1. SELECTION SYSTEM

*Definition of acronyms used throughout procedures can be found in Attachment 1

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

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:
To compete in the 2018 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling (Trials), including the qualifying process leading up to the Trials, an athlete must be a national of the United States by the time they enter the playdown process for the Trials.

To be eligible under International Olympic Committee (IOC) and World Curling Federation (WCF) rules, athlete must also hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:
Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IOC Charter (Rule 42).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

The WCF does not have minimum standards for participation in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

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 teams, per current USCA Championship Rules. See current championship rules on the USCA website, www.usacurl.org

• Athletes. Athletes must be paid up members of the USCA and a member of a USCA-member club, or alternatively, pay a one-time payment of a $100-per-athlete administrative fee.

• 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 Olympic Winter Games. The time commitment for the 2018 Olympic 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 Olympic Winter Games can be found at www.worldcurling.org

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 U.S. Olympic Team Mixed Doubles Trials for Curling
Date – TBD (14-30 December 2017)
Location – 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.
Athletes/Teams may qualify for the Olympic Mixed Doubles Trials for Curling through one of the two different methods as follows;

2. By way of Discretionary Selection to Olympic Trials.

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).

1.3.1. Maximum Team Size is one (1) man and one (1) woman, subject to achieving WCF qualification in accordance with the WCF Qualification System.

1.3.2. Mixed Doubles Trials – 8 teams

Teams may qualify for the Olympic Mixed Doubles Trials utilizing the following process:
1. Five (5) teams may qualify for the Trials by placing in the top 5 at the 2017 US National Mixed Doubles Championships.
2. A minimum of three (3) teams may qualify for the Trials via Discretionary Selection (also see section 2.)

Discretionary Selection Scenarios
- Teams qualified for the Trials must have both original team members to be eligible to compete.
- If any qualified team(s) are not eligible to compete in the Trials (based upon the criteria above regarding original team members), the Olympic Mixed Doubles Team Selection Committee reserves the right to select replacement athlete(s) and/or team(s) at Olympic Trials as referenced above.
- Discretionary Selection of any teams to participate in the Trials will take place by November 24th, 2017.

1.3.3 Trials Format
See current championship rules on the USCA website, [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org).
The team that wins the Trials will be nominated to the U.S. Olympic Committee for selection to the 2018 U.S. Olympic Team.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

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

The discretionary selection criteria will be based on the USCA’s assessment of maximizing the chances for competitive success at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

USCA will use discretionary selection for the following:
• Trials entry without direct qualification as detailed in Section 1.3.2 above

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

Trials Entry. The Olympic Mixed Doubles Team Selection Committee (as detailed at 2.3) reserves the right to select teams to compete in the Trials as outlined in Section 1.3.2. The selected team(s) can either be an existing team or made up of individual athletes, at the discretion of the Olympic Mixed Doubles Team Selection Committee. When making any Discretionary Selections the OTSC will take into consideration the following criteria in no particular order:

• Performances and results at the 2016 World Mixed Doubles Championships
• Performances and results at international Mixed Doubles events, season 2016-17
• Performances and results at the 2015 and 2017 U.S. Mixed Doubles National Championships (2016 was a World Team Trials; no National Championships were held)
• Performances and results at the 2016 U.S. World Team Trials for Mixed Doubles
• Performances and results at the 2016 and 2017 World Championships (Men’s or Women’s)
• Performances and results on the World Curling Tour 2015-16 and 2016-17 (Men’s or Women’s)
• Performances and results at the 2016 and 2017 U.S. National Championships (Men’s or Women’s)
• The most recent performances and results will take priority; i.e., 2017 will take priority over 2016
• Playing position flexibility
• Contribution to team chemistry and dynamics
• Contribution to team sweeping and communication

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

The USCA Olympic Mixed Doubles Team Selection Committee (OTSC):

Derek Brown, Director of High Performance
Rick Patzke, Chief Executive Officer
Leland Rich, WCF Representative
Phill Drobnick, Men’s National Coach
Ann Swisshelm, Women’s National Coach
TBD, Mixed Doubles National Coach
Cassie Potter, USOC AAC (or available athlete representative)
Brandon Corbett, USCA AAC (or available athlete representative)

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 committee that has a conflict of interest (to include, but not limited to, an athlete or a coach or a family member of an athlete being considered for a nomination to the Team) must declare a conflict of interest, recuse him/herself and not influence others regarding the discussions, meetings 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 and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

3.  REMOVAL OF ATHLETES
3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, the National Governing Body (NGB) has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

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

3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the NGB CEO.

3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.


