

**USA CURLING**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2006 Paralympic Winter Games**  
**June 22, 2005**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

*IPC*: International Paralympic Committee.

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

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

*USOC*: United States Olympic Committee

*WADA*: World Anti-Doping Agency

*WCF*: World Curling Federation.

## **I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

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

1. Citizenship.

To compete in the Tryouts, an athlete must be a U.S. citizen and have a valid passport by December 8, 2005 or the date of the first scheduled tryout, and be eligible under IPC and WCF rules.

2. Fees. 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. Application to the 2005 athlete selection process is an indication to the USCA that all applicants intend to compete, if selected, at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. The time commitment for the Paralympic Games is described in Section VIII, 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 2006 USCA Championship Rules booklet which will include the player/coach agreement, the code of conduct, and other administrative forms.

4. Classification.

At the time of nomination, an athlete must be classified by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), or if there has been no opportunity for the athlete to be classified, the athlete must be evaluated by USOC medical and Paralympic staff and determined likely to be classified into the relevant class in which he/she has posted qualifying performances. Classification is a process of grouping athletes with similar disabilities for competition.

The World Curling Federation has determined that wheelchair curlers meet Rule #7 (see below) of the World Wheelchair Curling Championship Rules to be eligible to compete in Wheelchair Curling at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

Rule #7: Wheelchair Curling should be restricted to individuals with significant impairments in lower leg/gait function i.e. spinal injury, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, double leg amputation etc., who usually require a wheelchair for daily mobility. More specifically those who are non ambulant or can walk only very short distances. Determination of minimum disability and appropriate classification shall be made by authorized international sports classifiers.

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

One team of five players will be nominated to represent the USA in the 2006 Paralympic Games. Based on performance ability and team compatibility, a Player Selection Committee of the USCA will select five team members, with both genders represented as per the World Curling Federation Rules of Play, (Rule 5.1) and two 6<sup>th</sup> players (i.e., replacement players). The final seven players (5 Paralympic Team members and 2 replacements) will include at least two persons of each gender. All selections must be ratified by the USCA Elite Programs Committee prior to nomination to the USOC.

**C. Tryout Events:**

1. Provide the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and/or camps to be used as part of the selection process.

Tryouts will be at the Utica Curling Club, Utica, New York December 8-11, 2005

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.

2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any "preliminary or qualifying" events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the events listed above in C. 1 (if any).

Not Applicable

3. Provide the event name, dates and locations of additional trials that will be used to determine "start positions" (if any).

Not Applicable

**D. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team nominees.**

The athletes who participated in the 2003 and 2004 U.S. Nationals Wheelchair Curling Championships will be invited to tryout for the 2006 Paralympic team. Any other athlete meeting the eligibility requirements for the 2006 Paralympics Winter Games and this procedure will be eligible to register for the Tryouts on the USCA website.

The Tryout will be coordinated by the Paralympic Team Leader, who will chair the Player Selection Committee. Other members of the Player Selection Committee will be an athlete selected by the USCA AAC and one other person (e.g., Director, Certified Coach, the ADD or Assistant ADD) appointed by the USCA president, and the USCA Paralympic Team Coach, if selected at the time of the Trials and Coach is not one of the current coaches of these athletes trying out. A statistician will be used for game situations. All selections must be ratified by the USCA Elite Programs Committee prior to nomination to the USOC.

Individual skills, abilities, and characteristics will play an important part in Team selection; however, the primary consideration in selection of the Team is to build the Team that can best perform throughout the Paralympic Games, as detailed in this section.

There will be skill testing, drills, strategy and game participation to determine curling skills, as well as interviews to determine team/player compatibility as outlined in Attachment A. The Player Selection Committee will make its selections by December 18, 2005.

Athletes will be assessed on a variety of skills described on Attachment A. This assessment will serve as a guide to the Player Selection Committee. The set of skills tests and assessments must be approved by the Elite Programs Committee by September 15, 2005 for inclusion in the 2005-06 USCA Championships Rules Booklet.

