



## **Milano-Cortina Winter Olympic Games 2026**

### **INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURES**

Version 1.0, published August 30th, 2024

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**This document shall state the qualification process and selection procedures of Curling Canada for determining those athletes who will be selected to represent Canada at the Milano Cortina 2026 Games as a member of Team Canada.**

**Should any event specified in this INP be canceled, postponed, rescheduled, or replaced, *Curling Canada* shall update the nomination procedures indicated in this INP, as applicable, as soon as reasonably possible and shall communicate any modifications to all impacted individuals, as well as publish the modified INP on its website, prior to the canceled, postponed, rescheduled or replacement event.**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this document is to outline the process to identify and select the best athletes in qualification for events towards becoming Team Canada and to producing the best potential for podium results in Milano-Cortina 2026. For the Men's/Women's teams, the Canadian Curling Trials is the final competition leading to the declaration of Team Canada, while the Pre-Trials Event will provide an additional 'last chance qualification' opportunity to the Trials. For the Mixed Doubles team, the Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials is the final competition leading to the nomination of Team Canada.

#### **ATHLETE QUOTA AND WCF QUALIFICATION SYSTEM**

A summary of the athlete quota and number of spots per National Olympic Committee (NOC) is outlined below. For the complete World Curling qualification system for curling please refer to:

[Milano-Cortina-2026-Qualification-System-for-Curling\\_V1.0.pdf](#)

Men's events (1)	Women's events (1)	Mixed events (1)
Men	Women	Mixed Doubles

	Quota places	Host country quota places	Total	Quota places per NOC (Maximum)
Men	54	6	60	6
Women	54	6	60	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>12</b>

	Number of athletes per event
Men's Curling	50
Women's Curling	50
Mixed Doubles Curling	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>

In each discipline, the top eight (8) highest ranked NOC's from a list generated by points earned at the 2024 and 2025 World Curling Championships (WCC's) will qualify for the 2026 games. If the host country is not included in the top eight (8) highest ranked teams, then only the top seven (7) ranked teams from the 2024 and 2025 WCC point list will qualify.

In each discipline, the top two (2) NOC's from the Olympic Qualification Events (OQEs) held in December 2025 will also qualify for the 2026 games.

### **DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY**

The Director, High Performance is responsible for developing and approving the selection process and procedures for up to three (3) teams (Men, Women and Mixed Doubles) that will be nominated to the COC for the 2026 Games. The Director, High Performance will designate National Coaches to support the Olympic Teams as required and within the COC accreditation limitations and transfer decision making authority to the National Coach of each discipline during Games time.

Final decisions on the nomination of athletes to the 2026 Games shall be made by the Chief Executive Officer, based on recommendations by the Director, High Performance. The Chief Executive Officer will nominate the full team to the COC for selection to the 2026 Games team no later than January 17th, 2026.

The Board of Governors will be responsible for the nomination of athletes should the Chief Executive Officer not be available to make the decisions. The National Team Coaches will provide recommendations for nomination of athletes should the Director, High Performance not be available.

### **ON-SITE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY**

Upon departure from Canada and until the full team has returned back to Canada (covering the period of all pre-Olympic training camps and the 2026 Games), all final decision-making authority will reside with the National Coach of the specific discipline (Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles) & the Director, High Performance.

## **CHANGES TO THIS DOCUMENT**

The Director, High Performance reserves the right to make changes to this document that are necessary to ensure selection of the best teams possible for the 2026 Olympic Games. Any changes to this document shall be communicated directly to all athletes and coaches potentially impacted by the change. This clause shall not be used to justify changes after a competition or trials, which formed part of the internal nomination procedure unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance. The purpose of this section is to allow for changes to this document that may become necessary due to a typographical error or a lack of clarity in a definition or wording before it has an impact on athletes. The purpose of such changes must be in order to avoid disputes over the meaning of the provisions of this document rather than to allow changes to be made to justify selection of different athletes than would have otherwise been selected. Such changes must be reasonably justifiable in accordance with fundamental principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. In the event of a change to this document Curling Canada shall inform the COC of the changes and the reasons for those changes as soon as possible

## **UNFORESEEN/EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES**

In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Curling Canada that prevent the High-Performance Director from fairly implementing these internal nomination procedures as written, Curling Canada Management in consultation with the Curling Canada Board of Governors shall have the full discretion to resolve the matter as they see fit, taking into account factors and circumstances that they deem relevant. If any extenuating circumstance arises during or after the Canadian Curling Trials or Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials [e.g. injury] and is not included in Curling Canada's appeal procedure [see Section V], it shall be dealt with by Curling Canada Management in consultation with the Curling Canada Board of Governors.

