

Selection Process for Great Britain Mixed Curling Team 2019 European Youth Olympic Winter Festival Sarajevo, Bosnia 9 - 16th February 2019

Introduction

This document outlines important information for athletes who wish to be considered for selection for the 2nd Winter European Youth Olympic Festival to be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia between the dates of 9th - 16th February 2019. Selection for the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) should be considered a great honour and competition for places on the Squad will be intense from all home nation countries. Applications for selection will only be accepted from highly competitive and highly motivated athletes.

This will be a mixed team consisting of 2 Male and 2 Female athletes who must play in alternating positions. No 5th player will form part of the Squad, as a team will not be allowed to take to the ice with 3 Males or 3 Females on the team.

The Curling event at the EYOF is open to athletes born between the 1st of January 2002 and 31st of December 2003.

The EYOF competition will consist of a National Mixed Team Championship followed by Medal playoffs for podium positions.

The British Olympic Association (BOA) is ultimately responsible for Team GB selection based on nominations by British Curling (BC). Therefore although BC carries out a selection process which leads to nominations being made to the BOA, it is the BOA who will endorse nominations and finally confirm selections to Team GB for the EYOF.

If you wish to be considered for Selection please read through this document carefully and submit your EYOF Registration of Interest form before the deadline of Friday 21st September, 2018.

It should be noted that should you be selected for the EYOF, you would not be able to compete in the World Junior Curling Championships 2019.

Aim of the European Youth Olympic Festival

This EYOF has been created to give talented young European athletes, who show a genuine ability and great potential, the experience of a top European Multi-Sport event and follows the Olympic principals of the spirit of friendship, fair play and tolerance. The age range of participating athletes is 15 - 17. It is intended that the young athletes who take part in the EYOF will have both the aspiration and potential to compete in the Winter Olympics in 2026 and 2030. This type of event is both challenging and exhilarating and is a positive experience that athletes will carry forward throughout their sporting career.

Important Dates

Applications OPEN – September 3rd 2018.

Application DEADLINE - September 21st 2018, 5pm.

Initial shortlist of athletes will be made the first week of October.

On Ice Selection Camp for the shortlisted athletes on Saturday 20th October at National Curling Academy. Stirling will consist of various elements including skills assessment, team dynamics, interviews and coping with pressure.

Selections from the above process, notifications to athletes and nomination to BOA will be by 31st October 2018.

Background

The selection process described below will be used to identify the athletes who will make up the Mixed Curling Team who will represent Great Britain at the 2019 EYOF.

It must be noted that a major change for the selection of the EYOF 2019 athletes will come in the form of the importance placed on talent identification, positive mindset, positive character and the very real expectation of future potential. This means that while current success is important as a measure of your ability when judged against your current peer athlete group it is not necessarily a predictor of the success you could achieve in future 2026 and 2030 Olympic cycle.

1. The Selection Process

General Criteria

1 Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, athletes must;

- Have been born between January 1st 2002 and December 31st 2003.
- Hold a British Passport and be eligible under WCF and IOC rules.
- Be a member of a Curling Home Nation Governing Body.
- Be of a level of fitness and health to be able to compete competitively as determined by medical staff appointed by BC and the BOA.
- Have no outstanding or existing doping offences, or be ineligible to compete by virtue of the operation of the BOA's bye law on 'Eligibility of Membership of Team GB of persons found guilty of a doping offence'.
- Be available for the whole duration of the competition of 9th – 16th February 2019.
- Be prepared to sign the BOA Team Member Agreement if selected.

2. Stages of Selection

The Selection process runs from September 3rd 2018 through to the EYOF in February 2019.

The period from October 2018 to departure for Sarajevo in February 2019 will provide a preparation phase during which athletes can be selected or de-selected from the team at any time by the Selection Panel.

2.1 Selection Process

- 1) Application Process opens Monday 3rd September 2018.
- 2) Application Deadline Friday 21st September 2018, 5pm.
- 3) Selection Panel meet to select a shortlist of athletes in the last week of September.
- 4) All athletes notified of the Selection Panels decision by Friday 5th October.
- 5) Successful athletes attend a Selection Camp (provisionally at the National Curling Academy, Stirling) on Saturday 20th October, 2018.
- 6) Selection Panel meet the week beginning 22nd October to select 2 male and 2 female athletes to be nominated to the BOA. Notification to athletes and nomination of these athletes to the BOA by 31st October 2018.
- 7) BOA will review the British Curling nominations, ratify and select the final team and then enter that team for the Games. Ratification consists of:
 - a. Verification of age eligibility.
 - b. Verification of nationality.
 - c. Clear of any anti-doping violations or offences.
 - d. Teams and Individuals meeting qualifying standards for the Games.

