

**U.S. CURLING ASSOCIATION
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2010 OLYMPIC GAMES
July 3, 2008**

INTRODUCTION

The acronyms below are included for clarity.

ADD: the USCA Athlete Development Director.

EPC: Elite Programs Committee

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.

“Olympic Team Coach” is a USCA approved coach selected per the Coach Selection Procedures 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Olympic Team Coaches must sign the current Player/Coach Code of Conduct (Attachment A) and the current USCA Player/Coach Agreement (Attachment B). All coach selections are subject to USOC approval.

“Olympic-eligible” means that all team members are U.S. citizens by the registration deadline of the Trials, or have an accepted waiver from the USCA.

“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 competitions (i.e., Qualifying and Challenge Rounds) 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.

“Team Member” will be defined in the 2009 USCA Championship Rules booklet.

“Trials” means U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling, the selection event for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

“Trials Coach” is a team coach registered on the 2009 USCA Playdown Entry Forms, who is actively coaching the team and who 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 2009 USCA Championship Rules booklet, which serves as an example, will be available and posted on the USCA website by October 1, 2008.

“WCT Points Teams” carries the same meaning as defined in the 2009 USCA Championship Rules booklet.

I. SELECTION SYSTEM

A. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the team:

1. Citizenship

To compete in the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling (Trials), including playdowns leading to the Trials, an athlete must be a U.S. citizen by the registration deadline for the playdown process (deadline date will be posted at www.usacurl.org at least 30 days prior to the registration deadline), or have an accepted waiver from the USCA pending citizenship. If any of the athletes, male or female, are not U.S. citizens as of the registration deadline for the playdown process (deadline date will be posted at www.usacurl.org at least 30 days prior to the registration deadline), they may petition the USCA in writing fourteen (14) calendar days before the registration deadline to be considered for participation in the playdown process for the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling. This notification must be received by the USCA National Office at least fourteen (14) calendar days before the registration deadline. The notification must include copies of official documentation that demonstrates the petitioner's initiation of the USA citizenship process as well as a timeline of the anticipated "swearing in" date. The athletes will be notified in writing at least seven (7) calendar days before the registration deadline of their pre-approval or denial to participate in the playdown process for the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling. Final approval of an athlete's request to compete in the playdown process for the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling will be contingent upon his/her proof of U.S. citizenship by December 31, 2008 (7 days prior to the commencement of the Qualifying Round for the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling). If the pre-approved athlete is unable to provide proof of U.S. citizenship by this date, he/she will not participate in the playdown process for the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling, or the Trials. To be eligible under IOC and WCF rules, athletes must also hold a valid passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games. Notwithstanding the above, if a fifth player is added to a team, he or she is only required to be a citizen at the time that he or she is registered as a member of the team.

2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

The World Curling Federation doesn't have minimum standards for participation in the Olympic Games.

3. Other

a) Fees. There will be playdown entry fees for all teams, per Section I.C.3, and the 2009 USCA Championship Rules booklet.

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.

b) USCA athlete and administrative forms. Player commitment. Entry to the 2010 Trials playdown process is an indication to the USCA that all entered athletes intend to compete, if they qualify, at the 2010 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. General eligibility. Athlete eligibility is governed by this Selection Procedure and by the 2009 USCA Championship Rules booklet, which also includes competition rules and procedures, the player/coach agreement, the code of conduct, and other administrative forms.

B. Tryout Events

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

a) Trials qualifying competitions (playdowns)

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SITE</u>
Qualifying Round – Women		
Midwest North	Jan. 7-11, 2009	TBD
Midwest South	Jan. 7-11, 2009	TBD
East Coast	Jan. 7-11, 2009	TBD
West Coast	Jan. 7-11, 2009	TBD
Qualifying Round – Men		
Midwest North	Jan. 7-11, 2009	Itasca, Minn.
Midwest South	Jan. 7-11, 2009	Centerville, Wis.
East Coast	Jan. 7-11, 2009	TCC, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
West Coast	Jan. 7-11, 2009	Seattle, Wash.

Challenge Round – Men & Women

Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2009 TBD

Sites will be posted at www.usacurl.org at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the event.

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.

b) Trials: February 21-28, 2009, in metro Denver, Colorado. Ten (10) men's team and ten (10) women's teams will qualify for Trials as described in Section I. C. The Trials are also serving as the 2009 men's and women's U.S. National Championships.

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 trials, events or camps listed above in B. 1 (if any).

See Section I.B. 1. a.

C. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team nominees (including maximum team size).

1. Playdown process overview

a) The 2009 USCA National Championship Team/2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling selection system is open to all U.S. citizens and is not geographically based.

b) Teams may register to play in any one of the Qualifying Round sites.

c) The Trials will be populated using a two-tiered playdown system (Qualifying Round and Challenge Round).

d) The women's system is two-tiered (Qualifying Round and Challenge Round), but only if there are at least fourteen (14) teams registered. If there are 13 or fewer teams registered, see Section I.C.4., "Women's selection process if 13 or fewer teams register nationally."

e) Registered teams can earn points to advance to higher rounds by competing in approved WCT and other cashspiels (see Section

I.4. Men's Challenge Round and Section I.4. Women's Challenge Round).

f) The 2008 Men's and Women's National Champion/World Championships Teams also have additional rights to advance (see Section I.4. Men's Challenge Round and Section I.4. Women's Challenge Round)

g) See the USCA web site, www.usacurl.org, for details regarding the WCT Points system.

2. Event eligibility

Any player who is a citizen of the United States as of the registration deadline – or has an accepted waiver from the USCA pending citizenship as detailed in Section I.A.1 – may be eligible provided they meet all of the eligibility requirements found in the 2009 USCA Championship Rules booklet. Players need not be residents of the United States. Players must also be paid members of the USCA as described in Section I.A.3., or alternatively, pay a one-time \$100-per-athlete administrative fee.

