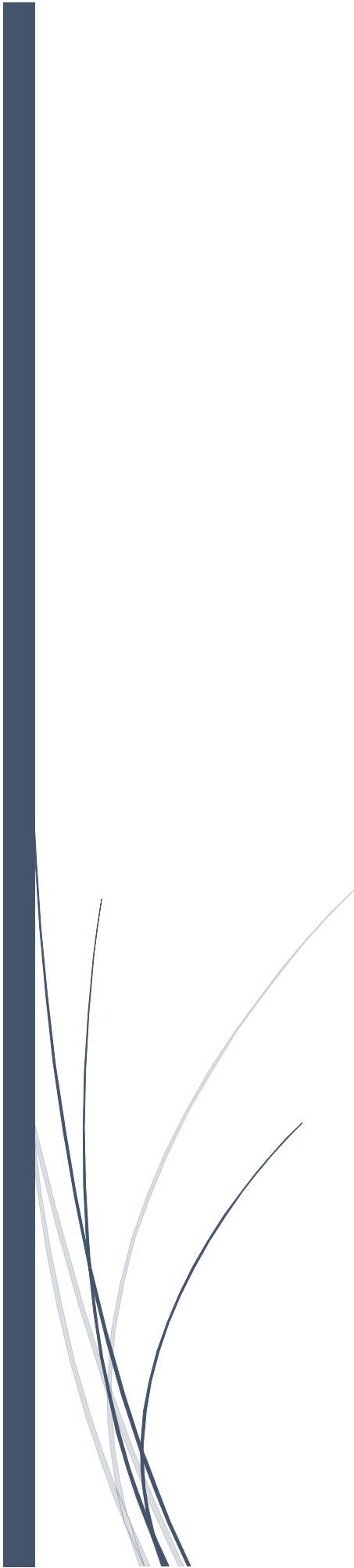




WCF Associations World Rankings 2022-2026

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Rankings	3
Official Associations World Rankings	3
Groups rankings	3
Official Teams World Rankings	3
Common ranking principles and definitions Definitions	4
General principles (GP)	4
Groups rankings principles.....	5
Ranking categories	6
Men	6
Women.....	6
Mixed Doubles	6
Wheelchair	6
Mixed	6
Wheelchair Mixed Doubles.....	6
Groups rankings	6
Men's World Level	6
Men's European	6
Men's Pan-Continental	6
Men's Juniors	7
Men's Senior	7
Women's World Level.....	7
Women's European.....	7
Women's Pan-Continental	7
Women's Juniors.....	7
Women's Senior	7
Wheelchair	7
Wheelchair Mixed Doubles.....	7
Mixed	7
Ranking Points.....	8
Basic ranking points table	8
RCG 2 Championships	8

RCG 3 Championships	8
Recalculated Ranking Points table	10
Calculation example	10
RCG 4 Championships	12
Shared final standings	12
Ranking score	13
Extraordinary decisions	14
Global pandemic	14
Cancelled Championships	14
World Qualifying Event	14
Member Associations	14
Great Britain	14
Competitions held by other Organizations	15
Rules usage	15
History of the associations and groups rankings	16

Introduction

The World Rankings were developed by 1998 Olympic gold medalist and World Curling Hall of Fame recipient Patrick Huerlimann of Switzerland, who was Vice-President of the World Curling Federation from 2010 to 2012. The World Rankings were first introduced in 2006.

A description of the history of the rankings can be found in the [History of the associations and groups rankings](#) chapter of this document.

This guide describes the system to be used during the quadrennial leading up to and including the 2026 Olympic Games in Milano and Cortina.

Rankings

Official Associations World Rankings

WCF publishes Official Associations World rankings once a year.

