

***USCA TEAM &  
INDIVIDUAL EVENT  
SELECTION POLICY***

**APPROVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
on April 8, 2008**

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## Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>1. Objectives.....</b>                              | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>2. USCA Standing Orders .....</b>                   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>3. Selection Policy.....</b>                        | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>4. Mandatory Requirements .....</b>                 | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>5. Squads/Teams and Events for Selection .....</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>6. Process of Selection.....</b>                    | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>7 Selection Time Frames .....</b>                   | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>8 Requirements for Selection Consideration.....</b> | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>9 Appeals.....</b>                                  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>10 Amendments to this Policy .....</b>              | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Attachment “A” - Player Code of Behavior .....</b>  | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Attachment “B” - APPLICATION FORM.....</b>          | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Attachment “C” - INDEMNITY FORM.....</b>            | <b>14</b> |

## **1. Objectives**

- 1.1 To identify and select players for United States of America (US) representation in both association and golf croquet.
- 1.2 To provide opportunities to continually improve the standard of US croquet among the elite and developing players in the United States of America.
- 1.3 To achieve the best possible results in International and national events, including the MacRobertson Shield, Solomon Trophy (England), Carter Challenge (Ireland), the World Championships and the Selection Eights.

## **2. USCA Standing Orders**

- 2.1 The USCA Management Committee's standing orders provide for the establishment of a Selection Committee and the approval of the Selection Policy by the International Committee to be used by that Committee. This document is the Selection Policy approved by the International Committee of the USCA.

## **3. Selection Policy**

- 3.1 USCA's International Committee, Management Committee and the Selection Committee ("Selectors") wish to remind players that selection to a team or individual event is a privilege of USCA membership and not a right of membership. They also wish to ensure that players are aware of the specific issues that the Selectors will look for in the application of this selection policy. Players are free to offer input into the procedures of this policy. The Chairman of the Selectors will regularly discuss these policy procedures with players. Any changes proposed from these discussions will be referred to the Selection Committee and forwarded to the International Committee for consideration.

## **4. Mandatory Requirements**

- 4.1 For a player to be eligible for selection to represent the United States of America in international events, to participate on the national team at an international test match, and/or be selected to participate on training and development squads, the player shall meet the following requirements.

### **4.2 Residential Requirements**

4.2.1 Residential requirements for players to be selected for an international event are governed as follows:

4.2.1.1 With respect to individual selection for an international event (e.g. WCF World Championships), the conditions set forth in the governing charter of said event shall be applied. In the event no such conditions exist, requirements set forth by the International Committee and approved by the Management Committee shall control.

4.2.1.2 With respect to team selection for an international test match (e.g. Solomon Trophy), the conditions set forth in the governing charter of said test match shall be applied. In the event no such conditions exist, requirements set forth by the International Committee and approved by the Management Committee shall control.

4.2.1.3 With respect to selection to a training and/or development squad, requirements set forth by the International Committee and approved by the Management Committee shall control, except as provided in 4.2.2 below.

4.2.2 The Selectors may invite players who do not meet the residential requirements set forth by the International Committee and approved by the Management Committee to participate in national training and development squads. Any proposed selection under this section 4.2.2 shall be reported to the International Committee for approval prior to public announcement. The International Committee shall have seven days within which to notify the Chairman of the Selection Committee that it rejects the proposed selection. Failure to reject the proposed selection within the time allotted shall be deemed approval of the proposed selection.

#### 4.3 **Other Mandatory Requirements**

Players selected to represent United States of America in an international event shall:

4.3.1 Be affiliated with a member club of the USCA or be a member at large of the USCA;

4.3.2 Be the best performing players (as described in 6.2 below) available for selection without consideration to costs involved, subject to the following:

4.3.2.1 For certain events as specified by the Selection Committee on an annual basis, the selectors may choose players considered to have good potential to promote the success of the particular event or as part of the development of the players;

4.3.3 Be a member in good standing with the USCA and not under suspension by the USCA for breaches of:

4.3.3.1 The Player Code of Behavior approved by the International Committee. The Code of Behavior is outlined in Appendix "A". Breaches of the Code of Behavior may result in expulsion from the Team and/or disqualification from selection for future teams or events for a period of up to 2 years.