3. Entry process

a) See Section I.A for entry details.

b) Entry deadline: Men & Women – November 29, 2008. Entry fee: \$500.

4. Playdown process and format

Men's Qualifying Round Jan. 7-11, 2009, sites as listed in Section I.B. Start and finish dates subject to change depending on the number of entries (accordion in nature)

a) Each competing team selects one site at time of registration. At each site, peer seeding will be used to rank the teams. The format for the Qualifying Round is based on the number of teams in the event. The Qualifying Round at a particular site will be held only if at least five (5) teams register for that site. If less than five (5) teams register for a site, the site will be cancelled, and the USCA will notify the affected teams, and allow them to promptly (by the end of the next business day after notification of cancellation) choose a different site that did achieve the minimum required number. If a team decides not to select an alternate site, their entry fee will be refunded. Sites chosen by teams that register will not be disclosed on the website until after completion of any cancellation and

reassignment period. The names of the registered teams may be posted, but without their site selection.

b) Six teams will qualify for the Trials out of the regional Qualifying Round, using a proportional distribution algorithm for allotment of the number of qualifying teams based on number of entries. The algorithm is designed to achieve the best possible proportional distribution of spots subject to the following requirements:

1. Each Qualifying Round site receives at least one qualifier spot for Trials.
2. If two or more sites have an equal number of teams, and the proportional algorithm indicates that the number of spots to be assigned among those tied sites does not divide evenly to a whole number, then as between the tied sites, the extra spot(s) shall be awarded to the tied site(s) having the stronger field of teams entered at that site. Strength of Field (SOF) will be determined through peer seeding. Prior to the USCA publishing the site selections of the teams, each team will be asked to select and rank the teams they believe are the top twelve (12) teams in the entire field. The results will be used to determine the top twelve (12) seeds. If there is a tie for a particular position, both teams will be assigned the higher position for which they are tied, and the next team's rank will drop down accordingly. Once seeded, the top twelve (12) teams will be assigned values as follows:
 - 1 to 3 = 4.4
 - 4 to 6 = 3.3
 - 7 to 9 = 2.2
 - 10 to 12 = 1.1
 - The sum of these values for the teams at a single site will be considered the SOF value for that site. The site(s) with the higher SOF value will receive the extra spot(s) using SOF as the tie break to award one extra spot to the higher team if there is one extra spot, or one extra spot to each of the two higher sites if there are two extra spots to award.
 - The site(s) with the higher SOF value will be awarded the additional qualifier spot(s).
 - In the unlikely event of a tie in the SOF value between two (2) or more tied sites, that tie will be broken based on the respective highest seed at each site, with the extra spot(s) being awarded in order of the rank of the highest seed.

The official running of the program will be done by the USCA Draw Master upon completion of the registration period. Qualification of the particular teams from each site will be based on order of finish at the regional Qualifying Round site.

Men's Challenge Round Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2009 - Site TBD. Start and finish dates subject to change depending on the number of entries (accordion in nature)

a) Up to ten (10) teams will qualify for the Challenge Round as follows: Up to eight (8) teams will advance from the regional Qualifying Round based on order of finish, plus the returning National Champion (2008 Men's National Championship winner) if not already qualified for the Trials or the Challenge Round, and up to the top ten (10) WCT points teams, filling the Challenge Round to a maximum of 10 teams.

b) To be eligible for the Challenge Round, the returning National Champion and WCT points teams must have played in the regional Qualifying Round. If, after the completion of the regional Qualifying Round the returning National Champion has not qualified for the Trials or the Challenge Round, then the returning National Champion has the right to play in the Challenge Round. If the returning National Champion chooses to play in the Challenge Round, then the remaining berth in the Challenge Round will be awarded to the next eligible WCT Points team, if not already qualified for the Trials or the Challenge Round. If the returning National Champion does not choose a Challenge Round spot under the above special qualification, then the next eligible WCT points teams will receive berths in the Challenge Round if not already qualified for the Trials or the Challenge Round. The returning National Champion will not be considered one of the top ten (10) WCT Points Teams. In order to be eligible as the returning National Champion, the team must have on its 2009 National Championship Roster 4 of its 5 players who registered for the 2008 National Championship (or 3 of 4 in the case of a team that won the Championship with only four registered players).

The WCT points will be determined as defined in Attachment C.

c) Challenge teams, up to a maximum of eight (8) teams, will advance from the Qualifying Round as follows: After completion of registration, the Draw Master will allocate up to eight (8) Challenge Round spots proportionally among the

regional Qualifying Round sites using the proportional distribution algorithm. However, the number of berths to the Trials allocated to each site will be subtracted from the site's team total before running the algorithm for the site's allocation of Challenge Round spots. Each site will be notified of the number of Challenge Round spots allocated to that site. The algorithm is designed to achieve the best possible proportional distribution of spots subject to the following requirements:

1. Each Qualifying Round site receives at least one qualifier spot for the Challenge Round.
2. If two or more sites have an equal number of teams, and the proportional algorithm indicates that the number of spots to be assigned among those tied sites does not divide evenly to a whole number, then as between the tied sites, the extra spot(s) shall be awarded to the tied site(s) having the stronger field of teams entered at that site. Strength of Field (SOF) will be determined through peer seeding. Prior to the USCA publishing the site selections of the teams, each team will be asked to select and rank the teams they believe are the top twelve (12) teams in the entire field. The results will be used to determine the top twelve (12) seeds. If there is a tie for a particular position, both teams will be assigned the higher position for which they are tied, and the next team's rank will drop down accordingly. Once seeded, the top twelve (12) teams will be assigned values as follows:
 - 1 to 3 = 4.4
 - 4 to 6 = 3.3
 - 7 to 9 = 2.2
 - 10 to 12 = 1.1
 - The sum of these values for the teams at a single site will be considered the SOF value for that site. The site(s) with the higher SOF value will receive the extra spot(s) using SOF as the tie break to award one extra spot to the higher team if there is one extra spot, or one extra spot to each of the two higher sites if there are two extra spots to award.
 - The site(s) with the higher SOF value will be awarded the additional qualifier spot(s).
 - In the unlikely event of a tie in the SOF value between two (2) or more tied sites, that tie will be broken based on the respective highest seed at each site, with

the extra spot(s) being awarded in order of the rank of the highest seed.

