CURLING CANADA

National Team Program (NTP) and Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) – Selection Procedures and Criteria Policy for Season 2027–2028

Approved by: Curling Canada High-Performance Leadership Team (HPLT),Own The Podium, Sport Canada & Curling Canada Athletes Council

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A. Purpose

1) The Selection Procedures and Criteria Policy for Season 2027–2028 (the Policy) establishes the procedures, eligibility requirements, Selection Criteria and decision-making framework governing the selection of athletes and teams to Curling Canada's National Team Program (NTP) and nominations for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2027–2028 season.

2) The selection process identifies and invests in athletes and teams that, in the expert assessment of Curling Canada's Selection Panel, demonstrate the strongest overall alignment with the objectives of the NTP and the capacity to contribute to sustained international podium performance.

3) The Policy gives applicants a clear understanding of the areas that matter to NTP selection, while preserving the Selection Panel's responsibility to assess the totality, quality, relevance, and interaction of the available evidence.

4) The Selection Panel makes decisions under the Policy through a holistic, evidence-informed assessment that combines objective information, information gathered through the application and selection process, relevant High-Performance program knowledge, and the professional judgment and expert opinion of the Selection Panel.

5) Unless a team qualifies for automatic selection, no single result or Selection Criterion determines selection.

B. Program Overview, Philosophy and Objectives

1) The NTP is the cornerstone of Curling Canada's High-Performance system and provides technical, Performance Services, financial and operational support to elite curling athletes targeting international success.

2) The overarching philosophy of the NTP is to win now without compromising the ability to win in the future.

3) The NTP seeks consistency, accountability and alignment between Curling Canada, athletes, team coaches and Performance Services.

4) NTP objectives include:

    a. achieving and sustaining podium performances at World Championships and Olympic Games;

    b. cultivating excellence across Olympic disciplines and strengthening world-leading athlete development pathways;

- establishing consistent, frequent, and purposeful daily training environments;

    c. integrating coaching, sport science, analytics and Performance Services into athlete and team development;

    d. supporting effective access to Regional Performance and National Training Centres and other world-class training environments;

- developing holistic, athlete-centered performance plans; and

    e. promoting a culture of shared responsibility, performance accountability, integrity, ethics, and fair play.

C. Scope and General Eligibility

1) This Policy applies to athletes and teams seeking selection to the NTP and, where applicable, nomination for AAP carding in:

    a. Four-Person Teams (Men's and Women's)[1]

        i. To be eligible for automatic selection, a team must retain at least three (3) of four (4) athletes, or four (4) of five (5) athletes, from the team that competed at the 2026 Olympic Winter Olympics or won the 2027 Brier or Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

        ii. To be eligible for a Development Team position, the cumulative team age must be less than 120 years for four (4) athlete teams or less than 150 years for five (5) athlete teams as of June 30, 2027, **and** at least one athlete per team must have been an NTP or National NextGen Program athlete in the 2025–2026 or the 2026–2027 season.

[1] 'Four-Person Teams may be comprised of four or five athletes. For the purposes of this Policy, an athlete will be considered a member of the team where they are included within the team's registered WCTRS/CTRS lineup, as finalized in accordance with the applicable WCTRS/CTRS team registration requirements'.

b. Mixed Doubles Teams

   i. To be eligible for automatic selection, a team must continue competing together.

   ii. To be eligible for a Development Team position, the cumulative team age must be less than 60 years as of June 30, 2027 and at least one athlete per team must have been an NTP or National NextGen Program athlete in the 2025–2026 or the 2026–2027 season.

2) This Policy applies to the 2027–2028 competition season and may be reviewed or amended as necessary.

3) An athlete must meet all applicable AAP and Curling Canada eligibility requirements, including:

   a. be a Canadian citizen or otherwise eligible, under World Curling requirements, to represent Canada at the relevant major international competitions;

   b. participate in required national team preparatory, training and performance programs during the applicable period;

   c. be available to represent Canada at major international competitions, including World Championships and Olympic Games, where selected;

   d. meet the published Curling Canada-approved, AAP-compliant, sport-specific carding criteria, if any; and,

   e. be a registrant/member in good standing of the applicable Member Association.

4) Athletes must promptly notify the Executive Director, High Performance of any circumstance that may materially affect eligibility, availability, or the athlete's ability to meet NTP requirements.

5) The Selection Panel will decide any question about an athlete's or team's eligibility. The Selection Panel may exercise its discretion to waive or modify any eligibility requirement, provided the decision aligns with the overall objectives of the NTP.