2.2 Selection Panel

All Selection matters will be the responsibility of the British Curling Selection Panel. The make-up and roles of the panel are as follows:

EYOF Event Manager – Selector

ROLE

- To lead the Selection decision making process and to provide input and assessment of athlete performance;
- To ensure appropriate recording of all selection information.

BC Performance Director – Selector and Panel Chair

ROLE

- To contribute any relevant information and guide the overall ethos of “Talent Identification” from a British Curling perspective.

BC Board Representative

ROLE

- To oversee the proper conduct and due process of the selection process
- In an observational capacity only.

All athletes wishing to be considered for selection to Team GB for the 2019 EYOF must agree that the selection decision is to be taken by the Selection Panel who will exercise their judgement as to which of the eligible athletes have the greatest “Medal Zone” potential for the 2019 EYOF. The selection process is an exercise of judgement and is guided by, but not determined by, results in previous competitions and statistical data. Any selection decision where future potential is a key factor will, by necessity, have a subjective element and is an exercise of expert opinion.

2.3 Selection Criteria

For Selection to the On ice Selection camp the following will be used.

Primary consideration will be given to the following:

- Over the past 2 seasons, track record against International teams, either on the European Junior Curling Tour or in National Governing Body recognised Invitational and International competitions.
- Over the past 2 seasons, track record of success as a positive and dynamic member of a Junior, Men’s or Ladies competitive team.
- Athletes who are deemed to be of a Positive, Growth and Team Success oriented Mindset.

Secondary consideration will be given to the following:

- Over the past 2 seasons, success in Under 17 and 21 Slams, National Junior Competitions and any other events where ranking points are awarded.
- Evidence based track record of rapid skill progression through the respective National Junior programme and including sweeping, fitness, weight control, stone judgement, etc.

Stemming from the On Ice Selection camp and coupled with the information from above, athletes will be selected for the EYOF Team based on the following measures:

Objective Criteria

- Strategic and Tactical awareness
- Demonstrable skill progression
- Current Form
- Ability to demonstrate a positive and winning mindset
- Ability to raise their game.

Subjective Criteria

- Compatibility
- Positive attitude both in a coaching and competitive environment
- Team “Chemistry” and cohesion
- Communication skills both on and off the ice
- Athletes who are deemed to be of a Positive, Growth and Team Success oriented Mindset.
- Ability to represent Great Britain in a sportsmanlike way and to abide by “The Spirit of Curling”

2.4 Review of Decision

The Parties agree to exclusively submit any dispute concerning any matter connected with or arising out of this Selection Policy and procedure to binding arbitration to be conducted by an arbitrator (or panel) appointed by British Curling.

The Parties agree that they will not commence, continue or maintain any legal challenge to any matter falling under the jurisdiction of this Procedure to any court of law or any other dispute resolution procedure. The outcome of the arbitration shall be final and binding.

Any appeal against the decision(s) made the British Curling Selection Panel must be submitted to the COO of British Curling. The process to be followed is as outlined:

4.1 The appeals process is invoked by making a formal written appeal to the COO of British Curling within 96 hours of the selection being announced.

4.2 The appeal shall be a written statement from the prospective appellant detailing all relevant reasons – as only one appeal is permitted all relevant facts must be included in a full submission.

4.3 The grounds for appeal are limited to allegations of:

- Failure to follow the published selection process.
- Some other misconduct of selectors.
- New evidence the panel may have been unaware of as relates directly to the non-selected player. The panel will be unable to consider medical evidence without the player's full consent to disclosure and discussion.

There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published selection criteria and therefore against the actions of the selection panel, provided they follow the selection criteria. The criteria for appeal may not include any alleged error of judgment of the selectors.

4.4 Once a statement of appeal is received, British Curling should take immediate steps to convene an appeal panel within 3 working days to consider the appeal and any rebutting or mitigating statement furnished by the selection panel.

4.5 The Arbitration Panel will consist of up to three members from partner organisations (e.g. sportscotland/ BOA/ UK Sport). The members to be included in the Arbitration Panel will be convened by the British Curling COO and must be impartial to the players involved and to the selection and/or de-selection procedures of the players. The British Curling COO will also nominate the Arbitration Panel Chairperson at this point.