- Determination of Challenge Round teams will be based on order of finish in the regional Qualifying Round. If any team that is eligible for a Challenge Round berth based on finish elects not to participate in the Challenge Round, that spot will be filled from the highest-ranking team on the WCT points list that has not already qualified for the Challenge Round or the Trials, regardless of the Qualifying Round site at which the WCT points team competed.
- For fill purposes there will be no minimum number of points required. If there is no team with WCT points available to fill a vacated spot, then the spot will not be filled.
- The Challenge Round will be a peer seeded single round robin event.
- Four (4) teams will qualify from the Challenge Round into the Trials based on order of finish.

Women's Qualifying Round (held if 14 or more teams have registered nationally) January 7-11, 2009 – Sites TBD. Start and finish dates subject to change depending on the number of entries (accordion in nature)

a) Each competing team selects one (1) site at time of registration. At each site, peer seeding will be used to rank the teams. The format for the Qualifying Round is based on the number of teams in the event. The Qualifying Round at a particular site will be held only if at least three (3) teams register for that site. If less than three (3) teams register for a site, the site will be cancelled, and the USCA will notify the affected teams, and allow them to promptly (by the end of the next business day after notification of cancellation) choose a different site that did achieve the minimum required number. If a team decides not to select an alternate site, their entry fee will be refunded. Sites chosen by teams that register will not be disclosed on the website until after completion of any cancellation and reassignment period. The names of the registered teams may be posted, but without their site selection.

b) Six teams will qualify for the Trials out of the regional Qualifying Round, using a proportional distribution algorithm for allotment of the number of qualifying teams based on number of entries. The algorithm is designed to achieve the best possible

proportional distribution of spots subject to the following requirements:

1. Each Qualifying Round site receives at least one qualifier spot for Trials.
2. If two or more sites have an equal number of teams, and the proportional algorithm indicates that the number of spots to be assigned among those tied sites does not divide evenly to a whole number, then as between the tied sites, the extra spot(s) shall be awarded to the tied site(s) having the stronger field of teams entered at that site. Strength of Field (SOF) will be determined through peer seeding. Prior to the USCA publishing the site selections of the teams, each team will be asked to select and rank the teams they believe are the top twelve (12) teams in the entire field. The results will be used to determine the top twelve (12) seeds. If there is a tie for a particular position, both teams will be assigned the higher position for which they are tied, and the next team's rank will drop down accordingly. Once seeded, the top twelve (12) teams will be assigned values as follows:
 - 1 to 3 = 4.4
 - 4 to 6 = 3.3
 - 7 to 9 = 2.2
 - 10 to 12 = 1.1
 - The sum of these values for the teams at a single site will be considered the SOF value for that site. The site(s) with the higher SOF value will receive the extra spot(s) using SOF as the tie break to award one extra spot to the higher team if there is one extra spot, or one extra spot to each of the two higher sites if there are two extra spots to award.
 - The site(s) with the higher SOF value will be awarded the additional qualifier spot(s).
 - In the unlikely event of a tie in the SOF value between two (2) or more tied sites, that tie will be broken based on the respective highest seed at each site, with the extra spot(s) being awarded in order of the rank of the highest seed.

The official running of the program will be done by the USCA Draw Master upon completion of the registration period. Qualification of the particular teams from each site will be based on order of finish at the regional Qualifying Round site.

Women's Challenge Round Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2009 – Site TBD. Start and finish dates subject to change depending on the number of entries

a) Up to ten (10) teams will qualify for the Challenge Round as follows: Up to eight (8) teams will advance from the regional Qualifying Rounds based on order of finish, plus the returning National Champion (2008 Women's National Championship winner) if not already qualified for the Trials or the Challenge Round, and up to two WCT points teams, filling the Challenge Round to a maximum of 10 teams. A team must be one of the top six (6) women's U.S. WCT teams in points in order to receive special qualification for the Challenge Round.

b) To be eligible for the Challenge Round, the returning National Champion and WCT points teams must have played in the regional Qualifying Round. If, after the completion of the regional Qualifying Round the returning National Champion has not qualified for the Trials or the Challenge Round, then the returning National Champion has the right to play in the Challenge Round. If the returning National Champion chooses to play in the Challenge Round then the remaining berth in the Challenge Round will be awarded to the next eligible WCT Points team, if not already qualified for the Trials or the Challenge Round. If the returning National Champion does not choose a Challenge Round spot under the above special qualification, then the next eligible WCT points teams will receive berths in the Challenge Round if not already qualified for the Trials or the Challenge Round. The returning National Champion will not be considered one of the top six (6) WCT Points Teams. In order to be eligible as the returning National Champion, the team must have on its 2009 National Championship Roster 4 of its 5 players who registered for the 2008 National Championship (or 3 of 4 in the case of a team that won the Championship with only four registered players).

The WCT points will be determined as defined in Attachment C.

c.) Challenge teams, up to a maximum of eight (8) teams, will advance from the Qualifying Round as follows:

After completion of registration, the Draw Master will allocate up to eight (8) Challenge Round spots proportionally among the regional Qualifying Round sites using the proportional distribution algorithm. However, the number of berths to the Trials allocated to each site will be subtracted from the site's team total before running the algorithm for the site's allocation of Challenge Round spots.

