



## Curling Canada Rule Book 2018 – 2022

### Summary of Changes - Rules of Curling for General Play

#### Rule: 1. Application (2)

**Change: new text:** *These Rules apply to traditional team play. Special rules for Mixed Doubles, Wheelchair, Stick Curling and other variations of traditional team play are in addition and described in the sections that they apply.*

**Rationale:** To clarify that there are special rules for different formats of curling.

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#### Rule: 2. Definitions (14)

**Change: addition of:** *Five Rock Rule - Stones in the Free Guard Zone cannot be moved to an out of play position until after the fifth rock of an end.*

**Rationale:** To define what the “Five Rock Rule” is.

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#### Rule: 5. Teams (5)(b)

**Change:** text for 5(5)(b): *A player who has left a game may re-enter the game between ends or during an end already in progress providing they are able to deliver a stone within the team’s established delivery rotation. A player may leave and return to a game only one time in any game.*

**Rationale:** To avoid confusion as to the delivery of stones during an end in progress.

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#### Rule: 8. Delivery (10)(a)(i)-(ii)

**Change: 10(a):** *If a player delivers a stone when it is not their team’s turn to deliver:*

- i. If the error is discovered after only the first stone has been delivered, the end shall be replayed.*
- ii. If the error is discovered after the 2<sup>nd</sup> stone of the end has been delivered, the end shall continue, and the new delivery rotation shall take effect.*

**Rationale:** If the first player throws in error and it is immediately discovered, the team will not be penalized.

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#### Rule: 8. Delivery (12)

**Change:** *If a player on a four-player team delivers three stones in one end, except as provided for in Rule 5(6), the stone delivered in error shall be removed from play and all displaced stones put back to their original positions. end shall continue and the fourth player on the offending team shall deliver one stone only in that end*

**Rationale:** Removes the perception that a player is delivering three stones deliberately.

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**Rule: 9. Touched Moving Stones (1)**

**Change:** *A stone re-touched by the hand after release but re-touched before the hog line is not a violation.*

**Rationale:** Questions have arisen in regard to a delivery device touching the stone prior to the hog line. This clarifies it as a touch by the hand.

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**Rule: 11. Sweeping (4)**

**Change:** *(4) During the delivery of the first five ~~four~~ stones of any end, only the skip and/or vice-skip ~~person in charge of play for~~ of the non-delivering team may sweep their stone when set in motion.*

**Rationale:** Update to Five Rock Rule and to allow for the skip **and** the vice-skip to sweep the “tick shot”.

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**Rule: 11. Sweeping (10)**

**Change:** *Addition of “Light cleaning with the sweeping device anywhere on the sheet is acceptable as long as it does not interfere with the delivering team.”*

**Rationale:** To clarify that light cleaning is **not** an infraction of the rules.

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**Rule: 12. Free Guard Zone (FGZ) (2)(3)(6)(7)**

**Change:**

*(2) the delivery of the 6<sup>th</sup> ~~5<sup>th</sup>~~ stone of the end. When an opposition’s stone(s) that is removed from play from the FGZ prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> ~~5<sup>th</sup>~~ stone*

*(3) delivered third, ~~or~~ fourth or fifth stone*

*(6) each of the first four ~~three~~ stones*

*(7) one of the first four ~~three~~ stones*

**Rationale:** Update to the Five Rock Rule.

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**Rule: 13. Stones in Play and Scoring (1)**

**Change:** *(1) (second sentence) A delivered stone staying outside of play after striking a stone in play shall remain where it stopped including any subsequent delivered stones striking that particular stone.*

**Rationale:** Clarifies that the stone stopping outside of the hog line and still in play is the delivered stone, not a moved stationary stone.

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**Rule:** 15. Equipment (2)

**Change:** (2) deleted: *Players may change or exchange brushes, brush heads and synthetic straw style brooms during a game.*

**Rationale:** Eliminates the change of equipment option during a game.

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**Rule:** 19. Mixed Doubles (5)(b) and (8)(b)

**Change:**

Clarity to (5)(b) *4-foot circle ("see diagram").*

Clarity to (8)(b) *however, the player that delivered the first stone of the end can deliver a maximum of two stones in that end.*

**Rationale:** Clarifies the intent of the rule.

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## Rules of Curling for Officiated Play

