

**U.S. CURLING ASSOCIATION (USCA)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2018 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES
WHEELCHAIR CURLING (MIXED)**

[Amended 9/1/2016](#)

[Amended 5/31/2017](#)

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

An athlete must be a national of the United States at the time he/she enters the playdown process for the 2016-17 National Team Trials.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changes his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IOC Chapter (Rule 42), the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1), or the PASO Statues (Article XXII, Sections 4 and 5).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF)

Be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athletes must have successfully completed all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Fees. There will be playdown entry fees for all individuals per current USCA Championships Rules. See current championship rules on the USCA website, www.usacurl.org.

- Athletes. Athletes must be a USCA member and dues paying member of a USCA-member club, or alternatively, pay a one-time \$100-(per athlete) USCA administrative fee to be eligible to compete in the Trials and, if they qualify, the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.
- USCA athlete and administrative forms-athlete commitment. Entry to the Trials playdown process is an indication to the USCA that all entered athletes intend to compete, if they qualify, at the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games. The time commitment for the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games is described in Section 9, Mandatory Training and/or Competition, below. Selected athletes will be required to participate in official Team training events and competition for the duration of this period.
 - General Eligibility. Athlete eligibility is governed by these Selection Procedures and by the current Championship Rules, which also includes competition rules and procedures, the athlete agreement, the code of conduct, and other administrative forms. See current championship rules on the USCA website, www.usacurl.org
 - WCF Qualification. The WCF qualification system for the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games can be found at www.worldcurling.org.

Athletes must be eligible to compete and not under any sanction from USADA/WADA.

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

2018 Paralympic Curling Pre-Trials Selection
Event September 22-25, 2016
Blaine, Minnesota

2016-17 National Team
Trials November 3-6, 2016
Wausau, Wisconsin

Invitational Development Camps

(TBD) Development Clinics (TBD)

International Competitions (TBD)

**All TBD Tryout Event information will be posted on the USA Curling website www.usacurl.org at least 45 days prior to competition.

- 1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

The 2018 Paralympic Curling Pre-Trials Selection Event will be held September 22-25, 2016 in Blaine, Minnesota. This event is open to all eligible athletes in the United States who have not already been directly invited to the 2016-17 National Team Trials. Throughout these Pre-Trials, participants will be assessed and given a rank by the Player Selection Committee (Section 2.3) regarding their curling abilities via skill shot analysis and game play as well as other qualities including on- and off-ice behavior, team dynamics, and practice regimen. Athletes' prior demonstrated game knowledge and performance will also be recorded, assessed and ranked.

The number of athletes selected to compete at the 2016-17 National Team Trials from the Pre-Trials Selection Event will depend on the number of athletes who have accepted their direct invitation. The total number of athletes competing at the 2016-17 National Team Trials will be no more than 14, not including any who gained entry through petitions (See Waiver Petition Process below).

The ten (10) athletes who were members of the 2015-16 National Team will be automatically invited to attend the 2016-17 National Team Trials to take place on November 3-6, 2016 in Wausau, Wisconsin. These invitations will be issued by both mail and email within seven (7) days of the publication of these procedures. The athletes who are being invited directly to attend the 2016-17 National Team Trials must accept or deny the invitation, in writing, no later than September 8th, 2016, either by letter to the USCA National Office (5525 Clem's Way, Stevens Point, WI 54482); by fax (715-344-2279) or by email to marc.deperno@usacurl.org. A failure to reply will be considered a denial of the invitation.

For Petitions of Waiver for 2018 U.S. Paralympic Team Selection Process for Curling:

The USCA recognizes that extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances may occur which would cause athletes to fail to participate in one or more steps of the Paralympic selection process as described herein.

Procedures for petitioning into the 2018 U.S. Paralympic Team Selection process for wheelchair curling are outlined below. Any such petitions will be considered by the Player Selection Committee, in consultation with the USCA CEO.

Any athlete who competed at the 2015 or 2016 World Championships, or was a member of the 2015-16 National Team, who is unable to participate in one or more of the steps above may file a petition.

In order to be considered by the Player Selection Committee, petitions must be submitted in writing and received by the USCA no later than October 14, 2016. Petitions can be submitted either by letter to the USCA National Office (5525 Clem's Way, Stevens Point, WI 54482); by fax (715-344-2279) or by email to marc.deperno@usacurl.org. The petition must include the athlete's full name, address, phone number(s) and email address (if available).

The petition must state the specific injury, illness or unusual circumstances which prohibited the athlete from participating in the 2018 U.S. Paralympic Team Selection process. In the case of a petition based upon an injury or illness, the petition must be accompanied by a physician's statement verifying the injury or illness.

The Player Selection Committee will provide the petitioning athlete with an acknowledgement of receipt of the petition within 24 hours of receiving it, providing that an email address or phone number has been included with the petition. The committee will notify athletes of decisions within seven (7) days of receipt of a petition, but no later than October 21st, 2016.

