



Manitoba Curling Tour

MCT Wins-Based Ranking System (MWRS)

2011-12 Season

(July 12, 2011) BACKGROUND At the 2011 MCT Player’s Meetings in Morris, a decision was made to develop a ranking system alternative to the existing Rankings of teams based on their money winnings. The initiative was proposed because of the growing differential in prize purses between the larger and smaller events and as a part of a proposal to encourage CurlManitoba to make additional Championship Berths available separate from the Regional Playoffs process. The berths which have been made available include:

SAFeway CHAMPIONSHIP	SCOTTIES CHAMPIONSHIP
Defending Champion (as in the past)	Defending Champion (new for 2012 championship)
CTRS (as in the past) – CurlMB responsible	CTRS (new for 2012 championship) – CurlMB responsible
MCT Championship (as in the past) - highest eligible	N/A
MCT Wins-Based Ranking System - highest eligible	MCT Wins-Based Ranking System - highest eligible
MCT Wins-Based Ranking System – next eligible	N/A
MCT Bonspiel Berth	N/A

The discussion revolved around the need for the Manitoba Curling Tour to become more professional in its relationship with its bonspiels and with its players, to learn from the experiences of other tours (namely Ontario, Alberta, and World CT’s) , and at the same time to recognize the unique aspects of Manitoba curling. The MCT wishes to be a positive force in the sport of curling in the province – to encourage the development of new bonspiels – to encourage new entry-level competitive players to participate in the first bonspiel – to encourage teams who now play MCT events to enter ‘one more bonspiel’,

The taskforce comprised President Andy Stewart, Sean Grassie, Chris Galbraith, Richard Daneault, Kelly Marnoch, William Lyburn, and Resby Coutts. A proposal was presented to the MCT Executive and approved at the May, 2011 for implementation in the 2011-12 season. ***The MWRS principles which follow will be reviewed after one complete season.***

TEAMS: The following principles were established by CurlManitoba and agreed to by the Manitoba Curling Tour as fundamental to the allocation of Safeway & Scotties Championship berths on the basis of a MCT Teams Ranking System.

- 1) There will be a pre-season registration of teams for eligibility for the MCT-Rankings Safeway Berths. This team registration will be handled through the CurlingZone team registration system.
 - Teams are encouraged to register their team through the CurlingZone Team Registration System (<http://teams.curlingzone.com/index.php?task=Register&ctrs=1>). (Please note this registration

allows you to do a one-stop registration for World Curling Tour, Manitoba-Ontario-Atlantic Curling Tours, and CTRS)

- When teams which do not meet the registration deadline (September 23, 2011), their line-up entered for their first event of the season will be considered to be the official registered line-up.
- 2) In order to be included in the MCT Team Rankings, teams must compete utilizing 3 of their 4 registered players. If 3 of 4 do not compete, then points earned will not be calculated for Team Rankings purposes. (in the case of Women`s teams, an official fifth player may be identified, so long as the fifth is not listed on any other team. The principle of 3 of 5 players competing will be recognized in this instance)
- 3) The MWRS berths into the Safeway and Scotties Championships will be awarded based on calculations including the results of the MCT Championships. The MCT Men`s Championship berth will be awarded first, followed by the two Ranking System Berths.
- 4) CurlManitoba has acknowledged the challenge of dealing with the teams which compete in the events after the MCT Championship each year and therefore will allow a proportional individual accumulation of points for these players – to be assigned to next year`s registered team. (For 2011-12, this interpretation will apply to the Fort Rouge Coors Light event, the MCT Championships and the Morris DEKALB SuperSpiel)

BONSPIELS:

