



Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games Women's Team

1. Purpose

This selection policy outlines the process to nominate teams to the British Olympic Association (BOA) to represent Great Britain at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games (OWG) in the discipline of Women's Team Curling.

Players should note that British Curling nominates a team to the BOA, who in turn ratify and confirm selections.

British Curling, together with the BOA, reserve the right to make alterations to this policy in the event of circumstances that necessitate change (examples such as a pandemic impacting competition opportunities).

2. Performance Objectives

- a. To select Great Britain's strongest teams with the highest chance of medalling at the OWG
- b. To achieve British Curling's UK Sport milestone target of 2-3 medals at the OWG

3. NOC Qualification

The OWG will consist of ten teams participating per discipline (Men, Women, Mixed Doubles).

In order for Great Britain to field a team at the OWG, qualification must be achieved through the following route:

- a. The Team quota places earned at the World Curling Federation (WCF) qualification events for the OWG are available to the NOC and not to the athletes who achieved those team quota spots.
- b. The three National Federations from Great Britain – England, Scotland, and Wales – are all eligible to participate in the World Championships if they qualify from the European Championships. However, by agreement between the three National Federations and the WCF, only Scotland will carry the qualification responsibility for Great Britain (agreed for the Milan-Cortina cycle across all disciplines).
- c. Team Qualification:
 - I. Italy, as the host nation for the OWG, automatically qualify one place. Therefore 9 team places remain.
 - II. The 2024 and 2025 World Curling Championships will serve as the first stage of qualification for all other NOCs: The top 8 ranked teams across both those events in 2024 & 2025 will qualify, unless the 2026 hosts Italy are in top 8, then only the top 7 (excluding Italy) qualify automatically.
 - III. The remaining 2 places will be decided at the Olympic Qualification Event (OQE) in December 2025.
- d. The BOA will accept as qualification for the OWG, any NOC team place secured by finishing in automatic qualifying placings after the 2025 World Curling Championships.
- e. Should Scotland not finish in the automatic qualification placings after the 2025 World Curling Championships, they shall be eligible to compete in a final WCF OQE December 2025, and the BOA will accept the team should they qualify through that route.
- f. Full details can be found here: <https://worldcurling.org/olympic-qualification/>

4. Eligibility and Availability

To be eligible for selection, athletes must:



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- a. Hold a British Passport (with at least six months validity as at the date of the end of the OWG) and be eligible under WCF and IOC rules
- b. Be a current member of the Curling Home Nation* Governing Body
- 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 BOA.
- e. Have no pending doping offences or currently serving a doping ban.
- f. Be prepared to sign the Team GB Team Member Agreement if selected.
- g. Be available to compete at the OWG in the discipline for which they are being considered for selection.
- h. Be available to fulfil all team commitments from the time of selection through to the Games.
- i. Comply with any other eligibility requirements which may be imposed by British Curling, the BOA and WCF.

* *Home Nation Governing Body is defined as Scottish Curling, English Curling, or Welsh Curling.*

5. Team Size

Women's teams will consist of a maximum of 5 athletes.

6. Women's Team Selection Process

- a. The Selection Panel will consider all eligible Teams with a performance competition record from the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons.
- b. Where qualification has been achieved through the 2024 & 2025 World Championships, the Selection Panel will meet in May 2025 to consider the criteria stated in section 7 with a view to selecting the initial team of 4 (min) athletes in that discipline(s).
- c. If circumstances arise where the Selection Panel are unable to confirm final selection at the initial meeting, British Curling reserves the right to postpone final selection to a later date. If this occurs, all teams under consideration will be informed.

7. Selection Criteria - Women's Selection Process

The Selection Panel will convene to consider the following criteria when making the selection of any team (in no priority order).

- a. **Results at previous Major Championships**
i.e., European Championships, World Championships, Olympic Games, National Championships, World Junior Championships and World University Games.
- b. **Current World Ranking and historical data.** This will be taken from the World Curling Federation World Team Ranking list.
- c. **Performance Record against likely Olympic Winter Games opponents.** Results and statistical information from Championships and Tour Events will be considered under the theme of 'Performing When It Counts.'
- d. **Assessment against the key areas within the British Curling "What it Takes to Win Model" (WITTW)**

8. Selection Timelines



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- a. **May 2025**
 - I. Selection Panel Meeting to discuss options for selection.
- b. **Within 48 hours of Selection Meeting**
 - I. Teams notified of Selection Panel's decision, along with any relevant information in relation to that decision. The appeals process available to non-selected teams 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). Public announcement of the selected team will be agreed with British Olympic Association and remains confidential until that point.
- c. **January 2026**
 - I. Delegation Registration Meeting – deadline by which team to be registered by British Olympic Association with Milan-Cortina 2026 organisers.
- d. **February 2026**
 - I. Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games

After / if an initial team of 4 is selected, the Olympic Head Coach will consult with the 4 selected players on potential 5th players. The 5th player will be selected on their compatibility and ability to compete with the selected 4-person team. There will be no appeal process open for the 5th player selection.

Prior to the submission of formal entries at the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) British Curling (in conjunction with BOA) 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 Olympic Winter Games);
- (b) failure to adhere to the BOA 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.

After the DRM has been completed, de-selection and selection of a replacement athlete is only allowed in accordance with the IOC's Late Athlete Replacement Policy (or any revised or amended IOC policy dealing with athlete replacement). This primarily provides for replacement in the case of injury and/or illness.

9. Team Announcement

Selected team members agree not to make any public announcement to the media or public in any form (including social media / personal websites) regarding their confirmed selection or non-selection prior to any official announcement by the BOA.

10. Selection Panel

All selection matters will be the responsibility of the Selection Panel. Panel membership is provisionally as follows, although the composition of the Panel might be subject to change:

- **Executive Performance Director** – Panel Chair and Voting Member



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- **Olympic Head Coach** – Voting Member
- **British Curling Board Representative** - Voting Member
- **Performance Analyst / 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 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.
Role: Official record keeper.

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

In the event of an actual, potential or possible conflict relating to any selector, the actual, potential or possible conflict shall be reported to the Chair of the selection meeting who shall determine whether the selector in question should be permitted to take part in relation to any selection decision(s). The Chair may appoint an alternative selector if necessary.

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.

British Curling agrees to abide by all selection decisions made by the BOA. Should the BOA choose not to endorse a nomination made by the Sport, it is British Curling, not the team that has responsibility to pursue any appeal in accordance with the BOA's appeals policy.



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Appendix 1

Appeals Relating to Selection to Olympic Games

This document sets out the Appeals Procedure where an Athlete (“the Appellant Athlete”) wishes to appeal a selection decision taken in respect of Olympic 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 athlete/ team wishing to be selected for the Olympic 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 Olympic 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/team may appeal against a selection/nomination decision relating to the Olympic 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/Team 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 be accompanied by a payment of £250 (payable to British Curling). The fee maybe refunded at the discretion of the Appeal Panel and would be factored in against any further costs as outlined in section 3.

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 Salisbury Square, London, EC4Y 8AE, email resolve@sportresolutions.co.uk



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- 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.

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

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 at support@britisheliteathletes.org or call 0203 126 4270.



Selection Policy

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