



WORLD AND EUROPEAN CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Curling is played throughout the world. Forty-five Member Associations belong to the World Curling Federation (WCF) and the sport's popularity grows as Asian countries take to the sport with enthusiasm.

Tradition and a potential for growth

The game of curling is more than 500 years old and has a rich history. The competition – between two teams of four, played with stones on ice – was featured at the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix, France in 1924.

After a gap of 74 years, it returned as an Olympic Winter Sport at the 1998 Nagano Winter Games, with both men's and women's tournaments. Becoming an official Olympic sport, improvements in ice making and changes in the rules to make the game more attractive and promote complex strategy, have increased the appeal of the sport.

Today curling is played throughout the world – the popularity of the sport is increasing all the time, along with the global expansion of winter sports. The sport is most firmly established in Canada, Scotland and Switzerland and is growing fast in Eastern Europe and Asia.

An annual schedule of events

There is an annual schedule of international events at World and European level for both men and women.

The annual World Curling Championships involve the top 12 curling countries in the world. Each Championship takes nine days and is played to a round robin format to determine the qualification for the final rounds. While the Women's World Curling Championship is played in March each year the men's event takes place in April.

The men's and women's European Curling Championships always take place in December and are split into A and B groups, with group A containing the top ten European national teams. The final top eight of group A qualify for the next World Curling Championship.

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