- 5) CTRS ELIGIBILITY: The committee considered the question of mandatory eligibility for CTRS status as a requirement for Manitoba Curling Tour sanction. However, in the end, the committee felt the best course of action would be to inform the events in regard to these eligibility standards (payout, size of field) and to encourage the events to reach these standards. It was also acknowledged that the MCT must make an effort to encourage teams to register for CTRS eligibility. It is believed there will be an evolutionary process, as has occurred in Ontario, in which teams will begin to stress CTRS eligibility in their event participation decisions. This in turn will lead events to establish themselves as CTRS eligible in order to attract teams.
- 6) RANKING OF BONSPIELS: While some tours operate on the premise of complete equality of events, it was the consensus of the meeting that Manitoba, initially at least, would be best served by a system which acknowledges a difference between events. The concern here is to create a balance between the difficulties of winning/qualifying in a major event as compared with winning/qualifying in more than one minor event. A **Strength of Field** process is system is desirable in the future as a way to rank all bonspiels. However, the committee recognizes that the majority of Manitoba teams are not currently registered in the CTRS system. As the tour evolves in this current stage of its growth, teams will automatically become ranked – allowing a **Strength of Field** calculation, even within a small bonspiel with very local teams. In the meantime, it is proposed the MCT go forward with a bonspiel ranking which will allow for creation of a uniquely Manitoba ranking of teams. This will be based upon two ranks of bonspiels.
 - MCT GOLD LEVEL EVENTS will feature a total prize purse of \$15,000 and above.
 - MCT SILVER LEVEL EVENTS will feature a total prize purse of under \$15,000.

- 7) **RANKING OF TEAMS:** A 'ranking value' for each category of event has been established. In order to encourage participation in more events at either level, the values of the two categories are not significantly disparate. For year 1, a ratio of 1.5 to 1 has been established as the differential championship round value between the two levels of event. In addition, a team will gain ranking-points based on preliminary round games. (Teams which qualify for playoff rounds will not earn wins-points). In this instance, a differential of 4 to 2.5 has been established.

PLACING	GOLD LEVEL EVENT	SILVER LEVEL EVENT
CHAMPION (1) POINTS	45	30
FINALIST (2) POINTS	37.5	25
SEMI-FINALIST (3-4) POINTS	30	20
QUALIFIER (5-8) POINTS	22.5	15
POINTS PER WIN	4	2.5

- 8) **NUMBER OF EVENTS:** The Manitoba Curling Tour Wins-Based Ranking System will be based upon a "BEST FOUR EVENTS" calculation – meaning a team's ranking will be calculated on ONLY-FOUR events and can be improved by competing in additional events with improved results.
- 9) **SCHEDULING OF EVENTS:** The MCT endorses the principle that MCT should not sanction more than one event of each size on any given weekend. Extenuating circumstances will be considered in scheduling. (Note: It is recognized that a non-sanctioned event may operate in competition. This is an item outside the control of the MCT.
- MCT is committed to a cooperative relationship with CurlManitoba which will ensure establishment of a 'regularly-scheduled' timing for championship berth bonspiels in order to avoid conflicts in scheduling.
- 10) **SCHEDULING OF MCT CHAMPIONSHIP:** In order to include the current season MCT Championship in the current season's rankings. In this regard, for year 1, MCT has worked with CurlManitoba and the Brandon Men's Bonspiel committee to coordinate a swap of dates. THE MCT Championships will be played December 9-11, 2011 (tentatively scheduled in Morris). Events on the same weekend and later will be included in the 2012-13 MCT Season Rankings.
- 11) **INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP:** The establishment of the Ranking System as the basis of awarding a pair of Safeway Berths is antagonistic to the existing MCT principle of an assured entry in the Tour Championship for event winners. Despite some logistical challenges in organizing the event, invitations to participate in the Tour Championship will be premised on the Rankings System – up to and including the event in Dauphin on the weekend before the Championships.
- The principle of automatic entry in the Tour Championship for event winners will be discontinued in favour of an invitations list based upon the MCT Rankings List.
 - Prize Purse notwithstanding, the MCT Championships will rank as GOLD LEVEL events in the ranking calculations.