

Curling Australia

2026 National Championships

Eligibility and Selection Addendum – ES1/2026

1. Purpose and Application

This Addendum clarifies the application of selection rules for the 2026 Australian Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles National Championships and subsequent international events relevant to the 2026/27 season. Further guidance will be issued in relation to other disciplines in advance of their respective National Championships.

It operates as an Addendum to the base Eligibility and Selection Policy and is effective for the 2026 competitive season.

The intent of this Addendum is to:

- Clarify athlete eligibility requirements for Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles Nationals and subsequent international representation
- Confirm the role of Nationals as the basis for nomination
- Describe the Selection Panel confirmation process
- Articulate performance and pathway expectations for athletes progressing through the international pathway

2. Eligibility

2.1 Membership

To enter the 2026 National Championships, athletes must be financial members in good standing of a recognised Australian Member State curling association.

2.2 World Curling Eligibility Requirements

Athletes seeking to represent Australia internationally must satisfy all applicable World Curling eligibility requirements in force at the time of the relevant World Curling event.

Where World Curling requires a defined residency period (for example, two years' residency prior to the relevant event), eligibility will be assessed as at the date of the relevant World Curling championship or qualifier, not the date of the National Championships.

Accordingly:

- An athlete may enter and compete in the 2026 National Championships even if they have not yet completed the residency period,

- Provided the athlete will satisfy the World Curling eligibility criteria by the date of the relevant World Curling event.

Athletes and teams are responsible for ensuring they meet these criteria in time for international representation.

Curling Australia may require documentation to confirm eligibility prior to nomination.

2.3 Integrity and Compliance Obligations

Selected athletes must comply with all applicable:

- World Curling rules and regulations
- Anti-doping requirements
- Sport Integrity policies adopted by Curling Australia
- Codes of Conduct and related policies

Non-compliance may result in withdrawal of nomination or eligibility.

3. National Championships – Basis of Nomination

The winning team in each discipline at the 2026 National Championships will be the first choice for nomination as Australia's National Team for the corresponding international event.

Nomination to represent Australia is subject to confirmation by the Selection Panel.

4. Performance Pathway

International representation and progression sit within an established high-performance pathway, including events that contribute to Olympic qualification and longer-term performance development.

Athletes and teams nominated to represent Australia are expected to commit to:

- Agreed preparation programs
- Identified preparatory competitions
- Performance review and monitoring
- Engagement in development activities aligned with broader pathway objectives

Athletes entering the 2026 National Championships acknowledge that nomination requires individual and team commitment to preparation standards aligned with this pathway, including longer-term Olympic qualification objectives.

5. Confirmation Process

Following the conclusion of the 2026 National Championships, the Selection Panel will undertake a formal confirmation process in conjunction with the winning team.

The confirmation process will be conducted in a manner consistent with principles of procedural fairness. The Selection Panel will assess:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements
- Availability for the full preparation and competition schedule
- Physical readiness and performance capacity
- Commitment to training and preparation standards
- Team balance and composition
- Capacity to compete effectively at the relevant international level
- Alignment with pathway and Olympic qualification objectives

Nomination reflects both immediate performance and commitment to longer-term preparation expectations.

The Selection Panel will apply these criteria reasonably, in good faith, and with reference to documented information available at the time of decision.

6. Selection Panel

The Selection Panel will comprise:

- Board nominee
- National Coach or designated high performance representative
- Independent selector
- Athlete Participant Forum nominee

All panel members will declare and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

7. Selection Outcomes

Following the confirmation process, the Selection Panel may:

1. Confirm the winning team unchanged
2. Confirm the team with agreed adjustments to composition
3. Nominate an alternative configuration where the winning team cannot meet international requirements

Any adjustment will be:

- Directed toward strengthening Australia's international competitiveness
- Performance-based
- Documented
- Communicated to the athletes concerned

For the avoidance of doubt, a decision by Curling Australia to select, not select, nominate, not nominate, confirm or not confirm an Athlete or Team constitutes a selection decision for the purposes of this Addendum and the Curling Australia Selection Appeals Policy.

8. Changes to Original Team line up

If one or more of the selected team withdraw (including alternate and Coach), the team cannot compete in substantially the same form, or eligibility or compliance requirements are not met, the Selection Panel will determine an alternative course of action, including consideration of the next-ranked team from the National Championships.

Decisions will be recorded and communicated to affected athletes.

9. Appeals

Appeals must be lodged in accordance with Curling Australia's Selection Appeals process.

10. Entry Acknowledgement

By entering the 2026 National Championships, all competitors acknowledge and accept that:

- National Team nominations are subject to confirmation by the Selection Panel
- The make-up of the National Team will be determined following the confirmation process
- Curling Australia retains final authority over National Team nomination and international representation