USA Curling
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games Men’s and Women’s
October 12, 2019

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

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

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

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 Olympic Committee (IOC) 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 changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41), the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1), or the PASO Statutes (Article XXII, Sections 4 and 5).

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

The WCF does not have minimum standards for participation in the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

☐ Athletes must have successfully completed all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
☐ Athletes must be available for the entire duration of the Games.
☐ Athlete eligibility is governed by these selection procedures and by the Championship Rules, which include the athlete agreement, the Code of Conduct and other administrative forms. The championship rules booklet can be found on the USA Curling website.
☐ Athletes must pay USA Curling dues and be members in good standing of a club. This club must be a member of a state or regional association that is a member of the United States Curling Association (USCA), or, alternatively, athletes must pay an annual administrative fee of $100 per athlete directly to USA Curling.
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.

The 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Men’s and Women’s Curling will take place in November, 2021. Exact date and location are to be determined and will be posted at least 45 days in advance.

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).

Athletes/Teams may qualify for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling through the following ways:

Teams will qualify for the Trials as follows:

a) The three highest-ranked eligible US teams in the WCF World Team Ranking system for each gender (ie. three Men’s teams, three Women’s teams) on April 15, 2021, will qualify directly into the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling, provided these teams are also in the Top 50 of the WCF World Team Ranking system.

b) One team from each gender will qualify from a Pre-Trials qualification event, tentatively slated to be held in May, 2021. Exact date and location are to be determined and will be posted at least 45 days in advance. For teams to be eligible to enter and compete in the Pre-Trials qualification event, they will be required to be in the Top 100 in the WCF World Team Ranking system on April 15, 2021. In the event that only one eligible US team is in the Top 100 of the WCF World Team Ranking system on April 15, 2021, that team will be added to the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling and no Pre-Trials event will be held.

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

The Men’s field for the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling will be a maximum of four teams. The Women’s field for the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling will be a maximum of four teams.

The Men’s and Women’s winners of the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling will be nominated to the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team (subject to USA Curling qualifying for Olympics field at Beijing 2022).

1.3.1 Maximum team size is 5 players, subject to achieving WCF qualification in accordance with the WCF Qualification System.

1.3.2 Men’s and Women’s US Olympic Team Trials for Curling. Field will be a maximum of four teams per gender.

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

a) The three highest-ranked eligible US teams in the WCF World Team Ranking system for each gender (ie. three Men’s teams, three Women’s teams) on April 15, 2021, will qualify directly into
the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling, provided these teams are also in the Top 50 of the WCF World Team Ranking system.

b) One team from each gender will qualify from a Pre-Trials qualification event, tentatively slated to be held in May, 2021. Exact date and location are to be determined and will be posted at least 45 days in advance. For teams to be eligible to enter and compete in the Pre-Trials qualification event, they will be required to be in the Top 100 in the WCF World Team Ranking system on April 15, 2021. In the event that only one eligible US team is in the Top 100 of the WCF World Team Ranking system on April 15, 2021, that team will be added to the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling and no Pre-Trials qualifying event will be held.

c) If no eligible US team is in the Top 50 of the WCF World Team Ranking system as of April 15, 2021 (by gender), then two teams will advance from the Pre-Trials. The U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling would then consist of two teams.

d) If only one eligible US team (Men’s or Women’s) is between 51st and 100th in the WCF World Team Ranking system as of April 15, 2021 then the Pre-Trials will be canceled and that team would advance to the Olympic Trials. If no team finishes between 51st and 100th then the Pre-Trials would be canceled and no team will advance from a Pre-Trials event.

e) If the 2021 U.S. National Champion (Men’s and Women’s) is not already qualified for either the U.S. Olympic Trials for Curling or the Pre-Trials Qualifying event, that team will receive a berth in the Pre-Trials Qualifying event.

2. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETE at U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS FOR CURLING

2.1. Provide rationale for replacement for U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling (if any):

☐ To permit the replacement of an athlete whose team has qualified for the Trials but due to illness, injury or extenuating circumstances, is unable or unwilling to compete. Only one player from any team that has qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling may be replaced. If two or more players from a team that has qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling are unable or unwilling to compete, that team will be disqualified from the event.

2.2. List the replacement criteria and explain how they will be used (if any): Replacement athlete criteria:
The USA Curling Olympic Team Selection Committee (OTSC) will consider the following criteria when making its decision:

☐ World Championship performances and results during the previous two seasons
☐ World Curling Tour performances and results during the previous two seasons
☐ U.S. National Championship performances and results during the previous two seasons
☐ Playing position flexibility
☐ Contribution to team chemistry
2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for approving the replacement, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling—Replacement Player Approval Committee

Director of Coaching (or available HP Staff): Phill Drobnick
USA Curling Chief Executive Officer: Rich Lepping
USOC AAC (or available athlete representative): Dean Gemmell
USOC AAC alternate (or available athlete representative): Joe Polo
USCA Board Chair (or available USCA Vice-Chair): Courtney Schmidt

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 FROM TEAM USA OLYMPIC CURLING TEAM

3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the National Governing Body (NGB) has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

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

3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Curling CEO.
3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff), approved by USA Curling. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USA Curling, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
3.1.3. Violation of the USA Curling Code of Conduct as stated in the USA Curling National Team Athlete Agreement which can be found at: http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/Events/Championships, as determined by the CEO, the Olympic Games Selection Committee or both.
3.1.4. Failure or refusal to participate in any mandatory training, development or competition as designated by the Director of High Performance, as determined by the CEO, the Olympic Games Selection Committee or both.
An athlete who is removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the Bylaws of USA Curling (USCA By-Laws, Article 13 (See Bylaws in current championship rules on the USA Curling website, www.usacurl.org) or the Bylaws of the USOPC, Article 9.