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## **INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURES - MEN'S/WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT**

In order to be eligible to compete in the Pre-Trials Event, the Canadian Curling Trials and Olympic Games, an athlete shall:

- (a) be a member in good standing of Curling Canada.
- (b) be a Canadian citizen, as per Rule 41 of the Olympic Charter.
- (c) have a valid Canadian passport does not expire before September 1, 2026.
- (d) be in compliance with all relevant IF, COC and IOC requirements for eligibility.
- (e) sign, submit and comply with the COC Athlete Agreement and Organizing Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation Form by the submission deadline as established by the COC.

All athletes pre-qualified to compete in the 2025 Canadian Curling Trials and to the 2025 Canadian Curling Pre-Trials will be required to sign the Canadian Curling Trials participation agreement by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **COMPETITION FORMAT - MEN'S/WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT**

The Canadian Curling Pre-Trials will be comprised of 8 teams per gender. The competition format used at the Pre-Trials will be a full 8-team round robin to determine the three highest ranked teams. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked teams will compete in a sudden death semi-final. The winner of the semifinal will compete against the 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team in a best-of-3 final. The winner of the Canadian Curling Pre-Trials will earn the 8<sup>th</sup> and final berth into the Canadian Curling Trials. **The Canadian Pre-Trials Event will be held from October 21 to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Andrew H. McCain Arena in Wolfville, NS.**

The Canadian Curling Trials will be comprised of 8 teams per gender. The competition format used at the Trials will be a full 8-team round robin to determine the three highest ranked teams. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked teams will compete in a sudden death semi-final. The winner of the semifinal will compete against the 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team in a best-of-3 final. The Curling Canada Director, High Performance will nominate the respective winners of the Canadian Curling Trials to the COC for selection to the Olympic team no later than January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026. **The Canadian Curling Trials will be held from November 22 to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Scotiabank Arena in Halifax, NS.**

The rules and regulations of Curling Canada, as covered in the event Competitor Guide, will be used to govern all aspects of the Canadian Curling Trials and Pre-Trials Event.

All appeals relating to the Olympic qualification process will be facilitated by the Curling Canada Dispute Settlement Mechanism (Link: [Curling Canada Policies](#)).

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## **CANADIAN CURLING TRIALS QUALIFICATION - MEN'S/WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT**

**8 Women's and 8 Men's Teams will qualify for the 2025 Canadian Curling Trials.**

**Direct Qualification into the *Canadian Curling Trials* – 7 Teams per gender**

***Trial Berths 1 and 2 will be awarded as of the end of the 2023-24 season. Berths 3 through 7 will be awarded in the order listed in this document as of the end of the 2024-25 season.***

- 1) 2024 champions at the Scotties and Brier (*must finish top six at the 2024 World Curling Championships; if the team does not finish top six, the berth will be awarded to the highest ranked team from the 2023-24 Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) as of the end of 2024 Players' Championships. Teams that don't finish top six at the 2024 World Curling Championship will be awarded a pre-trials berth*).

**QUALIFIED: Team Rachel Homan- 2024 Tournament of Hearts Champions (Rachel Homan, Tracy Fleury, Emma Miskew, Sarah Wilkes). Placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the 2024 World Women's Curling Championship.**

**QUALIFIED: Team Brad Gushue- 2024 Brier Champions (Brad Gushue, Mark Nichols, EJ Harnden, Geoff Walker). Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 2024 World Men's Curling Championship.**

- 2) The next highest ranked team in the 2023-24 CTRS standings that hasn't already qualified via the 2024 Scotties and Brier.

**QUALIFIED: Team Jennifer Jones- 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> Place CTRS (Jennifer Jones, Karlee Burgess, Emily Zacharias, Lauren Lenentine). As of May 1, 2024, Chelsea Carey has replaced Jennifer Jones as skip of Team Jones and the team still meets the qualification requirements.**

**QUALIFIED: Team Brendan Bottcher- 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> Place CTRS (Brendan Bottcher, Marc Kennedy, Brett Gallant, Ben Hebert). As of May 1, 2024, Brad Jacobs has replaced Brendan Bottcher as skip of Team Bottcher and the team still meet the qualification requirements.**