4.6 The Arbitration Panel Chairperson will have total discretion to invite to participate in an Arbitration Hearing any persons including the appellant, the Selection Panel and any player who may lose a selected place as a result of the appeal decision. Participation may be in person or by submission of a written statement at the discretion of the Arbitration Panel Chairperson. All interested parties will receive a copy of the original written statement. The Arbitration Panel may request additional oral and /or written submissions of clarification at their absolute discretion. At the meeting, the Arbitration Panel shall consider the complaint and any statement made in writing or orally by the members concerned. The Arbitration Panel may question either party, of present, or call upon them to supply additional evidence. An adviser (legal or otherwise) may accompany anyone asked to be present at the meeting. The appeal hearing will be minuted and an additional Arbitration Secretary may be nominated by the Chairperson to be present for this purpose.

4.7 The Arbitration Panel shall draw up its findings and come to a decision on the day of the hearing. This decision will be communicated to all parties immediately via phone and email. If there are circumstances preventing an immediate decision, the Chairperson will explain the reasons and revised timescale to all concerned.

4.8 Until the arbitration is decided, British Curling will refrain from publishing the selection further, although the existing details will remain where originally published. Preparation of the selected players will continue but will not support the preparation of the appellant at this stage. All parties must maintain confidentiality until the ruling is issued and any attempt by either party to publicise the matter will be considered as prejudicial by the panel.

4.9 One of two decisions can be made at this stage. The panel can:

- Uphold the appeal and request the Selection Panel to review their original decision
- Reject the appeal.

The Arbitration Panel must make full justification of any decision made.

4.10 The decision of the Arbitration Panel shall be final and binding on the parties.

Appendix 1 - Post Injury Fitness Testing Procedure

Aims

1. To assess the athlete's fitness to compete.
2. To make a decision about whether the athlete will be selected or deselected for a specific game/competition.
3. If necessary, decide on a follow-up course of action (i.e. retest at a later date).

Pre-test Procedure

Prior to testing the athlete's fitness to compete, ongoing assessment of rehabilitation progress will normally be conducted by the physiotherapist and athlete (and possibly the doctor). This might include some aspects of physical activity that are used to evaluate functional fitness but this would not constitute a fitness to compete test and the coach would therefore not normally be involved. The athlete and medical team will make a judgment about the athlete's readiness for a 'fitness to compete' test. The athlete has the right to a 'fitness to compete' test even if the medical teams do not think that the athlete is yet ready to successfully complete the test. The medical team must ensure that the athlete is fully informed and aware of the potential risks involved in completing an early 'fitness to compete' test. The athlete has the right to demand that the medical team's opinion is not shared with any other individuals (including the coach). A time and date will be agreed with all parties for the 'fitness to compete' test to be conducted.

Consideration needs to be given to the post test response of the athlete and selection deadlines.

Fitness to compete test Personnel:

Core people present may vary depending on fitness/injury but would normally include the athlete, head coach/team leader and physiotherapist. Additional personnel might include the doctor, another athlete for delivering the stones/ sweeping etc.

Content:

The 'fitness to compete' test will be led by the physiotherapist. The specific content will vary according to injury/positions etc., but will have been agreed by the medical team, athlete and coach prior to the test and the athlete informed of the expected content. The test will be designed to assess the athlete's functional fitness (i.e. their ability to complete the physical, technical and tactical requirements of their position).

A typical 'fitness to compete' test will take approx. 30-45 minutes and will comprise of;

- (a) Dynamic warm up.
- (b) Delivery of stones at varying weight.
- (c) Sweeping situations.

Post Test Procedure

If the athlete is unable to complete the 'fitness to compete' test then they will be deemed not fit to participate in the specific game or competition for which the test was conducted and an action plan regarding further rehabilitation (and possible retest) will be agreed.

If the athlete is able to complete the 'fitness to compete' test then an initial open discussion will take place with all present regarding the degree of fitness to compete that the athlete has achieved. This should include judgments about:

- The athlete's physical function fitness.
- The athlete's curling specific fitness.
- The risk of re-injury or secondary injury.

The physiotherapist will keep a written record of this discussion and the conclusions drawn which will be kept with the athlete's patient notes.

Decision

The decision about the athlete's fitness to compete rests with the Head Coach and Performance Director.

Dissemination of Information

With the athlete's permission, the Head Coach/Performance Director will then inform other relevant personnel (i.e. the other athletes and staff, media, GB and Home Nations)