RCCC/Scottish Curling: International Selection Policy
2022 - 2026

This Policy sets out the procedures and rationale for selection of Teams to represent Scotland at International championships across four seasons between September 2022 and May 2026. It is a policy of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, trading as Scottish Curling. The policy has been developed in partnership with British Curling as the organisation designated by RCCC to lead and manage the performance programme that prepares teams to compete on the world stage. It was approved by the RCCC Board of Directors on XX/XX/2022.

1. Purpose

This selection policy outlines the process to select teams to represent Scotland at International Competitions organised by the World Curling Federation. The policy has been prepared with input and consultation from British Curling, athletes, coaches and stakeholders.

The publication of the policy in advance of the first season in consideration is designed to ensure clarity and transparency across the whole 4 year Olympic/Paralympic cycle.
By covering four seasons, the selection policy is not the same in each year however it demonstrates the changes in emphasis in the lead up to the 2026 Olympic/Paralympic Games and the events immediately after the 2026 Games in Milan-Cortina that start the process towards 2030.

2. The nature of selection decisions

RCCC does not consider it is desirable to select teams based purely on performance data as the sole criteria. Selection will take into account factors such as team dynamics, illness, potential performance or any injury or illness that may have prevented or affected performance at one or more events.

RCCC recognises that selection decisions should be made taking into account a variety of factors. A comprehensive list of selection criteria is set out below in section 7.

The selection process is generally an exercise of judgment. Selection decisions require expert technical opinion, provided by the respective Head Coach with input from British Curling support personnel.

The objective for each selection decision can vary, in some cases it may be to choose the team with the best chance of gaining qualification points; it may be to achieve a certain minimum result or may be to trial different player combinations or positions within a team. These are detailed below in section 6.

3. Applicable Events

This selection policy applies to the following events leading to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- European Curling Championships (ECC)
- World Women's Curling Championships (WWCC)
- World Men's Curling Championships (WMCC)
- World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (WMDCC)
- World Wheelchair Curling Championships (WWhCC)
- World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championships (WWhMDCC)

This policy supplements the rules regarding selection of Scottish teams as described in the RCCC Rule Book: Sections S1, S2, S3, S4.

4. Eligibility and Availability

To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- Be a member of RCCC.
- Be either born in Scotland, have a Scottish parent or have been domiciled in Scotland for two consecutive years.
- Be eligible and available to compete in World Curling Federation (WCF) championship in the category for which they are being considered for selection.
- Be of a level of fitness and health to be able to compete to the best of their ability as determined by medical staff appointed by British Curling).
- Have no pending doping offences or currently serving a doping ban.
- Be prepared to sign the RCCC Team Member Agreement if selected.
- In relation to Wheelchair curling competitions, have been through the appropriate classification process and met the required standards.
- Comply with any other eligibility requirements which may be imposed by RCCC and WCF.

5. Team Criteria

Scotland may only select one team per event. The number of athletes is as follows:

- Men's and Women's and Wheelchair curling teams will consist of a maximum of 5 athletes.
- The Wheelchair Team must meet the mix of gender requirements.
- Mixed Doubles teams will consist of two athletes, one male and one female.

6. Performance Objectives

The selection policy has the aim of achieving one or more of the overarching objectives:

- To finish in a position to qualify Scotland for a place at the next World Championships
- To finish top 6/8/10 progressing towards the 2026 Olympic/Paralympic Games
- To earn maximum qualification points to count towards the 2026 Olympic/Paralympic Games
- To provide opportunity for development of athletes towards the 2030 Olympic/ Paralympic Games

The objectives that apply for each event in each year are listed below:

European Curling Championships (Teams)
ECC 2022-2025 (Europeans)
To finish in a position to qualify Scotland for a place at the next World Championships

World Women's Curling Championships
WWCC 2023
Objective: To finish top 6 progressing towards the 2026 Olympics

WWCC 2024 & 2025
Objective: To earn maximum qualification points to count towards the 2026 Olympic Games

WWCC 2026
Objective: To provide opportunity for development of athletes towards the 2030 Olympics. For clarity Women's team competing in the Olympic Games would not be considered.

World Men's Curling Championships
WMCC 2023
Objective: To finish top 6 progressing towards the 2026 Olympics

WMCC 2024 & 2025
Objective: To earn maximum qualification points to count towards the 2026 Olympic Games

WMCC 2026
Objective: To provide opportunity for development of athletes towards the 2030 Olympics. For clarity Men's team competing in the Olympic Games would not be considered.

World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships
WMDCC 2023
Objective: To finish top 10 progressing towards the 2026 Olympics

WMDCC 2024 & 2025
Objective: To earn maximum qualification points to count towards the 2026 Olympic Games

WMDCC 2026
Objective: To provide opportunity for development of athletes towards the 2030 Olympics. For clarity the Mixed Doubles team competing in the Olympic Games would not be considered.