Each site will be notified of the number of Challenge Round spots allocated to that site. The algorithm is designed to achieve the best possible proportional distribution of spots subject to the following requirements:

1. Each regional Qualifying Round site receives at least one qualifier spot for the Challenge Round.
2. If two or more sites have an equal number of teams, and the proportional algorithm indicates that the number of spots to be assigned among those tied sites does not divide evenly to a whole number, then as between the tied sites, the extra spot(s) shall be awarded to the tied site(s) having the stronger field of teams entered at that site. Strength of Field (SOF) will be determined through peer seeding. Prior to the USCA publishing the site selections of the teams, each team will be asked to select and rank the teams they believe are the top twelve (12) teams in the entire field. The results will be used to determine the top twelve (12) seeds. If there is a tie for a particular position, both teams will be assigned the higher position for which they are tied, and the next team's rank will drop down accordingly. Once seeded, the top twelve (12) teams will be assigned values as follows:
 - 1 to 3 = 4.4
 - 4 to 6 = 3.3
 - 7 to 9 = 2.2
 - 10 to 12 = 1.1
 - The sum of these values for the teams at a single site will be considered the SOF value for that site. The site(s) with the higher SOF value will receive the extra spot(s) using SOF as the tie break to award one extra spot to the higher team if there is one extra spot, or one extra spot to each of the two higher sites if there are two extra spots to award.
 - The site(s) with the higher SOF value will be awarded the additional qualifier spot(s).
 - In the unlikely event of a tie in the SOF value between two (2) or more tied sites, that tie will be broken based on the respective highest seed at each site, with the extra spot(s) being awarded in order of the rank of the highest seed.
 - Determination of Challenge Round teams will be based on order of finish at the regional Qualifying Round site. If any team that is eligible for a Challenge

Round berth based on finish elects not to participate in the Challenge Round, that spot will be filled from the highest-ranking team on the WCT points list that has not already qualified for the Challenge Round or the Trials, regardless of the regional Qualifying Round site at which the WCT points team competed.

- For fill purposes there will be no minimum number of points required.
- If there is no team with WCT points available to fill a vacated spot, then the spot will not be filled. The Challenge Round will be a peer seeded single round robin event. Four teams will qualify from the Challenge Round into the Trials based on order of finish.

Women's selection process if 13 or fewer teams register nationally.

a) If there are ten (10) or less teams registered for the Qualifying Round, then all teams advance to the Trials. The Qualifying and Challenge Rounds are cancelled.

b) If there are eleven to thirteen (11-13) teams registered, then the Qualifying Round is cancelled. The 2008 Women's National Champion plus the top two (2) WCT Points Teams as of December 31, 2008, advance to the Trials and the remaining teams are eligible to compete in the Challenge Round. If the 2008 Women's National Champion does not or cannot advance to the Trials, then the top three (3) WCT Points Teams as of December 31, 2008, advance to the Trials and the remaining teams are eligible to compete in the Challenge Round. In order to be eligible as the 2008 Women's National Champion, the team must have on its 2009 National Championship Roster four (4) of its five (5) players who registered for the 2008 National Championship (or three (3) of four (4) in the case of a team that won the Championship with only four (4) registered players). For purposes of determining WCT ranking for purposes of qualifying where there are 11-13 teams, no minimum threshold number of WCT points is required. If fewer than four (4) teams have WCT points, then only those teams with WCT points may advance to the Trials.

c) At the Challenge Round, the number of teams that qualify for the Trials will be the number necessary to complete the ten (10) team field at the Trials, based on order of finish, depending on how

many teams qualified through WCT points.

Men’s and Women’s Trials Format

- a) The Trials will be a peer seeded single round robin event, with 10 men’s and 10 women’s teams qualifying. If there are six (6) or fewer teams participating in the Women’s Trials, the women will play a double round robin with a Page playoff.
- b) The top four (4) teams as determined by round robin or tie-breaker games will advance to the Page System of playoffs. Tie-breakers will be played under the rules set forth in the 2009 USCA Championship Rules booklet. The relative ranking of the advancing teams will be determined by the Chief Umpire according to the 2009 USCA Championship Rules booklet. Team #1 plays Team #2 with the winner advancing to the final game. Team #3 plays Team #4 with the loser eliminated. The winner of the #3 vs. #4 game will play the loser of the #1 vs. #2 game, with the winner advancing to the final and the loser receiving the bronze medal.
- c) The winning teams will be required to participate in all training activities leading to World Championships and the 2010 Olympic Winter Games as outlined by the Athlete Development Director and the Elite Programs Committee, see Section IX.

D. The following are the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the names and titles of the current members:

(*20% or more committee voting representation by athletes selected by athletes. Membership on the Elite Programs Committee and Executive Committee is subject to change based upon the USCA’s annual election and reorganization process.

USCA Elite Programs Committee

Walt Erbach, chair	USCA Director & Vice President, Competitive Programs
Bob Fenson	USCA Past President; Level 4 Coach; 1979 National Champion, 2006 Olympic Coach
Richard Maskel*	USCA Director & AAC member; 1986 World bronze medalist; 2002 Men’s National Champion, 4th at Worlds
Nicole Joraanstad*	USCA Director; AAC chair; 2006 World silver medalist
Bill Todhunter*	USCA Director; AAC member; 2007 World bronze medalist
Peggy Hatch	USCA Director; 2006 Olympic Games Assistant

	Team Leader
Jacqui Kapinowski*	AAC rep; 2008 World Wheelchair Curling bronze medalist
Jim Pleasants	USCA Director & Vice President, Championships
Ed Lukowich	Non-voting staff liaison; Athlete Development Director; 1988 Olympian (Canada); 1986 World Champion (Canada)

