

**USA CURLING**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2006 Olympic Winter Games**  
**September 27, 2004**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**The acronyms below are included for clarity.**

*ADD*: the USCA Athlete Development Director.

*IOC*: International Olympic Committee.

*USADA*: U.S. Anti-Doping Agency

*USCA and USA Curling*: U.S. Curling Association, Inc., the National Governing Body for curling

*USOC*: U.S. Olympic Committee

*WADA*: World Anti-Doping Agency

*WCF*: World Curling Federation.

**The definitions below are part of the Selection Procedures and should be read carefully.**

*"Page system"* means that round robin finisher number one plays number two ("1 v. 2"), while number three plays number four. The winner of "1 v. 2" advances to the final. The loser of "3 v. 4" is out. The winner of "3 v. 4" plays the loser of the "1 v. 2" game. The winner of that game advances to the final. The winner of the final game is nominated as the Olympic team.

*"Playdown(s)"* means men's and women's competition leading to the Trials.

As for venue locations, the following definitions will apply: *"West"* means "west of North Dakota";

*"East"* means "the Grand National Region;" and *"Midwest"* is all other venues.

*"Olympic-eligible"* means that **all** team members are U.S. citizens, or must be "on track" to become U.S. citizens prior to the start of the Trials.

*"Olympic Team Coach"* is a USCA-certified level four coach chosen by a winning team to be their coach at the 2006 Olympic Games. If a team's current coach is qualified, they may select that coach as their Olympic Coach. If not, they must accept an Olympic Team Coach from the USCA list of qualified Olympic coaches, in accordance with the USCA 2006 Olympic Team Coach Selection Procedures. Olympic Team Coaches must sign the current Player/Coach Code of Conduct (Attachment A), and the current USCA Player/Coach Agreement (part of Attachment B). All coach selections are subject to USOC approval.

*"On-track"* means that, prior to entering any playdown leading to non-age restricted World or Olympic Games competition, the non-U.S. citizen athlete has been declared by the USCA as "on-track," after demonstrating through documentation that they will likely be a U.S. citizen by the pre-competition Team Meeting at the Trials. On-track status may be withdrawn by the USCA at any time for failure to comply with administrative requests made by the USCA office, or by failure to make progress in the citizenship process. Any team which has played down at any level leading to the Trials with an "on-track" player or players, which player(s) fail to become U.S. Citizens by February 18, 2005, will not be eligible to participate in the Trials. The USCA will determine a policy, to be published by December 1, 2004, as to replacement of teams declared ineligible between the time they qualify for and compete in the Trials. The USOC will have final determination on eligibility of athletes/teams.

*"Team Member"* will be defined in the 2005 Championship Rules booklet, in Section I, in part A. General Eligibility; and in part D. Personnel; and is defined in Section IV, Rules of Play numbers 5-7.

*“Trials”* means U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling, the selection event for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

*“Trials Coach”* is a team coach registered on the 2005 USCA Playdown Entry Forms, who is actively coaching the team and who has signed the most current USCA Player-Coach Agreement. Teams may compete in the Trials without a registered coach. Teams without a Trials Coach may confer with any one individual they designate, prior to the first game of the Trials, as their coach at the Trials, including practices and on-ice fifth-end breaks, if that coach has signed the most current USCA Player-Coach Agreement.

*“USCA Championship Rules booklet”* means the USCA published Rules of Play, Eligibility and Competition, and necessary administrative forms, issued for athletes and coaches annually each fall for the upcoming season. The 2004 USCA Championship Rules booklet, which serves as an example is Attachment A. The 2005 USCA Championship Rules booklet will be available and posted on the USCA web site by October 1, 2004.

*“WCT Points Teams”* means Men’s teams that have earned one or more points based on the Incentive Program Multiplier System for Men (Attachment C) and Women’s teams that have earned one or more points in the Women’s Curling Tour Points System as of the sign-up deadlines for entry into this Olympic Selection process specified in Section I. F. 2. , Entry Process.

## **I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

### **A. The following are the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the 2006 Olympic Team:**

#### **1. Citizenship.**

a. To compete in the Trials, an athlete must be a US citizen by February 18, 2005, and be eligible under IOC and WCF rules.

b. To compete in playdowns leading to the Trials, an athlete must be a U.S. citizen, or be declared by the USCA as having the “On-track” designation. See Definitions above, in Introduction.

