



UPDATED – MARCH 15, 2016

Moratorium on Brush Head Technology

The purpose of the moratorium is to remove the uncertainty that hangs over the field of play by ensuring a level playing field while protecting the integrity of the sport and the spirit of fair play. This will require voluntary player compliance without the intervention of officials.

Statement

- (1) Only brushes and brush heads available for sale to the public at retail outlets will be allowed on the field of play.
- (2) No modified, custom-made or homemade brushing equipment will be allowed on the field of play. This does not apply to branding / cosmetic related modifications nor does it apply to compliant brush heads that have been re-conditioned or re-covered for retail sale.
- (3) Brush head fabric that **has been** embossed / sealed / textured / modified from its original woven form will not be allowed on the field of play.
- (4) For brush head fabric to be allowed on the field of play, the fabric must have a woven appearance that is visible to the “naked eye”. The intent is to ensure the fabric makes contact with the ice as opposed to the embossed / sealed coating of the fabric.
- (5) Brush heads containing “hardening” or “stiffening” materials inserted between the outer fabric and the internal cushioning material of the brush head **are not** allowed on the field of play. These materials may include but are not limited to: plastic, fiberglass, wood, and Teflon. In addition, brush heads that are constructed in a manner that greatly reduces the “normal” amount of compression may not be allowed on the field of play as determined by the Chief Umpire.
- (6) All hair-brushes are now included in the 2016 Moratorium and are deemed to be **non-compliant**. Additionally, hair-brushes **may not be** used as the target broom at the playing end for the skip or vice-skip. Combination hair/fabric brushes are also considered **non-compliant**. Hair-brushes, however, may be used as part of the player’s delivery.

Compliance - Teams currently using brush-head technology not in compliance with this 2016 Moratorium may comply by:

- (1) If applicable, reversing the brush head fabric to place the fibre weave on the exterior [in contact with the ice]; or,
- (2) Utilizing alternate brush-head fabric comprised of fibre weaves that are visible to the “naked eye”; or,
- (3) If applicable, removing any “hardening or “stiffening” inserts from between the fabric and cushioning material, or
- (4) Using an alternative brush.

Note - Curling Canada will continue to work with the World Curling Federation and the Players’ Association to establish an evidence-based, well-defined equipment approval policy.



Enforcement

- (1) Players and coaches will be responsible for ensuring any sweeping brush brought on to the field of play is compliant with the moratorium.
- (2) **Sweeping Brushes**
 - (a) Teams **will declare two (2) approved sweeping brushes** for any game.
 - (b) These two brushes will be synthetic with approved and compliant fabric but without any hardening device.
 - (c) These two declared brushes will be used to sweep all eight delivered stones.
 - (d) Players sweeping delivered stones will share these two brushes only.
 - (e) The person delivering the stone is **not allowed** to sweep unless the team is playing with three players, in which case the thrower must sweep with one of the two brooms declared as sweeping brushes before the game.
 - (f) The person holding the ‘target’ broom will use an approved and compliant brush and may sweep delivered stones anywhere from the hogline at the playing end. They may also sweep the opponent’s stone when it reaches the tee-line.
 - (g) The target broom can be exchanged between the skip and vice skip **OR** both skip and vice skip may use separate, approved, compliant synthetic brush heads as target brooms.
 - (h) Any replacement of a brush, a brush-head or brush-head fabric shall not be made without the approval of the assigned umpire.
- (3) Replacement of a brush head or brush-head fabric would only occur in extreme circumstances determined by the umpire. As described, the circumstance must be extreme in nature and not as a result of intentional damage to the brush by the player. If the damage is as a result of intentional damage by the player, the umpire will decide what sweeping brush or brush head will be allowed. A ‘wet’ broom is not considered an extreme circumstance.
- (4) Sweepers may exchange the two approved sweeping brushes **only** between themselves. Exchanging with the skip or vice-skip (person in charge of play for the team) is **not** allowed.
- (5) If a player intends to bring into the field of play a device to be utilized as a delivery device only, and that device has the ability to be switched to a sweeping device, then the declared delivery device shall be marked in such a manner that it would be visible to an umpire if the device were used as a sweeping device. (Possible markings: bright duct tape, survey tape). The penalty for sweeping with a throwing broom: *“the delivered stone shall be removed from play and all affected stones shall be replaced to their original position. The delivery device shall be returned to play as a delivery device”*.
- (6) Random inspections of equipment by an umpire may be carried out during the event and/or during a game. Players may request that an umpire inspect a brush prior to or during a game.

Pre-game practice - The pre-game practice is not part of the game. As such any compliant brush may be used including throwing brushes.



Last Stone Draw - The Last Stone Draw is considered part of the game and as such the Moratorium is in force.

Penalties - If a player is found to be using a brush that is not allowed on the field of play under this moratorium, the offending team will forfeit that game.

Authority

- (1) The Chief Umpire is authorized to administer this Moratorium and may assign other umpires to perform various duties, as required.
- (2) The Chief Umpire is authorized to make decisions regarding this Moratorium not specifically covered in this protocol.
- (3) All decisions of the Chief Umpire regarding this Moratorium are final.

Curling Canada's list of compliant brush heads by brand name

- (1) Asham TX
- (2) Balance Plus EQ
- (3) Balance Plus – “older models”
- (4) Goldline Norway Pad
- (5) Hammer
- (6) Hardline IcePad – fabric inverted without plastic insert
- (7) Hardline Tour Elite without plastic insert
- (8) Olson Opti
- (9) Performance TX
- (10) Performance – “older models”
- (11) Warthog – woven side