USCA Executive Committee

Chris Moore	President
Chris Sjue	Vice President, Member Services
Kent Beadle	Vice President, Marketing & Operations
James Pleasants	Vice President, Championships
Walt Erbach	Vice President, Competitive Programs
Jack Bernauer	Secretary & Treasurer
Georgia West	Immediate Past President and USCA Director
Bill Todhunter*	Member, USCA AAC; USOC-AAC rep; 2007 World bronze medalist
Tom O'Connor *	USCA AAC rep
Nicole Joraanstad*	Chair, USCA AAC; USCA Director; 2006 World silver medalist
Janet Farr	USCA Director (rep from the U.S. Women's Curling Association)
Judy Maier	USCA Director
Bob Pelletier	USCA Director

Additional staff/committee members

Rick Patzke	USCA Chief Operating Officer
Scott Higgins	USCA Coaching Development Director
Dave Jensen	Chair, USCA Coaching Committee
Sam Williams	Chair, USCA Rules & Officiating Committee

Any members of the committees for whom a direct conflict of interest arises connected to overseeing the selection process (to include, but not be limited to, a competing athlete, a coach or a family member of an athlete being considered for a nomination to the 2010 Olympic Team) will recuse themselves from the committee, and will be replaced on the committee with another person (or, in the case of an athlete, an athlete named by the USCA Athletes Advisory Council) prior to any necessary committee vote.

II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

A. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

USCA will use discretionary selection for the following:

- Fifth Player
- Sixth (Replacement) Player
- Team Replacement
- Athlete replacement beyond the Sixth Player

USCA will use discretionary selection to field the most competitive team(s).

B. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used:

Fifth Player. For teams who enter the Trials with five (5) players and win, all five (5) players will be nominated for the Olympic Winter Games. However, if a winning team has no fifth player, a fifth player 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.

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 (2) 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. The 5th player will then be recommended to the Executive Committee for 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. In case of dispute, the ADD will have final authority.

Fifth players will be selected by April 30, 2009. Athletes selected as 5th players for the 2009 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 5th player, by the April 30 date, immediately after the 2009 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 stated above. (See also Section VI, Date of Nomination.)

Sixth player. Men's and women's teams 6th players will be selected by December 1, 2009, as a "replacement," to be sent to Vancouver on short notice should they be needed. The 6th 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 6th player's ability to fill in on the team roster at a world performance level as needed. The sixth players will also be subject to drug testing. The 6th player will then be recommended to the Executive Committee for approval. Once named, the sixth player will be the first replacement under Section IV.A. below. Athletes selected as 6th players DO NOT receive status as Olympic Team nominees.

Replacement Players beyond the Sixth Player. Replacement athletes beyond the 6th 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, based on their judgment of the replacement player's ability to fill in on the team roster at a world performance level as needed. The replacement player will then be recommended to the Executive Committee for approval. Replacement of athletes named to the Olympic Team will be made only if not prohibited by the WCF and the USOC. Replacement players do not receive status as Olympic team nominees.

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 (4) years at World or Olympic competition.

C. Discretionary Selection Committee

1. The compositions and qualifications for the committees responsible for approval of discretionary selection are as listed in Section I. D.

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. (*20% or more committee voting representation by athletes selected by athletes. Membership on the Elite Programs Committee and Executive Committee is subject to change based upon the USCA's annual election and reorganization process.)

Any members of the committees for whom a direct conflict of interest arises connected with a discretionary selection decision (to include, but

not be limited to, a competing athlete, a coach or a family member of an athlete being considered for a nomination to the 2010 Olympic Team) will recuse themselves from the committee, and will be replaced on the committee with another person (or, in the case of an athlete, an athlete named by the USCA Athletes Advisory Council) prior to any necessary committee vote.

III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- A. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, the USCA has jurisdiction over potential nominees. An athlete who is to be nominated to the team by the USCA may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USCA:
- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USCA COO/Executive Director.
 - Injury or illness as certified by an approved USCA physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved USCA physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
 - Violation of the USCA Player/Coach Agreement or the USCA Athlete/Coach Code of Conduct (Attachment A & Attachment B). An athlete who is removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USCA's Bylaws (USCA By-Laws, Article 13) or the USOC's Bylaws, Article 9.
- B. After acceptance of nominations by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the team under the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures. This occurs no earlier than 45 days and no later than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremonies of the Games (unless expressly waived by the USOC).

A team member who is accepted by the USOC is subject to the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.

- C. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the team or from the team at any time for violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, WCF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable. 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: See Section II.B., above, and Section IV.B., below.

B. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected, should a vacancy occur.

1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

a) 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., above, the replacement player will be the sixth player as selected and identified in Section II. B . Replacement athletes beyond the 6th player will be as identified and selected in Section II.B. Replacement of athletes named to the Olympic Team will be made only if not prohibited by the WCF and the USOC.

b) 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 (3) 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 (4) years at World or Olympic competitions. Team replacement is subject to ratification by the USCA Executive Committee.

2. After acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

a) The process will be the same as prior to acceptance of nominations. See Section IV.A and B.

C. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations.

i. Group or committee who determines the replacement pool:

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.

ii. Group or committee who determines a replacement to the team:

a. prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC: See Section IV.B.

b. after acceptance of nominations by the USOC: See Section IV.B.

V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A. The USCA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six (6) months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Games.

VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

A. The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

1. Code of Conduct (Attachment A)
2. USCA Player/Coach Agreement (Attachment B)

VII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

A. The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USCA in the following locations and will include the USOC approval date:

B. USCA Web site: www.usacurl.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) business days following notice of approval by the USOC.

C. USCA Official Publication (if any):

The USCA will publish a link to the complete U.S. Olympic Team Selection

Procedures in the first and any subsequently applicable issues of the U.S. Curling News (applicable as in before the registration deadline for the Trials).

D. Other: N/A

VIII. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC by April 30, 2009.