World Wheelchair Curling Championships
WWhCC 2023
Objective: To finish top 8, progressing towards the 2026 Paralympics

WWhCC 2024 & 2025 Objective: To earn maximum qualification points to count towards the 2030 Paralympic Games **WWhCC 2026 (if applicable – currently not scheduled)** Objective: To provide opportunity for development of athletes towards the 2030 Paralympics
<u>World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championships</u> **WWhMDCC 2023 (Wheelchair Mixed Doubles)** Objective: To finish top 8 progressing towards the 2026 Paralympics **WWhMDCC 2024 & 2025** Objective: To earn maximum qualification points to count towards the 2026 Paralympic Games **WWhMDCC 2026 (if applicable – currently not scheduled)** Objective: To provide opportunity for development of athletes towards the 2030 Paralympics

7. Selection Criteria

The Selection Panel will convene to consider the following criteria when making the selection of any team. In making their selection decisions, the Selection Panel may give what they consider to be appropriate weight to any one or more of the selection criteria.

- Results and performances from the most recent relevant Scottish Championships.
- Results from a specially created playdown competition, if required.
- Results and performance data from world tour & International competitions, events, and competitive matches held during the season to date. Such data may include competitions & matches held at the National Curling Academy as part of the British Curling Programme.
- World Ranking data and trends across previous seasons.
- Results at previous Major Championships eg. World Championships, Olympic Games, European Championships, World Juniors, and World University Games.
- Performance record against likely championship opponents. This will include analysis and data from the “Elo Ranking” system developed by UKSport & British Curling together.
- Assessment against the key performance criteria of tactical, shot making and readiness to perform as a team at the international Championships.
- Individual performance assessment

8. Selection Timelines

The timeline for selection will be published annually.

Meetings of the Selection Panels will be called by the Executive Performance Director, in consultation with the selection panel.

Selection meetings may be held in person, by video or telephone conference or a blended approach.

Selection meeting will normally be held a minimum of three weeks before the International Championship for which it applies. It will be dependent on conclusion of the respective Scottish Championship where appropriate and confirmation of the date and location of the International Championship that a team is being selected for.

Each member of the selected teams and the skips of other teams will be notified by the respective Head Coach of the Selection Panel's decision within 24 hours of the selection meeting, along with any relevant information in relation to that decision. The selection decision is provisional until any appeal process has concluded.

The communication of selection is strictly confidential and not to be publicised, shared on social media, or discussed with others until formally announced by Scottish Curling.

The appeals policy is provided for teams to appeal non-selection on the grounds that the policy has not been adhered to. Teams are not able to appeal against selection decisions on any other grounds including against a selector's judgement. A process whereby an athlete/team can request an appeal of decisions is provided for in Appendix 1.

After an initial team of 4 is selected, the respective Head Coach will consult with the 4 selected players on potential 5th players and be responsible for the final selection decision and communication of that decision**.** The 5th player will be selected on their compatibility and ability to compete with the selected 4-person team and cover appropriate team roles. There will be no appeal process open for the 5th player selection.

Prior to the relevant Championship, RCCC (in conjunction with British Curling) retains the right to deselect an athlete on any grounds, including (but not limited to):

(a) loss of form, illness or injury (such that the Selection Panel, in their reasonable opinion, consider that the athlete in question will not be able to compete to the best of their ability at the International Championship);
(b) failure to adhere to the Scottish Curling Team Agreement or British Curling Performance Programme Athlete Agreement;
(c) any breach of the British Curling World Class Conduct (Standards of Behaviour & Attitude) outlined within **Appendix 2**; and/or
(d) Any failure to adhere to the terms of this selection policy.

9. Team Announcement

Selected team members agree not to make any public announcement to the media or public in any form (including personal websites, social media, etc) regarding their selection until Scottish Curling have announced the Team.

10. Selection Panel

The selection decision will be the responsibility of the Selection Panel. The Selection Panel will consider criteria stated above, in making its decisions and may also consult other support staff specialists where appropriate.
Panel members shall not have any real or perceived conflicts with those seeking to be selected. In the event of an actual or potential conflict* of interest relating to any selector, the matter will be reported by the Selection Panel to the CEO of Scottish Curling who shall determine whether the selector in question should be permitted to take part in relation to any

selection decision(s). The CEO may request the RCCC Board appoints an alternative selector if necessary.

> *Conflict of interest includes family or business relationship or similar. It is accepted that due to the nature of curling, selectors may well know athletes under consideration and staff maybe working with them on a day-to-day basis. Those elements are not seen as a conflict of interest.

Panel membership is as follows:

Panel Chair – appointed by RCCC board, non-voting member

Executive Performance Director* – voting member

Respective Head Coach (Olympic or Paralympic)* – voting member

Scottish Curling Representative - voting member, nominated by the RCCC Board.

Head of Performance Services* – non-voting member
Role: To provide performance data and statistics as required.

Performance Analyst* - non-voting member
Role: To provide performance data and statistics as required.

British Athletes Commission Observer – non-voting member
Role: To observe and scrutinise the process, ensure the interests of athletes are prioritised, and hold the panel accountable to the policy and its criteria, and ensure the principles of fairness and acting without bias are upheld.

Performance Operations Manager* – non-voting member.
Role: Official record keeper.

