

World Curling Associations Rankings 2026- 2030

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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 2030 Olympic Winter Games in the French Alpes.

Summary of major changes

The major changes compared with the previous revisions of this rankings document are

- All disciplines that have a World Championship will now have an Association Ranking. Previously age-restricted championships were excluded
- Group Rankings have been removed, and the corresponding Association Ranking is used instead.
- The points balancing between regions have been removed as all Championships have at least two common divisions before splitting into regional subdivisions.
- European Curling Championship will no longer award any ranking points as there is no equivalence to it elsewhere.
- The deprecation of rankings points over time has been adjusted.

Rankings

Official Associations Rankings

World Curling publishes Official Associations Rankings once a year. If a new World Championship discipline gets added, there will be a ranking after the second championship year.

All disciplines, including age-restricted ones, where World Curling are crowning World Champions will have an Associations Ranking.

Official Teams Rankings

World Curling is also responsible for the Teams Rankings. These rankings are not described in this document.



Common 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) or that a championship is not hosted all seasons.
- **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 during each ranking cycle so that newer results carry more value than older ones.
 - a. Current ranking cycle (RC): Ranking points (RP) * 1.00
 - b. Previous RC: RP * 0.75
 - c. Current RC + 2 RCs: RP * 0.50
 - d. Current RC + 3 RCs: RP * 0.35
3. An association can score ranking points only once from each RCG in a ranking cycle.
4. Rankings for a category is published on the Wednesday after the final championship of the ranking championships group 1 in each ranking cycle.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. If a championship is acting as a qualification to another championship, no ranking points are awarded for qualified associations, unless if specifically noted in the [Ranking Points](#) chapter
9. Rankings will be produced for new ranking categories when two ranking cycles have been concluded.



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) and subdivisions.
- RCG 2: Olympic Winter Games (OWG)

Women

- RCG 1: World Women's Curling Championships (WWCC) and subdivisions.
- RCG 2: Olympic Winter Games (OWG)

Mixed Doubles

- RCG 1: World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (WMDCC) and subdivisions.
- RCG 2: Olympic Winter Games (OWG)

Wheelchair

- RCG 1: World Wheelchair Curling Championship (WWhCC) and subdivisions.
- RCG 2: Paralympic Winter Games (PWG)

Wheelchair Mixed Doubles

- RCG 1: World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Championship (WWhMDCC) and subdivisions.
- RCG 2: Paralympic Winter Games (PWG)

Mixed

- RCG 1: World Mixed Curling Championship (WMxCC) and subdivisions

World Juniors

- RCG 1: World Junior Curling Championship (WJCC) and subdivisions

World Junior Mixed Doubles

- RCG 1: World Junior Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WJMDCC) and subdivisions

World Seniors

1. RCG 1: World Senior Curling Championship (WSCC) and subdivisions

Excluded Championships

The following championships arranged by World Curling or championships under the responsibility of other organisations don't generate any ranking points.

- European Curling Championships
- Youth Olympic Games
- European Youth Olympic Festival
- World University Games
- Asian Winter Games



Ranking Points

Ranking points are awarded once per championship cycle for one ranking championship group (RCG).

Basic ranking points table

All RCG uses the same basic rankings points table. If there are more than one championship at a division level, they will be considered equal independent of the number of associations in each championship.

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

Here is an example of how it works for World Curling Championships for Men and Women:

1. An association will receive points based on their highest position within a ranking cycle. In a normal year two associations are promoted from each "C" championship to "B" and four teams are promoted from "B" to "A". The structure allows for an association to compete in all three levels within a ranking cycle.
2. The "A" championship is played with 18 associations. Points are awarded for position 1 to 18 in the list above. (see below if positions are shared)
3. The "B" championship is played with 16 associations. Points are awarded to associations ranked 5th to 16th continuing down the list above. This means that the association ranked 5th will receive points for position 19, the association ranked 6th will receive points for position 20 down to position 30.
4. The "C" championship is open entry and will initially be played in two separate events. These events are considered equal independent of the number of associations entered in each one. Points will be awarded to the associations ranked 3rd and below. The association ranked 3rd will receive points for position 31, the association ranked 4th will receive points for position 32 etc.

Level	Start Championship Ranking	End Championship Ranking	Start Ranking Position	End Ranking Position
A	1	18	1	18
B	5	16	19	30



C-1	3	?	31	?
C-2	3	?	31	?

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 you find an example on how it works.

Four associations have lost their Quarterfinals (for instance in the World Mixed (A)) and are all ranked fifth in the final standings.

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 of if the ranking position has changed.



Extraordinary decisions

World Curling 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 World Curling 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 World Curling 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.

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

Cancelled Championships

Group rankings are no longer used.

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.

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

World Curling decided that all the associations that had entered into the WJCCB was given the same number 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

WQE is currently a defunct championship event.

Associations that have 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.

World Curling 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

World Curling 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 representing Great Britain (currently Scotland (RCCC)) in RCG 2 Championships will be awarded points for this RCG.

Competitions held by other Organizations

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



History of the associations and groups rankings

The World Curling 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 few 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 up to the Olympic Winter Games 2026 several changes were made, and the details can be found in the previous version of this document called “WCF Associations World Rankings 2022-2026”