



Selection Policy 2021 European Curling Championships (Lillehammer – November 2021) and 2021 Olympic Qualifying Event (Leeuwarden – December 2021)

1. Purpose

This selection policy confirms the process to select teams to represent:

1. Scotland at the 2021 European Championships for Men and Women.
2. Great Britain at the Olympic Qualifying Event to be held in December 2021 (Women's Team only)

2. Performance Objectives

1. Maximise the chances of Scotland's Men's and Women's curling teams qualifying for their respective 2022 World Championships,
2. Produce medal winning performances at the European Championships.
3. For the Women's Team, qualify for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games (at the OQE) – top 3 position required.

4. Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- a. Be a member of Scottish Curling.
- b. Be either born in Scotland, have a Scottish parent or have been domiciled in Scotland for two consecutive years.
- c. Be eligible to compete in World Curling Federation (WCF) competitions in the category for which they are being considered for selection.
- d. 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 and Scottish Curling.
- e. Have no pending doping offences or currently serving a doping ban.
- f. Be prepared to sign the Scottish Curling Team Member Agreement if selected.
- g. Be available to compete at the European Championships in the discipline for which they are being considered for selection.
- h. Comply with any other eligibility requirements which may be imposed by Scottish Curling and WCF.

5. Team Size

Each team, Men and Women, will consist of a maximum of 5 athletes.

6. Selection Criteria

The Selection Panel will use different methods to select the teams for Men and Women.



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- a. **Men's Team selection – European Championships.** In agreement with Scottish Curling, the team representing Scotland at the European Championships will be the team selected to represent GB at the 2022 Olympic Games. Assuming that selection has been confirmed, the selection panel will ratify that selection for the European Championships.
- b. **Women's Team Selection.** GB have not yet qualified a team for the Women's Team event at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. That situation forces a different approach for the Women's team selection, as the Olympic Qualification Event takes place after the 2021 European Championships. The following approach will be applied:
 - a) The current British Curling Women's Squad (9 athletes) will be considered for selection. Other players will only be considered if a suitable team selection cannot be made from the current Women's Squad.
 - b) 5 of those players will be selected to represent Scotland at the European Championships (it is unlikely that any one player will be identified as the Alternate Player at that stage)
 - c) Those same 5 players will also be selected to represent Great Britain at the Olympic Qualifying Event, with the proviso that the selection is subject to those players demonstrating suitable form and fitness during the European Championships in November. Should the Olympic Head Coach and Executive Performance Director deem form and / or fitness to be in question, the selectors will reconvene within 5 days of the conclusion of the European Championships to determine appropriate actions.
 - d) The following criteria will be used in determining the 5 selected players:
 - I. Training and competition data including player and team statistics with a focus on the period July 2021 to selection date (the period the Women's Squad has been operational)
 - II. Ability to integrate within a performing team under the pressure of competition, and contribute to teammates performing to their best
 - III. What it Takes to Win (WITTW) data – tactical, shot-making, and readiness to perform

6. Selection Timelines

- a) **Week commencing 11th October 2021**

Selection Panel meeting to determine selection for:

 - I. Scotland's Men's Team (European Championships)
 - II. Scotland's Women's team (European Championships), and
 - III. Great Britain's Women's Team (Olympic Qualifier)
- b) **Within 24hrs of the Selection meeting**



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Athletes and Teams notified of Selection Panel's decision. The appeals process available to those not selected is outlined in **Appendix 1**. The communication of selection is strictly confidential and not to be publicised.

Prior to the European Championships and / or the Olympic Qualifying event, British/Scottish 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 European Championships);
- (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.

7. Team Announcement

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

8. Selection Panel

All selection matters will be the responsibility of the Selection Panel. Panel membership is as follows:

- **Executive Performance Director** – Panel Chair and Voting Member
- **Olympic Head Coach** – Voting Member
- **Scottish Curling Representative** - Voting Member
- **Lead Performance Analyst & Head of Performance Services** - Non-voting Members
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.



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Role: Official record keeper.

The selection process is generally an exercise of judgment. Selection decisions are necessarily subjective and an exercise of expert opinion. As such, while an 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 can request an appeal of decisions is provided for in Appendix 1.



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Appendix 1

Appeals Relating to Selection to Major Championships

This document sets out the Appeals Procedure where an Athlete (“the Appellant Athlete”) wishes to appeal a selection decision taken in respect of World or European Curling Championship selection. The Scottish Curling (SC) Appeals Procedure will be adopted for this purpose.

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 team wishing to be selected for the World or European Championships and British Curling (BC) and Scottish Curling (SC) (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 appeal procedure consists of 1 stage:

- **Stage 1.** An internal appeal panel to consider the grounds and merits of the appeal. Where the selection relates to the World or European Curling Championships.

All players 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 Athlete may appeal against a selection/nomination decision relating to the World or European Curling Championships, or Olympic Qualifying Event 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 CEO of Scottish Curling, Bruce Crawford, bruce@scottishcurling.org.

