

Information for RA Women's Curlers on Ratings & Assessments

Updated November 4, 2020

NOTE: If there are any discrepancies between this document and the current Ratings & Assessment Protocol, the protocol takes precedence. If you see a discrepancy, please notify the [Chair of Ratings & Assessment](#).

Introduction

Members are rated as Lead, Second, Third or Skip. This facilitates team makeup in our draw-curling (enabling us to ensure a reasonably “even playing field”), and assists us in meeting the entry criteria for various bonspiels outside the club. Note: “level” is used interchangeably with “rating”, below, only to avoid excessive repetition of the term “rating”.

Related Link

[Rating & Assessment Protocol](#)

Assessment vs Rating

Assessments are the first step toward obtaining a new rating. A curler is assessed by her draw skips while playing in “assessed” draw games during the season. She is rated by the Skips/Ratings Committee at the end of that season.

Who is assessed?

In any given season, assessments are:

- Rated members who request assessment; and
- Unrated members who are:
 - o new to RA, with prior curling experience; or
 - o former RA members returning after an absence of more than a year.

Note on Novices

Novices (new members without prior experience) aren’t assessed. Novices are automatically rated as Leads at the end of their novice season. For the purpose of future ratings, a curler’s “novice season” counts as her first season playing at the lead level.

How do I request assessment?

At the start of every season, RA Women posts information packages for new and returning members on its website. These packages include an “Activity Sheet” that curlers complete when registering. Among other things, the Activity Sheet asks whether the curler wishes to be assessed; responding “yes” is the most common way of requesting assessment. If in doubt, contact the [Chair of Ratings & Assessments](#).

May I withdraw from assessment?

A rated curler who has requested assessment may withdraw from the process at any time during the season. To do so, she must inform the [Chair of Ratings & Assessments](#) in writing. Her withdrawal remains in effect for that full season, but she may request assessment again the next season.

An unrated curler cannot withdraw from assessment.

Assessment: How Does It Work?

Curlers are assessed by different skips over the course of the season. In each game of an Assessed Draw, the draw-skip keeps track of the players on her team who are being assessed.

- Skips score **shot-making** based on line and weight. Some shots are perfect, and some deserve a partial score. The result is a shot percentage for that game. Skips do their best to be fair, recognizing that every shot is a combination of the ice that's given, the throw itself, and sweeping.
- Skips also note **other skill elements** such as a curler's sweeping effectiveness, sweeping responsiveness, ability to judge rock-weight, on-ice communication, understanding of the game, focus, ability to play-up, etc.; and, where appropriate, strategic understanding and line-calling.

At the end of each draw, skips hand-in their assessments to a small Assessment Subcommittee, which records the shot percentages and notes on other skill elements for each assessed curler. At the end of the season, this subcommittee computes each curler's average shot percentage and summarizes the notes. This data is presented to the larger Skips/Rating Committee, which meets each Spring to decide ratings.

Can I be assessed when I'm sparing?

Yes. However, when a curler is sparing, the only way the draw-skip will know to assess her is if she personally requests it, and she needs to make the request before the game. Asking to be assessed when sparing is entirely a curler's choice; there's no obligation or expectation.

Extra assessments are commonly seen as a good thing: they can help even out a curler's overall season's shot-average; they can mean being assessed by a broader spectrum of skips; and they can help a curler reach the minimum number of assessed games (10) if she is at risk of falling short.

Ratings: Promotion vs Placement

There are two ways a new rating can be applied:

- "Promotion": where a rated Riverside member is given a rating 1 level higher than her current level.
- "Placement": where an unrated member is given a Riverside rating.

When is a curler eligible for promotion or placement?

There are 3 basic requirements for eligibility:

Experience playing "at level"

- For a rated curler to be eligible for promotion: she is expected to have played "at level" (i.e., her current rating) for at least 3 seasons. See "Counting seasons at-level", below.
- For an unrated curler to be eligible for placement at a given level: Riverside seeks the equivalent of 3-

seasons-per-level based on prior experience and positions played. For unrated curlers coming from other clubs, this can sometimes be a judgment call.

Minimum assessed games

During their assessed season, curlers – both rated and unrated – must play in a minimum of 10 assessed games.

Minimum average shot percentage

During their assessed season, curlers – both rated and unrated – must score an average shot percentage that meets the minimum for the rating in question:

- 55% for a rating as Second
- 60% for a rating as Third
- 65% for a rating as Skip

Important: meeting basic eligibility does not, in itself, guarantee that a curler will be offered a particular promotion or placement. See “How are ratings decided?”, below.

Counting seasons “at level”

A curler may request assessment at the **beginning** of her third season playing “at-level”, leading up to a rating that would occur at the **end** of her third season. For the purpose of counting seasons:

- For a curler who has just been promoted: the season immediately following her promotion counts as her first season playing at the new level.
- For a curler who has just been placed at the level for which she qualified: her “unrated season” counts as her first season playing at her rated level.

How are ratings decided?

New ratings are decided based on current-season information. In the Spring, the Skips/Ratings Committee considers individual assessments, ranking within groups, and space available.

- Regarding individual assessments: assessments are based on shot-making and other skill elements (see “Assessment: how does it work, and what is being assessed?”, above).
- Regarding ranking: where two or more curlers (rated and/or unrated) qualify for a given rating based on their individual assessments, they are grouped and “ranked”, highest to lowest, within the group.
- Regarding space available: curling clubs traditionally maintain a membership of approximately 22% skips, 24% thirds, 26% seconds, and 28% leads; Riverside uses this as a general guideline.

The interplay of these factors is best illustrated by example. If three curlers qualify for a given rating based on their individual assessments, but there is only space available for two additional curlers at that level, then the two highest-ranking curlers in that group would be offered the new rating. The remaining curler would not normally receive an offer unless one of the higher ranking curlers declines.

When a curler qualifies for a given rating but cannot be offered it due to space available and ranking:

- If she is a rated curler: she remains at her current rated level.
- If she is an unrated curler: she is placed one level below the rating for which she qualified.

In both cases, the curler may request to be assessed again the very next season.

After the Skips/Rating Committee meeting in the Spring, each assessed curler receives a personal call to provide her with the rating-decision in her case, and general feedback.

For More information

See related links at the top.

If you have questions, feel free to contact the [Chair of Ratings and Assessments](#).

Whether you are being assessed or not, you are always welcome to approach your draw-skip after a game for tips or feedback.