### 5. **Squads/Teams and Events for Selection**

5.1 The Selectors shall select players for:

- The National Development Squad,
- National Teams with up to three alternates for the MacRobertson Shield, Solomon Trophy and Carter Irish Challenge Tests and other team events,
- World Championship Tournaments in both association croquet and golf croquet and other individual events with up to five alternates for any such event,
- The Selection Eights, and
- Any other purpose.

5.2 Player Scholarships

5.2.1 Depending on the availability of funds, the Lee Olsen Fund may from time to time award scholarships or grants to selected players to play in major tournaments both in United States of America and/or other countries. Alternatively, the Lee Olsen Fund may allocate available funds equally among the selected players for specified team events.

5.2.2 The basis for awarding scholarships and the number to be awarded shall be determined by the Lee Olsen Fund each year.

5.2.3 Selection of the players shall be made by the Selection Committee.

5.3 Pursuant to Section 6.7 below, the Selection Committee may add or remove players to or from the National Team at any time.

5.4 The USCA shall ensure that players are informed of the timing of the selection of teams and/or individual international events. This information shall be posted in the form of a calendar on the USCA website and the Croquet News. Timing shall depend upon the particular circumstances of the event. Players are responsible for informing the Selection Committee as to their availability for any event the selection of which falls under the Selection Committee's jurisdiction. In general terms, timing for notice of availability, deliberation and selection are as follows:

5.4.1 MacRobertson Shield. Notice of availability shall be made 11 months prior to the event and selection announcement 9 months prior to the event (availability 8 months and selection 6 months for US-hosted event).

5.4.2 Solomon Trophy. Notice of availability shall be made 8 months prior to the event and selection announcement 6 months prior to the event (availability 6 months and selection 4 months for US-hosted event).

5.4.3 Carter Challenge. Notice of availability shall be made 8 months prior to the event and selection announcement 6 months prior to the event (availability 6 months and selection 4 months for US-hosted event).

5.4.4 WCF World Championships (AC & Golf). Notice of availability shall be made 2 months prior to the WCF selection deadline and selection announcement prior to the WCF selection deadline.

5.4.5 Selection Eights. Notice of availability shall be made 4 months prior to the event and selection announcement 3 months prior to the event.

## **6. Process of Selection**

### 6.1 Mandatory elements

6.1.1 Mandatory player residential and other requirements for selection referenced in Section 4 cannot be waived by the Selectors. Players failing to meet these criteria cannot be selected to represent the United States of America.

6.1.2 Any player who accepts an invitation issued by the USCA for an International event and fails to play in that event without good reason shall be subject to sanctions as described below. If a player is unable to play in an event that the player has been selected for, both the Selectors and the individual player involved should resolve this immediately. If the Selectors, after considering the facts, do not believe that good reason has been shown, the player is not eligible to be selected to represent the United States of America for a period determined by the Selectors. The minimum length of ineligibility shall be 12 months. The Player may appeal this decision under the appeals processes detailed in 9 below.

### 6.2 Playing Performance

6.2.1 Selection of players to represent the United States of America will be based on playing performance during International and National events. Other events, with good representation of players who compete at the national level, may also

be used by the Selectors. The Selectors may specify other events that may also be included in the assessment of individual player performances. Players need to be conscious of the timeframes specified in 6.2.3 to ensure that they participate in events that will be considered by the Selectors.

- 6.2.2 Selectors may publicly specify that players' performances in a set of specific events shall be a contributing factor in the process of selection.
- 6.2.3 The Selectors will normally only consider events that have been conducted in the last 12 months, unless the Selectors otherwise specify (life-time history considered in the case of doubles events).
- 6.2.4 Players' performances will be assessed on game and/or match results both in singles and doubles and in particular against quality opponents. A quality opponent shall be defined as one carrying a world ranking in the top 100 (currently at approximately a 2200 grade or above). Particular emphasis may be placed on circumstances, including greater emphasis on playoff or championship settings over block play and plate events. Selectors may take into account the latest national and international rankings in the selection process.
- 6.2.5 The following criteria will also be used to assess player performance:
- success rate of triple peeling, including delayed triple peeling,
  - high level of roqueting ability,
  - low percentage of errors,
  - tactical knowledge in general and in pegged out games,
  - successful match play,
  - successful doubles play,
  - adaptability to and successful performance in difficult lawn and/or weather conditions,
  - doubles pairing compatibility,
  - general aptitude for doubles,
  - thorough knowledge of the rules,
  - performance under pressure,
  - team chemistry
  - individual comportment
  - other player issues as discussed in 6.3.1.