In order for a category to become an official category the following criteria must be met:

1. A World Championship must exist and been held at least twice
2. The World Championship must not be limited by age.

As of the 2022-2023 season these are:

- Men
- Women
- Mixed
- Mixed Doubles
- Wheelchair
- Wheelchair Mixed Doubles

Groups rankings

WCF produces rankings for all championships organized in order to place associations into different groups for the round-robin. These rankings may also be used for other purposes when no official world ranking exists.

Official Teams World Rankings

WCF is responsible for the Teams World Rankings but these rankings are not described in this document.

Common ranking principles and definitions

Definitions

- Ranking cycle, the time between two championships in group 1 in a category. Normally this constitutes a single season, but WCF can decide that the cycle can be longer under extraordinary circumstances (like the Covid pandemic).
- Rankings points, points awarded for individual championships, please see [Ranking Points](#).
- Ranking score, the percentage value of all collected points during all eligible years divided with the total number of points possible to be awarded during that period. Please see [Ranking score](#)
- Ranking championship group (RCG), one or several championships bundled together for ranking purposes. For instance, the Olympic Winter Games, the Olympic Qualify Event and the Pre-OQE is one RCG. The RCG's and where they are used are stated in [Ranking categories](#)
- Ranking category, can be Men's, Women's, Mixed etc.

General principles (GP)

The following principles applies to all ranking categories unless otherwise stated.

1. Ranking points for the last four ranking cycles count towards the total ranking score for a year.
2. Ranking points are recalculated each ranking cycle so that newer results carry more value than older ones.
 - a. Current ranking cycle (RC): Ranking points (RP) * 1.0
 - b. Previous RC: RP * 0.75
 - c. Current RC + 2 RCs: RP * 0.6
 - d. Current RC + 3 RCs: RP * 0.4
3. An association can score ranking points only once from each RCG in a ranking cycle.
4. The difference in size between the different zones are equalized by using an average scoring system. This system is described in detail in the [Ranking Points](#) chapter.
5. Rankings for a category is published on the Wednesday after the final championship of the ranking championships group 1 in each ranking cycle.
6. If final rankings positions are equal in a championship the ranking points will be awarded based on the average points for all involved associations. For details, please see the [Shared final standings](#) section.
7. If more than one association share the same ranking score, the positions are determined based on countback on points scored per ranking cycle. The countback is performed once, if still equal associations will be ranked by their association name.
8. If an association is allowed to enter more than one team into a championship, the highest ranked team will be the score awarded to the association. No adjustments are made for other associations to accommodate for that there are non-scoring teams.
9. If a championship is acting as a qualification to another championship, no ranking points are awarded for qualified associations, unless specifically noted in the [Ranking Points](#) chapter
10. Rankings will be produced for new ranking categories when two ranking cycles have been concluded.

Groups rankings principles

The groups rankings use the same principles as above with the following differences.

1. The main purpose of the groups rankings is to provide a mechanism for placing associations into groups at championships.
2. Groups rankings may exclude RCG's that are used for Official World Rankings to accommodate the first GR principle.
3. Rankings points for the last three ranking cycles count towards the ranking score for a year.
(Supersedes GP-1 above)
4. Rankings points are recalculated once a year as by GP-2 above with the difference that 2-d is not used.

Ranking categories

Associations may during a ranking cycle receive points once from each group (if organized and eligible).

Men

- RCG 1: World Men's Curling Championships (WMCC)
- RCG 3a: European Curling Championships (ECC) plus subdivisions
- RCG 3b: Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC) plus subdivisions.
- RCG 4: Olympic Winter Games (OWG), Olympic Qualifying Event (OQE) and any Pre-OQE qualification

Women

- RCG 1: World Women's Curling Championships (WWCC)
- RCG 3a: European Curling Championships (ECC) plus subdivisions
- RCG 3b: Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC) plus subdivisions.
- RCG 4: Olympic Winter Games (OWG), Olympic Qualifying Event (OQE) and any Pre-OQE qualification