#### **2. Fees.**

a. Teams. There will be playdown entry fees for all teams, per Section I. F.3, Fees.

b. Athletes. Athletes must pay USCA dues, as a member of a USCA-member club, or alternatively, a one time payment of a \$100-per-athlete administrative fee.

#### **3. USCA athlete and administrative forms.**

a. Player commitment. Entry to the 2005 Trials playdown process is an indication to the USCA that all entered athletes intend to compete, if they qualify, at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. The time commitment for the Olympic Games is described in Section VII, Mandatory Training and/or Competition, below. Selected athletes will be required to report to official team training events and competition for the duration of this period.

b. General eligibility. Athlete eligibility is governed by this Selection Procedure and by the 2005 USCA Championship Rules booklet, which also includes competition rules and procedures, the player/coach agreement, the code of conduct, and other administrative forms.

4. USADA

Athletes must register in USADA's Out of Competition testing pool at least 12 months prior to the 2006 Winter Olympic Games.

**B. The following summary outlines how an athlete is selected as a nominee to the Team.**

Curling teams of four to five players, including a skip, "self-form," that is, they form by mutual agreement. A coach's influence may or may not be a factor, as coaches serve (usually as volunteers) under the direction of the team. Most teams are four person teams, and add a 5<sup>th</sup> player for the World Championships and/or the Olympic Games. Some teams use five active players throughout their season.

One men's and one women's team consisting of five players each will be nominated to represent the USA in the 2006 Olympic Games. Teams will enter a 2005 playdown competition, which will begin in December, 2004 (see Section I.D., Playdown Process), and will lead to the Trials, to be held February 19-26, 2005, at the Madison Curling Club, Madison, Wisconsin. The winning men's and women's Trials teams will be selected by the USCA and nominated to the USOC as the 2006 Olympic Winter Games Team for Curling, and will also represent the USA in the 2005 Men's and Women's World Curling Championships. Each team shall designate their skip in writing to the Chief Umpire at the Trials pre-event Team Meeting. The Women's World Championship will be held March 19-27, 2005, in Paisley, Scotland. The Men's World Championship will be held April 2-10, 2005, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

**C. Tryout Sites, Dates and Events:**

1. Trials: February 19-26, 2005, Madison, Wisconsin. The top 10 men's and top 10 women's teams from the Trials qualifying competitions will qualify to compete in the Trials.

2. Trials qualifying competitions (playdowns)

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
2004 National Championships	February 28-March 6, 2004	Grand Forks, ND
Preliminary Round for men	December 15-19, 2004	
Midwest North		Bemidji, MN
Midwest South		Milwaukee/Wauwatosa, WI
East Coast		Utica, NY
West Coast		Seattle, WA
Qualifying Round for women	January 5-9, 2005	
Midwest North		Rice Lake, WI
Midwest South		Medford, WI
East Coast		Wayland, MA (Broomstones)
West Coast		Fairbanks, AK
Qualifying Round for men	January 5-9, 2005	
Midwest North		Mankato, MN
Midwest South		St. Paul, MN
Challenge Round	January 19-23, 2005	Eveleth, MN (Curl Mesabi)

Athletes will receive, via notice on the USCA Website, at least 30 days notice for any site and/or date changes to the events above, except as provided below.

### 3. Minimum Number of Teams

This section applies only to the Qualifying and Challenge Rounds. The USCA reserves the right to eliminate a specific event and combine it with another event at the same level of play if the number of teams signed-up for a specific event is less than the number of Trials berths allotted for that event plus one. In this case, the number of Trials berths allotted to the combined event will equal the sum of the Trials berths originally allotted to the events separately. If an event is eliminated it will be announced no later than December 5, 2004 for the men's events and no later than December 19, 2004 for the women's events.

#### D. Playdown process:

1. 2004 Men's & Women's National Champions. The 2004 Men's and Women's National Champion teams are automatically qualified for the Challenge Round and in the case of the Men's 2004 Champion are also automatically qualified for the Qualifying Round. The 2004 Men's and Women's National Champions have the option to bypass the Preliminary Round (Men only) and/or the Qualifying Round. If the teams opt to play in the Qualifying Round, they will qualify for the Challenge Round regardless of their placement in the Qualifying Round. If the Men's National Champion team opts to play in the Preliminary Round they will forfeit their automatic qualifications in the Qualifying and Challenge Rounds.