### Rule: 1. Application (4)

**Change: new bullet:** *These Rules apply to traditional team play. Special rules for Mixed Doubles, Wheelchair, Stick Curling and other variations of traditional team play are in addition and described in the sections that they apply.*

**Rationale:** To clarify that there are special rules for different formats of curling.

### Rule: 2. Definitions (10)(19)(20)(21)

#### Change:

- add (10) *Canadian Under-18 Men and Women Championships*
- add (19) *“Triangulation” is the process of determining the location of a point by forming triangles to it from known points (Wikipedia). Used in the “Last Stone Draw” when a stone is covering the pin and a measurement cannot be taken. The two (2) points used for measurement are at the edge of the four (4) foot circle, 61 cm from the centre of the sheet, at either the three (3) o’clock and six (6) o’clock position or the six (6) o’clock and nine (9) o’clock position.*
- add (20) *“Five Rock Rule” Stones in the Free Guard Zone cannot be moved to an out of play position until after the fifth rock of an end.*
- add (21) *“Brush Head Moratorium” - the Specifications for brushes in elite Curling as defined at [www.worldcurling.org](http://www.worldcurling.org)*

**Rationale:** addition of new items

### Rule: 5. Teams (2)

**Change:** added (*triangulation used where required*)

**Rationale:** update to reflect our practice

### Rule: 5. Teams (2)(e)(i)(ii)

#### Change:

- **new text:** *(i) If the first team records a distance of 0.00 cm or 199.6 185.40 cm (399.2 cm for two draws), a second player from that team will deliver a draw to the button with the same rotation. The team will then give up the ice to the second team practice. ~~If the second player records a distance of 0.00 cm or 185.40 cm, a third player from that team will deliver a draw to the button.~~*
- **New text:** *(ii) If the second team records the same first throw(s) distance as their opposition, another player from that team will draw to the button with the same rotation. If the teams are still tied, teams will alternate deliveries (using any player) until the tie is broken. ~~If the second stone distance is the same, a third player will deliver a stone.~~*
- **Deleted:** *(iii) ~~If, following the second team practice, an identical distance is~~*



~~recorded for both teams (excluding a distance of 0.00 cm or 185.40 cm), a second (or more) player(s) from each team will deliver a stone to break the tie.~~

**Rationale:** Using Triangulation allows for a very accurate determination of the distance the centre of the stone is from the centre of the rings. To achieve two (2) distances of 0.00 cm is extremely remote so a third throw from the first team is not required.

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**Rule:** 5. Teams (2)(f)

**Change:** *Stones delivered prior to the umpire announcement or not delivered within the time allotted by the umpire will be assigned a distance of 199.6 ~~185.40~~ cm*

**Rationale:** Clarifies when the Last Stone Draw is eligible to be thrown.

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**Rule:** 5. Teams (5)(c)(i)(1-2)

**Change:** *Exception: Four-person mixed curling must always have four players on the ice with two men and two women alternating delivery of stones. The skip must deliver fourth stones and the player acting as vice-skip must deliver third stones and be opposite gender. The following are the two (2) accepted position/delivery rotations:*

- (1) Male lead (first thrower), Female second (second thrower), Male third (third thrower and vice-skip), and Female skip (fourth thrower).*
- (2) Female lead (first thrower), Male second (second thrower), Female third (third thrower and vice-skip), and Male skip (fourth thrower).*

**Rationale:** this aimed to simplify the 4-person mixed game to two (2) definitive line-ups

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**Rule:** 5. Teams (5)(f)(i)

**Change:**

- A substitute player may only enter deliver a stone(s) of the sidelined player within that end*
- Remove duplication of (5)(f)(ii) ~~A substitute player(s) who enters a game during an end shall replace the sidelined player(s) in the team's delivery rotation for that end; and~~*
- (5)(f)(iii)(iv) now become (5)(f)(ii)(iii)*

**Rationale:** With the addition in (5)(f) (i), there is a duplication of the rule. Removal of the duplication is required.

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**Rule: 5. Teams (6)(b)**

**Change:** *A player who has left a game may re-enter the game between ends ~~or during an end already in progress~~ providing they are able to deliver a stone within the team's established delivery rotation. A player may leave and return to a game only one time in any game.*

**Rationale:** To avoid confusion as to the delivery of stones during an end in progress.

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**Rule: 8. Delivery (5)**

**Change:** (last sentence) *A stone re-touched by the hand after release but re-touched before the hog line is **not** a violation.*

**Rationale:** Questions have arisen in regard to a delivery device touching the stone prior to the hog line. This clarifies it as the touch by the hand.

