

MILANO CORTINA 2026 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR CURLING EVENTS

New Zealand Curling Association - NZCA

1. Application of this Nomination Criteria

- 1.1 **Status:** This Nomination Criteria is issued by the Executive and shall take effect from 17 September 2024. This Nomination Criteria supersedes any previous correspondence, discussions, and representations (whether written or oral) by NZCA regarding nomination and selection for the Games.
- 1.2 **Scope:** This Nomination Criteria applies to:
- (a) all Athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to the Games Team to compete in the Games in a Curling Event; and
 - (b) NZCA, including its Selectors, that wish to nominate Athletes to the NZOC to be considered for selection to the Games Team for the Games.
- 1.3 **Process:** Selection to the Games Team in a Curling Event is a three-step process:
- (a) All Athletes must be eligible in accordance with clause 3 of this Nomination Criteria;
 - (b) NZCA nominates Athletes to the NZOC in accordance with this Nomination Criteria and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation; and
 - (c) the NZOC selects the Athletes to the Games Team in accordance with the NZOC Selection Policy and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

2. Selectors

- 2.1 **Composition:** The Selectors have been appointed by the Executive. The Selectors who will consider the nomination of the Team and its Athletes to the NZOC to be considered for selection in the Games Team are:
- Convenor of Selectors – Richard Morgan,*
Selection Committee: Peter Becker, Nelson Ede and Patsy Inder
- 2.2 **Change of Selectors:** The Board reserves the right to change a Selector at any time in its absolute discretion prior to the Nomination Date. In such case, it will publish the change of Selectors on the NZCA website.
- 2.3 **Ratification:** The Convenor of Selectors will advise the Executive of the Nominated Team(s), which will be ratified by the Executive prior to Nomination to NZOC for consideration of selection.

3. Eligibility

- 3.1 **Athlete Eligibility:** To be eligible to be nominated to the NZOC by NZCA, an Athlete must:
- (a) be on the NZCA long list for the Games; and
 - (b) have returned a completed Athlete Application to the NZOC, in the form prescribed by the NZOC, by the following dates (“Application Date”):
 - i. no later than 5.00 pm, 4 April 2025; or
 - ii. in exceptional circumstances before 5.00 pm, 6 August 2025 (or such extended date as agreed by the NZOC Board) where New Zealand Curling Association provides the NZOC with evidence that demonstrates that Athlete could not have been reasonably in contemplation on 4 April 2025; and
 - (c) have returned a completed Athlete Agreement in the manner prescribed by the NZOC to the NZOC prior to the Nomination Date; and
 - (d) be a member of NZCA or one of its affiliates; and
 - (e) be a New Zealand citizen and have a New Zealand passport; and
 - (f) have demonstrated to the satisfaction of NZCA that they are not suffering any physical or psychological impairment that would prevent them from competing in the Games to the highest possible standard; and
 - (g) have acted in such a manner so as not to bring the Athlete, the sport, NZCA or the NZOC into public disrepute; and
 - (h) not be under investigation for any breach of any part of the NZCA and/or WC’s anti-doping regulations, the Sports Anti-Doping Rules and/or the NZOC Integrity Regulation; and
 - (i) no later than 6 August 2025 (or such extended date as agreed by the NZOC Board) have provided their name and contact address details to the NZOC for the purpose of locating them for drug testing with the Sport Integrity Commission.
- 3.2 **Qualification:** New Zealand must qualify for places in a Curling Event(s) in accordance with WC’s Qualification System for Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games (“WC Qualification System”) and/or WC requirements for the Games. Qualification for a place in any Curling Event(s) by a group of Athletes does not guarantee that the group of Athletes will be nominated or selected to compete in the Curling Event(s) at the Games.
- 3.3 **Nomination if Nomination Criteria Met:** Provided the requirements set out in clauses 3.1 and 3.2 are met, the Selectors shall nominate to the NZOC for consideration of selection, those Athletes it considers meet the Nomination Criteria set out below.
- 3.4 **Reserve Athletes:** The Selectors may nominate Reserve Athletes to the NZOC for any Curling Event.