- 3) 2025 champions at the Tournament of Hearts and Brier (*must finish top six at the 2025 World Curling Championships; if the team does not finish top six or has already qualified, the berth will be awarded to the highest ranked team from the 2024-25 Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) as of the end of 2025 Players Championship. Teams that don't finish top six at the 2025 World Curling Championship will be awarded a pre-trials berth*).
  - 4) The highest ranked team on the combined aggregate two-year (2023-24 and 2024-25) CTRS standings (if team earning this berth has already qualified, the next-highest ranked team on the aggregate two-year list not already qualified will be awarded the berth).
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- 5) The next highest ranked team on the combined aggregate two-year (2023-24 and 2024-25) CTRS standings (if team earning this berth has already qualified, the next-highest ranked team on the aggregate two-year list not already qualified will be awarded the berth).
- 6) The next highest ranked team on the combined aggregate two-year (2023-24 and 2024-25) CTRS standings (if team earning this berth has already qualified, the next-highest ranked team on the aggregate two-year list not already qualified will be awarded the berth).
- 7) The next highest ranked team on the 2024-25 CTRS standings that hasn't already qualified via the previous six criteria.

For a registered team to be eligible for a combined aggregate two-year CTRS standings berth, the team must have not replaced more than 1 player on the registered team between the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons.

Teams who do not earn a direct trials spot will still be eligible to qualify for the Curling Pre-Trials Event for a chance to earn the final spot into the Olympic Curling Trials.

### **CANADIAN CURLING PRE-TRIALS QUALIFICATION - MEN'S/WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT**

**8 Women's and 8 Men's Teams will qualify for the 2025 Canadian Curling Pre-Trials. The winner of the Canadian Curling Pre-Trials will earn a berth in the 2025 Canadian Curling Trials.**

#### **Direct Qualification into the *Canadian Curling Pre-Trials* – 8 Teams per gender**

- 1) 2024 champions at the Tournament of Hearts and Brier (*if they didn't finish top six at the 2024 World Curling Championships*).
- 2) 2025 champions at the Tournament of Hearts and Brier (*if they didn't finish top six at the 2025 World Curling Championships*).
- 3) The highest ranked teams on the 2024-25 CTRS standings are awarded berths until there are a total of 8 teams per gender qualified for the 2025 Canadian Curling Pre-Trials.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - MEN'S/WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT**

#### **TEAM LINEUP CHANGES (2025/26 SEASON - PRIOR TO CHAMPIONSHIP)**

Each qualified team must maintain three of four (if registered as four-player team) or four of five (if registered as a five-player team) members of the team that earned the qualification berth.

If a team no longer meets this criterion, then the next highest non-qualified team that meets the criteria in the same manner the original berth was earned will be awarded the qualifying berth. The re-awarding of berths will be calculated in the same order outlined above.

If an athlete is determined to be injured, ill or pregnant by the High-Performance Director because of having completed an injury/health status assessment by Curling Canada's assigned Chief Medical Officer, that team will be permitted to replace the athlete without losing their awarded berth if they no longer meet the three of four, or four of five requirement.

### **INJURY/ILLNESS REPLACEMENT**

Injuries or illness that occur after the Trials but prior to the nomination deadline will be subject to the Curling Canada HP Athlete Replacement Policy, to be developed with input from the Curling Canada Athlete's Council and implemented for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons.

If an athlete is determined to be injured (or ill) by the National Coach because of having completed an injury/health status assessment by Curling Canada's assigned Chief Medical Officer, and the Director, High Performance shall decide if the athlete will be sufficiently recovered to be nominated to the Olympic Team prior to the COC nomination deadline/team selection date.

Injuries or illnesses that occur after the COC's Team Nomination deadline will be dealt with similarly, and subject to the IOC and OCOG's Late Athlete Replacement Policy, to be published at least 6 months prior to the start of the Milano-Cortina 2026 Olympic Games.

If an athlete is injured during the Games, a decision regarding their continued participation at the Games will be made by the Chef de Mission Team, in consultation with the COC Chief Medical Officer, Director, High-Performance, National Coach and the Integrated Support Team (IST) member responsible for the sport, and the athlete, and shall be governed by the terms of the Team Canada Athlete Agreement.

### **SELECTION OF THE ALTERNATE PLAYER**

The selection of the alternate player for both the men's and women's Olympic Team will be made by the Director, High Performance, and the National Coach in consultation with the nominated Olympic Teams. The selected alternate player may be a different player than one who assumed that role at the Canadian Curling Trials.