6) NTP selection and AAP nomination are separate decisions.

7) Meeting an eligibility or pathway requirement permits a team to be considered; it does not create entitlement to NTP selection or AAP nomination.

8) AAP nominations are conditional upon NTP selection, available carding allocation, athlete eligibility and final approval by Sport Canada.

D. Guiding Principles

1) Selection decisions shall:

    a. support the strategic objectives of Curling Canada's High-Performance Pillar;

    b. prioritize athletes and teams with the demonstrated and projected capacity to achieve podium performances at World Championships and Olympic Games;

    c. recognize both current performance and the importance of future performance trajectory and the likely impact of High-Performance investment;

    d. reflect integrity, fairness, transparency and accountability; and

    e. be informed by objective evidence, relevant contextual information, expert professional judgment and collective panel deliberation.

2) Selection to a High-Performance program requires prospective judgment. Historical performance is important, but the Selection Panel must also assess what an athlete or team can achieve in the future and whether NTP investment is likely to accelerate progress toward Curling Canada's High-Performance goals and the objectives of the NTP.

E. Funding and Carding Allocation

1) NTP team support and AAP allocations will be determined annually based on available funding, Sport Canada carding allocations, performance priorities and alignment with NTP objectives.

Discipline	NTP Team Support[2]	AAP Carding Allocation[3]
Four-Person (Men/Women)	Up to five (5) teams per gender	Up to four (4) teams per gender

[2] Allocations to be confirmed for 2027–2028 and remain subject to available Own the Podium funding and Sport Canada approval.
[3] Allocations to be confirmed for 2027–2028 and remain subject to available Sport Canada quota and approval.

Mixed Doubles	Up to five (5) teams	Up to five (5) teams / 10 athletes, subject to overlap

2) Selection to the NTP is not automatic solely because a team meets eligibility requirements, achieves a particular ranking, or qualifies for consideration.

3) The Selection Panel reviews every application and makes final decisions under this Policy.

F. Team Pathways

1) Four-Person Teams – Application and Selection (Up to Four Teams, NTP and AAP)

a. The following teams will automatically qualify for NTP and AAP funding pending Selection Panel approval:

i. 2027 Brier and Scotties Tournament of Hearts Champions

ii. 2026 Olympic Teams

1. Where one or more NTP positions remain available after application of any automatic selection provisions, those positions may be filled through the application and selection process described in this Policy.

b. **Development Team (Up to one team, NTP only):**

i. Selected through application and review by the Selection Panel.

2) Mixed Doubles Teams – Application and Selection (Up to Four Teams, NTP and AAP)

a. **The following teams will automatically qualify for NTP and AAP funding:**

i. 2027 World Championships Representative Team (2026 Canadian Champions)

ii. 2026 Olympic Mixed Doubles Team

1. Where one or more NTP positions remain available after application of any automatic selection provisions, those positions may be filled through the application and selection process described in this Policy.

b. **Development Team (Up to one team, NTP only):**

i. Selected through application and review by the Selection Panel.

3) The Selection Panel will select any Development Team through application and review against the objectives and intended development purpose of that position.

G. Selection Panel

1) The Selection Panel will consist of:

- Executive Director, High Performance (voting member)
- National Team Program Manager for the relevant discipline (Men's/Women's or Mixed Doubles) (voting member)
- Lead Performance Analyst (voting member)
- Head of Performance Services (non-voting member)
- Own the Podium High-Performance Advisor (non-voting member)
- Official Record Keeper (non-voting member)

2) Quorum of the Selection Panel is a majority of the voting members.

3) Decisions of the Selection Panel will be by majority vote of the voting members.

H. Application Requirements and Sources of Information

1) Eligible teams must submit a formal NTP application by the deadline identified below. The application form may request information, including:

- team and individual performance plan overview and alignment with national High-Performance objectives;
- training and competition schedule, including domestic and international plans;
- summer/off-season performance plan, including physical, technical, tactical, mental and recovery elements;
- daily training environment and access to suitable training facilities;
- team coach and coaching environment;
- access to Performance Services and multidisciplinary support;

- athlete availability, commitment and anticipated team continuity;
- identified performance gaps and the team's plan to address them; and
- intended use of NTP support and how future investment will contribute to measurable performance progression.

