

British Curling Paralympic Programme Investment Policy for 2018-19

The investment received from UK Sport is designed to achieve a medal in future Paralympic Games, and British Curling's current role is to invest in the right Paralympic athletes to maximize medal potential in 2022 and 2026. Please note that the levels of investment can only be confirmed following consultation with UK Sport.

Programme Pathway

Performance – Athlete shows clear potential and has processes in place to achieve a medal winning position at the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games.

Performance Foundation - Athlete shows clear potential and has processes in place to improve in order to achieve a medal at the 2022 or 2026 Winter Paralympic Games

Investment Criteria

All athletes applying will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Eligibility - All team members to meet Player Eligibility (Appendix 1)
- WCF Rule – All on ice teams comprise of both genders
- Performance History - All athletes previous three season's results (tournament, playing position and finishing spot)
- Future Potential
 - to develop consistency in shot execution at the level required to medal at World Championships and Paralympic Games
 - to develop consistency in shot execution at the level required to be considered for World Championships and Paralympic Games
 - to be part of a Team that medals at the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games
 - to be part of a Squad that achieves qualification to the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games
 - to develop tactical knowledge that contributes to game management
- Commitment - All athletes to meet the requirements of the British Curling's Paralympic Athlete Commitment document (available on request from katrina.drummond@sisport.com)
- Team Dynamics - All athletes to show ability in team cohesion, robustness and growth mindset, as evidenced in previous Performance Development Plans or Support Staff comment.

Investment Timelines

2 July

Investment Policy issued for British Curling Paralympic Programme.

13 July

Closing date for application to the British Curling Paralympic Programme to be e-mailed to katrina.drummond@sisport.com

16-20 July

Confirmation period for athletes receiving investment.

31 July – 3 August

Attendance at initial Training Sessions at the National Curling Academy, The Peak, Stirling Sports Village, Forthside Way, Stirling FK8 1QZ

Investment Panel

All Investment decisions will be the responsibility of the British Curling Investment Panel. The panel is as follows

BC Performance Director – Voting Member and Panel Chair

BC Head Coach (Wheelchair Curling) – Voting Member

BC Assistant Coach (Wheelchair Curling) – Voting Member

BC Board Representative - Non-Voting Member

This member is to oversee the proper conduct and due process of the selection process, and ensure appropriate recording of all selection information. The Investment Panel will consider the stated Investment criteria in making their decisions, and may also consult support specialists where appropriate.

The investment process is generally an exercise of judgment and is guided by, but not solely determined by, results in competitions. Investment decisions are necessarily subjective and an exercise of expert opinion. As such, while an appeals policy is provided for teams to appeal non-investment on the grounds that the policy has not been adhered to, athletes are not able to appeal against investment decisions on any other grounds including against a Panel member's judgement. A process whereby an athlete can request an appeal of a decision is provided for in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1

Player Eligibility for Investment by British Curling

To be considered for Investment to the Programme, athletes must meet the eligibility criteria set out in 'UK Sport's Eligibility and Consequences Policy'. This applies to all athletes in all funded sports. Athletes should check their eligibility against the full criteria by following the link here <http://www.uk sport.gov.uk/resources/eligibility>, but in summary the athlete must:

- Meet the eligibility and Investment requirements of the IOC, the IPC, the BOA/BPA and the athlete's International Federation /NGB to compete for Team GB and to represent or be a member of the GB or Home Nation Teams at International Competitions;
- Have confirmed international classification, assigned review or the strong likelihood of attaining international classification (Appendix 3)
- Be a British national/British passport holder;
- Not already be serving a suspension or be ineligible from participating in their sport for any reason;
- Not already be ineligible to receive funding from UK Sport;
- Not have an unspent conviction for a serious criminal offence in the UK;
- Not have a conviction for a serious offence relating to betting, manipulation of results or corrupt conduct;
- Not have brought, or bring, through their actions or comments (directly or indirectly) the National Lottery or UK Sport into serious disrepute.

Additionally, to be, or remain, eligible for the Programme, athletes must meet the following criteria required by British Curling

- Be seeking Programme investment for an event which is confirmed on the event programme for the 2022 Winter Paralympics,
- Sign and return the Programme Athlete Agreement.
- Be a current member of a Home Nation Curling Governing body (Scottish Curling/ English Curling/ Welsh Curling).

