

New Initiative to Enhance the Development of Coaches and Officials in Australian Curling

Released 8 August 2024 - Curling Australia is excited to announce the launch of a new initiative aimed at enhancing the development of coaches and officials within the sport.

It marks a significant milestone in Curling Australia's 3-year Strategic Plan for 2023-2026, emphasising the importance of developing pathways. The coaching and officiating development framework aims to align with both participation and high-performance objectives, fostering growth and excellence in the sport.

A core component will be the implementation of bespoke learning and development resources, designed to meet the unique needs of the Australian curling community. This initiative aims to elevate skills, knowledge, and accreditation standards among coaches and officials, ensuring they are well-prepared to support curlers at all levels. Additionally, it will provide tailored development opportunities that address the individual needs and skills of each coach and official.

"Our objective is to meet the evolving needs of our growing curling community by delivering a robust framework and resources tailored to support both current requirements and future aspirations," Chair Laurie Weeden.

The project will be led by Australian National Team Head Coach, Perry Marshall, supported by a working group with expertise across Australia and internationally. It will be carried out in three phases over the course of the next 12 months:

- **Phase 1:** Development of the coaching and officiating framework. As part of this phase, we are conducting a survey to gather valuable input that will help shape the framework. We encourage all members of the curling community to participate. The survey will be open until 5 pm AEST on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 and can be accessed [here](#).
- **Phases 2 and 3:** Implementation and upskilling of coaches and officials through a combination of in-person and online learning environments.

Experienced official Sandy Gagnon welcomed the news; "I'm thrilled about this initiative. Establishing a strong and consistent officiating framework through this project will enhance the quality of our officiating and support the development of future officials."

This announcement also coincides with the contract extension of the National Team Head Coach, Perry Marshall, who stated, "I am excited about the prospect of contributing my expertise to assist Curling Australia in achieving its objectives outlined in Curling Australia's Strategic Plan 2023-2026. The development of a coach and official learning and development framework aligns perfectly with my passion for enhancing sports structures and nurturing talent within the realm of curling."

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Curling Australia would like to thank the Australian Olympic Committee, the International Olympic Committee, and World Curling for their support in designing this program. This initiative is funded through the International Olympic Committee's Solidarity Funding for the Development of National Sports Structures.

About Curling Australia:

Curling Australia is the governing body that leads, develops, and promotes the sport of Curling in Australia. We aid and support the individual State Associations and their grassroots endeavours to advance Curling whilst providing a pathway for curlers to compete at National and International events, including the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

For more information, please reach out to the Company Secretary at: secretary@curling.org.au