

Selection Process for Great Britain Paralympic Wheelchair Curling Team

2018 Winter Paralympic Games PyeongChang, South Korea

Introduction

All athletes wishing to be considered for selection to ParalympicsGB (PGB) for the 2018 Winter Paralympic Games in PyeongChang agree to adhere to this Selection Policy, agree to facilitate the various procedures laid out and to provide such assistance and information as British Curling or BPA shall reasonably require.

The Team will consist of a maximum of 5 athletes

The British Paralympic Association (BPA) is ultimately responsible for PGB selection based on nominations by British Curling (BC). Therefore, although BC carries out a selection process which leads to nominations being made to the BPA, it is the BPA who will endorse nominations and finally confirm PGB selections for the Winter Paralympic Games.

Once selected, both athletes and staff will be bound by the BPA Team Members Agreement, and any other rules and regulations which BC from time to time may impose. This must be signed and returned by an agreed date before selection is confirmed. It is a legally binding document, the purpose of which is to protect individuals and the BPA as well as the integrity of the Games as a whole. Selection is confirmed by the BPA only after the successful resolution of any appeal (as determined in appendix 1).

Given the level of success that Great Britain has achieved on the World stage the BPA require that BC nominate a team that is clearly capable of a credible performance in a top level International multi-sport event.

Aims

This selection policy is designed to;

- Maximise the chances of GB Wheelchair Curlers winning medal at the 2018 Winter Paralympic Games.
- Minimise the risks involved to achieve success in 2018
- Allow ALL eligible GB athletes to be considered for selection.

1. The Selection Process

General Criteria

Under World Curling Federation (WCF) Rules, Paralympic quota places are granted to the respective National Paralympic Committees, and not to the athletes who obtain them. The BPA Member Federation for Great Britain Wheelchair Curling at the Paralympic Games is British Curling.

1.1 Nation Qualification

- The 2018 Winter Paralympic Games will consist of an event with 12 teams participating.
- Eligibility for Nations will be based on their performances at the 2015, 2016 and 2017 WCF World Championships, with 11 nations, plus the host nation (Korea) qualifying from these events.
- As agreed between the Home Nation Governing Bodies and the WCF, Scotland is the nominated Home Nation country to score qualification points for GB at the World Championships.

Note – even if GB have qualified a nation place, the BPA reserve the right to not take up the place if, in their opinion, there is insufficient evidence that GB have a realistic chance of achieving a ‘credible performance’.

1.2 Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, athletes must;

- Hold a British Passport
- Be eligible under WCF and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) rules.
- Holds a valid Wheelchair Curling International classification
- 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 BPA.
- Have no pending doping offences, or currently serving a doping ban.
- Be prepared to sign the BPA Team Member Agreement if selected.
- Comply with any other eligibility requirements which may be imposed by the BPA, WCF and/or IPC.

2. Selection

2.1 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:

BC Performance Director – Selector and Panel Chair – Voting Member

ROLE: To contribute any relevant information and guide the overall ethos from a British Curling perspective.

BC Head Coach – Selector – Voting Member

ROLE: To lead the selection decision making process and to provide input and assessment of athlete performances.

BC Assistant Coach – Selector – Voting Member

ROLE: To provide input and assessment of athlete performances.

BC Board Representative – Non-voting Member

ROLE: To oversee the proper conduct and due process of the selection process in an observational capacity. To ensure appropriate recording of all selection information

Independent Observers (British Paralympic Association and British Athlete Commission (BAC) Representatives) – Non-voting Members

ROLE: To oversee the proper conduct and due process of the selection process in an observational capacity.

The Selection Panel will consider criteria stated in 2.4 in making their selections.

The Selection Panel may also consult specialists including support staff and other coaches as appropriate.

The selection process is an exercise of judgment and is guided by, but not determined by results in competitions. Selection decisions are necessarily subjective and an exercise of expert opinion. As such, while an appeals policy is provided for athletes to appeal non-selection on the grounds that the policy has not been adhered to, athletes are not able to appeal against selection decision on any other grounds including against a selector's judgement. A process whereby an athlete can request an appeal of the decision is provided for in Appendix 1.

2.2 Selection Process

1. The Selection process runs from 3rd October 2017 through to the Winter Paralympic Games in March 2018.
2. Application Process opens Monday 9th October, 2017.
3. Athlete Application Deadline 17:00hrs, Monday 30th October, 2017. The application form provided must be completed and submitted by e-mail (graeme.thompson@sisport.com to be considered for selection.