There are no restrictions on the selection of an alternate player in terms of club or Provincial/Territorial Association membership as there is for the Canadian Men's and Women's Championship. The team should select an alternate player for the Games with the intent to secure the best player available to them without restriction.

The Chief Executive Officer of Curling Canada will nominate the alternate athlete to the COC for selection to the Games team no later than January 17th, 2026.

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## **REMOVAL OF AN ATHLETE**

The National Coach in conjunction with the Director, High Performance may, at any time, and at their discretion, remove an athlete from the Canadian Team if, after following the relevant and applicable disciplinary process, the athlete has been found to have violated Curling Canada's Code of Conduct. Curling Canada will advise the affected athlete, in writing, of their decision to remove them from the Canadian Team.

Link: [Curling Canada Policies](#)

As applicable, an athlete may not be nominated or will be removed from the Olympic Team if, they have been subject to a period of ineligibility or a provisional suspension by any anti-doping organization with authority over the athlete and the period of ineligibility or provisional suspension will be in force during the qualification period or the Games.

## **OLYMPIC SUPPORT STAFF/COACH ELIGIBILITY**

- 1) All coaches must be a registered or chartered professional coach with the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) by January 15, 2026.
  - 2) Have a valid passport that does not expire before September 1, 2026.
  - 3) Be in compliance with all relevant COC, IF, and IOC requirements for eligibility.
  - 4) Sign, submit, and comply with the COC Support Staff Agreement and Organising Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation form no later than January 15, 2026 (no later than COC registration requirement deadline).
  - 5) Be 18 years of Age or older.
  - 6) Be a member in good standing of Curling Canada.
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**INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURES – MIXED DOUBLES TEAM EVENT**

In order to be eligible to compete in the Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials and Olympic Games, an athlete shall:

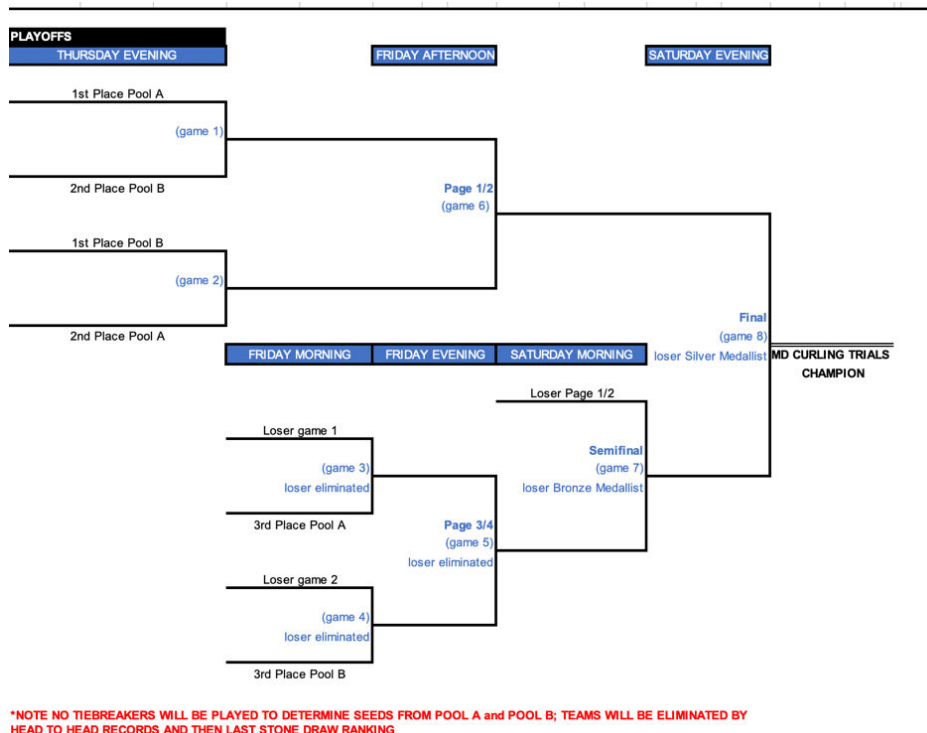
- (f) be a member in good standing of Curling Canada.
- (g) be a Canadian citizen, as per Rule 41 of the Olympic Charter.
- (h) have a valid Canadian passport that does not expire before September 1, 2026.
- (i) be in compliance with all relevant IF, COC and IOC requirements for eligibility.
- (j) sign, submit and comply with the COC Athlete Agreement and Organizing Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation Form by the submission deadline as established by the COC.