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become Team nominees (include maximum Team size).

The maximum team size for the 2018 Paralympic Curling Team is five (5). Each Team must be comprised of male and female players, and each on-ice team must have four players delivering stones and must be comprised of both genders for all games.

Athletes competing at the 2016-17 National Team Trials will participate in individual skill shots as well as game play. Throughout these Trials, all

athletes will be assessed and given a rank by the Player Selection Committee regarding their curling abilities via skill shot analysis and game play as well as other qualities including on- and off-ice behavior, team dynamics, and practice regimen (See Assessment Form, Attachment A.). Athletes' prior demonstrated game knowledge and performance will also be recorded, assessed and rated. The Player Selection Committee will select eight (8) athletes from the top ranked male and female athletes (each gender will be ranked separately) at the end of Trials and those athletes will be named to the 2016-17 National Team. These eight (8) athletes will continue to be assessed and evaluated by the Player Selection Committee throughout the 2016-17 season and through training and competitions in the summer and fall of 2017, leading up to the 2018 Paralympic Team nomination deadline of December 18, 2017, as stated in Section 8. If the Player Selection Committee determines that an athlete is not performing at a level that best allows for competitive success of the 2016-17 National Team or 2018 Paralympic Team, then that athlete may be removed from the National Team. The Player Selection Committee will then name another athlete to the National Team. In removing an athlete from the National Team, and naming a replacement, in addition to those skills measured pursuant to the Assessment Form, Attachment A, the Player Selection Committee will consider the athlete's curling abilities via skill shot analysis and game play as well as other qualities including, but not limited to, on- and off-ice behavior, team dynamics, and practice regimen and overall competitive readiness.

Prior to December 18, 2017, the Player Selection Committee will meet and nominate five (5) athletes to the 2018 Paralympic Team from the pool of eight (8) athletes who are on the 2016-17 National Team at the time of nomination.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

Discretionary selection will be used to ensure USCA puts forth the most competitive team at the 2018 Paralympic Games.

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used:

The discretionary method and qualifications outlined in Section 1.3 will be used to select the 2018 Paralympic Team.

- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

Player Selection Committee

~~Steve Brown~~-National Wheelchair Team Development Coach
~~Russell Schieber~~-National Wheelchair Team Assistant Development
~~Marc DePerno~~-National Wheelchair Program Dir. of Outreach & Dev.
~~Anthony Colacchio~~-~~Level Four Wheelchair Curling Instructor~~
~~-Level 2 or Higher Coaching Instructor~~
~~Tim Kelly~~-Member, 2012 National Wheelchair Curling Team

- 2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, USCA has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USCA may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USCA:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USCA Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USCA. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the

USCA, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.

3.1.3. Violation of USCA Athlete/Coach Agreement or the USCA Athlete/Coach Code of Conduct Agreement
(<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-curling/events/championships-microsite/inside-the-championships/national-championship-events/wheelchair-national-team/wheelchair-national-team-selection>)

3.1.4 Re-classification by the IPC/IF such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him or her for the Team.

3.1.5 Removal by the IPC/IF of the event in which the athlete qualified for the Team from the program of the Paralympic Games.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NGB's Bylaws (NGB: Provide specific Article(s) of Bylaws, etc. here) and the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USCA Code of Conduct, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at: <http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>

3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The athletes competing in the 2016-2017 National Team Trials will be assessed and ranked by the Player Selection Committee (Section 2.3). This ranking will serve as the initial guideline to determine replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur. However, the Player Selection Committee retains the discretion to select any athlete should it be determined that the next highest ranked athlete's behavior, team dynamics, practice regimen and/or health has decreased to the point that it negatively impacts the overall Team

performance. The gender of the athlete being replaced must also be taken into consideration, as each team competing in the Paralympics must have both genders competing on the ice in every game.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The athletes competing in the 2016-2017 National Team Trials will be assessed and ranked by the Player Selection Committee (Section 2.3). This ranking will serve as the initial guideline to determine replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur. However, the Player Selection Committee retains the discretion to select any athlete should it be determined that the next highest ranked athlete's behavior, team dynamics, practice regimen and/or health has decreased to the point that it negatively impacts the overall Team performance. The gender of the athlete being replaced must also be taken into consideration, as each team competing in the Paralympics must have both genders competing on the ice in every game.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USCA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Paralympic Games and are included as attachments:

USCA National Team Athlete Agreement and Code of Conduct which can be found at: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/For-Athletes/High-Performance-Program>

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USCA in the following locations:

- 7.1. USCA Web site: www.usacurl.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOC.

7.2. Other:

The USCA will publish a link to the complete U.S. Olympic Team Selection Procedures in the first and any subsequently applicable issues of the U.S. Curling News (applicable as in before the registration deadline for the Trials).