The 2004 National champion teams must still meet all entry deadlines and submit entry fees of \$450.00 per team regardless of which round they first enter the playdowns. To take advantage of the option to skip the Preliminary or Qualifying Round and go directly to the Challenge Round as described in this section, the 2004 National Champion teams must have on their roster four of their original five players (if they won the 2004 nationals with a five person roster), or three of their original four players (if they won with a four person team).

2. Flexible competition format for Qualifying Rounds. Depending on the number of entries in the Preliminary, Qualifying or Challenge Rounds the competition format will vary as follows:

5-8 teams will be a round robin with a double knockout provision

9-24 teams will be a peer-seeded, divisional round robin with finals

25-32 teams will be a peer-seeded modified triple knockout

3. Preliminary Round Men's teams are eligible to select only one of the four Preliminary Round events and must make their event selection when submitting their team entry (see the event sites and dates in I. C., above).

a. Men:

The "top-half of the field"\* (including ties) will advance to the Qualifying Round. The 2004 National Champion and the top ten US WCT Points Teams, including ties for the tenth qualifying position, are automatically qualified for the Qualifying Round. Any team automatically qualified for the Qualifying Round because of a top ten ranking among WCT Points Teams or because they are the 2004 National Champion that opts to play in the Preliminary Round will forfeit any automatic qualification for the Qualifying and Challenge Round.

*\*This will be the top-half of the field at each Preliminary Round event, as there can be different formats in each event based on the number of teams at each event.*

4. Qualifying Round.

a. Men There will be two Qualifying Round events (see the event sites and dates in I. C., above). Six teams, the top three teams from both Qualifying Round events, will advance directly to the Trials.

b. Women

Women's teams are eligible to select only one of the four Qualifying Round (see the event sites and dates in I. C., above). The winner of each Qualifying Round event will advance to the Trials. Additionally, the team placing second in each of the two Midwest-sited events will also advance to the Trials.

5. Challenge Round

a. Men

A maximum of 16 teams will qualify to compete in the Men's Challenge Round as follows:

i. the fourth through ninth finishers from both of the Qualifying Round events (maximum twelve teams)

ii. the 2004 Men's National Champion if not already Trials-qualified and if not playing in the Preliminary Round)

iii. The top three US WCT Points Teams (including ties for the third Challenge Round qualifying position), qualifying to a maximum of 16 teams in the Challenge Round.

iv. If the preceding does not fill the Challenge Round to sixteen teams, up to a maximum of four additional teams will qualify from the fourth through tenth place WCT Points Teams, including ties for the sixteenth Challenge Round qualifying position, to a maximum of sixteen teams in the Challenge Round.

v. The number of teams in the Challenge Round may be expanded beyond 16 teams only if necessary to include all the teams qualified under subsections i. thru iv. immediately preceding this subsection.

vi. *Advance to Trials.* The top four place teams from the Challenge Round, will advance to the Trials, bringing the total number of Trials teams to 10.

b. Women

A maximum of 16 teams will qualify to compete in the Women's Challenge Round as follows:

i. the top-half, including ties, of the finishers from each of the Qualifier Round events

ii. the 2004 Women's National Champion (if not already Trials-qualified)

iii. If the preceding does not fill the Women's Challenge Round to sixteen teams, up to a maximum of four additional teams will qualify from the top four US WCT Points Teams including ties. Vacancies will only be filled by, and not be filled beyond, the top four US WCT Points Teams.

iv. The number of teams in the Women's Challenge Round may be expanded beyond 16 teams only if necessary to include all the teams qualified under subsections i. thru iii. immediately preceding this subsection.

v. *Advance to Trials.* The top four teams from the Challenge Round will advance to the Trials, bringing the total number of Trials teams to 10.

c. Trials Qualified Teams

No team already qualified for the Trials from the Qualifying Round may play in the Challenge Round.

**E. Trials:**

1. Qualifying teams. From the playdown process, teams will qualify to compete in the Trials as described in Section D.3. through D.5. above:

a. Men. 10 teams total.

From the Qualifying Round: six teams--the top three teams from each event

From the Challenge Round: the top four teams

b. Women. 10 teams total.

From the Qualifying Round : six teams – the winner from each event plus the two second place teams from the two Midwest events.