IX. MANDATORY TEAM TRAINING

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

Competition at the 2009 Women's and Men's World Curling Championships, March and April 2009, respectively, is mandatory. The ADD will prepare a mandatory post-Trials/pre-Worlds training program prior to the Trials.

The training and competitions schedule between April 2009 and February 2010 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 2009 World Curling Championships.

The nominees 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 2009) and through the commencement of the 2010 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 USCA's objectives and 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 the following:

1. Team and ADD will commit to a formal communication plan to monitor the on- and off-ice training.
2. Team commits to an on- and off-ice training plan.

3. Team commits to work with the 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/as scheduled.
6. Team makes timely reports on its 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 the team's 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 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

- A. The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:
 - Chris Moore, President
 - Ed Lukowich, USCA Athlete Development Director (ADD)
 - Jim Pleasants, USCA Vice President, Championships
 - Nicole Joraanstad, Chair, USCA Athletes Advisory Council
 - Bill Todhunter, USCA AAC rep to the USOC AAC
 - Richard Maskel, USCA AAC rep
 - John Benton, USCA AAC rep
 - Georgia West, USCA Past President
 - Rick Patzke, USCA Chief Operating Officer
 - Scott Higgins, USCA Coaching Development Director
 - Dave Jensen, Chair, USCA Coaching Committee
 - Sam Williams, Chair, USCA Rules & Officiating Committee

- David Garber, USCA past COO (through 2006) and USCA Special Projects Coordinator

XII. NGB/PSO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

A. The USCA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USCA website, www.usacurl.org.

XIII. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

A. 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 may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

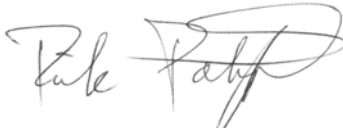
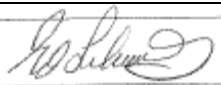
XIV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN


A. 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:

1. Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
2. E-mail at john.ruger@usoc.org
3. www.888athlete.org

XV. NGB/PSO/PSO SIGNATURES

A. I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF and/or CF (PAG only), if applicable, standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the U.S. Curling Association.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB Executive Director	Rick Patzke		07/10/2008
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Ed Lukowich		07/10/08

USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Bill Todhunter		7/10/08
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*If USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

*Signature by the AAC Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures and certifies that the Selection Procedures submitted represent the method approved by the NGB/PSO. If the AAC Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/PSO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Partnerships Team or U.S. Paralympics representative.

Attachment A
U.S. CURLING ASSOCIATION
PLAYER/COACH/CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT
2008-09

(revised June 6, 2008)

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, national, or international 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 make all reasonable efforts to 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 further acknowledges that the USCA reserves the right to withhold any USCA payment or reimbursement to the Team, in connection with any USCA event, for any violation of this agreement.

11. **Penalties & sanctions:** Team further acknowledges 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, religion or age.

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. **Athlete Development Director/National Coach (ADD):** The Team and Coach will cooperate fully with the ADD. Decisions regarding team line-ups, individual player positions, substitutes and playing time will be made cooperatively with the full input of the Team and Coach. However, in the event of any dispute, the ADD has the final authority regarding playing assignments for all players, including, but not necessarily limited to, game line-ups, player positions and substitutions during a game.

e. **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.

f. **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.

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

h. **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.

i. **Elite Programs Committee:** The USCA understands that certain situations may arise that are not covered by this agreement. To accommodate these situations, the USCA Elite Programs Committee, which includes 20% athlete representation, will 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 15 of this agreement, except section 15. 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.

PARTICIPANT RELEASE (USCA use, adult)

The undersigned hereby makes the following representations: (i) that the undersigned understands that the sport of curling is played on ice and requires physical fitness; (ii) that the undersigned possesses such physical fitness; and (iii) that the undersigned understands that the risks of participating in any curling activity could involve serious injury or death.

In consideration of being allowed access to the Ice House (as defined below) as a participant in any curling activity in the Ice House, I, the undersigned, for myself and my estate, successors, heirs, beneficiaries, administrators, trustees, representatives, and attorneys do hereby remise, release, acquit, and forever discharge (i) the United States Curling Association, Inc. ("USCA") and its member states and regions and the member clubs; (ii) the respective successors and assigns or each of the Club, region and the USCA, and (iii) the respective employees, officers, and directors, but only while acting in their capacity as such, of each of the Club, member region and the USCA (collectively, the "Releasees") from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, demands, and liabilities, both in law and equity for damages and any court costs and legal expenses and fees associated therewith in respect of physical, mental, and bodily injury occurring to me while participating in any curling activity in the Ice House prior to the Expiration Date (as defined below); provided, however, that in the event such injury was caused, in whole or in part, by the willful, intentional, reckless, or grossly negligent action or failure to take action of any Releasee, such Releasee shall not be so remised, released, acquitted, or discharged hereby; and provided, further, that nothing herein shall be deemed to limit or exclude any action, cause of action, claim, demand, liability, payment, reimbursement, other benefit, or any court costs or legal expenses and fees that I or my estate, successors, heirs, beneficiaries, administrators, trustees, representatives, or attorneys might have or seek against (a) the Club's "Participant Medical Accident" insurance coverage, (b) any other participant participating in any curling activity in the Ice House, or (c) against any other person or entity other than a Releasee.

The Ice House shall mean the single room containing one to eight sheets of ice in which the sport of curling is played at a USCA-sanctioned event, with the venue and date information as published annually in the USCA web site www.usacurl.org. The venue may be a curling-only facility or a rented arena. The Expiration Date shall mean the date which is one (1) calendar year after the date this Release is executed below.

I certify that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and have the legal capacity to execute this Participant Release on my own behalf.

I hereby revoke any and all releases of liability, waivers, and indemnifications previously executed by me in favor of any of the Releasees.

