

Here is a summary of 'significant' changes made to the 2010-12 rule book:

A. Housekeeping

- 1) Changes to names: 'Head Official' to 'Chief Umpire' and 'Supervising Official' to 'Game Umpire'. The title of the certification programme remains "National Officiating Program".
- 2) Replaced all references to 'his/her' with 'their' or applicable pronoun.
- 3) Changed references to 'stone set in motion' to 'moving stone'.
- 4) Removed the word 'brushing' from the phrase 'sweeping/brushing'. It is now simply 'sweeping'.

B. General Play

Sheet (page 5) - Rule 3(1): We added a range to the length of a sheet of ice from 146 feet to 150 feet. This is to allow new construction the latitude to add 2 feet behind the hacks for better access for ice scrapers. We also changed the maximum width of a sheet of ice from 16 feet 5 inches to 15 feet 7 inches to reflect a pending move by the World Curling Federation (WCF).

Stones (page 7) - Rule 4(1): changed the reference to the height of a stone from a 'maximum of 5.5 inches' to a 'minimum of 4.5 inches'. **Teams (pages 8-9) - Rule 5(4)(5):** Changed the rule concerning players joining a game in progress. At the start of the next full end after the player has joined the game, the team can re-establish their delivery rotation in any order.

Teams (pages 9-10) - Rule 5(6)(b)(iii)(iv): The situation when the third or fourth player cannot deliver both their stones in any end was for the second player to deliver both third's stones or the third stone to deliver both skip's stones. The new rule eliminates any player delivering four stones in any end.

Position of Players (page 11) - Rule 7(2)(a): This rule has been changed to read 'shall be positioned between the backboards and the hog line' instead of "shall be positioned inside the hog line and on the ice". This was changed to reflect the general change to swingier ice conditions allowing the person holding the broom to put a foot on a walkway or the next sheet without penalty.

Delivery (page 12) - Rule 8(2): The wording was changed from 'reasonable proximity to the centre line' to 'reasonably straight line from the hack towards the target broom'. This was primarily for stick curling and clarifying that the delivery of the stone does not wander away from the line of delivery.

Delivery (page 13) - Rule 8(10): Previously when a team delivered two stones in a row, the delivery rotation was altered. The new rule states that the second stone is returned to the delivering end and displaced stones are put back in their original positions. The second stone will be delivered in its proper rotation unless the error is not discovered. In this case, play will continue with the new delivery rotation.

Touched Moving Stones (page 13-14) - Rule 9(1)(2)(3): The wording of the 2010 WCF Rulebook has been adopted in its entirety. Key changes are: 1) the re-touching of a stone prior to the hog line is no longer an infraction; and 2) the protocol for an infraction now varies on whether the stone was touched prior to the hog line at the playing end or after it has crossed the hog line the same hog line.

Sweeping (page 14) - Rule 11(4): This rule has been clarified allowing only the person in charge of play for the non-delivering team to sweep their own stone in motion during the delivery of the first four stones in any end ('tick' shot).

Sweeping (page 15) - Rule 11(6): The wording was adopted verbatim from the WCF rule book. It has the same intent but with clearer wording.

Sweeping (page 15) - Rule 11(8)(a): New wording for sweeping. It now says "there must be brush head movement". With the introduction of brooms with swivel heads, sweepers are often sweeping at angles or front to back. This is now acceptable but you may not leave debris in the path and the final motion must be away.

Free Guard Zone (page 15) - Rule 12(2): Wording was clarified to indicate that any infraction in the FGZ prior to the delivery of the 5th stone has only one solution. The delivered stone is always removed and the displaced stones are always returned to their original positions. The rest of this section identifies other FGZ situations.

Stones in Play and Scoring (page 16) - Rule 13(2): Previously, a stone 'spinning' back into play after it had crossed the back line remained in play. The new rule states that once it crosses the back line, it is out of play regardless if it spins back or not.

Stones in Play and Scoring (page 18) - The previous Rule 13(11) stated that extra ends would be continuous play. That has been removed from General Play and curling facilities can make their own rule as to whether play is continuous or towards the home end. The new Rule 13(11) covers how to score an incomplete end on a curling club scoreboard. This covers what happens when 15 stones are delivered and the game is conceded.