From the Challenge Round: -the top four teams

c. \*In the event a team qualified for the Trials unable to compete in the Trials, that spot will be filled from the next highest ranked team not already Trials-qualified from the Challenge Round.

2. Format and draw. The competition format for the Trials will be a 10 team round robin, with tiebreakers if necessary, followed by a "Page system" playoff. A detailed playoff format will be published by October 1, 2004, in the 2005 USCA Championship Rules booklet. The top four places will be determined. All games that could impact determination of first, second, or third place must be played to at least six ends. The competition draw will be developed under the USCA Vice President – Championships, then reviewed by the USCA ADD and USCA-AAC for final approval by the USCA Executive Committee by December 1, 2004.

**F. Administrative procedures for the Trials:**

1. Application of USCA Championship Rules. All rules and procedures published in the 2005 USCA Championship Rules booklet (Men's and Women's Events) will apply to the playdown process, except that in case of conflict, these Selection Procedures will apply. Any Trials rules and procedures not specifically addressed in this Selection Procedure will be subject to the 2005 USCA Championship Rules booklet, as they apply to men's and women's competition.

Athletes, coaches and event chairpersons are responsible for reading and being aware of all rules applicable to the Olympic Team Selection process.

2. Entry Process. The playdown process Entry Deadline for forms and fees is:

Men                    December 1, 2004

Women                December 15, 2004

Men's teams are guaranteed their first choice of site in the Preliminary Round. Women's teams are guaranteed their first choice of area in the Qualifying Round-East, West or Midwest).

Women's teams selecting the Midwest will be placed in one of the two Midwest events per their

peer-seeding ranking (1,4,5,8,9,etc. in one event, and 2,3,6,7,etc. in the other event). No later than three business days following the close of entries, an announcement of the number of teams entered at each Qualifying Round site will be made. The peer-seeding will be conducted by email and/or fax by the USCA National Office staff, with team skips or the team-designated contact, within five business days of the entry deadline, and announced immediately to team skips (or contacts) and on the USCA web site

3. Fees:

a. Entry fees. Each team must pay a \$450 entry fee.

b. Administrative fee for non-USCA-members. In addition to entry fees, athletes who are not certified as current dues-paying members of a USCA-member club before they start playdowns must pay a \$100.00-per-athlete administrative fee to the USCA, to cover office costs of correspondence and processing and maintaining their records.

## II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

### A. Description and rationale for limited use of discretionary selection

The USCA will select one men's and one women's team in an objective manner, i.e., the winners of the Trials will be nominated to the 2006 Olympic Team. For teams who enter the Trials with five players and win, all five players will be nominated for the Olympic Winter Games.

1. Fifth Player. However, if a winning team has no fifth player, a fifth player will be selected according to the criteria in section II.B. below

2. Criteria used to select fifth player. Teams are advised that the USCA will prefer that the newly added fifth player be qualified to play at any position, including world-level skip, unless the four-player team already includes two world-level skip players. This preference recognizes the unique nature of the skip position in curling, and the need to protect the competitive interests of the team and the USA should the team skip be unable to play during the Olympic Games.

3. Date of fifth player selection. Fifth players will be selected by April 30, 2005. Athletes selected as 5<sup>th</sup> players for the 2005 World Curling Championships do NOT receive status as Olympic Team nominees. Olympic team nominee status is conferred only after the team confirms the athlete as their 5<sup>th</sup> player, by the April 30 date, immediately after the 2005 World Championships. If after the World Curling Championships the team wishes to select a different fifth player for nomination to the Olympic team, they may do so using the criteria in II.B. below. (See also Section VI, Date of Nomination.)

4. Sixth player. Men's and women's teams 6<sup>th</sup> players will be selected by December 1, 2005, as a "stand-by," to be sent to Torino on short notice should they be needed. The selection process for the 6<sup>th</sup> players, including drug testing, will be the same as for 5<sup>th</sup> players. Once named, the sixth player will be the first replacement under Section IV.A. below. Athletes selected as 6<sup>th</sup> players do NOT receive status as Olympic team nominees.

5. Team replacement. (See section IV, below, Replacement of Athletes.) The replacement decision criteria will be the USCA assessment of maximizing the chances for competitive success at the Games. Strong consideration will be given to athlete and/or team success in the past four years at World or Olympic competition.

