

# BASICS OF CURLING ETIQUETTE



**Curling  
is a game of  
Sportsmanship,  
Courtesy  
And  
Honour.**

## **Sweeping**

- Only one player from each team may sweep behind the tee line. Only the skip or third of the non-delivering team may sweep behind the tee line.
- Sweepers should stay with the stone all the way to the house, sweeping or not.
- An opposing teams rock may only be swept behind the tee line.
- The delivering team has first right to sweep its rock behind the tee line, but shall not prevent the non-delivering team from doing so.
- Only the skip or third of the non-delivering team may sweep their rocks set in motion by the delivering team.
- If you "burn" (touch) a moving rock with your broom while sweeping, do not stop the rock. Allow it to come to rest and alert both skips of what occurred. The opposing skip has three choices:
  1. allow the play to stand, or
  2. remove the burned rock from play and replace all the affected rocks to their original positions, or
  3. place the burned rock and all rocks it would have affected where they would have come to rest if the violation had not occurred.
- Once the rock has stopped, move to the sideline and walk back. Do not block the center of the ice, as the other skip and shooter are visually communicating to each other and you will block their view of each other.
- If a stationary stone is moved by any player, the non-offending team shall replace the stone as close as possible to its original position. If there is any question as to which stone(s) was closer to the button, the displaced stone is placed in favour of the non-offending team.

## **Measuring**

- It is the job of the thirds on each team to measure the rocks in the house if so required and determine the score. It is also the thirds job to post the score.
- Measurements shall be taken from the button to the nearest part of the rock.
- No physical device may be used in measuring rocks until the last rock of the end has come to rest, except to determine if one of the first three rocks of an end is in the free guard zone, then a biter-stick may be used to decide.

## **Post End**

- After each end, there is no need to put all the rocks back in numerical order. Simply put the rocks in the correct rock house. You have plenty of time to dig the correct rock out when its your turn.
- If you are the lead, get ready to shoot and let the rest of your team put the rocks in the correct rock house.

## **Post Game**

- It is expected that the winners will buy (or offer to buy) their counterparts the beverage of their choice after the game. Both rinks enjoy each others company and some lively conversation about your favourite topic(s) around the tables. The losing curlers invariably offer to buy the second round.

## **Good Sportsmanship**

- Congratulate opposing players as well as members of your own team when they have made a good shot.
- **NEVER**, by word or deed be guilty of any action that would embarrass a player who has missed a shot.



## Etiquette

Curling has its rules governing play, but equally as important is the way that you conduct yourself while curling. This is outlined in the Curlers' Code of Ethics that is part of the rulebook:

- I will play the game with a spirit of good sportsmanship.
- I will conduct myself in an honourable manner both on and off the ice.
- I will never knowingly break a rule, but if I do, I will divulge the breach.
- I will take no action that could be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate or demean my opponents, teammates or officials.
- I will interpret the rules in an impartial manner, always keeping in mind that the purpose of the rules is to ensure that the game is played in an orderly and fair manner.
- I will humbly accept any penalty that the governing body at any level of curling deems appropriate, if I am found in violation of the Code of Ethics or rules of the game.

Curling has always been known for the prevalence of good sportsmanship and the friendly courteous rivalry that exists on the ice.

The courtesies suggested are practiced by curlers who understand the true spirit and tradition of the "roaring game"



## Some of the key items of proper curling etiquette are as follows:

- Be on time, seven other people are depending on you.
- Every game begins and ends with a hearty handshake of friendship and goodwill to both team mates and opponents.
- The opposing thirds will toss a coin at the start of the game to determine last rock advantage.
- When your opponents are preparing for delivery, stand to the side of the sheet, single file and between the hog lines. This allows the curler delivering the stone an unobstructed view of the skip and the house and allows for easier and quicker communications. Move only after the rock has been released.
- If you are throwing next, you may stand on the backboard, but remain quiet and out of sight of the opposition thrower.
- Only skips and thirds may congregate behind the tee line. They do not move or hold their brooms on the ice while the opposition is preparing to deliver a rock.
- Take care not to walk down the middle of the sheet after your team's shot. You should walk on the sides to minimize wearing down the pebble, as well as to provide a clear view for the next curler to deliver the stone.
- Wear clean, appropriate footwear that will not damage the ice and clean your shoes before stepping onto the ice.
- Be ready to go when it's your turn to deliver a rock.
- It is no longer considered proper etiquette to ready the other teams rock.
- At the conclusion of and end, all players remain outside the house until the opposing thirds have agreed on the score.

## Delivery

- The hand must be clearly off the handle before the leading edge of the stone reaches the near edge of the hog line.
- A rock that has not been released from the players hand may be re-delivered as long as it has not reached the near tee-line during delivery.
- Do not rest your bare hand on the ice for longer than an instant. Your body temperature will melt and damage the ice in a matter of moments. Also, never rest your knee on the ice for longer than a few seconds. Even with pants on, your body temperature will melt and damage the ice.
- If you are the next curler, have your stone cleaned and in front of the hack while your opponent's shot is in motion. It's ok to watch your opponent's shot, but not so long that you can't be ready for your own.
- To keep the game moving, it is typically the lead's job to place the skip's rock in front of the hack when it is time for the skip to shoot.
- A rock must completely cross the far hog line to be in play, except when it has hit another rock in play.
- A rock that completely crosses the back line or touches the side board or line is taken out of play.
- If any opposition stone in the Free Guard Zone is removed from play prior to the delivery of the sixth stone of the end, the delivered stone is removed from play and the stone that was removed from the Free Guard Zone is replaced to its original position to the satisfaction of the non-offending skip.
- In no way should you disturb a player in the hack or during delivery or until they watch the stone come to a stop.