2) The written application is one source of information not the whole selection assessment. The Selection Panel may also consider:
   - objective competition results, rankings, performance analytics and relevant historical data;
   - information provided during interviews, presentations or subsequent clarification;
   - relevant observations and information already reasonably available to Curling Canada through High-Performance program interactions;
   - professional input from Curling Canada coaches, Performance Services practitioners, analysts and other appropriate High-Performance personnel; and
   - other relevant information that assists the Selection Panel in assessing the published Selection Criteria and program objectives.
3) Where material information requires clarification, the Selection Panel may seek additional information from an applicant or appropriate High-Performance personnel.

I. Athlete and Team Engagement with High-Performance Staff

1) Curling Canada encourages athletes and teams to engage with its High-Performance staff throughout the season and in advance of the application and selection process.
2) Such engagement provides athletes and teams with opportunities to understand NTP expectations, seek advice regarding development, team composition and performance planning, discuss identified performance gaps, and demonstrate their approach and commitment to High Performance.
3) Curling Canada coaches, Performance Services practitioners, analysts and other appropriate High-Performance staff may provide relevant professional observations and expert opinion to the Selection Panel prior to final selection. Such information must relate to the Selection Criteria, program objectives, or the applicant's demonstrated High-Performance behaviors and development.

4) The Selection Panel will determine the relevance, reliability, and significance of any staff input. Staff input is advisory and does not constitute a separate vote or guarantee of selection. Final selection authority remains exclusively with the Selection Panel.

5) Selection does not depend on how often an applicant has informal contact with staff. The purpose of encouraging engagement is to support development and enable relevant High-Performance information to inform the assessment, not to reward access or personal relationships.

J. Selection Criteria

1) The following Selection Criteria form the basis on which the Selection Panel will assess applications. The Selection Panel assesses each criterion individually but does not weigh or score the criteria. No individual criterion guarantees or prevents selection.

2) The Selection Panel will consider the totality of the available evidence and exercise its collective High-Performance expertise and professional judgment in determining which teams present the strongest overall case for support through the NTP.

Selection Criteria	**What the Selection Panel Will Consider**
Performance Record and Competitive Evidence	CTRS/CMDR and/or applicable WCTRS ranking, quality and consistency of results, strength of competition, identified-event performance, W/L record, international and domestic opponent record, relevant historical performance, and performance progression or regression.
High-Performance Experience and Readiness	Previous NTP or national program involvement, international and elite competitive experience, and demonstrated readiness to operate within a world-class High-Performance environment.
Training Commitment and Daily Training Environment	Demonstrated capacity and commitment to frequent, structured and purposeful individual and team training, including geographic and logistical capacity to create an effective daily training environment.

Coaching, Facilities and Performance Support	Quality and availability of coaching, training infrastructure, technical support and multidisciplinary Performance Services, together with the team's willingness and ability to use those resources effectively.
Performance Planning and Program Alignment	Quality, credibility and ambition of the team's plans; understanding of performance gaps; alignment with NTP expectations; and willingness to commit to an agreed year-round Team and Individual Performance Plan.
Future Performance and Podium Potential	An assessment of future trajectory and realistic potential for international podium success, informed by performance data, analytics, technical and tactical assessment, team composition, competitive trends and expert High-Performance opinion.
Future Investment and Progression	The extent to which NTP investment is expected to translate into meaningful future performance progression, including commitment of time and resources, willingness to make required changes, engagement with coaching and Performance Services, and capacity to progress toward Curling Canada's international performance objectives.
Application Process and High-Performance Information	The quality and credibility of information supplied through the application, interview/presentation and clarification process, together with relevant information and expert observations available through Curling Canada's High-Performance program.

3) The relative significance of each criterion may vary depending on the overall applicant and evidence available. The Selection Panel is not required to assign equal significance to each criterion and may consider strengths or weaknesses across criteria collectively.

4) The Selection Panel will select up to the maximum number of teams available in each category.

5) Historical performance and previous NTP membership are relevant evidence but are not determinative. Each Selection Criterion will be assessed on its relevant evidence, but the Selection Panel is not required to assign numerical scores or predetermined weightings, or to calculate an aggregate score across the criteria.

6) Following consideration of the application as a whole, the Selection Panel will identify the teams to be selected based on its collective assessment of the respective application.

7) The Selection Panel may consider additional information where that information is reasonably relevant to a published Selection Criterion, the objectives of the NTP, or the assessment of an applicant's future international performance potential.

8) The selection of applicants reflects the Selection Panel's collective expert judgment after considering the totality of the evidence, including but not limited to the Selection Criteria.

9) The relative significance of individual criteria may vary between applicants, and a higher assessment in any single criterion does not necessarily result in a higher overall ranking.