### 6.3 Other Player Issues

- 6.3.1 The Selectors will evaluate players against the following criteria:
- attitude to officials, tournament managers, referees, team captains, managers and coaches as well as other players,
  - willingness to assist the team captain in developing a working relationship with the team to promote a responsible attitude, commitment, trust, competence, respect, safety, honesty, professionalism, equity and sportsmanship among team members,
  - consideration as a good ambassador for the sport, the USCA and the United States of America,
  - physical fitness covering strength, flexibility and endurance,
- 6.3.2 Any issues that arise concerning a player's performance under this heading will only be taken into account where those issues arose within the last 2 years, unless the player concerned has been advised by the selectors of issues that go back beyond this time frame.

## 6.4 Counseling Process

- 6.4.1 Players should be made aware of issues relating to the terms of section 6.3 – Other Player Issues – which may affect their chances of selection to represent the United States of America.
- 6.4.2 To ensure players are aware of these issues and to provide the opportunity for players to discuss them with Selectors, the Chairman of the Selection Committee or the Chairman's delegate will be responsible for liaising with players on any national squad and other players in contention for selection.
- 6.4.3 The Selectors will only consider issues that fall within the time frame covered by 6.2.3 and 6.3.2 above.
- 6.4.4 Issues discussed with players shall be documented. Players will be provided with a copy of said document. Preferably, this will be an agreed record of discussion between the Chairman of Selectors or the Chairman's delegate and the player concerned. If any dispute arises concerning this record of discussion the Chairman of the Selection Committee shall attempt to resolve this. If the issue is not resolved in one month the record of discussion prepared by the Chairman or the Chairman's delegate will become the record for purposes of the Selection Committee.

## 6.5 Extenuating circumstances

- 6.5.1 In considering the performance of players at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under this policy, the Selection Committee may give weight to extenuating factors.
- 6.5.2 Players unable to compete at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under this policy shall advise the event coordinator in writing of this fact and the reasons thereof before the commencement of the events, trials, training camps or other attendance required under this policy.
- 6.5.3 In the case of illness or injury, players may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctors nominated by the player and approved by the International Committee.
- 6.5.4 In the case of bereavement, equipment failure, travel delays or other extenuating circumstance, a decision will be made by the Selection Committee on an individual basis.

## 6.6 Replacement of a Selected Injured Player

- 6.6.1 If a player is injured the Selectors may determine a standard of fitness to be met by that player. If the player is unable to meet that standard the Selection Committee in consultation with the International Committee may select a replacement player.
- 6.6.2 A replacement player for a US Team on tour will be selected by the team Captain after consultation with members of the Selection or International Committee present at the event. If none are present at the event, the team Captain shall consult with the Chairman of the Selection Committee by email and/or telephone

## 6.7 Removal of a Player from a Squad

6.7.1 A player is ineligible for continued membership on a national team or as a representative at an international non-team event if the player:

- breaches or fails to observe this policy;
- by reason of illness or injury is unable to perform to the required standard in the opinion of the Selection Committee;
- breaches or fails to observe the national team agreement;
- fails to adhere to the specified training program.

## 7 Selection Time Frames

7.1 Selection to the National Development Squad will be announced after the Selection Eights.

7.3 Selection timeframes for International individual events will be determined by the Selectors, taking into account the closing date of entries for the event and the desirability to provide sufficient time for selected players to prepare for the event. The selection timeframes for such events are outlined in Section 5.4.

## 8 Requirements for Selection Consideration

8.1 Players wishing to be considered for selection to represent the United States of America, whether in a Team or individual capacity should be fully conversant with the following documents:

- Current Selection Policy, including the Code of Behavior (Attachment "A").
- Application Form (Attachment "B").
- Indemnity Form to be completed by players (Attachment "C").

The USCA Selection Policy is available on the USCA's Web site at: <http://www.croquetamerica.com/>

Documentation may also be obtained from the USCA national office in West Palm Beach, Florida.