Mixed Doubles

- RCG 1: World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (WMDCC)
- RCG 2: World Mixed Doubles Qualifying Event (WMDQE)
- RCG 4: Olympic Winter Games (OWG), Olympic Qualifying Event (OQE) and any Pre-OQE qualification

Wheelchair

- RCG 1: World Wheelchair Curling Championship (WWhCC)
- RCG 2: World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship (WWhBCC)
- RCG 4: Paralympic Winter Games (PWG)

Mixed

- RCG 1: World Mixed Curling Championship (WMxCC)

Wheelchair Mixed Doubles

- RCG 1: World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Championship (WWhMDCC)

Groups rankings

Men's World Level

- RCG 1: World Men's Curling Championships (WMCC)
- RCG 3a: European Curling Championships (ECC) plus subdivisions
- RCG 3b: Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC) plus subdivisions.

Men's European

- RCG 3a: European Curling Championships (ECC) plus subdivisions

Men's Pan-Continental

- RCG 3b: Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC) plus subdivisions

Men's Juniors

- RCG 1: World Junior Curling Championship (WJCC)
- RCG 2: World Junior-B Curling Championship (WJBCC)

Men's Senior

- RCG 1: World Senior Curling Championship (WSCC)

Women's World Level

- RCG 1: World Women's Curling Championships (WWCC)
- RCG 3a: European Curling Championships (ECC) plus subdivisions
- RCG 3b: Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC) plus subdivisions.

Women's European

- RCG 3a: European Curling Championships (ECC) plus subdivisions

Women's Pan-Continental

- RCG 3b: Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC) plus subdivisions

Women's Juniors

- RCG 1: World Junior Curling Championship (WJCC)
- RCG 2: World Junior-B Curling Championship (WJBCC)

Women's Senior

- RCG 1: World Senior Curling Championship (WSCC)

Wheelchair

- RCG 1: World Wheelchair Curling Championship (WWhCC)
- RCG 2: World Wheelchair-B Curling Championship (WWhBCC)

Wheelchair Mixed Doubles

- RCG 1: World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Championship (WWhMDCC)

Mixed

- RCG 1: World Mixed Curling Championship (WMxCC)

Ranking Points

Rankings points are awarded once per championship cycle for one ranking championship group (RCG). A championship group can consist of:

- A single championship, like the World Championships
- A championship and its relevant qualification tournaments, like the Olympic Winter Games, the Olympic Qualifying Event (OQE) and the Pre-OQE.

Basic ranking points table

This is the basic ranking points table. Used for all RCG 1 championships.

Position	Points	Position	Points	Position	Points	Position	Points
1	500	13	70	25	26	37	10
2	400	14	60	26	24	38	9
3	325	15	55	27	22	39	8
4	250	16	50	28	20	40	7
5	200	17	45	29	18	41	6
6	180	18	40	30	17	42	5
7	160	19	38	31	16	43	4
8	140	20	36	32	15	44	3
9	120	21	34	33	14	45	2
10	100	22	32	34	13	46	1
11	90	23	30	35	12	47	1
12	80	24	28	36	11	48	1

RCG 2 Championships

RCG 2 Championships are qualifications to RCG 1 championships (World Championships).

Points awards

1. Use the basic ranking points table
2. Remove all positions for the total number of entries in the RCG 1 championship
3. Remove associations qualified for the RCG 1 championship from the RCG 2 Championship.
4. Award points based on the final standings of the RCG 2 Championship

An example for WJCCB:

1. There are ten entries in the WJCC, remove position 1 to 10
2. Remove the associations qualified from the WJCCB to the WJCC. These (three or four) associations receive 0 points from the WJCCB
3. The first non-qualified association is awarded 90 points (position 11) and all the other associations will follow based on the final standings of the WJCCB

RCG 3 Championships

RCG 3 Championships are the zone championships and their subdivisions

There are special rules for the RCG 3 Championships based on that the zones are different in size.