### B. Process to be used in selecting the 5<sup>th</sup> (and 6<sup>th</sup>) player, if necessary

Fifth players will be selected by the team members, in consultation with the team coach, the ADD, and the Chair, Elite Programs Committee, based on their judgment of the 5th player's ability to fill in on the team roster at a world performance level as needed. The 5th player will then be recommended to the Executive Committee for approval and is also subject to USOC approval.

Once the 5th player has been approved by USCA Executive Committee, that athlete will be placed on the team roster, and he/she may or may not start play in a particular event for particular games prior to and including the Olympic Winter Games Curling Competition, based on the judgment of the team skip, in consultation with the other players, the team coach and the ADD, with the final authority in case of dispute with the ADD.

### C. Selection Committee

The compositions and qualifications are listed below, for the committees responsible for approval of discretionary selection. Committee make up may change annually after May 1 per the USCA By-Laws. When using discretionary selection for 5th and 6th players, the committee will consider recommendations made by the ADD, and by the teams' coaches and athletes.

#### 1. USCA Elite Programs Committee (\*33% committee voting representation by athletes selected by athletes)

<b>Chris Moore, chair</b>	USCA Director and Vice President, Competitive Programs
<b>Grayland Cousins</b>	USCA Vice President and USCA Director; 2000 men's nationals semi-finalist; 1987 and 1996 Mixed National Champion; Former chair, USCA-AAC
<b>Bob Fenson</b>	USCA President; Level 4 Coach; 1979 National Champion
<b>Richard Maskel*</b>	USCA Director & AAC chair; 1986 World bronze medal; 2002 Men's National Champion, 4 <sup>th</sup> at Worlds
<b>Jack McNelly</b>	2002 USCA president; 2002 Olympic Team Leader; 1983 National Champion; USOC Director through 2003
<b>Allison Pottinger</b>	USCA Director; AAC member; 2003 World Champion
<b>Ann Silver*</b>	USCA Director; USOC Director through 2003; AAC member; 2002 Olympian; 2003 World Champion
<b>Bill Todhunter</b>	USCA Director; AAC member; 2004 National Champion <b>Ed Lukowich</b> Non-voting staff liaison; Athlete Development Director; 1988 Olympian (Canada); 1986 World Champion (Canada)

#### 2. USCA Executive Committee (\*23.5% committee voting representation by athletes selected by athletes)

<b>Mark Swandby</b>	President
<b>Chris Sjue</b>	Vice President, Member Services
<b>Georgia West</b>	Vice President, Marketing & Operations
<b>Grayland Cousins</b>	Vice President, Championships
<b>Chris Moore</b>	Vice President, Competitive Programs
<b>Albert Anderson</b>	Secretary & Treasurer
<b>Bob Fenson</b>	Immediate Past President and USCA Director
<b>Ann Silver*</b>	Member, USCA AAC; USOC-AAC rep; USOC Director; 2002 Olympian; 2003 World Champion
<b>Richard Maskel*</b>	Chair, USCA AAC; 2002 World semi-finalist; 1986 World Bronze Medal
<b>Paul Pustovar*</b>	Member, USCA AAC; USCA Director; 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2002 World Championship
<b>Donna Purkey</b>	USCA Director (rep from the U.S. Women's Curling Association)
<b>Leland Rich</b>	USCA Director
<b>Bill Todhunter</b>	USCA Director; AAC member; 2004 National Champion
<b>Andy Borland</b>	USCA Director

<b>Judy Maier</b>	USCA Director
<b>Jon Wilson</b>	USCA Director
<b>Jim Pleasants</b>	USCA Director
<b>Jack McNelly</b>	USOC Director through 2003 (voice, no vote)
<b>Warren Lowe</b>	USCA representative to the World Curling Federation (voice, no vote)

An athlete listed above for whom a direct conflict of interest arises connected with a discretionary selection decision (one example would be their nomination to the Olympic Team) will recuse themselves from the committee, and will be replaced on the committee with another athlete named by the USCA Athletes Advisory Council prior to any necessary committee vote.

### III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

**A. A USCA-nominated team member may be removed for any of the following reasons as determined by the USCA, prior to Team Nomination approval by the USOC:**

1. Voluntary withdrawal in writing to the USCA Executive Director.
2. Injury or illness as certified by a USOC physician or medical staff member
3. Breach of the USCA Player/Coach Agreement or the USCA Athlete/Coach Code of Conduct (Attachment A; and Attachment C, pp.15-17)
4. Violation of IOC, WADA, WCF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures.