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**Rule: 8. Delivery (10)(a)(i-ii)**

**Change:**

*If a player delivers a stone when it is not their team's turn to deliver:*

- (i) *If the error is discovered after only the first stone has been delivered, the end shall be replayed.*
- (ii) *If the error is discovered after the second stone of the end has been delivered, the end shall continue, and the new delivery rotation shall take effect.*

**Rationale:** If the first player throws in error and it is immediately discovered, the team will not be penalized.

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**Rule: 8. Delivery (12)**

**Change:** *If a player on a four-player team delivers three stones in one end, except as provided for in Rule 5(6), the stone delivered in error shall be removed from play and all displaced stones put back to their original positions. ~~end shall continue and the fourth player on the offending team shall deliver one stone only in that end.~~*

**Rationale:** Removes the perception a player is delivering three stones deliberately.

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**Rule: 9. Touched Moving Stones (1)**

**Change:** *removed the word "Clarity"*

**Rationale:** clarity

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**Rule: 11. Sweeping (4)**

**Change:** (4) *During the delivery of the first five ~~four~~ stones of any end, both the skip and/or vice-skip ~~person in charge of play for~~ of the non-delivering team may sweep their stone when set in motion.*

**Rationale:** Update to 5 rock rule and to allow for **both** the skip and the vice-skip to sweep the “tick shot”.

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**Rule: 11. Sweeping (9)**

**Change:** removal of Corn/Straw Broom reference and replace text with: *Light cleaning with the sweeping device anywhere on the sheet is acceptable as long as it does not interfere with the delivering team. ~~When sweeping with a corn/straw broom, the sweeping motion shall take place with the corn/straw pointing in the direction of play. Backward sweeping with a corn/straw broom is not acceptable.~~*

**Rationale:** To clarify that light cleaning is not an infraction of the rules.

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**Rule: 11. Sweeping (12)(a-k)**

**Change:** added text from sweeping moratorium

(12) Brush heads:

- (a) Only World Curling Federation (WCF) approved sweeping brushes as per the WCF ‘Specifications for brushes in elite curling’ and brush heads listed on the WCF ‘Approved Code List’ will be allowed for use at Curling Canada championships leading to WCF events, WCF-sanctioned events, and any event where CTRS points are available.
- (b) Many competitive events in Canada are not formally officiated; therefore, in the spirit of the sport of curling, the obligation is on individual players (and/or coach) to source a compliant sweeping brush (sweeping device) and brush head for play in these events. Players and coaches will be responsible for ensuring any sweeping device brought on to the field of play is compliant with this Moratorium. The umpires may conduct random checks of brush heads during all competitions.
- (c) A “delivery balance device” in accordance with rule 15(5) can never be used for sweeping. Light cleaning as per rule 11(9) (10) is permissible. If a delivery balance device is used to sweep, the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game.

**Penalty:** During all practice sessions (pre-event, pre-game, evening practice), if a delivery balance device is used to sweep, the player will be warned by an umpire. If it occurs a second time during the same session, the player will not be allowed to continue in the practice session, or participate in the LSD stones or in the game that immediately (same day) follows the practice session.



- (d) A delivery balance device broken during the game shall be replaced by the same type of delivery balance device. The replacement shall be inspected and accepted for game play by an umpire prior to use if not previously inspected as per rule 15(2), 15(3). If the delivery balance device is broken due to abuse, the delivery balance device may not be replaced for the remainder of the game (the player's sweeping device must be used for delivery). The player may continue to play subject to the Chief Umpire approval.
- (e) Any player using a sweeping device in competitions noted in (1) that is not approved by the WCF will be suspended from the remainder of the competition and the game in question will be forfeited. The team will not be allowed to replace the player for the remainder of the competition and will play with three players. A second infraction by the same player or same team (any player, any time) will suspend that team for the remainder of the competition in question and for the next 365 days. In addition, the team will forfeit any Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) points earned in that season. A second infraction by a specific player will suspend the team for the remainder of the competition in question, regardless of whether the player's first offence was with another team. The player with a second offence will be suspended for 365 days from the date of the second infraction. (A first infraction in Mixed Doubles will result in suspension for the rest of the competition.)
- (f) Prior to pregame practice, each player must declare his or her approved sweeping device. Only that player can use that device for sweeping during the Last Stone Draws (LSDs) and game.

