

USA Curling
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games
Men's Team and Women's Team
August 24, 2020

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 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 Olympic Charter (Rule 41).

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

The complete World Curling Federation's (WCF) qualification system for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games is found at www.worldcurling.org/olympic-qualification/.

In accordance with the qualification system, quota places are allocated by the WCF to the NOC; selection of athletes for any quota places earned is at the discretion of each National Federation (for the U.S., that is USA Curling) with approval by the NOC [i.e., United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC)]. Minimum standards for participation established by USA Curling and USOPC are outlined in 1.1.4. below.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- 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 at

<https://www.usacurling.org/competition-documents> Links to the athlete agreement and the Code of Conduct are at <https://www.usacurling.org/competition-documents>.

- Athlete must be a member in good standing of either a member club or USA Curling at the time of selection.
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s online training.

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 Curling will take place in Omaha, Nebraska on November 13th – 21st of 2021. A schedule for the event will be posted at least 45 days in advance at <https://www.usacurling.org>.

The winning team from each gender at the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling will be nominated for the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games, provided quota places have been secured as described in the [WCF Qualification System](#).

- 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 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling for the Men’s and Women’s teams will consist of a maximum of six (6) teams for each gender. Athletes/Teams may qualify for the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling through the following ways:

A) The 2020 Men’s and Women’s National Champions will advance to the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling.

B) The two highest ranked teams in both the Men’s and Women’s competitions at the 2021 National Championships, not already qualified through section A, will advance to the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling.*

C) Three Men’s and three Women’s teams will qualify for the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling through a “Trials Qualifying Series”. The

series will consist of 2 events that will be held between August and October of 2021.

Teams can qualify for the Trials Qualifying Series by being ranked in the top 150 in the WCF World Team Ranking System or have registered to compete in the 2021 National Championships. Athletes who have already qualified for the 2022 U.S Olympic Team Trials for Curling through the pathways outlined above may not participate in the Trials Qualifying Series.

Exact dates and locations are to be determined and will be posted at least 45 days in advance at <https://www.usacurling.org>. Teams will qualify for the 2022 U.S Olympic Team Trials for Curling, through the Trials Qualifying Series, in the following ways:

- The winner of the 1st Trials Qualifying event from each gender will advance to the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling
- The winner of the 2nd Trials Qualifying Series event from each gender will advance to the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling
- The Men's & Women's team that earn the Most WCF World Team Ranking points combined in the two "Trials Qualifying Series" events will advance to the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling.

*In the event the 2021 National Championships are not able to be held, the top 2 ranked teams of each gender in the WCF World Team Ranking System as of May 31st, 2021, that are not already qualified through section A, will qualify directly to the 2022 U.S Olympic Team Trials for Curling.

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).

1.3.1. Maximum Team Size for the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games is five (5) men and five (5) women for the Men's and Women's Team events, subject to achieving WCF qualification in accordance with the WCF Qualification System. Also subject to achieving WCF qualification, an additional two (2) quotas will be allocated to a Mixed Doubles Team, which is outlined in separate USA Curling Athlete Selection Procedures for Mixed Doubles and is made available at <https://www.usacurling.org/olympic-mixed-doubles-trials>.

1.3.2. Olympic Trials Format

Olympic Trials format can be found here in the fall of 2021:
[USCA Rules of Curling and Competition Handbook](#)

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

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 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

USCA may use discretionary selection for the following:

- Fifth player as detailed in 2.2
- If necessary, a replacement athlete may be identified and selected through the criteria listed below as explained in 4.1.1.
- If necessary, a replacement team may be identified and selected through the criteria listed below as explained in 4.1.1.

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

Fifth Player

In the event a five-person team wins the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials, all five individuals will be nominated to participate at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

In the event that a four-person team wins the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials, 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):

- If applicable, performances and results at the two most recent World Championships

- If applicable, performances and results during the two most recent World Curling Tours
- If applicable, performances and results at the two most recent US National Championships
- If applicable, performances and results at the two most recent World Junior Championships
- Playing position flexibility
- Previous Olympic experience will be considered
- Contribution to team chemistry

The fifth player(s) will be recommended by the FPSG in consultation with the team to the USCA Olympic Team Selection Committee (OTSC) for approval (as detailed in Section 2.3). Once the fifth player has been approved by the OTSC, that athlete will be placed on the team roster. The fifth player is expected to commit to training full-time with the rest of the team. The decision whether the fifth player plays at the Olympic Games will be at the discretion of the applicable National Coach in consultation with the DHP.

