams must commit to participating in program activities TOGETHER until the end of the program.

### **What should teams in the program expect?**

- Teams will be assigned a Provincial Mentor Coach to work with for the year – the Provincial mentor Coach will assist with Gap analysis, yearly plan design/consultation, sport specific training – delivery, brushing, strategy and tactics.
- Teams will be provided with a curling specific fitness program, with mandatory testing requirements
- Teams will be provided with Mental Performance Training (Remote Training) by Marble Labs Inc.
- Teams will receive Competition Review Support by provincial coaches at a minimum of one event per team.
- Teams will receive training from the Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario's Nutritionists (Group Delivery Format)
- Team coaches will be mentored throughout the season and receive professional development credit towards their Maintenance of Certification.
- Teams will have access to equipment such as instrumented brushes, wireless mics, speed traps, etc...

**Selection to the Program:**

New – For the 2017-2018 Season, Ontario Curling Council is launching a Next Gen – Elite program which will service a limited number of Adult Teams, Mixed Doubles, Wheelchair Athletes and U21/U18 teams who have demonstrated progression in their development through performance. The top two Next Gen U21/U18 teams (one male team, one female team) as determined by the Next Gen Program Application will receive an invitation to participate in the Next Gen Elite Program for the 2017-2018 Season. There will be no consideration to geographical residence of the top two applicants.

**Selection to the U18/U21 Next Gen Program:**

Six teams will be selected to participate in the year long program.

- One male team representing NOCA
- One female team representing NOCA
- One male team representing OCA
- One female team representing OCA
- One wildcard male team representing either NOCA or OCA
- One wildcard female team representing either NOCA or OCA

**Order of Selection:**

1. All applications (respective of gender) will be compared to determine the Next Gen Elite Positions.
2. OCA applications will be compared against other OCA applicants and NOCA applicants vs. NOCA applicants, for selection of the OCA and NOCA teams.
3. The remaining applications will be compared against each other (in each respective gender) to select two “wildcard” spots.

**Eligibility**

1. Open to curlers ages 20 and under as of June 30, 2017.
2. Must be Canadian Citizens
3. Must be permanent residents of Ontario for the 2017-2018 season and one year prior to the application.  
Residency Exemption for Military Families – The one-year Ontario residency requirement is waived for any applicant who is a spouse or dependent of a Regular Force Member of the Canadian Forces; or Reservist currently deployed by the Canadian Forces into active service and who takes up residence Ontario during the fiscal year.
4. Must not be under a sanction that prohibits competition as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy
5. Must be attending an educational institution full-time, however, athletes who have completed their area of study at the post-secondary level and who continue to train towards participation in major national and international competition will be considered.
6. Belong to a curling club that is affiliated with and in good standing with either the OCA or NOCA.
7. Must be actively working with a Certified Competition Coach (or higher).

**Program Requirements**

1. All athletes and Coaches must enter into a Provincial Sport Organization Athlete/Coach Agreement.
2. All athletes (or parents/guardians) and their coaches must sign an OCC Waiver.
3. Each team selected must pay a program fee of \$500.00 by June 30, 2017.

4. All athletes must participate in all mandatory activities (including playdowns) – exceptions will only be granted by the Manager, Programs and Operations – failure to participate in mandatory activities may result in the team being released from the program (no refunds).

**Other Notes:**

- Junior Rankings can be found on [www.ontariocurlingcouncil.com](http://www.ontariocurlingcouncil.com).
- All applications must be received by June 19, 2017 at 12:00 pm EST. Applications are to be emailed to Jennifer Ferris at [jennifer@ontcurl.com](mailto:jennifer@ontcurl.com). Confirmation of Receipt will be sent on June 19, 2017 by 5:00 pm EST – if you have not received Confirmation of Receipt by then please contact Jennifer Ferris at 289-527-0352.
- Any questions should be directed to Jennifer Ferris, Manager, Programs and Operations – at [jennifer@ontcurl.com](mailto:jennifer@ontcurl.com) or 289-527-0352.
- Successful teams will be notified by email to the person listed as the application contact by June 24, 2017.