The model of calculating points based on the number of entries into the Zone Championships have been the same as long as the rankings have existed. The primary principle is that the same average number of points are awarded to each entered association entered into one of the Zone Championships.

New for this quadrennial is that points are awarded for the medalists of the Zone Championships as all associations now has a Zone Championship to compete in. These points are not affected by the calculation model described below.

Points awards

1. Use the basic rankings points table
2. Qualified associations to the RCG 1 Championship from the Zone Championship receive
 - a. First: 100 points
 - b. Second: 50 points
 - c. Third: 25 points
 - d. All other qualified associations receive 0 points
3. Remove positions for all entries in the RCG 1 Championship
4. For the European zone:
 - a. Award points for the non-qualified associations based on the final standings of the ECC
 - b. For the ECC B-Division
 - i. Remove all positions for the entries in the ECC
 - ii. Award points based on the final standings of the ECCB
 - c. For the ECC C-Division
 - i. Remove all positions for the entries in the ECC
 - ii. Remove all positions for the entries in the ECCB
 - iii. Remove all positions for the associations that qualify for the ECCB
 - iv. Award points for the non-qualified associations based on the final standings of the ECCC
5. For the Pan-Continental zone:
 - a. Recalculate the points in the basic ranking points table as described in [Recalculated Ranking Points table](#)
 - b. Award points for the non-qualified associations based on the final standings of the PCCC
 - c. For the PCCC B-Division
 - i. Use the ranking list created in 5-a.
 - ii. Remove all positions that scored points under 5-b.
 - iii. Award points based on the final rankings of the PCCCB
6. For Group Rankings where the RCG3 Championship is the highest ranked championship
 - a. Use the basic rankings points table
 - b. Award points based on the final standings of the ECC or the PCCC
 - c. For the ECCB and the PCCCB
 - i. Remove all positions for the entries in the ECC or the PCCC
 - ii. Award points based on the final standings of the ECCB or PCCCB
 - d. For the ECCC
 - i. Remove all positions for the entries in the ECC
 - ii. Remove all positions for the entries in the ECCB

- iii. Remove all positions for the associations that qualify for the ECCB
- iv. Award points for the non-qualified associations based on the final standings of the ECCC

Recalculated Ranking Points table

The model to equalize the differences between different zones is to award points based on the average number of points awarded per entry in the Zone Championships and their subdivisions.

This is done by awarding points for the European Zone (largest zone) in accordance to the basic ranking points table. The Pan-Continental Zone (PCZ) is then recalculated to award the same number of points by average. An example will be provided below the description.

1. Baseline the European zone
 - a. Sum up the total number of entries in the ECC and its subdivisions.
 - b. Sum up all the points awarded for non-qualifiers to the RCG 1 Championships in the ECC and its subdivisions as described in [RCG 3 Championships](#) under steps 1 to 4.
 - c. Calculate the average number of points for the entries in the ECC and its subdivisions.
2. Baseline the Pan-Continental Zone
 - a. Sum up the total number of entries in the PCCC and its subdivisions
 - b. Multiply the value calculated in step 1-c with the value of step 2-a. This will be the target number for the non-qualified associations from the PCCC and its subdivisions.
 - c. Calculate the individual values for the non-qualified associations from the PCCC and its subdivisions. *Note that the following looks complex in text but there is a visual representation in the example (see [Calculation example](#)) that makes it easier to understand.*
 - i. Use the basic ranking points table as it looks after step 3
 - ii. For all the non-qualified associations from the PCCC and its subdivisions put the position values in a list.
 - iii. The list will be iterated as many times as needed. Stop the iterations when the total number of points awarded are less than the target number and go to step vii.
 - iv. For each iteration lock the points awarded for one additional entry, starting with one, while reducing the position with one step for all other entries
 - v. When all iterations are done (number of entries – 1) and if the target number is not reached, reduce the position one step for all entries in the list.
 - vi. Return to step iii.
 - vii. Go back one iteration to the last when the total number of points was higher or equal to the target number. These values will be used.