3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable NGB/HPMO Code of Conduct, the USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC 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, PASO, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. ATHLETES FOR THE OLYMPICS

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

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

4.1.2. Fifth Player. A Fifth Player will be selected by the Fifth Player Selection Group (FPSG) which comprises the Director of High Performance, the Director of Coaching, 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 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):

☐ World Championship performances and results during the previous two seasons
☐ World Curling Tour performances and results during the previous two seasons
☐ U.S. National Championship performances and results during the previous two seasons
☐ Playing position flexibility
☐ Contribution to team chemistry

The selected Fifth Player(s) will be recommended by the FPSG to the USA Curling 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. Decisions regarding whether the Fifth Player plays at the Olympic Games will be at the discretion of the Director of Coaching and the National Coach.

Fifth Players will be selected within ten (10) days of completion of the U.S. Olympic Curling Team Trials. 2022 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.)
Sixth Player. Men's and women's teams sixth players will be selected by December 1, 2021, as a "replacement," to be sent to Beijing on short notice, should they be needed. The Sixth Players will be selected by the Director of High Performance, Director of Coaching 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 USA Curling 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 2022 Olympic Winter Games Team nominees.

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 2022 Olympic Winter Games Team will be made only if not prohibited by the WCF and/or the USOPC.

Replacement Players beyond the Sixth Player. Replacement athletes beyond the Sixth Player will be identified and selected by the Director of High Performance, Director of Coaching, 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 USA Curling OTSC for approval. Replacement of athletes named to the 2022 Olympic Winter Games Team will be made only if not prohibited by the WCF and/or the USOPC. Replacement players do not receive status as 2022 Olympic Winter Games Team nominees.

Team replacement. The replacement decision criteria will be the USA Curling assessment of maximizing the chances for competitive success at the 2022 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 USA Curling to replace a team originally selected by USA Curling:

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

- If three (3) or more originally USA Curling-selected players, other than the skip, cannot compete, the team may be replaced. The USA Curling OTSC will select a replacement team, which may be an "intact" team. For example, replacement team may be the second-place team from the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling, or the replacement team may be a team comprised of athletes from several current teams, not to exclude consideration of members of the originally selected team. The replacement decision criteria will be the USA Curling assessment of maximizing the chances for competitive success at the Games. The OTSC will use the Discretionary Criteria set out in section 2.2. Team replacement is subject to ratification by the USA Curling Executive Committee.

4.1.3. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, or any applicable group or committee:

Same process as detailed in 4.1.1. above.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
USA Curling 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 USOPC 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:

USA Curling’s Code of Conduct, as stated in the USA Curling’s National Team Athlete Agreement which can be found at: http://www.teamusa.org/USA- Curling/Events/Championships).

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

7.1. NGB Web site:

USA Curling Website: 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 USOPC.

7.2. Other:

Links to the procedures on the USA Curling web site (www.usacurl.org), will be publicized in the U.S. Curling News, USA Curling social media sites, and in other newsletters sent to members and member clubs and regions.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: December 2, 2021.

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 2021) and 2022 Olympic Winter Games Opening Ceremony will be developed by the National Coaches (NCs) with input from the team and approved by the Director of High Performance (DHP). Where possible, athletes will be given at least thirty (30) days’ notice for mandatory training and competition events after the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling. The nominees to the 2022 Olympic Team will be subject to mandatory on-ice and off-ice training events and competitions between the conclusion of the Trials through the commencement of the 2022 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 USA Curling objectives and the needs of the team. The team,
including implementation of their Team Development Plan, will be held accountable by the NCs. Their Team Development Plan will include the following:
1. Team and NCs will commit to a formal communication plan to monitor the on- and off-ice training.
2. Team commits to an on-ice 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 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 2022 Olympic Winter Games, all athletes are advised to keep their schedules open and flexible between the conclusion of the Trials and through the 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC 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 USOPC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Dean Gemmell, USOC AAC Representative
Joe Polo, USA Curling AAC Representative
Phill Drobnick, USA Curling Director of Coaching
Courtney Schmidt, Chair USCA
Rich Lepping, CEO USA Curling

12. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USA Curling’s Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at: http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Curling/About-Us/Inside-USA-Curling/Governance.

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC 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 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 USA Curling. 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 USA Curling may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:
- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at Kacie.wallace@usathlete.org
- http://www.teamus.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman

15. 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 USA Curling.

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<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>Richard Legare</td>
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<td>10/17/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Coaching or High-Performance Program Director</td>
<td>Phillip Dobnick</td>
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<td>10/21/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*</td>
<td>Dean Gennell</td>
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<td>10/29/19</td>
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* If the USOPC 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 USOPC AAC Representative, the NGB/HPMO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.