BEFORE SIGNING, I WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ THIS PARTICIPANT RELEASE AND TO CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY AS TO ITS

SIGNIFICANCE. BY SIGNING, I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM WAIVING SIGNIFICANT RIGHTS. I UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THIS PARTICIPANT RELEASE AND THE RIGHTS I AM WAIVING. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, I HAVE CHOSEN, OF MY OWN FREE WILL, TO EXECUTE THIS PARTICIPANT RELEASE.

PARTICIPANT RELEASE (USCA under age 18)

The undersigned, being a parent or legal guardian of the minor curler (“Minor”) indicated below, hereby makes the following representations: (i) that the undersigned is legally responsible for the Minor and legally empowered to act for, on behalf of, and to execute this Participant Release and thereby bind the Minor; (ii) that the Minor will comply with the rules and regulations of the Releasees (as defined below); (iii) that the undersigned understands that the sport of curling is played on ice and requires physical fitness; (iv) that the Minor possesses such physical fitness; and (v) that the undersigned understands that the risks of the Minor participating in any curling activity could involve serious injury or death.

In consideration of the Minor being allowed access to the Ice House (as defined below) as a participant in any curling activity in the Ice House, I, the undersigned, for the Minor and the Minor’s estate, successors, heirs, beneficiaries, administrators, trustees, representatives, and attorneys do hereby remise, release, acquit, and forever discharge (i) the United States Curling Association, Inc. (“USCA”); (ii) the member state/regions and clubs of the USCA; (iii) the respective successors and assigns of the USCA and its member regions and clubs (iv) the respective employees, officers, and directors, but only while acting in their capacity as such, of the USCA and its member state/regions and clubs (collectively, the “Releasees”) from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, demands, and liabilities, both in law and equity for damages and any court costs and legal expenses and fees associated therewith in respect of physical, mental, and bodily injury occurring to the Minor while participating in any curling activity in the Ice House prior to the Expiration Date (as defined below); provided, however, that in the event such injury was caused, in whole or in part, by the willful, intentional, reckless, or grossly negligent action or failure to take action of any Releasee, such Releasee shall not be so remised, released, acquitted, or discharged hereby; and provided, further, that nothing herein shall be deemed to limit or exclude any action, cause of action, claim, demand, liability, payment, reimbursement, other benefit, or any court costs or legal expenses and fees that the Minor or the Minor’s estate, successors, heirs, beneficiaries, administrators, trustees, representatives, or attorneys might have or seek against (a) the Club’s “Participant Medical Accident” insurance coverage, (b) any other participant participating in any curling activity in the Ice House, or (c) against any other person or entity other than a Releasee.

The Ice House shall mean the single room containing one to eight sheets of ice in which the sport of curling is played at a USCA-sanctioned event, with the venue and date information as published annually in the USCA web site www.usacurl.org. The venue may be a curling-only facility or a rented arena. The Expiration Date shall mean the date which is one (1) calendar year after the date this Release is executed below.

In the case that the Minor requires urgent medical attention and I cannot be reached, I hereby authorize (i) emergency personnel and medical practitioners selected by any of the Releasees or other chaperone of the Minor, in their reasonable judgment and sole discretion, to take any and all necessary measures on behalf of the Minor and (ii) the disclosure of the

information set forth below to emergency personnel and medical practitioners by any of the Releasees or other chaperone of the Minor/

I hereby revoke any and all releases of liability, waivers, and indemnifications previously executed by me in favor of any of the Releasees.

BEFORE SIGNING, I WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ THIS PARTICIPANT RELEASE AND TO CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY AS TO ITS SIGNIFICANCE. BY SIGNING, I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM WAIVING SIGNIFICANT RIGHTS. I UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THIS PARTICIPANT RELEASE AND THE RIGHTS I AM WAIVING. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, I HAVE CHOSEN, OF MY OWN FREE WILL, TO EXECUTE THIS PARTICIPANT RELEASE.

Attachment B

USCA PLAYER/COACH/CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT/WAIVER RELEASE SIGNATURE

I hereby acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions as set forth in the Player/Coach/Code of Conduct Agreement. I hereby confirm receipt of the supplemental document, "Waiver and Release Form," as identified in paragraph #2 of this agreement and by my signature below, I acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions as set forth on the "Waiver and Release Form."

Signature (circle one) Player /Coach Player's parent/guardian, for players under 18 years of age

Print name

Print parent/guardian name

CLUB MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATION FOR 2008-2009 **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Check one: Jr. Women's** Jr. Men's** Women's Club Natls Men's Club Natls Mixed Seniors**

Wheelchair Trials*** College Men's Trials** Women's Trials** Mixed Doubles **

Name _____ Birth date _____

Address (legal residence) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email _____ Playdown region or Qualifier site _____

*I am a member of the following USCA club: _____

*All players are required to be a dues-paying member of a USCA member club at time of playdown entry deadline. One exception to this rule is that, for the 2009 USCA Men's and Women's National Championships/2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling, athletes may alternatively make a one-time payment of a \$100-per-athlete administrative fee.

I am a citizen of the United States
United States (Mixed & Club Nationals)

I am a qualified legal resident of the

** Please provide proof of citizenship along with this form. Proof of citizenship can be a clear photocopy of U.S. Passport photo/personal page, or of U.S. birth certificate, or a notarized statement from a witness to seeing your U.S. Naturalization Certificate. Proof of citizenship is not necessary if athlete's name is listed on U.S. Citizenship List on the USCA website (www.usacurl.org) on the Championships link.

Naturalization Certificate # _____

***Players must also be paid members of a club which belongs to a State or Region which is a member of the USCA, or must pay a \$100 administrative fee at the time of registration to the USCA for any player not belonging to such a club.