Game Duration and Postponement (page 20) - Rule 16(3)(a)(b)(c): This rule has been changed to match WCF wording. The previous wording for a team not ready to play at the designated time was five (5) minutes would pass before a point was forfeited. The new rule extends the wait to fifteen (15) minutes for one (1) point and another fifteen (15) minutes for the second point. After 30 minutes, the game is forfeited as before.

Wheelchair Curling (page 20) - Rule 17(6): This rule no longer exists for General Play. It stated 'sweeping is not permitted'. This is now up to the facility or league to decide to allow or not.

Miscellaneous (page 21) - Rule 18(2): We added a reference to the use of visual aids for curlers who are vision impaired.

C. Officiated Play

Sheet (page 26) - Rule 3(1): Same as General Play 3(1).

Stones (page 29) - Rule 4(1): Same as General Play 4(1).

Teams (page 30) - Rule 5(2)(a)-(h): All references to a coin toss to decide last rock advantage in the first end have been replaced with a process to determine last stone advantage by drawing to the button prior to the game.

Teams (page 31) - Rule 5(5)(c): This rule continues to allow a team to play with three players in competition except the Mixed. The reference to the Mixed is new to this rule.

Teams (pages 31-32) - Rule 5(5)(6): Changed the rule concerning players/alternates/substitutes joining a game in progress. At the start of the next full end after the player has joined the game, the team can re-establish their delivery rotation to any order.

Teams (page 32) - Rule 5(7)(b)(iii)(iv): Same as General Play Rule 5(6)(b)(iii)(iv).

Position of Players (page 34) - Rule 7(2)(a): Same as General Play Rule 7(2)(a).

Game Time Operation (page 34) - Rule 8(1): We added the length of time per team in an eight (8) end game as fifty-nine (59) minutes.

Game Time Operation (page 35) - Rule 8(3): We added a mandatory break of five (5) minutes after the 4th end of an eight (8) game.

Game Time Operation (page 36) - Rule 8(5): The wording to the unnecessary delay of game was changed to allow the umpire to determine if there is an unreasonable delay, followed by a warning and then, allowing the offending team forty-five (45) seconds to put the stone in play.

Game Time Operation (page 36) - Rule 8(a)-(e): The time-out rules have been eliminated in favour of the clock continuing to run while a team is in charge of play. Coaches or alternates will have access to the field of play as before except now the clock will not stop. The "coach time" with the team will continue to be sixty (60) seconds. The coach or alternate of the team not requesting "coach time" can access their team as well but only at the home end of the field of play. During officiated play at curling facilities and at the discretion of the Chief Umpire, the game clock may be stopped while the coach or alternate accesses the field of play. Once in place, the clock will resume. Prior to the competition, the Chief Umpire will also establish reasonable travel time for coaches to access the field of play from their seat.

Delivery (page 37) - Rule 9(2): Same as General Play Rule 8(2).

Delivery (page 39) - Rule 9(9): Same as General Play Rule 8(10).

Touched Moving Stones (page 39-40) - Rule 10(1)-(4): Same as Rule 9(1)-(3) in General Play with the addition of a rule when a moving stone is touched during the delivery of the Last Stone Draw for last stone advantage in the 1st end.

Displaced Stationary Stones (page 41) - Rule 11(5): This part covers the displacement of the Last Stone Draw prior to the measurement.

Sweeping (page 41) - Rule 12(4): Same as General Play Rule 11(4).

Sweeping (page 41) - Rule 12(6): Same as General Play Rule 11(6).

Sweeping (page 41) - Rule 12(8)(a): Same as General Play Rule 11(8)(a).

Free Guard Zone (page 42) - Rule 13(2): Same as General Play Rule 12(2).

Stones in Play and Scoring (page 13) - Rule 14(2): Same as General Play Rule 13(2).

Stones in Play and Scoring (Page 44) - Rule 14(12): Same as General Play Rule 13(11).

Game Duration and Postponement (pages 47-48) - Rule 17(4)(b)(c)(d): Same as General Rule 16(3)(a)(b)(c)

Wheelchair Curling (page 48) - Rule 18(8): The previous Rule 18(8) has been deleted. It referred to length of games in competition. This will now be referenced to in the Event Competitor Guide. The previous Rule 18(9) is now Rule 18(8). Rule 18(9) now refers to the time clock for extra ends and timeouts.

Age Eligibility (page 51) - Rule 22(1)(2): This is a new section and deals with the dates for age eligibility to CCA or other national competitions for 2010-11 and 2011-12.