An athlete who may be removed from the Team under this provision has the right to a hearing pursuant to the USCA By Laws (Article 13).

- B. A USOC-approved team member is subject to the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.
- C. An athlete may be removed from Nomination or from the Team at any time for violation of IOC, WADA, WCF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

### IV. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

**A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified:**

1. Individual athlete replacement. Curling is a team sport in which team dynamics are largely established by the athletes themselves, with guidance only from the team coach and ADD (see Section I.B., above). If an athlete cannot continue to compete, based on Section III.A. & B., above, replacement athletes beyond the 6<sup>th</sup> player will be identified and selected by the remaining team members, in consultation with their coach, the ADD, and the chair, USCA Elite Programs Committee, subject to ratification by the USCA Executive Committee. Replacement of athletes named to the Olympic team will be made only if not prohibited by the WCF and the USOC.
2. Team replacement. The following scenarios will allow the USCA to replace a Team originally selected by the USCA:
  1. If the original skip cannot compete the team may be replaced.
  2. If three or more originally USCA-selected players, other than the skip, cannot compete the team may be replaced.

The USCA Elite Programs Committee, in consultation with the ADD, and the USCA Athletes Advisory Council, will select a replacement team, which may be an “intact” team, for example, the

second place team from the Trials, or, the replacement team may be a team comprised of athletes from several current elite teams, not to exclude consideration of members of the originally selected team. (The USCA may also select the coach of the second, or third, place team from the Trials to coach the newly constituted Olympic curling team.) The replacement decision criteria will be the USCA assessment of maximizing the chances for competitive success at the Games. Strong consideration will be given to athlete and/or team success in the past four years at World or Olympic competitions. Team replacement is subject to ratification by the USCA Executive Committee and USOC approval.

**B. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations:**

For individual athlete replacement, the team, their coach, the ADD and the Chair, Elite Programs Committee, will decide the replacement. For team replacement, the Elite Programs Committee in consultation with the ADD and the USCA Athletes Advisory Council will decide the replacement. Both athlete and team replacements must be ratified by the USCA Executive Committee, and approved by the USOC.

## **V. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

USCA athletes will be notified of this 2006 Olympic Team Selection Procedure using these methods and locations:

1. Printed copies will be mailed to each athlete who entered competition leading to World or Junior World Championship Competition in the 2004-2005 season.
2. Via posting on the USCA web site [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org) immediately after USOC approval or preliminary approval.
3. Via publication in the *United States Curling News* in the issue following USOC approval. The *Curling News* is mailed to all USCA member households.

## **VI. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes form will be sent to the USOC by April 30, 2005. Acceptance of the Nominations by the USOC will not occur until the end of December 2005.

## **VII. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Competition at the 2005 Women's and Men's World Curling Championships, March and April 2005, respectively, is mandatory. The ADD will prepare a suggested post-trials/pre-worlds training program prior to the Trials.

The training and competitions schedule between April 2005 and February 2006, will be developed by the ADD, with input from the Team and its coaches, and approved by the USCA Elite Programs Committee. Athletes will be given at least 30 days notice for mandatory training and competition events after the 2005 World Curling Championships.

The nominee to the U.S. Olympic Team – Curling will be subject to mandatory on- and off-ice training events and competitions between the conclusion of the Trials (February 2005) and through the commencement of the 2006 Olympic Games. Team training will include substantial travel and time commitment. The ADD will work with the Team and coaches immediately after nomination to develop a custom and formalized training and competition plan to best meet the Team's needs.

The Team, including implementation of their Team Development Plan, will be held accountable to the ADD. Their Team Development Plan will include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Team and ADD maintain constant and formal communication
2. Team commits to an on- and off-ice training plan
3. Team commits to work with their Olympic Team Coach
4. Team has a competition plan that includes World (Men's or Women's) Curling Tour events
5. Team attends High Performance Clinics/Camps, if scheduled
6. Team reports their training and competition results to the ADD
7. Team will participate in the USADA Out-of-Competition Testing Pool
8. Team will adhere to all applicable anti-doping protocols

Additionally, the ADD will make scheduled visits to the Team training and competition sites to facilitate their continued development. The ADD will work with and advise the Team and coaches accordingly. In view of the high level of training and competition required to maximize a team's chances to medal at the Olympic Winter Games, all athletes are advised to keep their schedules open and flexible between the conclusion of the Trials and through the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

## **VIII. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, WCF, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures. This includes participation in out of competition testing as required by IOC, WADA, WCF, USADA and USOC rules.