4. Selection Panel meet to select a team of 5 athletes at a date between 5th Dec 2017 and 20th Dec 2017. The Head Coach will give all athletes who applied to be considered for selection (& partners in this process, e.g. BPA etc.) a minimum of 5 days' notice that a selection meeting will take place.
5. All athletes will be notified of the Selection Panels decision within 24 hours of the Panel meeting.
6. Deadline for nomination of athletes to the BPA – 15th January, 2018.
7. BPA's Qualification and Selection Panel will review the British Curling nominations, ratify and select the final team and then enter that team for the Games. Ratification consists of:
 - a. Ensure all eligibility criteria are met
 - b. Teams and Individuals meeting qualifying standards for the Games.
 - c. Confirmation that Selection Policy was followed.
8. The BPA will make formal entries with the PyeongChang Organising Committee on the 23rd February and this will be confirmed at the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM)
9. Prior to the date of the 23rd February 2018 British Curling and/or BPA retains the right to deselect an athlete on any grounds, including (but not limited to):
 - a. Loss of form 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 British Curling Athletes Agreement and BPA Team Member's Agreement
 - c. Poor attitude; and/or
 - d. Any failure to adhere to the terms of this Selection Policy.

No variation to the published selection/de-selection policy or criteria is allowed without the prior approval of the BPA. The BPA must be kept fully informed of any possible de-selection decision.

The nomination of a replacement athlete must also conform to the selection policy and must be an individual who has been named on the long list.

In the case of a deselection/replacement being due to illness/injury, then the PGB Chief Medical Officer must be kept fully informed and may ask for an assessment of ability to compete to take place as described in appendix 3.

10. After the DRM 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). The Late Athlete Replacement Policy will be Appendix 4 once published by the IPC

2.3 Selection Framework

Wheelchair Curling is a team-sport, therefore whilst athletes can, and should develop as individuals, ultimately, that individual will have to realise their potential and perform within a team. Acknowledgement is made that in selecting for a team sport combinations of athletes, the balance of the team, and the ability of athletes to play in more than 1 position are also considered alongside individual skill and achievements.

The selection of athletes will be based on the opinion of the Selection Panel who will together decide who, in their combined opinion, has the greatest medal winning potential for the 2018. If, in the opinion of the Selection Panel, none of the eligible athletes has a realistic prospect of medalling at the 2018 Games, then the Selection Panel may go on to consider whether any eligible athlete(s) has, in their view, significant medal winning prospects for 2022 and would consequently benefit from selection for the Games

British Curling may nominate an athlete or athletes who fulfil the 2022 criteria ahead of an athlete who arguably could place higher in the 2018 Games, but only after the Selection Panel (acting as experts) have determined that none of the eligible athletes, not already selected, has a realistic prospect of medalling at the 2018 Games and that the lower ranked athlete or athletes have a better prospect of medalling in 2022. Such a decision would only be taken in full consultation with the BPA.

2.4 Selection Criteria

The Selection Panel will consider all relevant factors to exercise its discretion in selecting a team which, in its reasonable opinion, has the best chance of achieving a medal at the Paralympic Winter Games.

In doing so, the Selection Panel will consider the following criteria

Primary Criteria

- Member of GB Wheelchair Performance Squad 2016-17 and/or 2017-18

Secondary Criteria

- Strategic composition of the team to meet the WCF Rules requiring each on-ice team to comprise of both genders at all times during matches
- Member of GB Development Squad 2016-17 and/or 2017-18
- Performance Statistics in Tour competitions
- Performance Statistics in training
- Psychological abilities –team cohesion, growth mind set and robustness
- Ability to represent Great Britain in a sportsmanlike way and to abide by “The Spirit of Curling”

3. Announcement/Ultimate Authority

Selected team members are not to make any announcements to the media or general public in any form whatsoever of their possible or confirmed selection or non-selection prior to official announcement by the BPA of such selection.

The BPA has ultimate authority in final selection decisions relating to the Paralympic Games. British Curling has drafted this Selection Policy in consultation with the BPA.

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

Appendix 1: Appeal of Selection Decisions

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 a single arbitrator appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK) and pursuant to Sport Resolutions (UK) Arbitration Rules.

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 Sport Resolutions (UK) arbitration shall be final and binding.

Reviews will only be considered on the grounds of;

- (i) The selection policy process was not followed.
- (ii) Some other misconduct of selectors

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.

Any appeal against the decision(s) made by the British Curling Selection Panel must be submitted to Sport Resolutions (UK) no later than 4pm, 3 working days after the selection decision has been communicated to the athlete in writing.

The process to be followed is as outlined:

