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U.S. National Team Trials Selection Process

Wheelchair Curling

U.S. Wheelchair Curling Challenge Round:

- The Challenge Round allows for open competition to all eligible U.S. wheelchair curlers to compete to secure a spot in the U.S. Wheelchair National Team Selection Trials.
- The field for the 2023 U.S. Wheelchair National Team Selection Trials will host a maximum of twelve (12) athletes.
- Eight (8) positions at the Trials are reserved for returning athletes from the current year's National Team.
- A minimum of four (4) positions at the Trials are reserved for athletes advancing from the current year's U.S. Wheelchair Curling Challenge Round.
 - If less than eight current National Team Athletes register for the Trials, additional athletes may be selected from the Challenge Round. Notification will be made to these additional athletes as soon as that information is available.

Application Process:

- The deadline for application for the U.S. Wheelchair Curling Challenge Round is Feb. 15, 2022.
- The Challenge Round application consists of an application, a curling resume, and the completed/signed skill sets.
 - [Click here to view the 2023 U.S. Wheelchair Curling Challenge Round Application Package](#)
- The applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of USA Curling staff and at least one past National Team member of USA Curling, any discipline.
- The applications will be ranked, gender specific, on Skill Shot results and demonstrated past performance and involvement as evidenced by the resume. Twelve athletes will be selected to compete at the Challenge Round. A minimum of 4 athletes, gender specific, will be selected from those competing at the Challenge Round to compete in the US National Team Selection Trials. Selectees to the Challenge Round will be notified by Feb. 20, 2022.



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- Application deadline for the Trials for RETURNING NATIONAL TEAM MEMBERS ONLY Apr. 4, 2022.
 - Registration will be reopened on Apr. 11-14, 2022, for athletes selected to advance to Trials from the Challenge Round.

U.S. Wheelchair Curling Trials:

- The Trials will consist of individual skill shots, game play, personal interviews, and observations.
- All Trials Participants will be assessed by the National Team Selection Panel.
 - The National Team Selection Panel will be comprised of a minimum of three judges consisting of members of the U.S. Wheelchair Curling National Team staff and a prior U.S. National Team member (any Curling discipline). Additional judges may also be appointed.
- Throughout the Trials, the Panel will assess participants on their demonstrated curling abilities as well as other qualities including but not limited to, on and off-ice behavior, demonstrated team dynamics, fitness level, endurance and their match to specific team needs. Past National Team experience will also be considered. Gender specific rankings will be created.
- The Panel will select from the gender specific rankings the appropriate number of athletes to be named to a National Team of eight (8) total athletes
- The Panel will select a minimum of two athletes of each gender. Athletes who have received a medical waiver (see below) will have their known ability compared against the last selected athlete(s) on the gender specific rankings.
- National Team selections will be notified by the end of the Trials.

2023 World Wheelchair Curling Championship Qualification:

- From the National Team of eight (8) athletes, a team of five (5) will be selected by Team Staff to compete at the 2023 World Wheelchair Curling Championship (dates and locations TBD).
- The athlete selection process will be based upon subjective and objective evaluation by the national staff regarding each athlete's demonstrated curling abilities as well as other qualities



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including but not limited to, on and off-ice behavior, demonstrated team dynamics, fitness level, endurance and their match to specific team needs.

Waiver Process:

- If an athlete who has registered for the National Team Selection Trials has incurred or incurs an injury or illness that may prevent them from competing at the Trials, they must immediately contact the NGB and the National Program Director.
 - The injury or illness must be documented by a certified health care professional and that certification must be forwarded to the NGB.
- A hearing will be conducted within 48 hours of the NGB receiving the documentation. The result of the hearing will be presented to the athlete within 48 hours of the completion of the hearing.
- The purpose of the hearing is solely to determine the legitimacy of the injury or illness and its effect on the individual.
 - The hearing panel has no authority to place an athlete directly onto the National Team.
 - Athletes that have received a waiver are not required to attend the National Team Selection Trials.
 - Athletes who have received a medical waiver will have their known ability compared against the last selected athlete(s) on the gender specific rankings. The National Team Selection Panel will then decide upon the National Team of eight (8) athletes.
- The filling of any vacancy at the Trials is at the discretion of the National Team Selection Panel. If a vacancy is decided to be filled, additional athletes will be selected from the gender specific rank order listings from the Challenge Round.

Eligibility Requirements: Selected athletes must meet, be eligible to meet and/or maintain compliance with the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be eligible to compete as a U.S. citizen
2. Be a member in good standing with the United States Curling Association
3. Possess a passport and be eligible for international travel



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4. Comply with all anti-doping policies, procedures and protocols of the International Paralympic Committee, World Curling Federation, World Anti-Doping Agency, United States Antidoping Agency and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee
5. Abide by the current USA Curling Athlete Code of Conduct
6. Exhibit a recognized physical impairment which allows the athlete to meet one of the six eligibility criteria for international classification specific to the sport Wheelchair Curling
7. Submit a completed application to the United States Curling Association prior to the application deadline, including all required fees, forms, and documents



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