

**Sport Committee Conference Call
Minutes
October 15, 2008**

Participants: Coleen Dufresne, Manitoba (Chair); Ken Schildroth, York; Lisen Moore, McGill; Michelle Healey, Memorial; James Keogh, Victoria; Pat Murray, York (VP Marketing)

Committee reviewed backgrounder (Appendix A attached).

Discussion highlights:

- Agree not ready for regional playdowns, but we need to look for something in the middle. Returning to an open championship is not the answer.
- Lower-costs for self-funded.
- Would not be able to support an invitational event.
- 4 teams from OUA is too many.
- Look to lower the number of teams.
- Struggling with the provincial breakdown.
- Short turn around time to get teams organized. We need to make a decision on this.
- Whatever we decide can be for a one-year pilot. Review again following the 09 Championship.
- Provincial model may be the only option that's workable right now.
- Each province must commit a team by a specific timeline.
- CCA will have to agree to fill/appoint/select a team if a team drops out.
- CCA will coordinate with clubs/teams.

MOTION: P. Murray/M. Healey

Sport Committee to recommend to the Board to move to a 12-Team (provincial breakdown) championship for 2009 (option 1 as presented in Appendix A).

Carried

Appendix A
2009 CIS/CCA Curling Championships

Desired outcome: To approve a format for the 2009 CIS Curling Championships. Note: A change to the format from an open championship will require approval from the Board of Directors.

Background: At the 2008 June meetings Sport Committee did not support moving to a regional association play down. The committee agreed however that the number of teams participating in the championship needed to be lower. In September a quick survey was circulated to schools that participated in the 2008 championship, seeking their feedback on a format for the 2009 championship. Options included remaining with an open championship, moving to a 7-team championship with regional association playdowns as per traditional CIS structure, or a 7-team championship with regional playdowns in a non-traditional model. Results of the survey indicated Ontario schools were in agreement with regional playdowns but the majority of non-Ontario schools were more inclined to return to an open format. CCA expressed concern on the conference call that returning to an open championship did not support their strategy in moving to a high performance model. They were also concerned with the availability of facilities able to handle the number of teams involved in an open championship. Sport Committee suggested CCA look at alternate formats that may increase the number of teams (from 7) yet maintaining a number that would be more manageable.

The recommendations below include the recent recommendation received from CCA as well as an additional option to address some concerns expressed by Sport Committee members.

Option 1 – 12 Team Championship (per gender). Provincial breakdown.

- 1 team – Newfoundland (1 school no playdown required but maybe this will stimulate more play at the school plus they have costly expenses to get anywhere.)
- 1 team – Prince Edward Island (same as NL)
- 1 team – New Brunswick (4 schools relatively close together. Playdown would be run in 1.5 days no more.)
- 1 team – Nova Scotia (5 schools and same as NB but a little more distance for Cape Breton schools)
- 1 team - Quebec (8 schools but few curl; close together if they decided to compete. Might take 2.5 days if all 8 played)
- 3 teams – Ontario (already established with 16 schools. They would get two entries and I would make them the default for any provinces electing not to play) Plus a Northern Ontario entry.)
- 1 team – Manitoba (3 schools all close by)
- 1 team – Saskatchewan (2 schools: simple)
- 1 team – Alberta (3 schools: simple if played in Calgary)
- 1 team – British Columbia (6 schools – a little more challenge because of distance.)

Option 2 – 12 Team Championship (per gender). Regional breakdown.

- 2 teams – Atlantic Canada
- 1 team – Quebec (considered a host team)
- 4 teams – Ontario (based on number of teams currently participating in curling)
- 3 teams – Canada West
- 2 teams – Wildcards selected by Canadian Curling Association

It would be left with the teams in each of the regions to determine a process for selection. May include regional playdown, qualification bonspiel, a rotational format, a lottery or draw, etc.

Note: The above breakdown is based on number of teams per region who participated in the 2008 championships.

Men's – 6 CW / 8 OUA / 1 QSSF / 3 AUS

Women's – 5 CW / 10 OUA / 0 QSSF / 2 AUS)

Option 3 – Open Championship with gender specific championships being held in different locations.

Same model as 2008 with the Men's Championship being held in a different location than the Women's Championship. This would be based on availability of ice. Could prove a challenge this late in the season.

Option 4 – Invitational Championship (invitations extended to teams from CCA)

With CCA knowing the strength of teams across the country they could ensure a strong showing while controlling the numbers.