

**U.S. CURLING ASSOCIATION  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
OLYMPIC GAMES 2018**

~~April 18, 2016~~

AMENDED 15 MARCH 2017

**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. Notwithstanding the above, if a fifth player is added to a team, he or she is only required to be a national of the United States at the time that he or she is registered as a member of the team.

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](http://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](http://www.usacurl.org)
- WCF Qualification. The WCF qualification system for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games can be found at [www.worldcurling.org](http://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 Trials for Curling

Date - November 12-19, 2017

Location - Omaha, NE\*\*

*\*\*All TBD Tryout Event information will be posted on the USA Curling website [www.usacurl.org](http://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 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling through one of the four different methods as follows:

1. By finishing in the top 5 at the 2017 World Curling Championships, as detailed in Section 1.3.2.
  - a. Men -April 1-9, Edmonton, Canada
  - b. Women - March 18-26, Beijing, China
2. By finishing in the top 15 of the 2016-17 World Curling Tour (WCT) Order of Merit (OOM), as detailed in Section 1.3.2 \* Only U.S. Nationals-eligible substitutes of the same gender may be used by teams seeking to earn WCT OOM points to count toward a top 15 ranking.
3. By finishing in the top 15 of the 2016-17 WCT OOM Year-to-Date (YTD), as detailed in Section 1.3.2.\* Only U.S. Nationals-eligible substitutes of the same gender may be used by teams seeking to earn WCT OOM YTD points to count toward a top 15 ranking.
4. By way of Discretionary Selection to U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling.

\*World Curling Tour rankings can be found at: [www.worldcurl.com](http://www.worldcurl.com)

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 five (5) men and five (5) women, subject to achieving WCF qualification in accordance with the WCF Qualification System.

1.3.2. Men's & Women's Trials - Minimum 3 teams, maximum 5 teams for each gender

Teams may qualify for the Olympic Trials utilizing the following process:

1. One team of each gender may qualify for the Trials by placing in the top 5 at the 2017 World Championships. In the event of a tie for 5<sup>th</sup> place in the World Curling Championships based on win-loss records, the U.S. team will still qualify for the Trials even if the final rankings as announced by the World Curling Federation place USA lower than 5<sup>th</sup> place.
2. One team, not already qualified as above, may qualify for the Trials by placing in the top 15 on the WCT OOM at the end of the

2016-17 season, as of May 1, 2017. In cases where more than one team not already qualified for the Trials places in the top 15 of the WCT OOM at the end of the 2016-17 season, it will be the highest ranked team in the top 15 that qualifies.

3. One team, not already qualified as above, may qualify for the Trials by placing in the top 15 on the WCT OOM YTD at the end of the 2016-17 season as of the conclusion of the WCT Champions Cup, on or about May 1, 2017. In cases where more than one team not already qualified for the Trials places in the top 15 of the WCT OOM YTD at the end of the 2016-17 season, it will be the highest ranked team in the top 15 that qualifies.
4. Discretionary Selection (also see section 2.)

Discretionary Selection Scenarios

- If 3 teams qualify directly for the Trials, the Olympic Team Selection Committee can add up to two discretionary selections.
- If 2 teams qualify directly for the Trials, the Olympic Team Selection Committee can add up to three discretionary selections.
- If 1 team qualifies directly for the Trials, the Olympic Team Selection Committee can add up to four discretionary selections.
- If no teams qualify directly for the Trials, the Olympic Team Selection Committee can add up to four discretionary selections.
- The Olympic Team Selection Committee reserves the right not to add any discretionary selections if they feel it is in the best interests of international competitive excellence, but there must be a minimum participation of at least three (3) Men's & three (3) Women's teams at the Trials.
- Teams qualified for the Trials must have a minimum of 3 of 4 original team members to be eligible to compete at the Trials. Original team members are defined as those members playing on the team when it first qualified.
- If any qualified team(s) are not eligible to compete in the Trials (based upon the criteria above regarding original team members), the Olympic Team Selection Committee reserves the right to select a replacement athlete and/or team(s) at Olympic Trials as referenced above.
- Discretionary Selection of any teams to participate in trials will take place by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### 1.3.3 Trials Format

See current championship rules on the USCA website, [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org).

The men's and women's teams that win 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 Sections 1.2.2 and 1.3.2.
- Fifth player
- Sixth player as detailed in Section 4
- Replacement beyond the sixth player as detailed in Section 4
- Team replacement as detailed in Section 4

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

Trials Entry. The Olympic Team Selection Committee (as detailed in Section 2.3) reserves the right to select team(s) 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 Team Selection Committee. When making any Discretionary Selections the OTSC will take into consideration the following criteria:

- Performances and results at the 2016 and 2017 World Championships
- Performances and results on the World Curling Tour during season's 2015-16 and 2016-17
- Performances and results at the 2016 and 2017 U.S. National Championships
- Performances and results at the 2016 and 2017 World Junior Championships

- The most recent performances and results will take priority; i.e., 2017 will take priority over 2016 and 2016-17 will take priority over 2015-16.
- Playing position flexibility
- Contribution to team chemistry

Fifth Player. A fifth player will be selected by the Fifth Player Selection Group (FPSG) which comprises the Director of High Performance (DHP), the applicable National Coach (NC) and an Athlete Representative, in consultation with the applicable team members. The decision will be based on the FPSG's judgment of the fifth player's ability to fill in on the team roster at a world performance level as needed.