All athletes qualified to compete in the 2025 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials will be required to sign the Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials participation agreement by December 15, 2024.

**COMPETITION FORMAT – MIXED DOUBLES TEAM EVENT**

The Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials will be comprised of 16 teams. The 16 teams will be seeded (based on the 2025 Trials Canadian Mixed Doubles Rankings as of December 9, 2024) into two pools of 8-teams. The teams will compete in a full round robin within their pool to determine the three highest ranked teams in each pool. The playoff format to be used is shown in the diagram below.

The Curling Canada Director of High Performance will nominate the respective winners of the Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials to the COC for selection to the Olympic team no later than January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026. **The Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials will be held from December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Queen’s Place Emera Centre in Liverpool, NS.**



The rules and regulations of Curling Canada, as covered in the event Competitor Guide, will be used to govern all aspects of the Canadian Curling Trials and any Pre Trials Qualification.

All appeals relating to the Olympic qualification process will be facilitated by the Curling Canada Dispute Settlement Mechanism (Link: [Curling Canada Policies](#)).

## **CANADIAN CURLING TRIALS QUALIFICATION – MIXED DOUBLES EVENT**

**16 Teams will qualify for the 2025 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials.**

**Trial Berths 1 through 5 will be awarded as of the end of the 2023-24 season. Berths 6 through 16 will be awarded in the order listed in this document as of December 9, 2024. If a team declines an awarded berth to the Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials or becomes ineligible, the berth will be awarded to the next highest ranked team on the CMDR in the year the berth was originally awarded.**

- 1) 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the 2024 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in Fredericton, NB.

**QUALIFIED: Team Lott/Lott- 2024 Canadian Mixed Doubles Champions (Kadriana Lott/Colton Lott).**

- 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at the 2024 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in Fredericton, NB.

**QUALIFIED: Team Walker/Muyres- 2024 Canadian Mixed Doubles Silver Medalists (Laura Walker/Kirk Muyres).**

- 3) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at the 2024 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in Fredericton, NB.

**QUALIFIED: Team Peterman/Gallant- 2024 Canadian Mixed Doubles Bronze Medalists (Jocelyn Peterman/Brett Gallant).**

- 4) Highest ranked team (not already qualified) on the 2023/24 Canadian Mixed Doubles Rankings (CMDR) as of April 30, 2024.

**~~QUALIFIED: Team Homan/Tardi- 2023/2024 CMDR (Rachel Homan/Tyler Tardi)~~ Team is not registered to play together for the 2024-25 season, therefore not an eligible team for MD Olympic Trials qualification.**

**QUALIFIED: Team Martin/Laycock- 2023/2024 CMDR (Nancy Martin/Steve Laycock)**

- 5) Next highest ranked team (not already qualified) on the 2023/24 Canadian Mixed Doubles Rankings (CMDR) as of April 30, 2024.

**QUALIFIED: Team Jones/Laing- 2023/2024 CMDR (Jennifer Jones/Brent Laing)**

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- 6) #1 Canadian Mixed Doubles Tour Event Winner. This event will be played in Abbotsford, BC October 31 – November 3, 2024. If the winner of the Tour event has already earned a berth in the Canadian Mixed Doubles Trials, the next highest placing team in the event will earn the berth. A tiebreaker will be played at the event, if necessary.
- 7) #2 Canadian Mixed Doubles Tour Event Winner. This event will be played in Guelph, ON November 21-24, 2024. If the winner of the Tour event has already earned a berth in the Canadian Mixed Doubles Trials, the next highest placing team in the event will earn the berth. A tiebreaker will be played at the event, if necessary.
- 8) #3 Canadian Mixed Doubles Tour Event Winner. This event will be played in Banff/Canmore, AB December 5-8, 2024. If the winner of the Tour event has already earned a berth in the Canadian Mixed Doubles Trials, the next highest placing team in the event will earn the berth. A tiebreaker will be played at the event, if necessary.
- 9) The eight (8) highest ranked teams, not already qualified, on the 2025 Trials Canadian Mixed Doubles Rankings (2025 Trials CMDR) as of December 9, 2024. Athletes/Teams must be registered as a team on the 2025 Trials CMDR **by the August 1, 2024 registration deadline** to be eligible to earn one of these rankings berths.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – MIXED DOUBLES EVENT**

### **TEAM LINEUP CHANGES (PRIOR TO START OF CANADIAN MIXED DOUBLES CURLING TRIALS)**

Prior to December 9, 2024, if an athlete loses their registered partner due to illness, injury or parental leave after they have already accepted a berth into the Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials, they will be permitted to select a new partner and retain their berth provided their new partner is on a 4-person team ranked in the Top-10 on the 2023/24 CTRS or ranked Top-32 on the 2023/24 CMDR.

