
WCF ATHLETE COMMISSION TERMS OF REFERENCE

APPROVED CHANGES DECEMBER 2023

Background

- The foundation of WCF Athlete Commission is necessary to meet IOC requirements
- The first Athlete Commission was appointed at the WCF Executive Board meeting in Riga in March 2013 based on nominations from Member Associations (MAs)
- Subsequently, elections in 2016 and 2018, have ensured the commission completed the process to be wholly athlete-elected representatives
- Motion passed at September 2021 meetings where the AC Chair will be a non-voting member of the WCF Board

Objective

- The mission of the WCF Athlete Commission is to communicate the interests of the Active “A Level” Athletes in cooperative support of the WCF achieving its mission.
- The Athlete Commission is an available resource for all levels of athletes
- Communicate with the athletes regarding WCF activities and issues
- Communicate with/have representation on the WCF Board
- Have representation on and contribute to various working groups and committees
- The Athlete Commission will serve as an independent and a consultative body
- Act as a link with the IOC Athletes Commission

Guiding Principles

The WCF Athlete Commission will:

- Use our passion for curling to be the collective voice of Athletes as defined within this document.
- Be a non-political body that provides recommendations and solutions.
- Actively engage with the Athlete community.
- Be proactive, responsive, timely and efficient with our work.
- Value the unique contributions and perspectives of Athletes, the WCF, its Member Associations, and the IOC AC/IPC AC.

Curlers Eligible to run for Election

- Any athlete who has represented their WCF Member Association in a WCF World “A” Championships or Olympic/Paralympic Games in the prior five (5) seasons in any of the four medal disciplines of Curling at the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Women’s, Men’s, Mixed Doubles and Wheelchair).
- An athlete (Women’s, Men’s, Mixed Doubles) who is ranked inside the top 25 at the end of the season on the World Curling Team Ranking System (WCTRS).
- An active curler must also have never received a sanction for violation of the Olympic Movement Code on Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions or violation of the World Anti-Doping Code.

Curlers Eligible to vote for AC Election

- Any athlete who has represented their WCF Member Association in a WCF World “A” Championships or Olympic/Paralympic Games in the prior five (5) seasons in any of the four medal disciplines of Curling at the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Women’s, Men’s, Mixed Doubles and Wheelchair).
- Any athlete who has represented their WCF Member Association at PCCC (A or B), ECC (A, B, or C), World Wheelchair – B Division in the prior five (5) years.
- An athlete (Women’s, Men’s, Mixed Doubles) who is ranked inside the top 25 at the end of the season on the World Curling Team Ranking System (WCTRS).
- Any athlete who is currently serving on the Athlete Commission is eligible to vote.
- Wheelchair athletes will only vote for Wheelchair discipline candidates.

Authority/Limits of the Committee

- The Athlete Commission has the authority to create its own working plan and implement it as it sees fit.
- Creation and dissolution of Athlete Commission is under the WCF Board authority.

Duration/Timelines

- Election of new members will take place as “Athletes elected by Athletes”.
- The Athlete Commission will work with the Athlete Support Officer to assist in preparing a database of athletes who would qualify at the time of election.
- When elected, athletes will serve terms of four (4) years unless otherwise noted in this document to ensure proper continuance.
- Athletes can continue to be re-elected (no maximum consecutive terms), as long as they meet the definition of “active” athlete.

Composition

- The number of members in the WCF Athlete Commission shall be ten (10) members
- The composition of the ten to eleven (10-11) members shall represent the following:
 - Two (2) Female athletes from the World Women’s Championships
 - Two (2) Male athletes from the World Men’s Championships
 - Two (2) athletes from the World Mixed Doubles Championships
 - Two (2) athletes from the World Wheelchair Mixed and Mixed Doubles Championships
 - Two (2) athletes who are ranked inside the top 25 at the end of the season on the World Curling Team Ranking System (WCTRS)
- One (1) athlete at-large position is available to be filled through appointment, after discussions between the current Commission members and the Board if there are deficiencies in skill sets or regional composition that both mutually feel should be balanced.

The Athlete Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair. The commission can determine these positions as they see fit. These positions need to be revisited after each election. If a decision cannot be made, a private vote will take place through the Athlete Support Officer.

Removal for cause

In consultation with the WCF Board and Athlete Commission, a member can be removed immediately for cause for the following issues:

- Sanctioned for an anti-doping violation.
- Sanctioned for a match manipulation violation.
- Member not fulfilling duties on the commission (as determined by the rest of the Athlete Commission).
- Two (2) unexcused absences from in-person meetings.
- Three (3) unexcused absences from meetings where the member is representing the Athlete Commission

Succession planning

The election system of members to the Athlete Commission has been developed to secure continuance among its members.

Election in 2024

- Two (2) Female Athlete representatives will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a two (2) year term (term ending 2026)
 - o One athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2028)
- One (1) Male Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2028)
- One (1) Female Mixed Doubles Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One female athlete will be elected on a two (2) year term (term ending 2026)
- One (1) Male Mixed Doubles Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One male athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2028)
- One (1) Female Wheelchair Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2028)
- One (1) Female WCTRS Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a two (2) year term (term ending 2026)
- One (1) Male WCTRS Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a two (2) year term (term ending 2026)

Election in 2026

- One (1) Female Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2030)
- One (1) Male Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a two (4) year term (term ending 2030)
- One (1) Female Mixed Doubles Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One female athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2030)
- One (1) Male Wheelchair Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2030)
- One (1) Female WCTRS Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a two (2) year term (term ending 2028)
- One (1) Male WCTRS Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a two (2) year term (term ending 2028)

Election in 2028

- One (1) Female Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2032)
- One (1) Male Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2032)
- One (1) Male Mixed Doubles Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2032)
- One (1) Female Wheelchair Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a four (4) year term (term ending 2032)
- One (1) Female WCTRS Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a two (2) year term (term ending 2030)
- One (1) Male WCTRS Athlete representative will be open for election
 - o One athlete will be elected on a two (2) year term (term ending 2030)

Budget Required

- Any requirement for funding shall be directed through the Athlete Commission Chair to the WCF Board and/or Secretary General for consideration.

Reporting Requirements

- Regular reporting to the Board through the Chair, who sits on the Board

Event Attendance Requirements

- One member of the group should attend the World Men's, World Women's, World Mixed Doubles, World Wheelchair Championships, PCCC, and ECC
- Athlete Commission Chair and two other members to attend Congress annually
- At least two members of the AC to attend the Open Meetings to be part of any discussions and provide a resource to ensure all stakeholders are present.

Support

- The Secretary General (SG) will make available staff resources to the Athlete Commission as needed and achievable within the resources available to SG.
- Athlete Support Officer is available to assist with the needs of the Athlete Commission.