*Penalty:* If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device during the LSD or during the game to sweep their team's stone, the stone shall be removed from play. If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device to sweep an opposition's stone(s), the stone(s) will be placed by the non-offending team in the position(s) the team reasonably considers they would have come to rest had the stone(s) not been swept.

- (g) For pre-competition / evening / special play-off / pre-game practices only these conforming brushes may be used to sweep; however, a player or coach can sweep with any one of those brushes, and their sweeping device need not be the one that is identified (taped) for their personal use during LSD stones and games.
- (h) A player may not change their brush or brush head during a game, or during / after a pre-game practice, unless the Chief Umpire grants special permission.  
*Penalty:* If a change is made without permission, the team will forfeit the game.
- (i) A sweeping device broken during the game shall be replaced by the same type of sweeping device. If the sweeping device is broken due to brush abuse, the brush





may not be replaced for the remainder of the game. The player may continue to play (subject to the Chief Umpire approval) but cannot sweep. Rule 15(4).

- (j) If an alternate or substitute player comes into a game, they must use the brush of the player they are replacing.

*Penalty:* If a new sweeping device is brought into the game, the team will forfeit the game.

- (k) The target brooms must be the declared sweeping brushes of the skip and vice-skip. Using a separate or different broom as the target broom is **not** allowed (even if a compliant and approved version).

*Penalty:* If the skip or vice-skip sweeps with a brush used for sliding, or any other non-declared broom, the stone shall be removed from play. If a player sweeps an opposition's stone(s) with another person's brush used for sliding, or any other non-declared broom, the stone(s) will be placed by the non-offending team in the position(s) the team reasonably considers they would have come to rest had the stone(s) not been swept.

**Rule:** 12. Free Guard Zone (FGZ), *Five Rock Rule* (2)(a-f);

**Change:** reworded text from 13(2)(3)(4)(5) to 13(2)(a-f):

(2)

*(a) Any stationary stone(s) belonging to the opposition located in the FGZ shall not be removed from play by the delivering team prior to the delivery of the 6th stone of the end.*

*~~(a)~~(b) When an opposition's stone(s) ~~that~~ is removed from play from the FGZ prior to the 6th stone of the end, directly or indirectly, without exception, the delivered stone must be removed from play and any other displaced stones replaced as close as possible to its original position.*

*~~(b)~~(c) Any stone previously in the FGZ, whose location is now not in the FGZ – as per rule 12(1)(a) or (b) – may be removed at any time without penalty.*

*(d) A delivered third, fourth or fifth stone of an end may hit an opposition stone(s) located in the FGZ on to a stone(s) not in the FGZ providing that any opposition stone originally located in the FGZ remains in play. If an opposition's stone(s) is removed from play, apply Rule 12(2)(b).*

*(e) A team may remove ~~your~~ its own stone from the FGZ providing ~~you~~ its removal ~~do~~ does not cause an opposition stone to be removed from play from the FGZ. If an opposition's stone(s) is removed from play, apply Rule 12(2)(b).*

*~~(e)~~(f) A team may raise ~~your~~ its own stone located in the FGZ on to an*



*opposition stone located in the house (not in the FGZ) and remove it from play. If an opposition's stone(s) in the FGZ is removed from play during the execution of the raise, then apply Rule 12(2)(b).*

**Rationale:** Update to the Five Rock Rule.

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**Rule:** 13. Stones in Play and Scoring (1)

**Change:** (1) A stone must be fully over the farther hog line to be considered in play. A stone not fully over the hog line shall be removed from play. A **delivered** stone staying outside of play after striking a stone in play shall remain where it stopped including any subsequent **delivered** stones striking that particular stone. A stone that crosses the hog line but spins such that it comes to rest biting the hog line, is considered "out of play".

**Rationale:** Clarifies that the stone stopping outside of the hog line and still in play is the delivered stone, not a moved stationary stone.