Teams are advised that the FPSG will recommend that the newly added fifth player be qualified to play at any position, including world-level skip, unless the four-player team already includes two (2) world-level skip players. This stipulation recognizes the unique nature of the skip position in curling, and the need to protect the competitive interests of the team and the USA should the team skip be unable to play during the Olympic Games. The group will use the following criteria when selecting the fifth player(s):

- Performances and results at the 2016 and 2017 World Championships
- Performances and results during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 World Curling Tour
- Performances and results at the 2016 and 2017 US National Championships
- Performances and results at the 2016 and 2017 World Junior Championships (if applicable)
- The most recent performances and results will take priority; i.e., 2017 will take priority over 2016 and 2016-17 will take priority over 2015-16.
- Playing position flexibility
- Contribution to team chemistry

The selected fifth player(s) will be recommended by the FPSG to the USCA Olympic Team Selection Committee (OTSC) for approval. Once the fifth player has been approved by the OTSC, that athlete will be placed on the team roster. The decision whether or not the fifth player plays at the Olympic Games will be at the discretion of the applicable NC in consultation with the DHP.

Fifth players will be selected within ten (10) days of completion of the Trials. 2018 Olympic Winter Games Team nominee status is confirmed only after the team confirms the athlete as their fifth player. (See also Section 8, Date of Nomination.)

- 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 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\*

Doug Pottinger, USOC AAC (or available athlete representative)

Cassie Potter, USCA AAC (or available athlete representative)

\*The NCs will only vote on the gender they are responsible for, unless the OTSC is split, then the National Coach of the opposite gender will have the deciding vote.

- 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.
- 3.1.3 Violation of the USCA Player/ Coach Agreement or the USCA Athlete Agreement and Code of Conduct. See current championship rules on the USCA website, [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org).

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](http://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/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:



Individual athlete replacement. If an athlete cannot continue to compete, based on Section 3, the replacement player will be the sixth player as selected and identified in Section 4.1.1.

Replacement athletes beyond the sixth player will be as identified and selected in Section 4.1. Replacement of athletes named to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games Team will be made only if not prohibited by the WCF and the USOC.

Sixth player. Men's and women's teams sixth players will be selected by December 1, 2017, as a "replacement," to be sent to PyeongChang on short notice should they be needed. The sixth players will be selected by the Director of High Performance, National Coach and an Athlete Representative, in consultation with the team, and based on their judgment of the sixth player's ability to fill in on the team roster at a world performance level as needed. The replacement player will then be recommended to the USCA OTSC for approval. The sixth players will also be subject to drug testing. Once named, the sixth player will be the first replacement under Sections 4.2 and 4.3 below. Athletes selected as sixth players DO NOT receive status as 2018 Olympic Winter Games Team nominees.

Replacement Players beyond the Sixth Player. Replacement athletes beyond the sixth player will be identified and selected by the Director of High Performance, National Coach, and an Athlete Representative, in consultation with the team, and based on their judgment of the replacement player's ability to fill in on the team roster at a world performance level as needed. The replacement player will then be recommended to the USCA OTSC for approval. Replacement of athletes named to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games Team will be made only if not prohibited by the WCF and the USOC. Replacement players do not receive status as 2018 Olympic Winter Games Team nominees.

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 Team Selection Committee will use the Discretionary Criteria set out in section 2.2, Trials Entry. The following scenarios will allow the USCA to replace a team originally selected by the USCA:

- If the original skip cannot compete, he/she may be replaced, or the entire team may be replaced, at the discretion of the USCA OTSC.

- If three (3) or more originally USCA-selected players, other than the skip, cannot compete, the team may be replaced. 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 several current elite teams, not to exclude consideration of members 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 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.

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

## **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](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](http://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 (November 2017) and 2018 Olympic Winter Games Opening Ceremony will be developed by the National Coaches (NCs) with input from the team and approved by the DHP. Where possible, athletes will be given at least thirty (30) 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 NCs 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 NCs. 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 NCs and DHP.
4. Team has a competition plan that includes International WCT (Men's or Women's) events.
5. Team attends High Performance Camps as scheduled.

6. Team makes timely reports on its training and competition results to the NCs.

Additionally, the NCs will make scheduled visits to the team training and competition sites to facilitate the team's continued development. The NCs 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 Selection Committee was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

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  
Doug Pottinger, USOC AAC  
Cassie Potter, 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](mailto:Kacie.wallace@usoc.org)
- <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.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB/HPMO President or CEO/Executive Director	Rick Patzke		3/28/17
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Derek Brown		3/28/17
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Dean Gemmell		3-20-17

\* 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.

## Attachment 1

### **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

**FPSG** – Fifth Player Selection Group

**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.

**OOM** – Order of Merit. The Order of Merit calculations include the previous season plus current season.

**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

**YTD OOM** – Year to Date Order of Merit. The YTD OOM includes ONLY those points accumulated in the current season of the OOM. For example, the YTD OOM for 2016-17 would include only those points accumulated in the 2016-17 season.