The Notice of Appeal must be received by Scottish Curling 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 Scottish Curling). The fee maybe refunded at the discretion of the Appeal Panel.

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



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- 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. Internal Appeal Panel

The Appeal Panel shall consist of three independent people selected by Scottish Curling.

The Internal Appeal Panel shall:

- a. **dismiss** the appeal and confirm the original selection decision; OR
- b. **uphold** the appeal and remit the matter back to the original selection group, outlining the errors they have identified in the conduct of the original selection process, and request that a new decision is made within 48 hours.

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 or call 0203 126 4270.

Appendix 2

World Class Conduct (Standards of Behaviour & Attitude)

The Athlete recognises that, as an elite competitor within the WCP, his or her behaviour will reflect on their relevant National Governing Body (NGB) and the sport. Accordingly, the Athlete agrees to conduct him or herself in an appropriate proper manner at all times while participating in WCP activities. Further, the Athlete agrees that for the duration of the Membership Period he or she will:

- (a) make a positive commitment to supporting and achieving the aims and objectives of the WCP;
- (b) accept and abide by all the sport policies and procedures currently adopted in relation to membership of their relevant NGB and the WCP, including this Agreement;
- (c) conduct him or herself at all times when training, competing or on duty as a member of the National Team in a correct and proper manner that does not bring their relevant NGB, the sport, UK Sport (including the National Lottery), **sportscotland**, any Commercial Partner or the Athlete into disrepute;



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- (d) project a favourable and positive image of the sport and the public/lottery WCP programmes by adopting high standards of behaviour and appropriate dress standards when carrying out duties in relation to the WCP;
- (e) behave reasonably and in a manner that shows proper respect for other athletes and colleagues in the sport and other athletes in any other sport when training, competing or residing in a multi-sport environment (such as in the Athletes' Village at the Games);
- (f) refrain from the excessive consumption of alcohol and, refrain from the consumption of any alcohol during all major championship and international events, except with the express prior permission of the Performance Director;
- (g) accept and abide by any NGB rules, policies and procedures relating to anti-betting, anti-gambling or anti-corruption and not to engage in or any activity associated with betting, gambling or corrupt practices involving the Athlete's sport or any other sport or event held at the Olympic Games, World Championships, European Championships, Commonwealth Games or other major international or national competition;
- (h) not to accept assistance in training or competition, or have some other professional involvement with, a coach, athlete support personnel or any other person, who in the reasonable opinion of the NGB, International Federation, the IOC, the IPC or UK Sport (if applicable), has a poor reputation by reason of being involved in betting, gambling or corruption practices in any sport including the Athlete's sport and end that assistance or involvement if requested to do so by the NGB, International Federation, IOC, IPC or UK Sport (as applicable);
- (i) not commit any act that shocks or offends the community or which manifests contempt or disregard for public morals and decency;
- (j) keep the WCP informed of any change of circumstances that may affect the Athlete's [or any other WCP member's] ability to train or compete to the high standards required by this Agreement; and
- (k) keep the WCP informed of any changes to the Athlete's personal circumstances, such as any change of permanent residential address and, in respect of periods when the Athlete is outside the country training or competing, any temporary overseas address.

World Class Conduct - Media and Social Media

The Athlete recognises that, as an elite competitor within the WCP, his or her behaviour whilst conducting media duties (broadcast, written press and online press) and activity on social media channels and forums, as well as contributing to news, broadcast and online outlets will reflect on their relevant NGB, the WCP and WCP partners and the sport. Accordingly, the Athlete agrees to conduct him or herself in an appropriate manner at all times while participating in media and social media activities. Further, the Athlete agrees that for the duration of the Membership Period he or she will:



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- (a) make a positive commitment to supporting and achieving the aims and objectives of the WCP by supporting and/or sharing WCP news and announcements that have appeared on WCP or WCP partners social media channels wherever possible;
- (b) accept and abide by all embargoes on information put in place by the WCP and or their relevant NGB and WCP partners, including all announcements in relation to the Athlete's membership to the WCP and relevant NGB, such as programme team and individual announcements, withdrawal from the WCP/sport relating to injury, temporary withdrawal from the WCP/sport or permanent withdrawal from the WCP/sport such as retirement, or suspensions, as well as returning to the WCP/sport for any such reason which may have affected their membership. Any third party representing the athlete or managing their social media channels must also adhere to the embargoes relating to the Athlete's membership of the WCP and their respective NGB;
- (c) conduct him or herself at all times when appearing or commenting in the media or on social media channels and outlets in an appropriate manner that does not bring their relevant NGB, the sport, UK Sport (including the National Lottery), **sportscotland**, any Commercial Partner or the Athlete into disrepute;
- (d) project a favourable and positive image of the sport and WCP and respective NGB by adopting high standards of behaviour and behave in a manner that shows proper respect for other athletes and colleagues in the sport and other athletes in any other sport and refrain from making negative comments about athletes and colleagues when carrying out media duties whilst a member of the WCP;
- (e) keep the WCP informed in advance of any media/commercial activity undertaken by the Athlete during membership of the WCP.