(*denotes employees of British Curling)

The British Athletes Commission (BAC), provides independent, confidential advice and support to World Class Performance athletes and BAC members, with selection processes, disputes and appeals.

The BAC is always balanced and independent in its advice to athletes. The BAC offers pastoral and emotional support throughout any process, as well as referring athletes to Sport Resolution UK (SRUK) to request pro-bono legal advice if necessary.

The BAC can be contacted at admin@britishathletes.org or call 0203 126 4270.

11. Changes to this Policy

This Selection Policy will be in place until May 2026, being after the conclusion of the 2025-26 international curling events season. If changes are made by the World Curling Federation that affect the competitions listed above, then this Selection Policy may be revised by the Board of Directors of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, prior to the start of each season.

Appendix 1: Appeal Policy and Procedure

This document sets out the RCCC Appeals Procedure where an Athlete or Team ("the Appellant") wishes to appeal a decision taken in respect of International Championship selection.

An Appellant seeking an appeal of a selection decision should be aware of the time limits contained in the Policy which are designed with the intention of resolving issues in a timely, fair and transparent manner. Where an Appellant considers lodging an appeal, they are recommended to seek advice from the British Athletes Commission before doing so.

This Procedure is the only applicable appeals procedure and forms the entire agreement between each team wishing to be selected for the International Championships and RCCC (together, "the Parties"). The Parties agree not to commence, continue, or maintain any legal challenge to any matter covered by this policy before any court of law. The Parties will treat all decisions under this Procedure as final and binding upon them.

An external appeal panel will be convened by Sport Resolutions UK (SRUK) to consider the grounds and merits of the appeal, specific to an International Curling Championships listed in the Selection Policy.

All athletes should read this policy carefully and satisfy themselves that they are eligible to appeal in the first instance. Any appeals which do not satisfy the grounds of appeals will be dismissed automatically.

1. Grounds for Appeal

An Appellant may appeal against a selection/nomination decision relating to the International Curling Championships on one or more of the following grounds:

- the correct selection process was not followed; or
- a decision maker was biased; or
- the decision was made on an error of fact.

2. Appeal Procedure

This Appeal Procedure begins when an Appellant submits a formal written appeal that identifies one of the permitted grounds of appeal ("the Notice of Appeal") to both: the CEO of RCCC, ceo@scottishcurling.org and Sport Resolutions resolve@sportresolutions.com

The Notice of Appeal must be received by RCCC and SR within **3 working days** of the selection decision, being communicated in writing (usually via email).

The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a payment of £250 (payable to RCCC). The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

The Notice of Appeal must set out the full details of the Appellant's ground(s) of appeal and include:

- details of the decision which the Appellant is appealing;
- details of the ground(s) of appeal upon which the Appellant relies, including the manner in which the Appellant alleges that such ground(s) apply; AND
- any documents or written evidence upon which the Appellant relies in support of his or her appeal.

Any "interested party" that may be affected by the process will be invited to submit evidence or information in support of their case, normally being the team whose selection was being challenged, within 24 hours of the end of the appeal deadline.

3. Sport Resolutions Rules

Any Notice of Appeal shall be made within 3 working days of receipt of the selection decision/appeal decision to a sole arbitrator appointed in accordance with the 'Sport Resolutions' Arbitration Rules' (a trading name of The Sports Dispute Resolution Panel Ltd – Company No. 3351039). The Appeal shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 and Sport Resolutions' Appeal Arbitration Rules, which Rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference to this clause. The decision of the sole arbitrator binding on all concerned. The Appeal shall be conducted under Sport Resolutions' Appeal Arbitration Rules, as amended by the provisions of this Procedure.

The Notice of Appeal must contain the information required under the Sport Resolution Rules for the Statement of Appeal, no separate Statement of Appeal will be required or permitted. The RCCC's reply to SR will be filed within one working day of receipt by RCCC of the Notice of Appeal.

Neither Party will be entitled to proceed under the 'Full Arbitration Procedure' of SR. The Appeal Panel/Sole Arbitrator will seek to reach his or her decision within 3 days of receipt of RCCC's reply to the Notice of Appeal. The matter will proceed on the basis of written submissions, unless otherwise ordered by the Appeal Panel.

Where it appears to the Panel or RCCC that the interests of any Third Party may be affected they will notify the Third Party of the Notice of Appeal, provide him/her with a copy of any appeal submissions (and any other relevant documents) and invite the Third Party to make any submissions within 24 hours of receiving the notification. SR will give the Appellant Athlete a copy of these submissions and a limited period of time to make any further submissions in response.

The SR Appeal Panel shall be entitled to:

a. dismiss the appeal and confirm the original selection/nomination decision; OR

b. uphold the appeal and remit the matter back to the original selection/nomination panel, setting out the errors they have identified in the conduct of the selection process, and requesting that a new decision is made within 48 hours.

Sport Resolutions shall inform the Appellant(s) and the CEO of RCCC of their decision. The CEO is responsible for communicating the outcome to the Selection Panel.

4. Appeal Procedure diagram.

The diagram below illustrates the process and timescales involved in appeals over selection decisions. Any changes to the timescales will be communicated to the interested parties.