In addition to the individual skills, abilities, and characteristics listed on the player assessment form, the Player Selection Committee will consider:

- (a) experience and leadership,
  - (b) player interactions and Team cohesiveness both on and off the ice, and
  - (c) ability to sustain performance throughout the competition.
- E. Provide the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members.

USCA Player Selection Committee and the USCA Elite Programs Committee, see Section II. C. 1.

## **II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

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

Wheelchair curling is in its infancy in the United States. Only about 10 athletes competed for the right to represent the U.S. at the 2005 World Wheelchair Curling Championship. A curling team consists of five players, which must include both genders in the wheelchair discipline. Because of the small number of athletes at present, and to maximize the chance for success in Torino, the USCA will select its Paralympic team from the individual wheelchair curlers.

### **B. Process to be used in selecting the players**

The USCA will select seven athletes as described in Section I.D. by December 18, 2005. Five athletes will comprise the official team roster, with both genders represented. Two 6<sup>th</sup> players will be selected as replacements. The final seven athletes will include at least two persons of each gender. Athletes selected as sixth players do NOT receive status as Paralympic team nominees.

### **C. Discretionary Selection Committees**

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 6<sup>th</sup> players, the Player Selection Committee will decide the replacement in consultation with the Paralympic Team Leader, the Paralympic Team Coach and the remaining team members. All selections must be ratified by the Elite Programs Committee prior to nomination to the USOC.

1. USCA Player Selection Committee (\*20%+ committee voting representation by athletes selected by athletes)

- USCA Paralympic Team Leader, Chair
- Athlete – Non participating athlete selected by the USCA AAC
- USCA Director or a Certified Coach or the Athlete Development Director or the Assistant Athlete Development Director – Appointed by the USCA president
- USCA Paralympic Team Coach – If selected by the Tryout and he/she is not one of the current coaches of a competing athlete.

2. **USCA Elite Programs Committee** (\*20%+ 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 Past President; Level 4 Coach; 1979 National Champion, 2006 Mens Olympic Team Coach.   |
| <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 and 2006 Olympic Team Leader; 1983 National Champion; USOC Director through 2003.                               |
| <b>Allison Pottinger*</b> | USCA Director; AAC member, 2003 World Champion  |
| <b>Bill Todhunter*</b>    | USCA Director; AAC member; USOC-AAC Representative, 2004 National Champion.   |
| <b>Ed Lukowich</b>        | Non-voting staff liaison; Athlete Development Director; 1988 Olympian; 1986 World Champion.   |
| <b>Melissa Keiser*</b>    | AAC-Wheelchair, 2004 National Wheelchair Champion   |

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 Paralympic Team) will excuse themselves from participating in that matter. If necessary to maintain a minimum of 20% athlete representation the athlete with the conflict may be replaced on the committee with another athlete named by the USCA Athletes Advisory Council prior to any necessary committee vote for that matter only.

### **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 Chief Operating Officer.
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 B; and Attachment C)

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) and USOC Bylaws (Article IX).

**B. A USOC-approved team member may be removed for any of the following reasons as determined by the USOC:**

1. Voluntary withdrawal in writing to the CEO of the USOC.
2. Injury or illness as certified by a USOC physician or medical staff member.
3. Violation of the USOC Code of Conduct

An athlete who may be removed from the Team under this provision has the right to a hearing pursuant to the USOC By Laws.

C. An athlete may be removed from Nomination or from the Team at any time for violation of IPC, 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:**

If an athlete cannot continue to compete, based on Section III. A. & B., above, replacement athletes will be the 6<sup>th</sup> players as selected in Section I.D. selecting the best athlete available based upon the team's needs at the time.

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

For athlete replacement, the Player Selection Committee will decide the replacement in consultation with the Paralympic Team Leader and the Paralympic Team Coach and the remaining team members. Athlete replacements must be ratified by the USCA Elite Programs Committee.