4. Nomination Criteria

- 4.1 **Nomination Criteria:** In considering any Athlete for nomination to the NZOC as part of a Team, the Selectors shall consider:
- (a) the Over-riding Nomination Criteria specified in clause 5.1; and
 - (b) the Specific Nomination Factors specified in clause 5.2; and
 - (c) any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with clauses 4.5 and 6.
- 4.2 **Relevance and Weighting:** The Selectors may determine the relevance and weight that they wish to place on any Specific Nomination Factor(s) and any Extenuating Circumstances(s) as they consider appropriate. No Specific Nomination Factor shall be weighed more or less significantly based on the order in which it appears in this Nomination Criteria unless expressly specified.
- 4.3 **Own Enquiries:** In considering the Specific Nomination Factors, the Selectors may make such enquiries of the Athlete, or group of Athletes, as they see fit.
- 4.4 **Conditions:** In considering any results and performances of an Athlete or group of Athletes at any Key Events and Trials, the Selectors may, but are not obliged to, take into account the conditions in which the results and performances were obtained such as, but not limited to, the strength of the field of competitors.
- 4.5 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In any decision regarding the nomination of Athletes to a Team, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, take into account any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with clause 6 below.

5. Over-riding Nomination Criteria and Specific Nomination Factors

- 5.1 **Over-riding Nomination Criteria:**
- (a) In determining whether or not to nominate a Team to a Curling Event, the Selectors' must be satisfied that:
 - i. the Nominated Team has qualified a place at the Games in accordance with the WC Qualification System; and
 - ii. the Nominated Team has demonstrated it is capable of advancing beyond the first round of competition or is capable of achieving a top eight placing where there are no quarter finals; and
 - iii. all Athletes available and eligible to compete in the Nominated Team at the Games are an equal or higher standard and quality to the athletes who comprised the team during qualification; and
 - iv. the Athletes in the Nominated Team have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the Selectors believe demonstrates the Nominated Team will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably.

5.2 **Evidence:** In determining whether or not the group of Athletes in the Nominated Team satisfies the Over-riding Nomination Criteria in clause 5.1(a) above, the Selectors shall have regard to any one or more of the following:

(a) *Results and Performances:* the results and performances of each Athlete at the following Key Events during the Qualification Period:

i. **Mixed Doubles:**

- 2024 World Mixed Doubles Championships
- 2025 World Mixed Doubles Qualifier
- 2025 World Mixed Doubles Olympic Qualification Event
- 2024 and 2025 World Curling Tour Mixed Doubles Ranking Events

ii. **Women's:**

- 2024 and 2025 Pan Continental Curling Championships
- 2024 World Women's Curling Championships
- 2025 World Women's Curling Championships
- 2025 World Curling Pre-Olympic Qualification Event
- 2025 World Curling Olympic Qualification Event

iii. **Men's:**

- 2024 and 2025 Pan Continental Curling Championships
- 2024 World Men's Curling Championships
- 2025 World Men's Curling Championship
- 2025 World Curling Pre-Olympic Qualification Event
- 2025 World Curling Olympic Qualification Event

(b) **Mandatory Minimum Key Events:** Athletes must compete in at least one of the above World Curling Championships or World Curling Olympic Qualification Event in the Curling Event they are seeking nomination for to be eligible for nomination. In addition, Athletes must compete in a minimum of two additional Key Events outside of Oceania in order to be eligible for nomination.

(c) **Trials:** In addition to the results and performance at the Key Events held during the Qualification Period, the Selectors may, in consultation with the Convenor of Selectors (or their authorised representative), decide that a Trial(s) will be held. The Selectors may invite any Athlete they consider appropriate to participate in a Trial, as long as they are eligible under clause 3 of this Nomination Criteria. The Selectors' decision on the invited Athletes is final and cannot be appealed. The nature and format of any Trial will be decided by the Selectors, at their discretion, in consultation with the CEO or authorised representative.