After December 9, 2024, if an athlete loses a registered partner due to illness, injury or parental leave before the event begins, they will be permitted to select a new eligible partner provided their new 2025 Trials CMDR ranking remains ahead of the next highest ranked team not qualified for the Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials. In all other cases, an athlete must compete with the partner they earned their berth with, or they will not be eligible to compete in the 2025 MDCT.

### **INJURY/ILLNESS REPLACEMENT**

Injuries or illness that occur after the Mixed Doubles Trials but prior to the COC nomination deadline will be subject to the Curling Canada HP Athlete Replacement Policy, to be developed with input from the Curling Canada Athlete's council and implemented for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons.

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If an athlete is determined to be injured (or ill) by the National Coach because of having completed an injury/health status assessment by Curling Canada's assigned Chief Medical Officer, the Director, High Performance shall decide if the athlete will be sufficiently recovered to be nominated to the Olympic Team prior to the COC nomination deadline/team selection date.

Injuries or illnesses that occur after the nomination deadline will be dealt with similarly, and subject to the OCOG Late Athlete Replacement Policy.

If an athlete is injured during the Games, a decision regarding their continued participation at the Games will be made by the Chef de Mission Team, in consultation with the COC Chief Medical Officer, Director High-Performance, National Coach and the Integrated Support Team (IST) member responsible for the sport, and the athlete, and shall be governed by the terms of the Team Canada Athlete Agreement.

### **REMOVAL OF AN ATHLETE**

The National Coach in conjunction with the Director, High Performance may, at any time, and at their discretion, remove an athlete from the Canadian Team if, after following the relevant and applicable disciplinary process, the athlete has been found to have violated Curling Canada's Code of Conduct. Curling Canada will advise the affected athlete, in writing, of their decision to remove them from the Canadian Team.

Link: [Curling Canada Policies](#)

As applicable, an athlete may not be nominated or will be removed from the Olympic Team if, they have been subject to a period of ineligibility or a provisional suspension by any anti-doping organization with authority over the athlete and the period of ineligibility or provisional suspension will be in force during the qualification period or the Games.

### **OLYMPIC SUPPORT STAFF/COACH ELIGIBILITY**

- 1) All coaches must be a registered or chartered professional coach with the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) by January 15, 2026.
  - 2) Have a valid passport that does not expire before September 1, 2026.
  - 3) Be in compliance with all relevant COC, IF, and IOC requirements for eligibility.
  - 4) Sign, submit, and comply with the COC Support Staff Agreement and Organising Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation form no later than January 15, 2026 (no later than COC registration requirement deadline).
  - 5) Be 18 years of Age or older.
  - 6) Be a member in good standing of Curling Canada.
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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS AND COACHES & DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM**

The competitor/coach shall comply with all reasonable directions and instructions given to them by the Association and its representatives, coaches and management. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the competitor/coach is obligated to comply with the following:

- i. to avoid any action or conduct that reflects adversely upon the association and its athletes, teams, coaches, officials, statisticians, ice technicians, employees, officers, directors, members or sponsors, and agrees at all times to conduct himself/herself in a manner which will bring credit to the Association and the specific parties names above;
- ii. to rely upon and to utilize the hearing and appeal procedure that is in conformity with the generally-accepted principles of natural justice and due process for remedy of all complaints and issues on the basis that all such complaints and issue shall not be made public until the hearing and appeal procedure is first exhausted;
- iii. to avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to significantly disrupt or interfere with a competition or the preparation of any competitor/coach for competition;
- iv. to avoid the use of banned drugs in contravention to the rules of the World Curling, Sport Canada and Curling Canada policy and to submit at competitions and other reasonable times to random doping control testing upon request by the Association or other authority designated to do so by the Association;
- v. to avoid possession and/or use of anabolic drugs, and to neither supply these drugs directly or indirectly to others, nor encourage their use; and
- vi. to participate, as may be requested by the Association, in any doping control/education program formulated by the Association in co-operation with Sport Canada and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport.