Calculation example

The points for the Pan-Continental Zone will be calculated as follows for the Men's rankings

Let's start with the following assumptions

1. The WMCC is played with 13 associations, 8 European and 5 Pan-continental associations
2. The ECC (and subdivisions) is played by 33 associations
(2021: 10A, 16B and 7C (non-qualifiers for B))

3. The PCCC (and subdivisions) is played by 14 associations (Americas Challenge + World pre-qualified: 4 at most and PACC 2019: 10)
4. Twenty-five associations are non-qualified from the EZ
5. Nine associations are non-qualified from the PCZ

The steps described refers to [RCG 3 Championships](#) or [Recalculated Ranking Points table](#) (RRP)

1. Step 1: Use the [Basic ranking points table](#) as the starting point
2. Step 2: Qualified associations receive $100+50+25 = 175$ points.
3. Step 3: Remove 13 positions in the [Basic ranking points table](#)
4. RRP Step 1-a: 33 associations entered in the ECC plus subdivisions
5. RRP Step 1-b: Sum up all positions from 14 to 38 in the [Basic ranking points table](#) (25 non-qualified teams) which equals 675 points.
6. RRP Step 1-c: Divide $(175+675) / 33$ which gives an average of 25,76 per association
7. RRP Step 2-a: 14 associations entered in the PCCC plus subdivisions
8. RRP Step 2-b: $14 * 25,76 = 360.64$, which is rounded upwards to 361. 175 points have already been awarded in step 2, so the target number will be $361 - 175 = 186$ points.
9. RRP Step 2-c: The [Basic ranking points table](#), positions 14 to 22 will be used as the starting point. The iterations are shown below. When done return to step 5-b.

Step 2-c-ii	Steps 2-c-iii and 2-c-iv							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
55	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
50	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
45	40	38	36	36	36	36	36	36
40	38	36	34	32	32	32	32	32
38	36	34	32	30	28	28	28	28
36	34	32	30	28	26	24	24	24
34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20	20
32	30	28	26	24	22	20	18	16
390	365	348	336	326	318	312	308	306

Step 2--c-v	Steps 2-c-iii and 2-c-iv							
	55	40	34	30	26	22	18	14
55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
36	34	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
32	30	28	26	26	26	26	26	26
28	26	24	22	20	20	20	20	20
24	22	20	18	16	14	14	14	14
20	18	16	14	12	10	9	9	9
16	14	12	10	9	8	7	6	6
12	10	9	8	7	6	6	5	4
268	249	236	225	217	211	209	207	206

Step 2-c-v	Not needed, the target number has been reached								
50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	
38	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	
30	28	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	
24	22	20	18	18	18	18	18	18	
18	16	14	12	10	10	10	10	10	
12	10	9	8	7	6	6	6	6	
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	2	2	
5	4	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	
3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
188	175	165	158	153	151	150	150	150	

RCG 4 Championships

RCG 4 Championships are the Olympics and Paralympics Championships and their qualification events (only for the Olympics so far).

Points awards

1. Use the basic rankings points table
2. Award rankings points for the OWG or the PWG based on the final standings
3. If there are qualification events
 - a. Remove all positions for the entries in the OWG or the PWG
 - b. For the Qualifying Event (QE), remove the associations qualified for the OWG or the PWG from the QE.
 - c. Award points based on the final standings of the QE
4. If there are pre-QE's
 - a. Remove all positions for the entries in the OWG or the PWG
 - b. Remove all positions for associations awarded points under 3-c.
 - c. Remove all associations qualified for the QE
 - d. Award points based on the final standings of the Pre-QE
 - e. If more than one Pre-QE, awards will be shared so that the same final ranking in the equivalent events are awarded the same amount of points.

Shared final standings

Some championships allow several associations to be ranked equal in the final standings. The ranking points awarded will be based on the average number of points collected by all involved associations.

