

Curling Australia Ltd (CA)
Athlete & Participant Forum
Terms of Reference

Document Information

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Background

Curling Australia Ltd (CA) is the National Sporting Organisation (NSO) for the Olympic Winter Sport of Curling and the Paralympic Winter Sport of Wheelchair Curling in Australia.

The Australian Curling Federation (ACF) established the **ACF Athlete Commission** in 2019 as an independent and a consultative body to act as the collective voice of athletes to communicate the interests of high-performance curlers in cooperative support of the ACF.

The ACF Athlete Commission concluded with the transition in company structure and rules from the Australian Curling Federation to Curling Australia Ltd. While considering a replacement for the Athlete Commission, the board of Curling Australia determined to expand the role of the group to include players at all levels. We believe that the growth of the sport of Curling in Australia is important for players at all levels of the game.

The **Athlete and Participant Forum (APF)** is established to proactively engage curlers with the operation and governance of the sport of Curling in Australia. The APF is an independent group set up to represent all curlers. It provides a voice for curlers and a platform for dialogue between curlers and the board of Curling Australia.

Purpose

The purpose of the Athlete and Participant Forum is to represent the views of curlers to Curling Australia and to facilitate communication between Athletes, Participants and Curling Australia.

Establishment

The Curling Australia Athlete and Participant Forum is established as a Stakeholder Forum under clause 13 of the constitution of Curling Australia Ltd (26 August 2025). These Terms of Reference constitute the Notice of Stakeholder Forum in accordance with clause 13.2.

Delegation of Powers

The Powers to convene and conduct the Athlete and Participant Forum as a Stakeholder Forum in accordance with clause 13 of the Curling Australia constitution are delegated to the Chair of the Athlete and Participant Forum (APF). This includes the powers to determine the Chair and other participants in the forum such that the APF can be self-governing and independent of the Curling Australia Board.

This delegation is exercised under clause 15.6 of the Curling Australia constitution.

In addition, the APF Chair may at any time:

- Submit requests to the CA Board for consideration;
- Request a decision from the CA Board on matters relevant to the APF.

Conduct of the Athlete and Participant Forum

The Curling Australia Athlete and Participant Forum will use our passion for curling to be the collective voice of Australian curlers. The APF may offer advice, recommendations, and support on a range of important matters from an athlete and participant perspective. The Forum may be asked to respond to specific requests from the Board, and will also be able to raise its own priority issues to the Board for consideration.

Proposed items for discussion may include:

- Competition formats and scheduling
- Selection policies and performance pathways
- Issues of athlete wellbeing, safety and inclusion
- Communications and player engagement
- Code of conduct and dispute resolution
- Development of the sport, locally and nationally

Composition

The APF shall consist of the Chair and other eligible curlers selected as suitable participants to represent the wider Australian curling community. These representatives will be elected by the curling membership in Australia. The APF Chair shall endeavour to ensure that the composition of the Forum includes a minimum of 4 persons and shall strive to have diversity among participants:

- Representation from Olympians/Paralympians, high-performance athletes, and recreational players
- Representation from Athletes and Participants across multiple disciplines
- Representation from diverse genders and abilities
- Representation from curlers across multiple States

Per clause 13.3(c) of the Curling Australia constitution there is no quorum requirement for a Stakeholder Forum.

Representatives

Representatives comprising the Athlete and Participant Forum are:

- **Olympians and Paralympians** who have competed for Australian in Curling at an Olympic Winter Games or Paralympic Winter Games;
- **Athletes** who have competed at a Curling Australia National Championships event or for Australia at any World Curling event;
- **Recreational Participants** who are active in the sport as members of a Curling Australia Member State.

Number of Representatives

Composition of the APF shall be limited to

- No more than one person elected as a representative of Recreational participants from each Member State
- No more than 4 persons elected as representative of Athletes
- Any number of Olympians and Paralympians

Eligibility

Any Australian Curler may participate in the Athlete and Participant Forum, provided that they are:

- An active curling participant as a member of a Curling Australia Member State
- Currently resident in Australia

Any person currently serving in any governance or operational capacity with Curling Australia (as a Director, committee member, management, employee, official or volunteer, etc) is not eligible for the Athlete and Participant Forum.

The Athlete and Participant Forum shall exclude anyone who at any time has been sanctioned for violation of Curling Australia Sports Integrity policy (including Anti-doping, Competition Manipulation and Sports Gambling, Safeguarding of Children and Young People).

To be eligible for election as an **Athlete Representative** a person must meet the above eligibility requirements and additionally will have competed at a Curling Australia National Championships event in the previous 5 years; and/or will have represented Australia at a World Curling event in the previous 5 years.

Election of Representatives

Representatives who will comprise the APF shall be determined by a vote of their peers. Elections will be conducted as and when required to fill any vacancies.

Recreational Representatives

- Each Member State of Curling Australia may accept nominations and conduct a poll among its members to determine one eligible person to represent them on the APF.
- Conduct of elections for these representatives will be determined by each Member state.
- A Member state is not required to elect a representative for the APF.

Athlete Representatives

- An Election of Athlete Representatives will be conducted annually as required following completion of Australian National Championships events for the season.
- All persons eligible for election as an Athlete Representative may vote.
- Conduct of elections for Athlete representatives will be determined by the Chair of the APF.

Olympians/Paralympians

- Any Olympian or Paralympian having represented Australia in Curling at the Olympic Winter Games or Paralympic Winter Games may participate in the APF at any time.

Term of Service

The term of service for any person elected as a representative participant in the APF is 4 years.

Vacancies

A position on the APF will become vacant if an elected representative resigns their position or is removed according to the circumstances below. A position will remain vacant until filled by election of a new representative.

Removal of Members from the Athlete Commission

A representative may be removed from their position under the following circumstances:

- They receive a sanction under Curling Australia's Sports Integrity policy, including anti-doping, competition manipulation, or safeguarding violations.
- They are found to be failing in their duties, as determined by a majority vote of the APF members, in consultation with the Curling Australia Board.

APF Chair

The representatives of the APF will at any time designate one of their members as the Chair.

The APF Chair will exercise the Powers to convene and conduct the Athlete and Participant Forum as delegated to them by the Board of Curling Australia.

The APF Chair will report to the Board of Curling Australia on the Commission meetings regarding all relevant matters and appropriate recommendations for noting or approval by the Board.

The Chair of the APF may be invited to attend Curling Australia Board meetings as a non-voting representative to facilitate dialogue between curlers and Curling Australia governance.

Meetings

The APF must convene at least 2 times in each calendar year. The format of proceedings will be at the discretion of the APF Chair.

The APF Chair may invite or admit any other person to participate at a meeting of the APF as may suit the purpose of the meeting.

Per clause 13.3(c) of the Curling Australia constitution there is no quorum requirement for the Athlete and Participant Forum.

Resources and Support

Curling Australia will provide administrative and logistical support, including communication, meeting facilitation, and representation at key events as approved by the CA Board.

Powers

The CA Athlete and Participant Forum shall have those powers as may be delegated at any time by the Board of Curling Australia under rule 20.2 of the CA Constitution.

In addition, the Athlete and Participant Forum may at any time:

- Submit requests in writing to the CA Board for consideration;
- Request a decision from the CA Board on matters relevant to Athletes;
- Make nominations for an Elected Director position in accordance with Rule 14.5(b) of the Curling Australia Constitution.