#### **V. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or World University Games and are included as attachments:

**Attachment B - USCA Player/Coach Agreement**

**Attachment C - USCA Athlete/Coach Code of Conduct**

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

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

1. A copy will be sent via either email or U.S. mail to each athlete who entered competition leading to World Wheelchair Championship Competition in the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons.
2. Via posting on the USCA web site [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org) immediately after USOC approval or preliminary approval.
3. Notice of the posting of the procedures on the USCA web site will be made by publication in the *United States Curling News* in the issue following USOC approval. The *Curling News* is mailed to all USCA member households.

## **VII. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes form will be sent to the USOC by December 21, 2005.

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

The Paralympic Team Leader will prepare a suggested post-trials/pre-Paralympic training program prior to the Trials. The training and competition sites and schedule between December, 2005 and March, 2006, will be developed by the Paralympic Team Leader, with input from the Team, its Coach and the Player Selection Committee.

The U.S. Paralympic Team – Curling will be subject to mandatory on- and off-ice training events and competitions between selection December 18 and the commencement of the 2006 Paralympic Games. Team training will include a travel and time commitment. The Paralympic Team Leader 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 Paralympic Team Leader. Their Team Development Plan will include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Team, coach and Paralympic Team Leader maintain constant and formal communication
2. Team commits to an on- and off-ice training plan
3. Team commits to work with their Paralympic Team Coach
4. Team has a competition plan that includes international competition if available
5. Team attends High Performance Clinics/Camps, if scheduled
6. Team reports their training and competition results to the Team Leader
7. Team will participate in the USADA Testing per USADA direction
8. Team will adhere to all applicable anti-doping protocols
9. Team cooperates to conclude all handicapped-related WCF documentation

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

## **IX. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

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

## **X. 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.

Mark Swandby, USCA President  
Diane Brown, 2003 and 2004 Wheelchair Team USA Head Coach/Team Leader, 2006 Team Leader  
David Garber, USCA Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer  
Richard Maskel, Chair, USCA Athletes Advisory Council  
Chris Moore, USCA VP, Competitive Programs  
Bill Todhunter, USCA AAC rep to the USOC AAC  
Melissa Keiser (AAC-Wheelchair)

## **XI. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IPC 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 IPC, 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.

## **XII. 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).

## **XIII. 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 telephone at (888) ATHLETE, or by e-mail at [john.ruger@usoc.org](mailto:john.ruger@usoc.org).

## **XIV. 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 Paralympic Winter Games.

## **XV. NGB SIGNATURES**

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

| <b>Position</b>   | <b>Print Name</b> | <b>Signature</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| NGB Chief Operating Officer                                   | David Garber      |                  |             |
| National Team Coach, Head Coach, or National Program Director | Ed Lukowich       |                  |             |
| USOC Athlete Advisory Committee Representative                | Bill Todhunter    |                  |             |

USOC USE ONLY

Date Original Procedures Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Revision Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Date of SP Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of EXCOM Approval \_\_\_\_\_

## **Attachment A**

### **U.S. Paralympics Wheelchair Curler Assessment Form**

Players will be assessed in the following areas at the Wheelchair Curling Tryouts.

The scale for numerical assessment is:

- 1 – Deficient
- 2 – Needs improvement
- 3 – Nationally capable
- 4 – Internationally capable
- 5 – Internationally exceptional

#### **Shot Execution:**

**Draws** (In-Turns and Out-Turns Assessed Separately):

- Accuracy to Broom
- Weight Consistency

**Takeouts:** (In-Turns and Out-Turns Assessed Separately):

- Accuracy to Broom
- Weight Consistency

**Shot Variety:**

- Promotion
- Hit and Roll
- Guard
- Ability to make different shots consecutively (i.e. guard followed by take-out)

**Skipping:** (Assessed primarily for players trying out for Skip and Third Position)

- A variety of game situations will be designed to test knowledge of strategy and reading of ice conditions. Also included would be ability to read delivery releases and adjust ice accordingly.

**Game Situations:** for all athletes

- Understanding of strategy and shot making skills under pressure.