#### **1. Categories**

The appeal process regarding Curling Canada (CCA) decisions is differentiated as follows:

- (a) Disciplinary measures and appeal process related primarily to the conduct of a Competitor/Coach at a competition, but which is also applicable to other conduct except conduct governed by the appeal process set out in subparagraph 1(b) below.
- (b) Appeal process related to a Competitor/Coach's status on the National Team, to AAP eligibility, or to decisions taken by the Curling Canada (CCA) pursuant to subparagraph 3(c)(vii) hereof.

#### **2. Definitions**

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The words or phrases below shall have the following meanings in this document:

- (a) “AAP” means the Athlete Assistance Program funded by Sport Canada or any substitute or successor program.
- (b) SDRCC refers to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada created by a Government of Canada initiative currently having its office located at Suite 950 – 1080 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal, Quebec, H2Z 1S8.
- (c) A “competition” is any local, provincial, national or international event sponsored, promoted, endorsed or supported by Curling Canada (CCA) or any Curling Canada (CCA) member association. A competition shall include the time frame covered by the entire time from the Competitor/Coaches departure to the competition locale for the purpose of competing in the competition through to and including arrival at home from the event.
- (d) A “Competitor/Coach” is any person who is participating or has participated as a member or Coach of any team in any local, provincial, national or international event sponsored, promoted, endorsed or supported by the Curling Canada (CCA) or a Curling Canada (CCA) member association, and whose members have signed a National Team agreement.
- (e) “National Team” means a team that has been selected by Curling Canada (CCA) to represent Canada in World Championship or Olympic curling competitions, and the members of which have signed a National Team Athlete Agreement.

### **3. Disciplinary Measures**

Disciplinary measures and appeal procedures related primarily to the conduct of a competitor /coach at a competition, but which is also applicable to other conduct of a competitor/coach excluding only conduct to which paragraph 4 hereof applies.

- (a) Curling Canada (CCA) shall have the right to implement and administer reasonable disciplinary measures arising from any Competitor/Coach’s conduct (whether of a verbal or physical nature) occurring,
    - (i) during any competition, whether in the course of on ice play or at other times,
    - (ii) or at any other time and place.
  - (b) Such disciplinary measures may include but are not limited to,
    - (i) formal reprimand or verbal warnings;
    - (ii) formal reprimand (written);
    - (iii) temporary or permanent suspension of competition privileges;
    - (iv) dismissal from a team representing Curling Canada (CCA).
  - (c) Disciplinary measures imposed on a Competitor/Coach arising out of conduct referred to in subparagraph 3 (a) above shall be implemented in accordance with the following rules.
    - (i) The Director, Event Operations or an alternative person appointed by Curling Canada (CCA), shall have the sole right to impose any of the disciplinary measures referred
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to in subparagraph 2(b)(i) and (ii), and, if the conduct occurs during any competition, to suspend the Competitor/Coach from one game at the relevant competition.

- (ii) Before imposing any disciplinary measure, the Manager of Event Operations, or other duly appointed person shall carry out an investigation including interviewing relevant witnesses and the involved Competitor/Coach.
  - (iii) The Director, Event Operations' or alternative person's decision shall not be subject to appeal.
  - (iv) If the Director, Event Operations or alternative person feels that the impugned conduct arising during a competition warrants more than a one game suspension, he or she shall immediately recommend to the Curling Canada's (CCA) Chief Executive Officer that an impartial non-conflicted member of the Curling Canada (CCA) Board hold a hearing at the relevant event city to determine whether or not further suspensions are appropriate. If the impugned conduct occurs outside a competition (3(a)(ii)) and the appointed alternative person recommends Section 3(b)(iii) or (iv) disciplinary measures he or she shall make a similar recommendation to the Curling Canada's (CCA's) Chief Executive Officer that a impartial non-conflicted member of the CCA board hold a hearing.
  - (v) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the Chief Executive Officer shall forthwith identify an impartial non-conflicted member of the Curling Canada (CCA) Board to convene such a hearing.
  - (vi) The board member so appointed shall convene a hearing at the event city as soon as possible but, no later than 24 hours after his/her appointment, and he/she shall give notice to the Manager of Event Operations or alternative person and to the impugned Competitor/Coach of the time and place of the hearing.
  - (vii) The Competitor/Coach and Manager of Event Operations or alternative person shall have the right to representation by legal counsel at the hearing, to present evidence by way of affidavit, and to present argument. For sake of expedience and cost reduction, the hearing may proceed by way of written submissions, and/or telephone conference or video conference with such safeguards built in as the adjudicating board member feels necessary to protect the parties.
  - (viii) At the conclusion of the hearing, the adjudicating board member shall either:
    - (a) dismiss the recommendation for further suspension; or
    - (b) suspend the impugned Competitor/Coach from one or more of the remaining games at the relevant event, or in the case of conduct referred to in 3(a)(ii) from the next competition,
    - (c) recommend further suspensions as referred to in paragraph 3(c)(x) below.
  - (ix) The decision of the adjudicating board member concerning suspensions from one or more of the remaining games at the relevant event shall not be subject to appeal or further hearing.
  - (x) If the adjudicating board member finds that the improper conduct warrants consideration by the CCA Board for suspension from other competitions or in the
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case of conduct referred to in 3(a)(ii) above, from competitions other than the next competition, or for dismissal from a team representing the association, he or she shall prepare and deliver a report to the Curling Canada (CCA) Chair and to the impugned Competitor/Coach setting out all relevant facts found at the hearing, brief summaries of witnesses statements indicating which portions were accepted and which portions were rejected, disciplinary measures recommended, and the reasons for the disciplinary measures recommended, within five (5) days after the conclusion of the hearing.