## **IX. SELECTION PROCEDURES DEVELOPMENT**

This is the list of names and titles of the key individuals responsible for creating these Selection Procedures and/or who had the opportunity to provide comments.

Grayland Cousins, USCA Vice President, Championships  
Bob Fenson, USCA President  
David Garber, USCA Executive Director  
Ed Lukowich, USCA Athlete Development Director (ADD)  
Richard Maskel, chair, USCA Athletes Advisory Council  
R. Chris Moore, USCA Secretary and Treasurer  
Leland Rich, chair, USCA Coaching Committee  
Ann Silver, USCA AAC rep to the USOC AAC  
Jane Thompson, USCA Vice President, Competitive Programs  
Georgia West, chair, USCA Rules & Officiating Committee

## **X. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC and/or World Curling Federation (WCF) rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, and/or WCF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to the USCA. However, the selections are

always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically have not accounted for every possible contingency.

## XI. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USCA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USCA web site, [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org).

## XII. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by the USCA may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman: John W. Ruger by:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE
- E-mail at [john.ruger@usoc.org](mailto:john.ruger@usoc.org)
- [www.888athlete.org](http://www.888athlete.org)

## XIII. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USCA will retain all supporting documents and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

## XIV. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the United States Curling Association, Inc.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President or Executive Director	David Garber		
National Team Coach, Head Coach, or National Program Director	Ed Lukowich		
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council	Ann Silver		

### USOC USE ONLY

Date Original Procedures Rec'd _____	Date of SP Approval _____
Date Revision Submitted _____	Date of EXCOM Approval _____

# Attachment C

## Incentive Program Multiplier System for Men and Women

**Who keeps track of the dollars won and the points rankings**

- ◆ USCA Athlete Development Director (ADD) (Ed Lukowich) will maintain the Incentive Rankings (Points System)
- ◆ Teams must report their winnings to the ADD to have those dollars count towards Incentive Points Rankings. Use the standard Results Report form
- ◆ All dollars counted towards the Incentive Rankings will be converted into USA dollars as of the conversion rates on Sept 15, 2004. Then into Points.
- ◆ The ADD will track and provide the most current USA Dollars and Points Rankings to the USCA for posting on the website

*How are points counted in the Incentive rankings*

Final Standings among teams qualifying for the Incentive Pool will be based on points earned as follows:

- Women - Current Women's Curling Tour Point System (as shown on JVC website) will be used by the ADD to determine the USA Women's Incentive Rankings
- Men - Points will be determined for qualifying events by multiplying the number of dollars won (in U.S. currency using exchange rates fixed for the season on September 15, 2004) by the following factors depending on the strength of the event:

<u>Event Type</u>	<u>Multiplier</u>
Slam Event	3
WCT Canadian events (including accepted European events)	2
WCT events in the U.S.	1
Non WCT cash spiel Events	0.5

**Player Substitution Rules for Purposes of WCT Points Teams in Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games**

The Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games (“Procedures”), which also will serve as the 2005 World Team Selection Procedures, provide for teams to earn automatic qualification into the Qualifying Round and/or the Challenge Round depending on WCT Points earned. See the Procedures for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games on the USCA web site for the definition of WCT Points Teams. The purpose of this document is to clarify the rules for the use of substitute players and qualification of points earned under the terms of the Incentive Program Multiplier System (Attachment C to the Procedures).

For a team to count points earned at qualifying events, the team must compete with their team intact or meet the following:

- Each team is allowed to name 4 or 5 players to their initial roster when registering for the Trials.
- Only events as described as qualifying in the Incentive Program in which the team has competed with only the 4 or 5 players listed on the team’s registration for the Trials will to count, subject to the following exceptions:
  - ⇒ A team entering 4 or 5 qualifying events will be allowed to count up to one event with one substitute.
  - ⇒ A team entering 6 or more events will be allowed to count up to 2 events with no more than one substitute at each. They could substitute for a different player in the two events.
  - ⇒ No event with less than 3 of the 4 or 5 players listed on the team’s registration for the Trials will qualify to meet the requirements and receive points.

The Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games as posted on the USCA web site supercede the above in the case of a conflict.

USCA Elite Programs Committee