Here is an example.

Four associations have lost their Quarterfinals and are all ranked fifth in the final standings. Let's assume that we can use the Basic Rankings Points table.

The positions five to eight are awarded $200+180+160+140 = 680$ points. The average number of points

are $680 / 4 = 170$ points.

Each association will be awarded 170 ranking points.

Ranking score

The ranking score, which is the value of all ranking points accrued during the whole ranking period, is calculated as a percentage of the maximum number of points available during the period. The value is displayed with three decimals.

If an association wins all the possible championships during the whole ranking period, it will receive 100.000(%) which is the highest possible number.

By using this model it's possible to compare results from different seasons and see if an association is improving or declining regardless if the ranking position has changed.

Extraordinary decisions

WCF must at times take decisions that affect the ranking system but cannot be considered a part of the regular system when unknown circumstances occur. The global pandemic has been such a case where WCF decided that the seasons 2019/20 and 2020/21 was considered a single ranking cycle, which created the term to be used instead of the word season.

This section describes the decisions made and can be seen as an equivalence to the “Decisions on the rules of golf” by the Royal & Ancient for the scope of the WCF Associations Rankings.

Global pandemic

The global pandemic was a global tragedy and affected a lot of lives outside the curling world. When the sports world started to recuperate it was decided for the WCF Associations rankings that the seasons 2019/20 and 2020/21 was to be considered a single season.

WCF may change the ranking cycle in the future in the occurrence of an event that prevents several championships in a ranking cycle.

Cancelled Championships

In the 2021/22 season, the WJCCB Championships was cancelled due to Covid. The men's during the Championship and the Women's before the Championship. But, it was still possible to organize the WJCC.

WCF decided that the Group Rankings for the ranking cycle still was needed.

WCF decided that all the associations that had entered into the WJCCB was given the same amount of ranking points by calculating the total number of points that would have been awarded if the Championship had been played and then dividing this number with the number of entries.

The associations that played the WJCC was awarded rankings points according to the rules.

World Qualifying Event

Associations that has participated in their Zone Championships don't receive ranking points for the WQE. However, in 2018/19, two associations only participated in the WQE (NZL, BRA) and in 2021/22 one association (BRA) did the same.

WCF decided that the same model as described in the [Recalculated Ranking Points table](#) was to be applied for the WQE and that ranking points were awarded based on the associations final standings.

Member Associations

WCF has decided that a member association is eligible for ranking points, even if they must compete under a different name.

Great Britain

The member association (currently Scotland (RCCC)) representing Great Britain in RCG 4 Championships will be awarded points for this RCG.

Competitions held by other Organizations

WCF may decide to use a World Associations Ranking or a Groups Ranking to help qualify associations for a Championship organized outside the WCF (like the Winter Universiade)

Rules usage

WCF has decided that If no World Associations Ranking is available as described in the Rules of Curling, then the appropriate Groups Rankings will be used.

History of the associations and groups rankings

The WCF Ranking system was created by Swiss Olympic Champion Patrick Hürlimann and adopted in 2006. Originally, there were rankings for men and women, other classes have been added during the years.

He tested several models during the development but the one adopted contained the following basic principles

1. Ranking points were collected during 6 seasons
2. Ranking points values were weighted based on time
 - a. Current season: $RP \times 100\%$
 - b. Previous season: $RP \times 80\%$
 - c. Current + 2: $RP \times 60\%$
 - d. Current + 3: $RP \times 40\%$
 - e. Current + 4: $RP \times 30\%$
 - f. Current + 5: $RP \times 20\%$
3. An association only scored points once in a year. Any team qualifying from the ECC or the PACC scored zero points for the zone championship. The winner of the WCC scored 240 points and other teams scored points in a falling scale. Teams not qualified for the WCC scored points for their position in the zone championship.
4. To balance the difference in the number of associations of each region an average number of points were awarded per team. This led to that the score for European teams has been fixed while the scores for Pacific/Asia teams have been adjusted to match the average. When the model was introduced there were no Americas Challenge.