8.2 All players offered a position to a national team, development squad or international individual event will be provided with the information contained in Section 8.1 and are required to: (a) complete and sign an Application Form (Attachment "B") and Indemnity Form (Attachment "C") and return these forms to the Secretary of USCA by the date specified in the Application Form, and, (b) sign the current National Team/Squad player agreement; and return it to the Secretary of USCA by the date specified in the Application Form.

8.3 All players selected to represent the United States of America or offered positions to a Development or Team Squad will be required to acknowledge in writing that they have been provided with the documentation in 8.1 and have read, understood and agreed to abide by the conditions of these documents.

## 9 Appeals (experimental rule expiring 12/31/2008 unless extended or codified by the International Committee)



- 9.1 USCA's Appeal Panel (Panel) shall hear or determine any appeal on a player's:
- non-selection in any National Development/Training or Team Squad, or,
  - non-selection to represent United States of America in events conducted by the World Croquet Federation where United States of America is represented at those events,
  - removal of a player from any National Development/Training or Team Squad, or
  - withdrawal of USCA's endorsement for a player to represent United States of America in an individual event, including where good reason has not been shown for not playing in an event as outlined in Paragraph 6.1.2.
- 9.2 The Chairman of the Panel shall determine if an appeal will be heard by the panel at a formal hearing or will be determined by the Panel without a formal hearing.
- 9.3 There is no right of appeal against any decision made by the Selection Committee in respect of:
- Process of Selection – Other Player Issues (see 6.3 above), provided that the Counseling process covered in 6.4 above has been followed or,
  - Replacement players (see 6.6 above).
- 9.4 Any appeal by a player under this Section must be made to the Panel through the USCA International Committee Chairman.
- 9.5 Any appeal must accord with the following procedure:
- The appellant must give written notice of their appeal to the USCA within five days of the announcement of the team announcement on USCA's website.
  - Within seven days of the Selection Committee providing a summary of the reasons for non-selection to the appellant, the appellant shall submit their grounds for the appeal in writing to the Secretary of USCA.
  - The appellant shall pay an amount of \$250 plus any out of pocket expense to USCA if a formal hearing will be held by the Panel or \$250 if the Panel will determine the appeal. The amount shall be paid to the USCA within seven days of the Chairman of the Panel determining how the Appeal will be dealt with in terms of Section 9.2.
- 9.6 The Panel shall comprise the following persons appointed by the President of the USCA:
- An attorney who shall act as Chairman.
  - A person with a thorough knowledge of championship level croquet and who preferably has had recent international competition croquet experience.
  - One other person of experience and skills suitable to the function of the Panel.
- 9.7 No person is eligible to be appointed to the Panel if that person is a member of USCA's Management, International or Selection Committee or by reason of their relationship with the appellant or any member of the Management or Selection Committee that may be seen as rendering that person as other than impartial in the consideration of the appeal.

- 9.8 The Chairman of the Panel shall convene a hearing or arrange for the Panel to determine the appeal as soon as possible after the submission of the grounds of appeal. The hearing or determination may be dealt with in such manner as the Chairman decides, including the use of telephone, video conferencing, e-mail or such other medium as agreed by the Panel.
- 9.9 The Panel may dismiss an appeal or refer the issue back to the Selection Committee for reconsideration. If the matter is referred back to the Selection Committee, the Committee will consider the Panel's reasons for the referral when reconsidering their decision. The decision of the Selection Committee shall be final and no further appeal can be considered.
- 9.10 The Panel is not bound by the rules of evidence but must observe the principles of procedural fairness. The Panel may obtain information from any player likely to be disadvantaged by its decision.
- 9.11 No party to the appeal shall be legally represented except where the Panel believes that legal representation is warranted in the case of complex legal issues. However written submissions may be made to the Panel by the legal representatives of the appellant or the Selection Committee.
- 9.12 Prior to the hearing, the Selection Committee shall provide to the Panel and the appellant a written statement of the reasons for the decision against which appeal is being made.
- 9.13 The Panel shall give its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing and shall provide the Secretary of USCA and the appellant with a statement of the reasons for its decision.
- 9.14 Failure to observe the time limits in 9.5 above will render any appeal null and void, provided that a player may apply to the Panel to hear the appeal in question, for an extension of time in which to lodge the written grounds for appeal. Any extension of time shall only be granted in extenuating circumstances outside the control of the player concerned.