5.3 **Specific Nomination Factors:** When considering the Over-riding Nomination Criteria above, the Selectors may also take into account any one or more of the following factors about a Team and its Athletes within the Qualification Period:

- (a) any other performances or results in competitions / events in addition to the Key Events;
- (b) adequate fitness and a commitment to maintain a fitness and training programme as agreed with the applicable coach(es);

- (c) demonstrated good behaviour, including a commitment to training and attendance at training camps;
- (d) demonstrated compatibility with others in a team environment;
- (e) demonstrated compliance with the rules of events and competitions;
- (f) understanding and respect for the obligations that accompany being a member of a New Zealand team when competing at the Games, including respect for Games Team members;
- (g) willingness to promote the NZCA in a positive manner;
- (h) demonstrated ability to take personal responsibility for self and their results;
- (i) proven ability to be reliable; and
- (j) any other factors the Selectors consider relevant.

6. Extenuating Circumstances

- 6.1 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In considering the nomination of Athletes to the Nominated Team in accordance with this Nomination Criteria, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, give weight to any Extenuating Circumstances which may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (a) injury or illness;
 - (b) travel delays;
 - (c) equipment failure;
 - (d) bereavement or personal misfortune; and/or
 - (e) any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- 6.2 **Athlete to Advise:** Athletes unable to compete at Key Events Trials, or other attendances required under this Nomination Criteria, must advise the Convenor of Selectors of the Extenuating Circumstances and reasons, in writing, with as much advance notice as possible and, ideally, at least seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the Key Event, Trial or other attendance. If the Convenor of Selectors is not notified of any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with this Nomination Criteria, then the Selectors have no obligation to rely on such circumstances.
- 6.3 **Medical Certificate:** In the case of injury or illness, Athletes may be required by the Convenor of Selectors to provide a medical certificate and/or to undergo an examination by a health practitioner/s nominated by the Convenor of Selectors, and to provide that opinion and/or report to the Selectors. Any failure to agree to such a request may result in the Selectors being unable to consider the injury or illness as an Extenuating Circumstance.

- 6.4 **Case-by-Case:** In the case of any Extenuating Circumstance/s, the Selectors will make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

7. Nomination and Selection

- 7.1 **Nomination to NZOC:** NZCA will nominate Athletes as part of the Nominated Team(s) and any Reserve Athletes to the NZOC by the Nomination Date.
- 7.2 **Nomination with Conditions:** NZCA may nominate an Athlete with any conditions, for example, conditions relating to recovery from injury or continuing to meet specified performance levels. If the conditions are not met to the satisfaction of the Selectors, they will not be eligible for selection, unless the NZOC decides to select the Nominated Athlete subject to those or other conditions.
- 7.3 **Selection by NZOC:** Selection to the Games Team by the NZOC will be made in accordance with the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

8. Appeal Procedure

- 8.1 **Non-Nomination Appeals:** An Athlete may appeal to NZCA against their non-nomination to the NZOC by the Selectors provided that the Athlete:
- (a) is on the NZCA long list for the Games; and
 - (b) meets the eligibility criteria under clauses 3 and 5.2(b) of this Nomination Criteria.
- 8.2 **Procedures for Non-Nomination Appeals:** Any appeal under paragraph 8.1 must be made in accordance with clause 13 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 8.3 **Procedures for Non-Selection Appeals:** If a Nominated Athlete is not selected by the NZOC, the Nominated Athlete may appeal the non-selection in accordance with clause 14 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation, provided the Nominated Athlete:
- (a) is on the NZCA long list for the Games; and
 - (b) meets the eligibility criteria under clauses 3 and 5.2(b) of this Nomination Criteria.

9. Inconsistencies

- 9.1 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation:** In the event there is any inconsistency between this Nomination Criteria and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation, the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation shall prevail.
- 9.2 **WC Qualification System:** If this Nomination Criteria imposes a higher qualification standard or a lesser number of participants than stated by the WC Qualification System, this shall not be regarded as an inconsistency.

