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# Special Olympics floor-hockey title on line

Saskatchewan's top Special Olympics floor hockey teams begin their quests for provincial championships today in Prince Albert.

Thirteen teams from across the province are competing in three divisions — A, B and C — in the two-day tournament at Carlton Comprehensive High School's Red and Gold gymnasiums.

Two Zone 8 teams, which include players from Nipawin, Tisdale, Porcupine Plain,

Melfort and Prince Albert, are competing in the annual event.

The tournament starts with seeding games tonight from 6 o'clock to 7:30. These nine-minute games are used by coaches to classify teams into the A, B or C divisions.

Divisional round-robin action starts tonight at 8 o'clock and runs until 11 p.m.

Each team will play a 36-minute game against each opponent in its division. The team with the best win-loss

record in each category after round-robin play will be crowned provincial champion.

The winner of the A-division title qualifies to compete at the October 1996 Canadian championships in Calgary.

The national championships are held every three years.

Opening ceremonies will be held Saturday at 8:30 a.m., followed by the resumption of round-robin play. The games conclude at 6 p.m., with a 7:30

p.m. banquet at P.A. Place capping the tournament.

The two 15-member Zone 8 teams were chosen during an evaluation camp at Woodland Institute on March 11. Darren Whitehead, one of the event's coordinators, believes the host teams will be quite competitive.

"The Zone 8 A team has a very good chance," said Whitehead. "They've been close (to winning the provincial crown) the last few years, within one or two goals."