1. An athlete ("the Appellant") may appeal to have the decision of the British Curling Selection Panel reviewed by a single arbitrator appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK), 1, Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8AE
2. The Appellant shall lodge an appeal in writing ("Notice of Appeal") to Sport Resolutions (UK) (via email – resolve@sportresolutions.co.uk after being notified in writing of the final decision of the British Curling Selection Panel against which the Appellant wishes to appeal and no later than 4pm, 3 working days after the selection decision has been communicated to them. The Notice of Appeal should set out in full the basis on which the Appellant wishes to appeal and the remedy sought, and should be accompanied by all relevant documentation which the Appellant wishes to rely on in support of the Appeal and the required fee (see paragraph 11). A non-refundable deposit of £50 payable to Sport Resolutions, for administration costs, shall also be sent with the Notice of Appeal.
3. Sport Resolutions (UK) shall appoint a single arbitrator drawn from the SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) Panel of Arbitrators ("the Arbitrator") to consider the appeal.
4. Sport Resolutions (UK) shall notify British Curling and the Appellant in writing of the identity of the Arbitrator within two working days of receiving the Notice of Appeal. A party may challenge the appointment of the arbitrator where there are justifiable doubts as to the Arbitrator's impartiality or independence or where the party raises a material objection. Such challenge must be made in writing to SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) within one working days of the party being notified of the Arbitrator's appointment. Unless the Arbitrator elects to withdraw, SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) shall decide on the validity of the challenge within two working days. The decision of SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) shall be final. A replacement arbitrator shall be appointed by SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) as appropriate and not later than 1 working days following SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) deciding on the validity of the challenge.
5. British Curling shall have three working days to make its written response to the Notice of Appeal ("the Response"). British Curling may inform athlete(s) whose selection may be impacted by a successful appeal. These athletes may request being party to the Appeal.
6. The Appeal shall be heard by way of written submissions unless the Appellant requests an oral hearing at the time of giving Notice of Appeal. Such hearing shall take place on a date and at a place to be determined by the Arbitrator normally within seven working days of the Notice of Appeal being lodged and no later than 10 working days.
7. The Arbitrator may give such directions as he/she deems appropriate regarding the arrangements for, and the conduct of, the Appeal.
8. Where the Appeal is considered by way of written submissions the Arbitrator shall give his/her written decision within three working days of British Curling's Response being received.

9. Where the Appeal is considered by way of oral hearing, the Arbitrator shall give his/her written decision within three working days of the hearing. The hearing shall be held in private. SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) and British Curling may publish the written decision after it has been received by the parties.

10. The decision of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties.

11. Costs. The fee to be paid by the Appellant when lodging their Notice of Appeal is as follows (excluding the £50 non-returnable administration fee):

Should the Appellant be happy for the appeal to be determined based on written submissions only - £50

Should an oral hearing be requested - £100

(see Note 1 below)

12. Where an Appeal has been heard by way of oral hearing at the direction of the Arbitrator then the contribution payable by the Appellant shall be the same as if the Appeal had been dealt with by way of written submissions.

13. Each party will be responsible for its own costs, including travel and representation. The Appeal shall otherwise be governed by the SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) Arbitration Rules (see Note 2 below).

Note 1 The Appellant is required, when lodging the Notice of Appeal, to forward a cheque to SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) for £50 as applicable to be held on account pending the outcome of the Appeal. In successful appeals the held cheque will be returned by SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK).

Note 2 A copy of the SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) Arbitration Rules may be found on the SPORT RESOLUTIONS (UK) website at https://www.sportresolutions.co.uk/uploads/related-documents/D_3_-_Arbitration_Rules.pdf

Appendix 2: Key Dates Date	Action	Involved Parties
March 2017	11 Nations + Host who have directly qualified for PyeongChang confirmed	WCF
9 th Oct 2017	Athletes Applications Open	Athletes/ British Curling
5pm 30 th October 2017	Athlete Applications Closes	British Curling
5 th December 2017	1 st date at which Selection Panel can meet to select 5 athletes	British Curling Selection Panel
20th December 2017	Last date Selection Panel to select 5 athletes.	British Curling Selection Panel
15th January 2018	Last date for nominations made to BPA	British Curling
23 rd February 2018	Deadline for PyeongChang Organising Committee to receive sport entry form from BPA	BPA
TBC by BPA	Formal Team Announcement	BPA/ British Curling

Appendix 3: Assessment of ability to compete process

The BPA CMO will run a "fit for" process which ultimately ensures that every selected athlete is fit to travel to the Games and compete. Separate to this, it is the sport's responsibility to ensure that the athlete is fit to compete to the "best of their ability" (as the experts in the sport and with knowledge of the athlete). The need for the process outlined below to be completed could come about as a result of the BPA "fit for" process or an injury or illness.

In the event of there being a query over the ability of an athlete to be able to compete to the best of his/her ability due to an injury or illness the procedure described below will be adhered to;

(i) The Paralympic GB Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or the Sport's Doctor can require an athlete to undergo a medical examination to determine his/her fitness to participate. This examination will be carried out by the CMO or the sport's doctor delegated by him/her. If the athlete fails the medical examination he/she will be withdrawn from the Team and British Curling may (if appropriate) nominate a replacement athlete in accordance with its selection policy.

(ii) If the athlete passes the medical examination carried out in accordance with (i) above but British Curling and/or the BPA still have concerns over whether or not the athlete is able to compete to the best of his/her ability due to the underlying injury or illness, the Team Leader can require the athlete to undergo a set of pre-determined sports specific performance tests. The tests must be set out in the selection policy and may not be varied or amended without prior approval of the BPA. The tests will be conducted by the Sport's Doctor (or his/her delegate). If the athlete fails the test (which can be undertaken on more than one occasion and within a short time frame if appropriate), he/she will be withdrawn from the Team on medical grounds and, if appropriate, a **replacement** can be nominated by British Curling in accordance with the selection policy.

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.

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, doctor and physiotherapist. Additional personnel could be another athlete for help in holding of the chair/ delivering the stones 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 comprise of;

- (a) Dynamic warm up
- (b) Execution of shots of varying weight of delivery

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)