To understand how it worked. Here is an example from the 2005/06 season for the men's:

- a. Europe: 29 associations in total. 8 associations qualified for the WCC, scoring zero points. For the remaining associations they scored 40, 38, 36 and so on down to 5 points. In total 435 points divided with 29 associations which gave an average of 15 points per association.
- b. Pacific: 6 associations in total, 2 qualified for the WCC. The other teams scored 34, 26, 18 and 12 points. In total 90 points divided with 6 associations which also gave an average of 15 points per association
5. The exception to the principle number 3 was the Olympic Winter Games. Teams qualified for the OWG (and the Paralympics Winter Games, PWG) would earn points based on the final standings. Twice the amount compared to the WCC so, 480, 400 etc.
6. For the Men's and Women's ranking, the ranking was published semi-annually. After the zone championships and after the World Championships.

The maintenance of the ranking system was after the 2006/07 season assigned to Paul Ahlgren, a Swedish curler that at the time was the webmaster of WCF and later became a member of the WCF competitions and rules commission.

During the following years a number of smaller changes were introduced

- The Americas challenge was added using the same scoring model as in principle 4 above.

- It was decided that no points were awarded for the Olympic qualifying event.
- As stated earlier, new class rankings were introduced.
- If final standings are shared (associations losing a quarterfinal for instance), the scores for all associations sharing the position are added and then divided with the number of associations and this is the number of points each association receives.
- If two (or more) associations have the same number of points in the rankings, the order is decided by countback of the results until the associations can be divided and, the association with the highest score is ordered first. The countback is performed once.
- If associations cannot be separated they will share the ranking cycle position and be displayed by their association name.
- After requests at the congress meetings by some member associations that felt that the groups at championships sometimes became skewed, a groups ranking was introduced.

The principles for the groups ranking are:

- Every championship has its own ranking (WCC, ECC, PACC, etc)
- The ranking is based upon three seasons with the same model as in principle 2 above and the percentage has been the same (see below for the season 2018/19 changes.
- For the Men's and Women's WCC rankings, the WCC, PACC and the ECC are included but the OWG is not.
- For the Wheelchairs, the WWHCC and the WWHBC are included but the PWG are not.
- For the other rankings, only the relevant championships are included. For instance, ECC includes the ECC, ECCB and the ECCC.

In 2017 a major revision of the rankings was introduced and came into effect in the 2018/19 season. There were some changes to the original principles

1. Principle 1 was changed to 4 years that counts towards the ranking to provide more volatility.
2. Principle 2 was changed to (also affecting groups ranking):
 - a. Current season: $RP \times 100\%$
 - b. Previous season: $RP \times 75\%$
 - c. Current + 2: $RP \times 60\%$
 - d. Current + 3: $RP \times 40\%$
3. Principle 6 was amended so that all rankings are published annually on the Wednesday after the last championship counting towards the ranking has been concluded.
4. The OWG and PWG points have been aligned to the amount of points awarded for the WCC, so 240, 200 etc.
5. To enable comparisons of rankings between seasons the total ranking score was changed from the total number of points awarded (which caused the points go up and down between seasons in an unpredictable way), to a percentage number.

The percentage number is calculated as the number of ranking points earned divided by the total number of points possible to earn (by winning all eligible championships during four years), displayed with three decimals. An example is available in another section of the document.

Due to the COVID pandemic some extraordinary decisions have been made:

- The rankings for the seasons 2019/20 and 2020/21 were considered a single season and introduced the term “championship cycle” (described elsewhere in the document)
- Rules for ranking points if a championship is not finished were.
- No rankings for Mixed for the seasons 2020/21 and 2021/22 will be produced as no eligible events has been organized.

For the 2022/23 season a new major revision is made and described in this document.