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**Rule:** 15. Equipment (1-4)

**Change:** Update to remove reference to corn/straw brooms and align with Brush Head Moratorium

- (1) *Any team equipment that may possibly come into contact with the playing surface is subject to inspection by an umpire prior to or during competition. The team equipment which is subject to inspection includes, but is not limited to, ~~corn/straw brooms~~, brushes, sliders, grippers, shoes in general, sliding/delivery devices and on ice clothing. If the umpire determines the equipment is in conflict with the ideals of fair play, potentially damaging to the ice surface or not in compliance with the integrity and positive image of the championship, the umpire shall identify the equipment as being unacceptable and direct the team to remove the equipment from the playing surface.*
- (2) *Prior to the start of the competition:*
  - (a) *All brushes and, brush heads and ~~synthetic corn/straw style brooms~~ used for sweeping may be inspected, tested and identified as acceptable for game play in accordance with the current Brush Head Moratorium.*
  - (b) *All sliding/delivery devices may be inspected, tested and identified as acceptable for game play.*
- ~~(3) *Prior to the start of each game, all corn/straw brooms to be used for sweeping may be presented by the team to the umpire to be inspected, tested and identified as acceptable for game play.*~~
- (4) *At the start of each game, each player shall declare what type of sweeping*



*device previously identified as acceptable that they shall be using for the duration of the game (brush, synthetic straw style broom or corn/straw broom). Players may change or exchange brushes, brush heads and synthetic straw style brooms during a game providing they have been identified as acceptable for game play. Players shall use the same corn/straw broom for the duration of the game and shall not exchange with another player for a brush or synthetic straw style broom.*

- (5) *A broom or brush broken during the game shall be replaced by the same type of sweeping device. The replacement shall be inspected and accepted for game play by an umpire prior to use if not previously inspected as per Rule 16(2), 16(3) and 16(4).*

*Penalty: The penalties outlined in the Policies / Rules for Brush Heads and Brushing will be followed. When any sweeping device is used that has not been identified as acceptable for game play, the umpire shall allow all stones to come to rest and provide the non-offending team with the option of allowing the play to stand; or having the umpire remove the swept stone(s) just delivered or set in motion from play and replace all affected stones as close as possible to their original position. The umpire shall ensure that the sweeping device is replaced with one marked acceptable for game play. The umpire may direct that the ice surface be cleaned. The penalty shall only be applied prior to the delivery of the next stone.*

**Rationale:** To remove all reference to straw style brooms and update to the Brush Head Moratorium.

**Rule:** 18. Mixed Doubles (10)

**Change:** Added Each team shall receive twenty-four (24) minutes of Thinking Time. There will be a four (4) minute break after the completion of the fourth end. When extra ends are required, the clocks will be reset, and each team shall receive three minutes (3:00) of Thinking Time for each extra end.

**Rationale:** The amount of time allowed is currently not stated in this section.

**Rule:** 18. Mixed Doubles (7)(a)

**Change:** Will be decided by draws to the button (triangulation used where required).

**Rationale:** To clarify that in Officiated play, the placement option in the first end is determined by draw to the button.



**Rule:** 18. Mixed Doubles (9)

**Change:** add for clarity: *however, the player that delivered the first stone of the end can deliver a maximum of two stones in that end.*

**Rationale:** Clarifies the intent of the rule.

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**Rule:** 20. Game Time Operation (2)(d)

**Change:** add for clarity 20(2)(d) *The clock will stop when the delivering team's stone reaches the nearer tee-line.*

**Rationale:** clarity

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**Rule:** 20. Game Time Operation (11)

**Change:** addition of (11) *A team whose clock has run due to a timing error (wrong clock running) will have double the agreed error time added back to its clock.*

**Rationale:** When a teams' clock is run in error, they will need the time given back to them, and as we do not take time away from the opposition. The time taken away from the team in error also needs to be added on to make the time fair for both teams.

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**Rule:** 22. Chief Umpire (4)

**Change:** add (4) *Teams may defer their non-offending options to an umpire. The Umpire will make a determination in accordance with equity and fair play.*

**Rationale:** There are some cases where the team is authorized to make a decision, but it will put them in an awkward situation. This allows the team to call upon an umpire to make the impartial decision.

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**Rule:** 22. Chief Umpire (8)

**Change:** add text: *If a player is ejected from the game or competition area they cannot be replaced by the fifth player. The team must continue with three (3) players. If an additional player is ejected from the game, the team will forfeit the game. Exception: Two (2) person Mixed Doubles and Four (4) person mixed curling. If a player is ejected from the game the team will forfeit the game.*

**Rationale:** This clarifies the process for when a person is ejected from a game.