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before:

December 18, 2017

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

The athlete training and competition schedule between the 2016-17 National Team Trials (November 4-6, 2016) and the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games will be developed by the USCA National Wheelchair Curling Program coaches and team leader, with input from the Team and the Player Selection Committee.

The athletes selected for the 2016-17 National Team during the 2018 Paralympic Team Selection process will be subject to mandatory on- and off-ice training events and competitions between the 2016-17 National Team Trials and the commencement of the 2018 Paralympic Games. Team training will include a travel and time commitment. The National Team Leader will work with the Team and coaches immediately after the 2016-17 National Team Trials to develop a custom and formalized training and competition plan to best meet the Team's needs. The Team, including implementation of their Team Development Plan, will be held accountable to the National Wheelchair Curling Program coaches and team leader. The Team Development Plan will include:

- Team, coach and team leader maintain constant and formal communication
- Team commits to an on- and off-ice training plan
- Team commits to work with their Paralympic Team Coach
- Team has a competition plan that includes international competition if available
- Team attends High Performance Clinics/Camps, if scheduled
- Team reports their training and competition results to the Team Leader
- Team will participate in the USADA Testing per USADA direction

- Team will adhere to all applicable anti-doping protocols
- Team cooperates to conclude all handicapped-related WCF documentation

Additionally, the National Team Leader and/or National Team Coaches will make scheduled visits to the Team training and competition sites to facilitate their continued development, and will work with and advise the Team and National Team Coach accordingly. In view of the high level of training and competition required to maximize the Team's chances to medal at the 2018 Paralympic Games, all athletes are advised to keep their schedules open and flexible between the conclusion of the 2016-17 National Team Trials and through the 2018 Paralympic Games.

9.1 Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

- Cathy Kerr International Bohnspiel, Ottawa, Ontario, November. 24-27, 2016
- U.S. Open, Utica, New York, December. 2-4, 2016
- 2017 World Wheelchair Curling Championships, March 4-11, PyeongChang, South Korea
- Other training and event dates to be determined and athletes will be notified at least 30 days prior to the training or competition event

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Steve Brown, USCA Wheelchair Program National Development Coach
 Rusty Schieber, USCA Wheelchair Program National Development Assistant Coach
 Marc DePerno, USCA Wheelchair Program Outreach & Development Director
 Doug Pottinger, USOC AAC representative
 Tim Kelly, 2012 National Team Member
 Rick Patzke, USCA CEO
 Mike Delleman, USCA Deputy Manager

1. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USCA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at www.usacurl.org

2. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or World Curling Federation rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or World Curling Federation rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USCA. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.

3. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

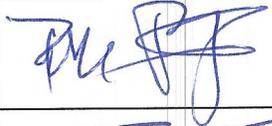
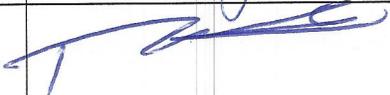
Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USCA may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at Kacie.wallace@usoc.org

<http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>

4. NGB/HPMO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF (PAG/PPAG only) and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USCA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB/HPMO President or CEO/Executive Director	Rick Patzke		6/12/17
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Rusty Schieber		2 Jun 17

USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Dean Gemmell		
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* If the USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/HPMO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOC AAC Representative, the NGB/HPMO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

Attachment A
U.S. Paralympics Wheelchair Curler Assessment Form

Players will be assessed in the following areas during the 2018 Paralympic Team Selection process. Players will be ranked using the scale below. The Player Selection Committee shall have the discretion to design additional skills tests as may be deemed necessary.

The scale for numerical assessment is:

- 1 - Deficient
- 2 - Needs improvement
- 3 - Nationally capable
- 4 - Internationally capable
- 5 - Internationally exceptional

Shot Execution:

Draws (In-Turns and Out-Turns Assessed Separately):

- Accuracy to Broom
- Weight Consistency

Takeouts: (In-Turns and Out-Turns Assessed Separately):

- Accuracy to Broom
- Weight Consistency

Shot Variety:

- Promotion
- Hit and
- Roll Guard
- Ability to make different shots consecutively (i.e. guard followed by take-out)

Skipping: (Assessed primarily for players trying out for Skip and Third Position)

A variety of game situations will be designed to test knowledge of strategy and reading of ice conditions. Also included would be ability to read delivery releases and adjust ice accordingly.

Game Situations: for all athletes

Understanding of strategy and shot making skills under pressure.

Personal Interview and evaluation:

Evaluation of team compatibility

Ability to handle adverse situations and remain a strong team player
Commitment and goals

Prior Demonstrated Game Knowledge:

The collective net accumulation of game knowledge of team members returning from the immediate past year's national teams, as demonstrated at our various National Camps, Clinics and International competitive events will be considered in team member selection.

Prior Demonstrated Performance:

The collective net accumulation of individual performance of team members returning from the immediate past year's national teams, as demonstrated at our various National Camps, Clinics and International competitive events will be considered in team member selection.