**Personal Interview and evaluation:**

- Evaluation of team compatibility
- Ability to handle adverse situations and remain a strong team player
- Commitment and goals

## **USCA PLAYER/COACH AGREEMENT AND CODE OF CONDUCT** (revised September 1, 2005)

The undersigned, as a player/coach participant in any USCA events, does hereby acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions as set forth in the following Agreement (participants under 18 years of age must have their signatures accompanied by the signature of a parent or guardian). "USCA events" is defined as including USCA playdowns from entry to national championships, entry to world team trials entry to Olympic Trials, and the World Championships and, in addition, any competitions, camps, or other USCA activities where the player/coach has received full or partial USCA funding to participate in the event.

### AGREEMENT

This Agreement is by and between the United States Curling Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the USCA) and the undersigned players and coach (the group hereinafter referred to as the Team).

**Items numbered 1-11, and the Right of Grievance section, apply to all signatories to this agreement. Items numbered 12-15 will also apply to, and only to, those players and coaches as indicated in the item heading.**

WHEREAS the parties (Team and USCA) have agreed to reduce their understandings to writing and to mutually support each other to ensure the highest level of success for the Team in their curling endeavors, and

WHEREAS the USCA has a strong and vested interest in the performance and/or behavior of its teams during their participation in USCA events,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TEAM AND EACH OF ITS PLAYERS AND COACH AGREE THAT THEY SHALL ABIDE BY ALL USCA and UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (USOC) RULES, REGULATIONS AND POLICY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. Team will abide by all rules of play and sportsmanlike conduct and all USCA published rules, regulations and procedures, and agrees they are also subject to the jurisdiction, as may be applicable, to the constitutions and by-laws of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the World Curling Federation (WCF), the International Paralympic Committee and the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC),**
- 2. Liability insurance program:** Team will agree to comply with USCA liability insurance program requirements, which currently include the need for all athletes entering a USCA competition to sign a Waiver and Release Form each year they enter playdowns. The current Waiver and Release Form is available in the Championship Rules booklet on the back cover, and must be signed and submitted along with the Player/Coach Agreement and Code of Conduct form.
- 3. Good conduct:** Team will avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to reflect adversely upon the USCA and its athletes, teams, coaches, officers, directors, members or sponsors and agrees at all times to conduct himself/herself in a manner which will bring credit to the USCA, the U.S.A. and the parties to this Agreement. Team agrees to obey all applicable State, National and International laws.
- 4. Alcohol:** Team will avoid alcoholic consumption to a level which would reasonably be expected to cause impairment to the team member's ability to speak, walk or drive, or to cause the Team member to behave in a disruptive manner during a USCA event.
- 5. Banned substances and procedures:** Team will not use nor tolerate use of any banned substances in or out of competition in contravention of the rules of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the World Curling Federation (WCF), the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), or and/or in violation of any local, state or national law. Each Team member agrees to and authorizes the use of, drug testing on their behalf during any competition or during any time out-of-competition (either Short Notice or No-Advance-Notice in accordance

with the IOC, IPC, WCF, USOC, USADA and/or WADA protocols.

6. **Dress code:** Team will conform to all USCA Uniform and Advertising requirements as published in the most currently published Championship Rules sections for the Championship(s) for which they are competing, and will maintain a presentable image of themselves while training and traveling as a member of the National team.

7. **Official functions:** Team will attend all official functions as requested by the USCA.

8. **Media permission:** Team allows use of their image or description while participating in USCA events to all media for editorial purposes.

9. **Fulfill obligations:** Team will compete in all scheduled games, regardless of their standing, and in all camps or programs for which they receive funding.

10. **Withhold payment:** Team and coach further acknowledge that the USCA reserves the right to withhold any USCA payment or reimbursement to the Team, in connection with any USCA event, for any other violation of this agreement.

11. **Penalties & sanctions:** Team and coach further acknowledge that the USCA reserves the right to discharge, suspend or ban any Team member or coach and/or the Team itself for violating the terms of this Agreement. See Penalties and Sanctions Guidelines in the most currently published USCA Championships Rules Booklet. Discharge, suspension or banning can be for a competition, a recommended period of time, or for life. The parties designated to enforce these violations shall be appointed by the President of the USCA. In addition, penalties and sanctions for National (Funded) Team members can include removal from the National Team and suspension of Funding. The parties acknowledge athlete rights under USCA By-Laws Articles 12 and 13 and USOC By-Laws Article IX.

