

# British Curling Paralympic Programme Selection Policy 2019-20

The investment received from UK Sport is designed to achieve medals in future Paralympic Games and British Curling's current role is to invest in the right Paralympic athletes to maximise medal potential in 2022. Please note that the levels of programme investment can only be confirmed following consultation with UK Sport.

## **Programme Pathway**

Performance – Athlete shows clear potential and has processes in place to achieve a medal winning position at the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games.

Performance Foundation - Athlete shows clear potential to improve in order to achieve a medal at the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games

## **Selection Criteria**

All athletes applying will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Eligibility - All individuals are required to meet Player Eligibility (Appendix 1)
- Strategic Composition of Programme in order to meet WCF Rule 13 Wheelchair Curling (g)
- Performance History - All athletes previous three season's results (tournament, playing position and finishing spot)
- Future Potential
  - To develop consistency in shot execution at the level required to medal at World Championships and Paralympic Games
  - To develop consistency in shot execution at the level required to be considered for World Championships and Paralympic Games
  - To be part of a Team that medals at the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games
  - To be part of a Squad that achieves qualification to the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games
  - To develop tactical knowledge that contributes to game management
- Commitment - All individuals to meet the requirements of the British Curling's Paralympic Athlete Commitment document. This document can be obtained from the BC website or by emailing [British.Curling@sisport.com](mailto:British.Curling@sisport.com).
- Team Dynamics - All athletes to show ability in team cohesion, robustness and growth mindset, as evidenced in previous Performance Development Plans or Support Staff comment.

## **Selection Timelines**

### **08 May**

Selection Policy issued for British Curling Paralympic Programme.

Applications open – applications should be completed via the online form available [here](#). Each applicant is also required to complete a performance history form which can be obtained from the British Curling website or by emailing [British.Curling@sisport.com](mailto:British.Curling@sisport.com).

### **19 May**

Applications close

### **Week beginning 20 May**

Selection Meeting will take place

### **No later than 24 May**

All Applicants informed of outcome.

### **10-12 June**

Selected Athletes to attend initial Training Camp held at sportscotland National Sports Training Centre Inverclyde.

### **Selection Panel**

All selection decisions will be at a meeting of the Selection Panel. Panel membership is as follows:

**British Curling Performance Director** – Voting Member and Panel Chair

**British Curling Head Coach (Wheelchair Curling)** – Voting Member

**British Curling Assistant Coach (Wheelchair Curling)** – Voting Member

**British Curling Board Representative** - Non-Voting Member

Scrutinise the process, hold the panel accountable to the policy and its criteria, and ensure the principles of fairness and acting without bias are upheld.

**British Athletes Commission** – Scrutinise the process, hold the panel accountable to the policy and its criteria, and ensure the principles of fairness and acting without bias are upheld. Non-voting member.

**Performance Administrator** – Non-voting member

Official record keeper.

UK Sport may opt to attend selection meetings.

The Selection Panel will consider the stated selection criteria in making its decisions and may also consult other staff support specialists where appropriate.

The selection process is generally an exercise of judgment. Selection decisions are necessarily subjective and an exercise of expert opinion. This is particularly relevant in the aspect of forming teams. As such, while an appeals policy is provided for individuals to appeal non-selection on the grounds that the policy has not been adhered to, athletes are not able to appeal against selection decisions on any other grounds including against a Panel member's judgement. A process whereby an individual can request an appeal of a decision is provided for in Appendix 2.

## Appendix 1

### Player Eligibility for Selection by British Curling

To be considered for Investment to the Programme, athletes must meet the eligibility criteria set out in 'UK Sport's Eligibility and Consequences Policy'. This applies to all athletes in all funded sports. Athletes should check their eligibility against the full criteria by following the link here <http://www.uk sport.gov.uk/resources/eligibility>, but in summary the athlete must:

- Meet the eligibility and Investment requirements of the IOC, the IPC, the BOA/BPA and the athlete's International Federation /NGB to compete for ParalympicsGB and to represent or be a member of the GB or Home Nation Teams at International Competitions;
- Have confirmed international classification, assigned review or the strong likelihood of attaining international classification (Appendix 3)
- Be a British national/British passport holder;
- Not already be serving a suspension or be ineligible from participating in their sport for any reason;
- Not already be ineligible to receive funding from UK Sport;
- Not have an unspent conviction for a serious criminal offence in the UK;
- Not have a conviction for a serious offence relating to betting, manipulation of results or corrupt conduct;
- Not have brought, or bring, through their actions or comments (directly or indirectly) the National Lottery or UK Sport into serious disrepute.

Additionally, to be, or remain, eligible for the Programme, athletes must meet the following criteria required by British Curling

- Be seeking Programme investment for an event which is confirmed on the event programme for the 2022 Winter Paralympics,
- Sign and return the Programme Athlete Agreement.
- Be a current member of a Home Nation Curling Governing body (Scottish Curling/ English Curling/ Welsh Curling).

## Appendix 2

### Appeals Relating to British Curling Programme (BCP) Selection Decisions

This document sets out British Curling's Appeals Procedure where an athlete ("the Appellant Athlete") wishes to appeal a selection decision taken in respect of British Curling Programme (BCP) membership. 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 not be allowed.

An athlete 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.

