

1. Purpose

This selection policy outlines the process to nominate the athletes to the British Paralympic Association (BPA) to represent Great Britain at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games (PWG) in the discipline of Wheelchair Curling - Mixed Doubles.

Players should note that British Curling nominates the athletes/team to the BPA, who in turn endorse and confirm selections.

2. Performance Objectives

- To select Great Britain's strongest team with the highest chance of medalling at the Paralympic Winter Games.
- To achieve British Curling's target of medalling in Milan-Cortina 2026.

3. NPC Qualification

The Milan-Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games Wheelchair Curling Mixed Doubles will consist of eight (8) teams participating.

In order for Great Britain to field a team at the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games, the following qualification standards must be achieved:

- a) The Team quota place earned at the World Curling Federation (WCF) qualification events for the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games (Milan-Cortina) are available to the NPC and not to the athletes who won the team quota spot.
- b) The three National Federations from Great Britain – England, Scotland and Wales – are all eligible to participate in the World Championships if they qualify. However, by agreement between the 3 National Federations and the WCF, only Scotland will carry the qualification responsibility for Great Britain.
- c) Team Qualification
 - The Milan-Cortina hosts (Italy) automatically qualify for the PWG therefore seven (7) team places remain.
 - The remaining seven (7) places will be offered to the National Paralympic Committees, of the Member Associations of the World Curling Federation, who have gained the most qualifying points from the World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championships held in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

4. Eligibility and Availability

To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- a. Hold a British Passport and be eligible under WCF and IPC rules
- b. Be Internationally classified with a confirmed sport class status
- c. Be a current member of the Curling Home Nation* Governing Body
- d. Be eligible to compete in World Curling Federation (WCF) competitions in the category for which they are being considered for selection.
- e. Sign and comply with the British Curling Athlete Agreement

- f. 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.
- g. Have no pending doping offences or currently serving a doping ban.
- h. Be prepared to sign the Paralympics GB Team Member Agreement if selected.
- i. Be available to compete at the Paralympic Winter Games in the discipline for which they are being considered for selection.
- j. Be available to fulfil all team commitments from the time of selection through to the Championships.
- k. Comply with any other eligibility requirements which may be imposed by British Curling, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), BPA and WCF.

** Home Nation Governing Body is defined at Scottish Curling, Curling England or Welsh Curling.*

5. Team Size

The team will consist of a maximum of 2 athletes, one male and one female.

6. Selection Criteria

The Selection Panel will consider all relevant factors and data as part of the overall assessment, with no pre-determined weighting to exercise its discretion in selecting athletes which, in its reasonable opinion, has the best chance of fulfilling the Performance Objectives outlined in section 2.0.

- a. Performance history at Major Championships (i.e. World Championships and Paralympic Winter Games)
- b. Performance statistics in International Tour events and NCA events
- c. Performance statistics in training
- d. Assessment against the British Curling What it Takes to Win Model (WITTW)

The Selection Panel reserve the right to consider special cases and exceptional circumstances when making selection decisions with a view to achieving the performance objectives.

7. Selection Timelines

- **10 -16 March 2025**
World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championships
- **10 December 2025**
Selection Panel Meeting to nominate athletes for selection to the Paralympics GB Team
- **December 2025** within 48 hours of the selection meeting behind held
Individuals notified of Selection Panel's decision, along with any relevant information in relation to that decision. The appeals process available to non-selected athletes is outlined in **Appendix 1**. The communication of selection is strictly confidential and not to be publicised. Athletes will initially be informed by telephone which will be followed up with formal written confirmation (usually email).

- **06 - 15 March 2026**
Milano-Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games

8. Selection Panel

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

Chief Executive Officer – Panel Chair

Performance Director – Voting Member

Paralympic Head Coach – Voting Member

Sport Org Board Member – Voting Member

Data Scientist – Non-voting Member

Role: To provide performance data and statistics as required.

Head of Performance Support – Non-voting Member

Role: To provide data and information on assessments against the WITTW model as required.

British Elite Athletes Association 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.

British Paralympic Association 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.

Interim Chief Operating Officer – Non-voting Member.

Role: Official record keeper.

In the event a panel member is unavailable / unable to attend the meeting, or conflicted, the chair carries the casting vote. In the event the Chair unavailable, the Paralympic Head Coach will assume the role of Chair.

The Selection Panel will consider criteria stated in Section 5 in making its decisions and may also consult other support staff specialists where appropriate.

The selection process is generally an exercise of judgment. Selection decisions are necessarily subjective and an exercise of expert opinion without bias, discrimination etc. 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, individuals 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.

Should the BPA choose not to endorse a nomination made by the Sport, it is British Curling, not the individual / team that has responsibility to pursue any appeal in accordance with the BPA's appeals policy.

9. Athlete De-selection and Replacement

Prior to the submission of formal entries at the Sport Entry Deadline, British Curling (in conjunction with BPA) 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 Paralympic Winter Games).
- (b) failure to adhere to the BPA Team Member Agreement or British Curling Performance Programme Athlete Agreement.
- (c) committing any anti-doping violation including but not limited to those that result in suspension
- (d) any failure to adhere to the terms of this selection policy.

De-selected athletes have the right to appeal in line with appeals policy outlined in **Appendix 1**.

After the Sport Entry Deadline has been completed, de-selection and selection of a replacement athlete is only allowed in accordance with the IPC's Late Athlete Replacement Policy (or any revised or amended IPC policy dealing with athlete replacement). This primarily provides for replacement in the case of injury and/or illness up until the Sport Technical meeting prior to the start of competition.

In the event an athlete is deselected, the selection panel will reconvene, consider all aspects, and nominate appropriate alternative athlete(s). Due to the time constraints, the appeals process does not apply to replacement selections made within 14 days of the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM).

10. 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 possible to confirmed selection or non-selection prior to any official announcement by the BPA.

Appendix 1

Appeals Relating to Selection to Paralympic Games

This document sets out the Appeals Procedure where an Athlete (“the Appellant Athlete”) wishes to appeal a selection decision taken in respect of Paralympic Games selection. The British Curling (BC) 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 individual wishing to be selected for the Paralympic Games and British Curling (BC) (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 Paralympic Games appeal procedure consists of 1 stage:

Stage 1. An external appeal panel convened by Sport Resolutions UK (SRUK) to consider the grounds and merits of the appeal.

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 Athlete may appeal against a selection/nomination decision relating to the Paralympic Games 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 BC Board and SRUK

The Notice of Appeal must be received by BC and SRUK¹ 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;

¹ Sport Resolutions UK, 1 Paternoster Lane, St Paul’s, London, EC4M 7BQ, email resolve@sportresolutions.com

- 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 BC (performance@britishcurling.org.uk). 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.

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

BC will bear 50% of SRUK costs in the establishing and conducting of the SRUK Appeal Panel (unless the sole arbitrator orders otherwise). BC 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 50% of the costs which will be recuperated from British Curling following the conclusion of the appeals process.

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



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The BEAA 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 BEAA 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 BEAA via email: support@britisheliteathletes.org