12. **JUNIOR EVENTS:** THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO COACHES AND PLAYERS IN JUNIOR MEN'S AND JUNIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS.

a. **No alcohol** consumption by the players from the time of departure from the city of home/school residence, through the competition, and until the return to the city of home/school residence, including, without limitation, any banquet or post championship/event celebration. Coaches agree to follow the U.S. Olympic Committee Coaching Ethics Code section 3.08.

b. If proven after due process a player had consumed or was in possession of any alcohol or banned substance purchased or received by the player from anyone (including a coach, relative or friend) during Junior Men's and Junior Women's USCA Competitions and Events, the player may be subject to banishment from competition for the remainder of this year and suspended from participating the following curling year in any competition leading up to regional, national, world, or Olympic competition.

13. **COACHES:** THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL COACHES IN ALL COMPETITIONS. Coaches agree to abide by the U.S. Olympic Committee Coaching Ethics Code, adopted in whole August, 1996, by the USCA Coaching Committee.

14. **FUNDED and/or NATIONAL TEAMS:** THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IF THE SIGNATORY TEAM RECEIVES USCA GRANT FUNDS TO ATTEND CERTAIN COMPETITIONS OR FOR TRAINING CAMPS AND PROGRAMS.

a. **Expenses:** Upon receipt of proper documentation from this team, the USCA will reimburse the Team and a USCA approved coach for the entry fee, lodging and transportation for the competition up to the amount granted.

b. **Training and After-action reporting:** Team members must attend all training sessions and competitions committed to in Team's Funding Application. Written permission from the USCA Athlete Development Director (ADD) is required to be excused. Upon completion of each competition for which this Team has been granted funding, a report will be sent to the ADD concerning the Team's performance at the competition. The USCA will provide a report form for the Team to complete in full.

c. **Roster changes:** If the Team composition is changed after this agreement is signed, the USCA will determine if the Team is still eligible to receive funding.

d. **Local rules:** Team agrees to follow the rules of the competition(s) for which funding has been granted.

e. **Conduct and fitness:** Team will refrain from any conduct that could reasonably be expected to interfere with an athlete's participation at the elite level in the sport of curling. The USCA Team conduct expectation is that athlete conduct should be beyond reproach. Team will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit their performance to the maximum of their abilities.

f. **Confidentiality.** Team agrees not to reveal or disclose to any unauthorized person any USCA information which shall include, but not be limited to, all information relating to technology, rocks, ice, fellow National Team members, communications from the ADD, reports, inventions, improvements, developments, devices, tools, software, video, audio, programs, techniques and specifications, oral or in writing or in some other form, which is learned during a tenure on the National Team and is in control of the USCA.

g. **Additional criteria for participation and competition, and athlete/coach commitments:** The following criteria and commitments will apply to all competitions and training activities:

1) Selections of the athletes and coaches who will receive funding will be made by appropriate USCA volunteer committees. Except for Operation Gold or other retrospective awards, selections will be based on the committees' judgment of athlete and Team potential for future competitive success. Selection criteria considered by the committees will include, but will not be limited to, performance at world and national competitions, and the judgment of the USCA Athlete Development Director. All athletes and coaches who are USCA members are equally eligible to strive for competitive success and resulting funding. The USCA will make selection decisions based on on-ice competitive success and potential and will not discriminate based on race or religion.

2) Funded Teams, athletes and coaches agree to make every reasonable effort to fully participate in those competitions, camps and other programs for which they receive funding.

3) Funded Teams, athletes and coaches agree that, by accepting USCA or USOC funding, other than Operation Gold and other retrospective awards, they have committed themselves to a high level of daily training activity. "High level" is as defined and published from time to time by the USCA.