This Procedure is the only applicable appeals procedure and forms the entire agreement between each athlete wishing to be selected for the BCP and British Curling (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.

The British Curling appeals procedure consists of an external appeal panel convened by Sport Resolutions UK (SRUK) to consider the grounds and merits of the appeal.

#### 1. Grounds for Appeal

An athlete may appeal against a selection/nomination decision relating to the BCP on one or more of the following grounds:

- a. The correct selection process was not followed;
- b. A decision maker was biased; OR
- c. The decision was made on an error of fact.

#### 2. Appeal Procedure

This appeal procedure begins when an Appellant Athlete submits a formal written appeal that identifies one of the permitted grounds of appeal ("the Notice of Appeal") to the chair of the British Curling board and SRUK.

The Notice of Appeal must be received by British Curling and SRUK<sup>1</sup> within **3 working days** of the selection decision, being communicated in writing (usually via email).

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

- a. Details of the decision which the athlete is appealing;
- b. Details of the ground(s) of appeal upon which the athlete relies, including the manner in which the Appellant Athlete alleges that such ground(s) apply; AND
- c. Any documents or written evidence upon which the Appellant Athlete relies in support of his or her appeal.

#### 3. SRUK Appeal

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' (UK) (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 (UK)'s 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. A copy of the Notice of Appeal must also be filed at the same time with British Curling ([British.Curling@sisport.com](mailto:British.Curling@sisport.com)). The Appeal shall be conducted under Sport Resolutions UK's 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.

British Curling's Reply to SRUK will be filed within 72 hours of receipt by BC of the Notice of Appeal.

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<sup>1</sup> Sport Resolutions UK, 1 Salisbury Square, London, EC4Y 8AE, email [resolve@sportresolutions.co.uk](mailto:resolve@sportresolutions.co.uk)

Neither Party will be entitled to proceed under the 'Full Arbitration Procedure' of SRUK.

The Appeal Panel/Sole Arbitrator will seek to reach his or her decision within 4 days of receipt of BC's reply to the Notice of Appeal

Where it appears to the Panel or BC 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. SRUK will give the Appellant Athlete a copy of these submissions and a limited period of time to make any further submissions in response.

The SRUK 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.

British Curling will bear 75% of SRUK costs in the establishing and conducting of the SRUK Appeal Panel (unless the sole arbitrator orders otherwise). British Curling shall not be responsible for paying or contributing to the Appellant Athlete's professional charges for representation or otherwise or any personal costs involved (such as travel). It will be the athlete's responsibility to pay the remaining 25% of the costs which will be recuperated from British Curling following the conclusion of the appeals process.

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

The BAC is always balanced and independent in its advice to athletes and if it feels there are no grounds for appeal, it will say so. 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.

Please contact the BAC at [admin@britishathletes.org](mailto:admin@britishathletes.org) or call 0203 126 4270.

## Appendix 3

### Criteria for International Classification

The Athlete must meet one of the following eligibility criteria to compete in the World Wheelchair Curling Championship, World Wheelchair Curling Qualification events and the Paralympic Winter Games, i.e. Requires to be eligible according to International Paralympic Committee (IPC) International Standard of Eligible Impairments and then meet WCF specific classification criteria.

Athletes should check their eligibility against the full criteria by following the link here:

[https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161004145727129\\_2016\\_10\\_04\\_International\\_Standard\\_for\\_Eligible\\_Impairments\\_1.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161004145727129_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Eligible_Impairments_1.pdf)

#### 1. LOSS OF POWER

Loss of power in the lower limbs so that any residual power in the legs is less than a total of 40 out of 80 points. The movements tested are:

- At the hips – flexion, extension, adduction, abduction
- At the knees – flexion, extension
- At the ankles – plantar flexion and dorsi flexion

Power will be rated according to the Oxford Scale – 0 - 5. Grade 1 and 2 will be counted as 0.

Examples - Spinal Cord Injury, Poliomyelitis, Transverse myelitis, Spina Bifida, Polyneuropathy

#### 2. LOWER LIMB DEFICIENCY

Bilateral above ankle amputation and muscle strength in the other leg of less than 25/40 defined as above.

Unilateral hip disarticulation and muscle strength in the other leg of less than 25/40 defined as above.

Unilateral above knee amputation and muscle strength in the other leg of less than 25/40 defined as above.

#### 3. HYPERTONIA

Hypertonia in the lower limbs graded using the Ashworth Scale at grade 3 or grade 4 and sufficient to prevent all ambulation or limit it to very short distances indoors.

Example - Cerebral Palsy

Hypertonia can be associated with levels of strength in the legs greater than 40/80 even although ambulation is severely limited and therefore it is reasonable to use the level of spasticity as a separate eligibility criterion. 04 October 2014.

#### 4. INCOORDINATION

Incoordination in the lower limbs, possibly in combination with loss of strength and hypotonia with the objective signs of ataxia so that ambulation is prevented or limited to very short distances indoors.

Examples - Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy

#### 5. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

Severe permanent loss of joint range of 50% or more across 2 or more of the large joints (hip, knee, ankle) in both legs.

Example - Arthrogyrosis

#### 6. COMBINATION OF ABOVE IMPAIRMENT

Any combination of above impairment, which is severe enough to confine athlete to wheelchair for daily activity.