## **10 Amendments to this Policy**

- 10.1 This policy may be amended by the Selection Committee subject to the International Committee's approval. Any amendment to the policy shall be effective one month from the date of publication of the amendment unless otherwise provided in said amendment.

## **Attachment “A” - Player Code of Behavior**

### **PLAYER CODE OF BEHAVIOR**

Sport has an important place in the lives of many Americans. We participate for a variety of reasons, including social interaction, mental exercise and physical challenge.

Everyone involved in sport has the right to participate in a safe and supportive environment. Occasionally, players, coaches, spectators and parents get over zealous and spoil the experience for others. On those rare occasions, they need to be reminded that there are appropriate forms of behavior when involved in sport.

The USCA is committed to implement and enforce strong Codes of Conduct and to actively encourage players and officials to abide by them. Competitive sport by its nature produces stress and tension between players that can result in unacceptable behavior. An instinctive desire to win can easily turn to disrespect for opponents, officials and spectators. The USCA strives to build an environment of inclusiveness where we welcome and encourage our members to achieve positive outcomes.

We bring to this sport our greatest asset – individuality. We bring different views of the world and different experiences. We have varying goals and aspirations; and we express them differently. Occasionally these needs are not expressed at all. It is not, therefore, unexpected that in any grouping of players there will be things we say and do that will annoy others and vice versa.

In team sports, selectors, coaches and officials seek to combine individual talents to build a team. Within this team individuals shall not only be expected to respect each other, but also work together so that each individual’s skills are enhanced in a positive, encouraging environment.

#### **Player Code of Behavior**

- Play by the rules, both by the letter and in spirit.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- The following behaviors are strictly forbidden: (1) Verbal and/or physical abuse of officials, (2) taunting of other players/opponents/spectators, (3) deliberately distracting or provoking another player/opponent/spectators.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team.
- Actively support and encourage team members and assist the team coach in developing a working relationship with the team so as to promote a responsible attitude, commitment, trust, competence, respect, safety, honesty, professionalism, equity and sportsmanship among team members.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in your sport as you would like to be treated yourself. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.

- Cooperate with your coach, team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Remember to set an example. Your behavior and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please others.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, race, ability, cultural background, sexual orientation or religion.
- Selected players shall not publicly criticize team selection or team members. Such concerns should be brought to the attention of the Selection Committee itself.

The USCA is concerned that any unacceptable behavior outlined above would seriously affect our sport and prevent the high standard of play we are striving to promote. We wish to inform you that we will take a strong stance on behavioral issues.

The Selection Committee wants to be inclusive and encourages everyone to start afresh in helping us build a supportive environment. To this end we will discuss with all eligible players issues arising from the Selection Policy.

**Attachment "B" - APPLICATION FORM**

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
|  | Full Name              |
|  | Street Address         |
|  | City, State, Post Code |
|  | Telephone Number       |
|  | Email Address          |
|  |                        |

Accept my selection in \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that:

1. I have been provided with a copy of the current published USCA's Selection Policy dated March 2008.
2. I acknowledge that I have read, understood and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the documents contained in 1 above and attach the signed copy of the Team/Squad agreement.
3. I specifically agree that in the case of any appeal, I will follow the appeals procedure set out in the Selection Policy and will not pursue any action in the Civil Courts in relation to selection.
4. There may be some personal expense involved in attending the camps and competitions as outlined in the selection policy.
5. I confirm that I meet the requirements to represent United States of America referred to in Section 4 of the Selection Policy.

Player's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Player's date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to \_\_\_\_\_ when completed together with your signed Player Agreement by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Attachment "C" - INDEMNITY FORM**

Having been selected by the USCA to represent United States of America in the event named above, I hereby release the USCA from liability with respect to death, injury, or sickness and from liabilities for expenses of any kind incurred by me during the Tournament/Event.

I authorize the manager and/or captain to obtain for me any medical assistance when deemed necessary should an accident or illness occur and agree to make arrangements for the payment of all medical expenses myself.

**FOR PLAYERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE**

As a parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby give my consent for him/her to participate in USCA's International team and agree to delegate my authority to the manager involved. The manager may take whatever disciplinary action deemed necessary to ensure the safety, well-being and successful conduct of the team, or individually in the above mentioned activity.

I submit the attached medical information and include all relevant details.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_