Appendix 2

Appeals Relating to British Curling Programme Investment Decisions

The following procedures have been adopted by British Curling in consideration of any appeal made by or on behalf of any player or team wishing to appeal his or her investment from the British Curling Programme

Any player or team seeking an appeal of an investment decision should be aware of the time limits contained in the policy which are designed with the intention of resolving issues in a timely, fair and transparent manner.

All players and teams should read this policy carefully and satisfy themselves that they are eligible to appeal in the first instance. Any appeals which do not satisfy the grounds of appeals will be dismissed automatically.

The parties agree not to commence, continue, and maintain any legal challenge to any matter falling under the jurisdiction of the appeal panel before any court of law or dispute resolution body without first following this procedure.

1. A player or team may request an appeal of a investment decision by submitting a written request to the COO of British Curling, Bruce Crawford for a review within 5 working days of the announcement of the investment decision, stating the grounds for the review.
2. Appeals will only be considered on the grounds of;
 - (i) The investment policy process was not followed.
 - (ii) Misconduct of Investment Panel members

There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published investment criteria and therefore against the actions of the investment panel, provided they follow the investment criteria. The criteria for appeal may not include any alleged error of judgment of the investment panel members.

3. The appeal will be coordinated by Performance Director and comprise of a panel consisting of the COO of British Curling/CEO of the Scottish Curling (who in normal circumstances will chair the process); The Chairs of British Curling & the respective Home Nation Curling NGB(s) (or an agreed representative of either) within 7 days of receipt of the request for a review and may at the Appeal Panel's absolute discretion, include a meeting with the relevant team
4. The Appeals. Panel can make one of two decisions can be made at this stage. The panel can:
 - Uphold the appeal and request the Investment Panel to reconsider it investments.
 - Reject the appeal.

The Appeals Panel must make full justification of any decision made.

5. The decision of the Appeals Panel is final and binding on all parties, as the review process is an exercise of discretion in the matter of investment. It is not a disciplinary or 'judicial' finding and as such, is not subject to further appeal.

Appendix 3

Criteria for International Classification

The Athlete must meet one of the following eligibility criteria to compete in the World Wheelchair Curling Championship, World Wheelchair Curling Qualification events and the Paralympic Winter Games, i.e. Requires to be eligible according to International Paralympic Committee (IPC) International Standard of Eligible Impairments and then meet WCF specific classification criteria

Athletes should check their eligibility against the full criteria by following the link here https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161004145727129_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Eligible_Impairments_1.pdf

1. LOSS OF POWER

Loss of power in the lower limbs so that any residual power in the legs is less than a total of 40 out of 80 points. The movements tested are
at the hips – flexion, extension, adduction, abduction
at the knees – flexion, extension
at the ankles – plantar flexion and dorsi flexion
Power will be rated according to the Oxford Scale – 0 - 5. Grade 1 and 2 will be counted as 0.
Examples: Spinal Cord Injury Poliomyelitis Transverse myelitis Spina Bifida Polyneuropathy

2. LOWER LIMB DEFICIENCY

Bilateral above ankle amputation Unilateral hip disarticulation Unilateral above knee amputation and muscle strength in the other leg of less than 25/40 defined as above

3. HYPERTONIA

Hypertonia in the lower limbs graded using the Ashworth Scale at grade 3 or grade 4 and sufficient to prevent all ambulation or limit it to very short distances indoors
Examples Cerebral Palsy
Hypertonia can be associated with levels of strength in the legs greater than 40/80 even although ambulation is severely limited and therefore it is reasonable to use the level of spasticity as a separate eligibility criterion. 4 October 2014

4. INCOORDINATION

Incoordination in the lower limbs, possibly in combination with loss of strength and hypotonia with the objective signs of ataxia so that ambulation is prevented or limited to very short distances indoors.
Example Multiple Sclerosis Cerebral Palsy

5. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

Severe permanent loss of joint range of 50% or more across 2 or more of the large joints (hip, knee, ankle) in both legs.
Example Arthrogyrosis

6. COMBINATION OF ABOVE IMPAIRMENT

Any combination of above impairment, which is severe enough to confine athlete to wheelchair for daily activity.