

## Proposal for the World Mixed Doubles Championship format

Mixed Doubles (MD) was accepted into the 2018 Olympic Winter Games on the basis of 8 nations competing. This inclusion was a very positive development for curling as it will provide a third curling discipline, alongside the men's and women's events and will showcase the sport globally.

Since its inception in 2008 the World Mixed Doubles Championships has been open-entry. Given the short timescale of MD entering the Olympic Winter Games (OWG) the open-entry system was understandably maintained during this Olympic cycle. However, various stakeholders have acknowledged that this format contains significant shortcomings.

The fundamental principle that we identify is to ensure that the Olympic qualifying structure for MD involves the same rigour as that utilised in the Men's and Women's disciplines. Appropriate thoroughness must be in place to ensure the best performing nations progress to the ultimate playing stage – the Olympic Games.

The key aspects of our proposal for the MD format is:

- Maintain 2 World Championships, 2020 and 2021 as Olympic points scoring events
- Reform the World Championship and create a World Championship Qualifier (World Championship 'B') with system for the best teams from the qualifier being promoted in the same season.
- Have 2 round robin sections in each of these 2 Championships. So doing will have the result of reducing overall numbers of nations in the Championship compared to the present open-entry arrangement. This structure will provide more emphasis on the round robin results providing final Championship rankings and thus Olympic points allocation.
- A post round robin play-off system which establishes World Championships medallists plus a more robust than present Olympic point scoring system, designed to work with the revised round robin section format.

### Create a World Championship and World Championship Qualifier ('B')

The last two MD World Championships have seen an average entry of 40 nations. This proposed format would take effect from after the 2019 World MD Championship, so that existing contracts can be honoured, new ones developed and teams will have two years prepare.

The RCCC proposal is to have a World Championship comprising a fixed number of 20 nations and the remainder to participate in the World Championship Qualifier (around 20 but variable dependant on number of entries).

The World Championship and the World Qualifier would need to be separated, to run at different times, then it would be possible for any team finishing top 4 in the Qualifier proceeding to World Championship in the same season and earn Olympic points.

The Championships' structure would be:

<b>WMDCC format</b>	<b>WWDCQ Qualifier format</b>
20 countries in total	20 countries +/-
2 sections of 10 teams	2 sections of 10 teams
Round-robin format (9 games) followed by play-offs for final ranking	Round robin format (9 games) followed by play-offs for final ranking
Post round robin play-off would results in 3 further matches for all teams bar those finishing in 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> positions, which would have 2 matches	Post round robin play-off would results in 3 further matches for all teams bar those finishing in 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> positions, which would have 2 matches
Top 4 teams in each section qualify for play-offs for rankings 1 <sup>st</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> places including Gold, Silver and Bronze.  Start with 4 "Quarter final" matches and play semi-finals, 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> matches and finals to create 1 <sup>st</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> rankings.	Top 4 teams in each section qualify for play-offs for rankings 1 <sup>st</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> places including Gold, Silver and Bronze  Start with 4 "Quarter final" matches and play semi-finals, 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> matches and finals to create 1 <sup>st</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> rankings  <b>Teams 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> qualify for next World Championship</b>
Teams in position 5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> in each section qualify for play offs for ranking places 9 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>  Start with 4 "Quarter final" matches and play semi-finals, 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> match and final to create 9 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> rankings.	Teams in position 5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> in each section qualify for play offs for ranking places 9 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>  Start with 4 "Quarter final" matches and play semi-finals, 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> match and final to create 9 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> rankings
Teams in position 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> in each section qualify for play-offs for 17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> . <b>These 4 teams would also be relegated to next season's World Qualifier.</b>  Start with 2 "Semi-final" matches and play 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> match and final to create 17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> rankings	Teams in position 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> in each section qualify for play-offs for 17 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> .  Start with 2 "Semi-final" matches and play 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> match and final to create 17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> rankings

This proposal would mean that within each section at WMDCC, there would be 9 round robin games compared to 3 play-off games; therefore greater reward for consistency and the likelihood of the best teams rising to the top. The round robin stage would and should be more significant in determining the final positions than presently.

For example if a nation were to make top 4 (due to record in round robin) in its section in 2020 and 2021, then it would make top 8 in the Championships both times and would most likely qualify for the 2022 OWG.

Having 4 teams from the Championship and 4 from the World Qualifier involved in relegation challenge games would keep the whole championship exciting, as teams either striving for top 4 or

trying to avoid bottom two and would ensure that there would be a significant number of teams (20%) shifting from Championship to Qualifier and vice-versa.

Olympic points could be awarded to all teams in the World Championship in 2020 and 2021:  
Gold=23 points, Silver=21, Bronze=19, 4<sup>th</sup> place=17, 5<sup>th</sup> place=16, 6<sup>th</sup> place=15, 7<sup>th</sup> place=14 and so on down to 20<sup>th</sup> = 1 point.

To establish the countries to comprise the World Championship and World Championship Qualifier in 2020 the World Championships' rankings of 2016, 17, 18 and 19 should be used. 2016 should be the first one considered for inclusion as it was the first one to be played after the confirmation of MD entry into the OWG.