10. Amendments to this Nomination Criteria

- 10.1 **Prior to Nomination Date:** This Nomination Criteria may be amended or supplemented from time to time by the Executive, before the Nomination Date, provided the NZOC has approved the amendment/s or supplement/s.
- 10.2 **Notice:** The Executive will give as much notice as possible of any amendment/s or supplement/s made under clause 10.1 to this Nomination Criteria, to persons it considers may be affected by any such amendment/s or supplement/s.

11. Definitions

- 11.1 **Application Date** means the dates set out in clause 3.1(b) of this Criteria, by which Athletes must submit to the NZOC a completed Athlete Application in accordance with clause 8.3 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 11.2 **Athlete** means a person who wishes to be considered for nomination to the Games Team.
- 11.3 **Athlete Agreement** means the agreement that must be completed by any Athlete wishing to be considered for nomination and selection to the Games Team in accordance with clause 8.4 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 11.4 **Athlete Application** means the form set by the NZOC that must be completed by any Athlete applying to be nominated and selected to the Games Team.
- 11.5 **Constitution** means the Constitution of NZCA.
- 11.6 **Convenor of Selectors** means the Chief Selector as appointed by the Executive pursuant to clause 2 of this Nomination Criteria.
- 11.7 **Curling Event** means either a Women's, Men's or Mixed Doubles team curling event at the Games.
- 11.8 **Executive** means the Executive of NZCA as constituted under the Constitution.
- 11.9 **Extenuating Circumstances** means the inability to perform at an optimum level arising from one or more of the reasons set out in clause 6.1.
- 11.10 **Games** means the Games of the XXV Winter Olympiad to be held in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy from 6 to 22 February 2026.
- 11.11 **Games Team** means the New Zealand Team at the Games selected in accordance with the NZOC Selection Policy for the Games.
- 11.12 **Key Events** means a competition listed in clause 5.2(a).
- 11.13 **Nominated Athlete** means an Athlete who has been nominated to the NZOC for consideration of selection as part of a Nominated Team.
- 11.14 **Nominated Team(s)** means the group of Athletes in a Curling Event nominated by NZCA to the NZOC for consideration of selection.

- 11.15 **Nomination Criteria** means the criteria made up of the Over-riding Nomination Criteria and the Specific Nomination Factors, and is also referred to as “**this Criteria**”.
- 11.16 **Nomination Date** means on or before 19 December 2025 (and includes any alternative date as agreed between the NZOC and NZCA, by which NZCA must submit the Nominated Team(s) to the NZOC.
- 11.17 **NZCA** means New Zealand Curling Association Incorporated.
- 11.18 **NZOC** means the New Zealand Olympic Committee Incorporated.
- 11.19 **NZOC Integrity Regulation** means the NZOC Integrity Regulation available at <http://www.olympic.org.nz/about-the-nzoc/governance-documents/>.
- 11.20 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation** means the regulation of the NZOC relating to the nomination and selection process for all Olympic and Commonwealth games, including the Games, available at <http://www.olympic.org.nz/about-the-nzoc/governance-documents/>.
- 11.21 **NZOC Selection Policy** means the NZOC Selection Policy for the Games, available at <https://www.olympic.org.nz/games/milan-cortina-2026/selection/>.
- 11.22 **Over-riding Nomination Criteria** means the criteria set out in clause 5.1.
- 11.23 **Qualification Period** means the period between 1 January 2024 to 15 December 2025.
- 11.24 **Reserve Athlete** means a non-travelling reserve, as designated by the Selectors and in accordance with the WC Qualification System and the Milano Cortina 2026 Sport Entry Manual.
- 11.25 **Specific Nomination Factors** means the factors listed in clause 5.3 which the Selectors may take into account when applying the Over-riding Nomination Criteria.
- 11.26 **Selectors** means the selectors appointed by NZCA in accordance with clause 2 of this Nomination Criteria.
- 11.27 **Team** means a team of either 5 (for Mixed Team) or 2 Athletes (for Mixed Doubles) (including substitutes) competing in a Curling Event at the Games.
- 11.28 **Trial** means an event pursuant to clause 5.2(c) on a date and at a venue determined by NZCA and notified to Athletes invited to the Trial.
- 11.29 **WC** means World Curling.
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