TEAM SKIP _____ Vice skip _____

Second _____ Lead _____

Fifth _____ Coach _____

I hereby attest that the above information is accurate. All information on this form is subject to verification by the USCA. **FALSE INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN PLAYER OR TEAM DISQUALIFICATION.**

Athlete's signature _____ Date _____



Please complete a separate form for each team member. Mail or fax (715-344-2279) forms and complete payment for entire team to the USCA covering the sum of USCA entry fees and regional entry fees to the USCA National Office, 1100 CenterPoint Drive, P.O. Box 866, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Within five days of the entry deadline date, the USCA office will submit team rosters to the regional playdown chairpersons.

Payment method: Check (enclosed) Credit Card (if credit card is used, please enter your billing address above)

PAYMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR TEAM BY ONE PERSON (I.E. ONE CHECK OR ONE CREDIT CARD)

Visa Mastercard Discover American Express Name on credit card: _____

Billing address for credit card: _____

Email address of credit card holder to send acknowledgement of the credit card charges:

Credit card number: _____ Expiration date _____ Security code on back of credit card _____

Authorized signature: _____

Event	USCA fee*	Regional fee	TOTAL FEES
M/W Club Nationals/Mixed	\$250 per team	\$_____ per team	\$_____
Seniors	\$250 per team	No regional fee	\$250 per team
Wheelchair	\$50 per player	No regional fee	\$50 per player
Jr. Men's/Jr. Women's	\$250 per team	\$_____ per team	\$_____
2009 Men's & Women's ationals/2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials	\$500 per team	No regional fee	\$500 per team
Mixed Doubles	\$250 per team	No regional fee	\$250 per team

**Event entry fees are subject to change based upon review by the 2008 USCA Championships Committee.*



**UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS HEALTH FORM**

PARTICIPANT'S NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH
____/____/____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ AGE _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME _____

HOME PHONE _____ BUS _____
CELL _____

EMERGENCY WHEN PARENT/GUARDIAN CANNOT BE REACHED, PLEASE CONTACT:

NAME _____

HOME PHONE _____ BUS _____
CELL _____

NAME OF MEDICAL INSURANCE _____

POLICY AND GROUP NUMBERS _____

Do you have any medical conditions at present?	YES	NO
If yes, explain:		
Are you allergic to any medications?	YES	NO
If yes, explain:		
Are you taking any medications?	YES	NO
If yes, explain:		
Date of last tetanus shot (month, year)	YES	NO
SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT _____ DATE _____		

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

The parent/guardian of the Participant, a minor, agrees that the Participant and parent/guardian will abide by the rules of the USCA and its affiliated organizations and sponsors. Recognizing the possibility of physical injury associated with curling and in consideration for the USCA and its affiliates accepting the Participant for its curling programs and activities, the parent/guardian hereby releases, discharges, and/or otherwise indemnifies the USCA and its affiliated organizations and sponsors, their employees and associated personnel, including the owners of ice sheets and facilities utilized for the programs, (collectively "USCA Personnel"), or any USCA Personnel transporting the Participant to or from the facilities utilized for the programs against any claim by or on behalf of the Participant as a result of the Participant's involvement in the program. Parent/Guardian hereby authorizes the Participant to be transported by the USCA Personnel.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____



FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE:

In case of an emergency occurring during the USCA camp or championship, if neither parent/guardian can be reached, I authorize a qualified and licensed medical physician to take all necessary measures in the treatment of the Participant named above.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

*THIS FORM IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY **ALL** USCA JUNIOR PLAYDOWN PARTICIPANTS.*



Attachment C

WCT Points Determination

- 1) For men a “WCT event” is an event listed on the Asham World Curling Tour Schedule (<http://worldcurlingtour.com>).
- 2) For women a “WCT event” is an event listed on the WCT Women’s or WCT Men’s Tour Schedule.
- 3) Teams must report their winnings to the USCA Athlete Development Director (ADD) and the USCA Vice President of Elite Programs on the standard Results Report form (available on the USCA website Competitive Programs page, www.usacurl.org) to have those winnings count toward WCT points. A report should be filed for each event as soon as practical after the event, generally within one week, but no later than Dec. 27, 2008.
- 4) All money counted toward the WCT Points Rankings will be converted into U.S. dollars as of the conversion rates on Sept. 1, 2008, then into points.
- 5) The ADD will track and provide the most current WCT Points Rankings to the USCA for posting on the USCA website, www.usacurl.org on or about Oct. 31, Nov. 30 and Dec. 31, 2008 (Final Standings).
- 6) Strength of Event Multiplier Men and Women - 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 Sept. 1, 2008) by the following factors depending on the strength of the event:
 - a. World Curling Tour Grand Slam Event 3 x
 - b. WCT Canadian or European events 3 x
 - c. WCT events in the U.S. 1 x
 - d. A WCT Event held in the U.S. in which more than 50% of the competing teams are from outside the U.S. will be considered as if it were a WCT Event held in Canada or Europe for purposes of the Strength of Event multiplier.
 - e. Provincial Sub-Tour cash spiel events and all other qualifying events 1 x
 - f. An event that meets the following criteria will be considered the same as a Provincial Sub-Tour Event:
 1. At least 16 teams competing
 2. At least \$500 CAN to qualifiers
 3. The event is held outside the U.S.



- 7) WCT points will be earned based on the team's roster submitted with the playdown registration and only for events in which only registered players competed, i.e., no substitutions for WCT events.
- 8) WCT points can only be earned for events completed by Dec. 31, 2008.
- 9) There is no minimum number of events required to earn points.
- 10) A team must be one of the top ten (10) for men, and top six (6) for women, U.S. WCT teams in points in order to receive special qualification for the Challenge Round.

Ties will be broken in the following sequence. Head-to-head results in the most recent WCT Points qualifying event in which both teams participated; largest U.S. dollar equivalent won in a single WCT Points qualifying event; number of WCT Points events in which the team qualified for a payout; draw shot challenge, at a time and place to be designated by the USCA Vice President of Championships.