15. **WORLD TEAMS:** THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IF THE SIGNATORY TEAM AND COACH REPRESENT THE USCA AT WORLD/JUNIOR WORLD CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS (WORLDS).

a. **Housing, spouses:** The USCA and the World Curling Federation (WCF) shall, in their sole

discretion, select the housing for the Team and coach. No spouses, companions, children or “significant other” of the Team members shall stay at the same hotel room as the Team member.

b. **Fifth player:** The fifth player of the team must be approved by the USCA.

c. **Coach:** The Team must accept a coach approved by the USCA.

d. **Other USCA personnel:** Team and coach shall cooperate with coaches, team leaders and sports psychologists selected by the USCA to work with the Team in an effort to maximize their performance at Worlds. Team acknowledges that the USCA will seek qualified, volunteer team leaders to assist the Team at Worlds by carrying out many of the logistical and administrative details for the Team. The intent of the USCA is to unburden the Team of these details so that the Team can focus primarily on curling. During Worlds, the authority of the USCA-appointed Team Leader is final.

e. **Transportation:** Team and coach shall cooperate with the USCA and WCF on transportation as the USCA and WCF have the sole discretion of selecting the airline and dates of departure and return.

f. **Health insurance:** All Team members and the coach shall be responsible for their own medical expenses.

g. **Discharge from Team:** In the event a Team member or coach, or Team itself is discharged by the USCA for breaching this agreement, the USCA shall have the right to replace the discharged player, Team or coach with other USCA players or coach selected by the USCA. All expense subsidy shall cease immediately for the discharged member and/or Team.

h. **World Team Committee:** The USCA understands that certain situations may arise that are not covered by this agreement. To accommodate these situations, the USCA president shall appoint a World Team Committee (committee), consisting of three to five USCA members with 20% athlete representation, whose function shall be to review any concerns or complaints of the Team pertaining to the enforcement of this agreement. The majority of the committee shall have the authority to waive any provision of Section 13 of this agreement, except section 13.g., if they feel that, under the circumstances present at the time, enforcement of a specific provision would be counterproductive and not in the best interests of the Team and the USCA. The committee shall render all decisions as quickly as possible but in no event later than 24 hours after receiving the request for a review from the Team.

## **USCA ATHLETE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

### **BILL OF RIGHTS, USCA By-laws, Section 8.2:**

Membership in the USCA provides equal opportunity to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in athletic competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin. Notice, and an opportunity for a hearing shall be given to any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate as set forth in Article 13 of the USCA By-laws.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE GRIEVANCE, USCA By-laws, Section 12.3:**

Any Individual Member or Member of the USCA who feels that he or she has been wronged in the administration or interpretation of the USCA Rules, Regulations or By-laws or by an action of the USCA Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, a Committee, an Officer, or professional

staff member, except with respect to matters set forth in Section 13.2 (Right To Compete Complaint), or in the By-laws of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), shall have the right to challenge such administration or interpretation, but only in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article 12 of the USCA By-laws.

**RIGHT TO COMPETE COMPLAINT, USCA By-laws, Section 13.2:**

Any individual who is an athlete involved in the sport of curling, or any coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official active in the sport of curling, who believes that he or she has been denied the right to participate in the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Pan American Games or a World Championship competition, or other such protected competition as defined in Article I, Section 1.3 (P) of the By-laws of the USOC as a result of the administration or interpretation of specific USCA Rules, Regulations or By-laws, (except an Administrative Grievance set forth in Section 12.3 of the USCA By-laws), has the right to challenge such denial, in accordance with Article 13 of the USCA By-laws.

**USCA By-Laws:**

A copy of the USCA By-laws may be requested from the USCA National Office, 1100 CenterPoint Drive, P.O. Box 866, Stevens Point, WI 54481; by telephone, 715-344-1199; by fax, 715-344-2279; or downloaded from the USCA Web site at [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org).

**USCA PLAYER/COACH AGREEMENT SIGNATURE**

I hereby acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions as set forth in the Player/Coach Agreement and Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (circle one) Player Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player's parent/guardian, for players under 18 years of age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print parent/guardian name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date