K. Expert Assessment

1) The Selection Panel may consult additional experts, including coaches, Performance Services practitioners, analysts, medical or sport science personnel, as appropriate. These individuals provide information and expert opinions but do not make the final selection unless expressly designated as voting selectors.

2) Voting members of the Selection Panel will review the available evidence and form a professional assessment of each applicant. During collective deliberation, they may place different significance on the same evidence and may reach different initial assessments. The Selection Panel will consider the totality of the evidence, test differing perspectives and determine which applicants present the strongest overall case for NTP investment.

3) The Selection Panel will consider:

- the material evidence supporting the applicant's candidacy;
- identified performance strengths;
- material performance gaps, risks or uncertainties;

- the applicant's future performance trajectory and podium potential;
- the likely impact and value of future NTP investment;
- the credibility and deliverability of the applicant's stated plans; and
- the applicant's overall alignment with NTP objectives.

4) Selection decisions require professional High-Performance judgment but must be evidence-informed, made in good faith, and consistent with the Selection Criteria and objectives of the NTP.

L. Decision Records and Applicant Feedback

1) The Selection Panel will maintain an internal record of the principal considerations supporting each final selection decision.

2) The internal record captures the material reasons for the decisions of the Selection Panel.

3) For each applicant, the internal record will identify, as appropriate:

   - the selection outcome;
   - principal strengths of the team relevant to the decision;
   - material performance gaps, risks or concerns considered;
   - the principal reasons supporting the decision;
   - whether the decision was unanimous or by majority; and
   - any policy discretion, exception or adjustment relied upon and the rationale for doing so.

4) Applicant teams will be notified of the selection outcome by the dates identified below.

5) Following notification of the selection outcome and the expiry of any applicable appeal timelines, applicants may request feedback.

6) Feedback will focus on the principal considerations that informed the Selection Panel's overall assessment, including relevant strengths, areas for development, future performance considerations and matters that may improve future NTP candidacy.

7) Feedback is developmental. It is not intended to provide a numerical ranking, comparative scorecard, verbatim record of panel deliberations, or exhaustive account of every item considered.

M. Performance Plan and Conditions of Selection

1) All teams confirmed to the NTP will work with National Team Program Managers, coaches and Performance Services staff to implement comprehensive year-round Team and Individual Performance Plans, including significant engagement within the daily training environment.

2) Selection may be conditional on the team's acceptance of NTP requirements, athlete/team agreements, agreed performance priorities and other reasonable program expectations.

3) The Selection Panel may identify specific development priorities or performance expectations arising from the selection process for inclusion within the team's Performance Plan.

N. Key Dates

Activity	Date
Application Opens	March 11th, 2027
Application Deadline – Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles	April 13th, 2027
Selection Panel Review	April 19th–23rd, 2027
Notification of Selections	April 30th, 2027

O. Appeals

1) Curling Canada maintains an Appeal Policy for athletes or teams wishing to challenge a selection decision.

2) Appeals must be submitted in accordance with the timelines, permitted grounds, format and procedures set out in the applicable *Curling Canada Appeal Policy*.

3) Disagreement with the Selection Panel's professional assessment does not, on its own, alter the selection outcome.

P. Governance, Authority and Exceptional Circumstances

1) The Selection Panel may approve an exception or adjustment to the application of this Policy where needed to address unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, to maintain alignment with Curling Canada's High-Performance strategy, protect the integrity or objectives of the NTP, or respond to applicable international qualification requirements.

2) In these circumstances, the Selection Panel will make any required decision, including modifying the applicable criteria or selection decisions. It will do so in accordance with the performance objectives and selection approach in Curling Canada's High-Performance strategy and this Policy. If the Selection Panel makes a decision in this manner, Curling Canada will publicly post the amended Policy as soon as possible.

3) Any material exercise of authority under this section will be considered on its individual circumstances and will not create an automatic entitlement or precedent for another applicant.

4) This section materially affects an eligibility or selection decision, Curling Canada will retain an internal record identifying the provision exercised, the circumstances considered and the principal rationale for the decision.

Q. Interpretation

1) The Selection Panel will interpret and apply this Policy consistently with its stated purpose and the objectives of the NTP.

2) Nothing in this Policy requires professional High-Performance judgment to be converted into a numerical score or requires selection based upon the highest ranking or strongest result in any single criterion.

R. Effective Date and Review

1) This Policy takes effect on October 1, 2026 and governs NTP and AAP selection for the 2027–2028 season.

2) Curling Canada will review the Policy annually to ensure continued relevance and alignment with Curling Canada's strategic objectives and Sport Canada's AAP requirements.