Fifth players will be selected within ten (10) days of completion of the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials.

- 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:

Recommendation of the Fifth player

Fifth Player Selection Group (FPSG)

- National Director of Men's and Mixed Doubles Programs
- National Director of Women's and Junior Programs
- Team Coach
- Athlete Representative

Approval of the Fifth player

The USA Curling Olympic Team Selection Committee (OTSC)

- National Director of Men's and Mixed Doubles Programs
- National Director of Women's and Junior Programs
- Chief Executive Officer
- USOPC AAC (or available athlete representative)
- USA Curling 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 selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must either recuse him/herself or disclose it to USA Curling's Ethics Committee prior to the start of the selection process. A conflict of interest exists when the committee member has a direct or indirect relationship, connection or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, USA Curling's Ethics Committee shall vet the conflict and make the final determination of whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting. The Ethics Committee may determine that a committee member 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 with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USA Curling's Ethics Committee. Reports may be made anonymously.

A recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with USA Curling's selection committee appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, USA Curling has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is 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 USA Curling, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of USA Curling's Code of Conduct <https://www.usacurling.org/competition-documents>.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Curling's Bylaws (USCA By-Laws, Article 13. <https://www.usacurling.org/governance>) and the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 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 USA Curling Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.usacurling.org/governance>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, WADA, WCF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USA Curling's SafeSport policies, 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 may be selected and identified (described below). In this case, a new player may be determined as described in the "Replacement Athlete" section below. Replacement of athletes named to the Olympic Winter Games Team may be made as authorized to do so by the WCF and/or the USOPC guidelines.

Replacement Athlete

Replacement athlete will be identified and selected by the OTSC committee outlined in section 2.3 in consultation with the team. The replacement athlete will be chosen based on the fifth player discretion criteria outlined in section 2.2. Replacement of athletes named to the Olympic Winter Games Team will be made only if authorized to do so by the WCF and/or the USOPC.

Team replacement

The following scenarios will allow USA Curling to replace a team originally nominated 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 2022 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 who are still able to compete.

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. Team replacement is subject to ratification by the USA Curling 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

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:

USA Curling's Code of Conduct, as stated in the USA Curling's National Team Athlete Agreement which can be found at: <https://www.usacurling.org/competition-documents>

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

7.1. NGB Web site:

USA Curling Website: <https://www.usacurling.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 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

Nomination of athletes, 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 Team Coaches with input from the team and approved by the Program National Directors. Where possible, athletes will be given at least thirty (30) days' notice for mandatory training and competition events after the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling. The nominees to the 2022 U.S. 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 National Coach 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 will be held accountable by the National Coaches. This includes the following:

1. Team and National Coaches 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 National Coaches and Director of High Performance.
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 National Coaches.

Additionally, the National Coaches may make scheduled visits to the team training and competition sites to facilitate continued development. The National Coaches 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, WADA, WCF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, WCF, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

Dean Gemmell, USOPC AAC Representative

Joe Polo, USA Curling AAC Representative

Phill Drobnick, USA Curling of Men's and Mixed Doubles Program Director

Jessica Schultz, USA Curling Women's Program Director

Courtney Schmidt, Chair USCA

Jeff Plush, CEO USA Curling

12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USA Curling's Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.usacurling.org/governance>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC and/or World Curling Federation's 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 USOPC.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

The Athlete Ombudsman provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB.

To contact the Athlete Ombudsman Office:

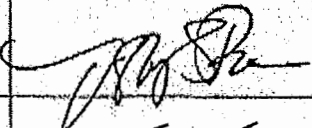
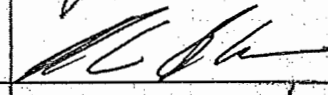
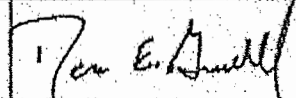
PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

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 USA Curling.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Curling President or CEO/Executive Director	JEFF PLUSH		9.9.20
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Phillip Dobson		9.9.20
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Dean Gemmell		9/9/20

* 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 USA Curling, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

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