

**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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**2021 National Curling Season Update**

The Australian Curling Federation (ACF) recently issued an expression of interest to seek input from all Australian Curlers as to their intention to compete should a National Championship be held for the Men's and Women's disciplines.

As part of the extensive consultation process, input from the Athlete Commission and all the athlete submissions, comments and questions were considered. During the expression of interest timeframe, stakeholders were further consulted. Many individuals need to be acknowledged for their contributions.

As Australia has not qualified for the Olympic Qualification Event in either of the Men's or Women's disciplines, Australia is eligible to send a Men's and Women's team to the World Curling Federation (WCF) 2021 Pre-Olympic Qualifier event should this take place. The current travel restrictions listed on the Department of Home Affairs website<sup>1</sup> stipulate Australian citizens and residents cannot leave Australia without an exemption. After further consultation with stakeholders it was determined any Australian Men's and Women's Curling team would not meet criteria for exemption or be able to obtain the necessary letters of support to apply for travel exemption.

In light of this information, the ACF Executive was forced to reconsider sending representative teams to a Pre-Olympic Qualifier event. As a result of the government imposed travel restrictions in place caused by the worldwide Pandemic, it is with great disappointment the ACF Executive will be unable to nominate or endorse a Men's or Women's team for the 2021 Pre-Olympic Qualifier event.

When making the decision, the ACF Executive unanimously voted to invoke the statement set out in the ACF Eligibility Document V2.0<sup>2</sup>: *"In the event that unforeseen or extenuating circumstances arise, the ACF Executive holds the power to vote and make a ruling on the given circumstance."*

In view of this decision, the ACF held further discussion on the prospect of hosting a National Championships this year. The ACF Executive voted in favour of cancelling the vision of holding such an event at this time but will revisit the opportunity for this competition later in the year as required, if feasible.

<sup>1</sup> <https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/leaving-australia>

<sup>2</sup> <https://australiancurlingfederation568424814.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/acf-eligibility-document-version-2.0.pdf>