- (xi) The impugned Competitor/Coach shall have ten (10) days after receipt of such report to prepare and deliver a written reply to the Curling Canada (CCA) Board. The Board shall meet, as soon as reasonably possible after the reply to the report has been received, or the ten (10) day period has elapsed, to consider the report and reply, if any.
  - (xii) After reviewing the report and reply, if any, the Curling Canada (CCA) Board shall determine what, if any, discipline measures should be imposed on the impugned Competitor/Coach, and shall advise him or her in writing forthwith after making such determination.
- (d) Disciplinary measures imposed on a Competitor/Coach pursuant to 3(c)(xii) above shall be subject to the appeal procedure referred to in paragraph 4 below.

#### **4. Appeal Procedures**

Appeal procedures related to National Team status and/or AAP funding eligibility and subparagraph 3(c)(xii) above.

- (a) The following appeal process shall apply to,
    - (i) all decisions made by the Curling Canada (CCA) pursuant to paragraph 3(c)(xii) above, and
    - (ii) all disputes between Competitor/Coach arising out of a National Team Athlete agreement including but not limited to National Team eligibility and AAP funding eligibility.
  - (b) The party wishing to initiate the dispute settlement process set out below shall deliver a written request for mediation both to Curling Canada (CCA) and to the SDRCC office at Suite 950 - 1080 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal, Quebec, H2Z 1S8.
  - (c) The dispute shall then proceed to mediation in accordance with the SDRCC procedures which are available at <http://www.crdsc-sdrcc.ca/> (the Code) or by contacting the Curling Canada (CCA).
  - (d) The parties agree that the time limit referred to in RM-15 in Appendix 1 shall be 30 days.
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- (e) In the event the parties are unable to reach a settlement with the assistance of the SDRCC mediator, either party may, within 30 days after the mediation process has ended, submit the issues in dispute to arbitration pursuant to the SDRCC arbitration provisions (available at <http://www.crdsc-sdrcc.ca/>) and both parties agree that any issues so submitted to arbitration shall be finally determined by such arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the SDRCC CODE. In particular, without limiting the generality of the application of the entire SDRCC CODE to the resolution of all disputes between the parties arising out of or connected in any way with this agreement, the parties agree that the arbitrator's award shall be final and binding on the parties and "shall not be open to question or review in a court." For greater certainty the arbitration proceedings shall not be subject to review by injunction, prohibition, judicial review, or other process or proceeding in a court and shall not be removable by certiorari or otherwise to a court.

## **5. General Provisions**

- (a) The dispute settlement provisions set out herein represent the sole and only recourse a Competitor/Coach or Curling Canada (CCA) may have concerning the aforementioned disputes. Neither the Competitor/Coach nor Curling Canada (CCA) shall attempt to resolve any such dispute in a court or in any other tribunal except as provided herein.
- (b) Where urgency such as when a Competitor/Coaches eligibility to participate in an imminent competition compels a shortening of the time lines set out above or skipping of any of the steps leading to final resolution of the dispute, the parties shall forthwith convene a telephone conference call or meeting to discuss the dispute and shall use their best efforts to agree to a process to resolve the dispute. In such cases the preferred process may be to submit the dispute to an urgent SDRCC arbitration. The provisions of this subparagraph 5(b) do not apply to disciplinary measures imposed pursuant to 3(c)(i) hereof.