An athlete who is removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USCA’s Bylaws (USCA By-Laws, Article 13 (See By-Laws in current championship rules on the USCA website, www.usacurl.org) or the USOC’s Bylaws, Article 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 NGB 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/Resources/Code-of-Conduct
http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents

3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, 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:
Team replacement. The replacement decision criteria will be the USCA assessment of maximizing the chances for competitive success at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The Olympic Mixed Doubles Team Selection Committee will use the Discretionary Criteria set out in section 2.2, Trials Entry.

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

See 4.1.1 Above

4.2. Replacement of Athletes Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

Team replacement. The following scenarios will allow the USCA to replace a team originally selected by the USCA:

The USCA OTSC will select a replacement team, which may be an “intact” team, for example, the second-place team from the Trials, or the replacement team may be a team comprised of athletes from more than one (1) current elite teams, not to exclude consideration of member(s) of the originally selected team. The replacement decision criteria will be the USCA’s assessment of maximizing the chances for competitive success at the Games. The Olympic Mixed Doubles Team Selection Committee will use the Discretionary Criteria set out in section 2.2. Team replacement is subject to ratification by the USCA Executive Committee.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NGB 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 Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

1. USCA National Team Athlete Agreement and Code of Conduct which can be found at http://www.teamusa.org/~/media/USA_Curling/Documents/HP/HPP%20Athlete%20Agreement%202015-16%20Final.pdf
7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

7.1. NGB 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 January 1, 2018.

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

The training and competitions scheduled between the Trials (December 2017) and 2018 Olympic Winter Games Opening Ceremony will be developed by the NC with input from the team and approved by the DHP. Where possible, athletes will be given at least fourteen (14) days’ notice for mandatory training and competition events after the Trials. The nominees to the 2018 Olympic Team will be subject to mandatory on- and off-ice training events and competitions between the conclusion of the Trials and through the commencement of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. Team training will include substantial travel and time commitment. The NC will work with the team immediately after nomination to develop a custom and formalized training and competition plan to best meet the USCA’s objectives and the team’s needs. The team, including implementation of their Team Development
Plan, will be held accountable to the NC. Their Team Development Plan will include the following:

1. Team and National Coach will commit to a formal communication plan to monitor the on- and off-ice training.
2. Team commits to an on- and off-ice training plan.
3. Team commits to be under the direction of the NC and DHP.
4. Team has a competition plan that includes International Mixed Doubles events
5. Team attends High Performance Camps as scheduled.
6. Team makes timely reports on its training and competition results to the NC.

Additionally, the NC will make scheduled visits to the team training and competition sites to facilitate the team’s continued development. The NC will work with and advise the team accordingly. In view of the high level of training and competition required to maximize a team’s chances to medal at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, all athletes are advised to keep their schedules open and flexible between the conclusion of the Trials and through the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, 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, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following Olympic Mixed Doubles Team Selection Committee was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Derek Brown, Director of High Performance (non-voting)
Rick Patzke, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Leland Rich, WCF Representative
Phill Drobnick, Men’s National Coach
Ann Swisshelm, Women’s National Coach
Wally Henry, Mixed Doubles National Coach
Cassie Potter, USOC AAC Alternate
Brandon Corbett, USCA AAC
12. **NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The NGB Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:  
[www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org)

13. **INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC and/or WCF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or WCF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to NGB. 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.

14. **ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by NGB 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](http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman)

15. **NGB SIGNATURES**

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF 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 NGB.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Print Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGB/HPMO President or CEO/Executive Director</td>
<td>Rick Patzke</td>
<td>[Signature Image]</td>
<td>7/25/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director</td>
<td>Derek Brown</td>
<td>07/25/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*</td>
<td>Doug Pottinger</td>
<td>07-24-16</td>
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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, 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 must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.
DEFINED TERMS:
AAC – Athletes Advisory Council
Athlete Representative – Any current available, non-conflicted member of the USCA Athletes’ Advisory Council (AAC), or any athlete who meets the criteria to stand for election to the USCA AAC.
DHP – Director of High Performance
IF – International Federation
IOC – International Olympic Committee
NC – National Coach
NGB – National Governing Body
NOC – National Olympic Committee
“National” of the United States – All U.S. citizens are U.S. Nationals. In addition, a U.S. National is a person born in or having ties with an outlying possession of the United States, which is, as of 2005, only American Samoa and Swains Island. Additionally, it also includes those individuals born abroad to two U.S. national parents, or those born abroad to one alien parent and one U.S. national parent. There is a residency requirement for the parents of the child prior to birth in order to transmit U.S. nationality.
OTSC – Olympic Team Selection Committee
USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency
USCA – United States Curling Association
USOC – United States Olympic Committee
WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency
WCF – World Curling Federation
WCT – World Curling Tour