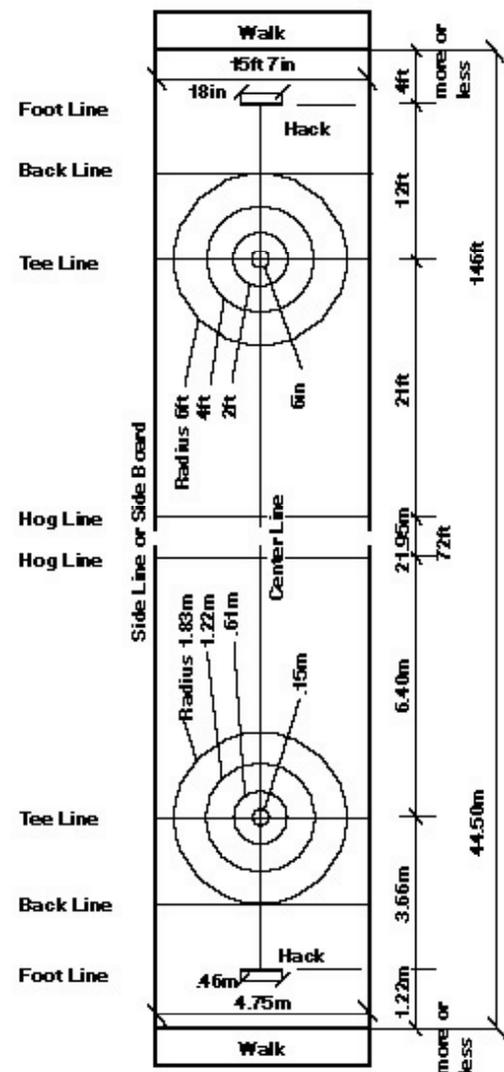


CURLING SHEET OF ICE



height than 11.43 cm (4.5 inches).

(3) If a stone is broken in play a replacement stone shall be placed where the largest fragment came to rest. The end in play and the game shall be completed using the replacement stone.

(4) A stone that rolls over in its course or comes to rest on its side or top shall be removed immediately from play.

(5) Where the handle of a stone quits the stone in delivery, the player is entitled to replay the stone, if the delivering team so desires. The handle must be completely separated from the stone.

(6) A stone that does not clear the farther hog line shall be removed immediately from play except where it has struck another stone lying in play.

(7) A stone which comes to rest beyond and lying clear of the back line shall

be removed from play immediately.

(8) A stone that hits a side board or touches a side line shall be removed immediately from play.

(9) No stone(s) shall be measured by instrument until the last stone of the end has come to rest except by the umpire, when requested by a skip, to decide whether or not a stone is in play, or whether or not a stone is in the house when the "Free Guard Zone" system of play is being used. If the position of the rocks in the house makes it impossible to use the 6-foot measuring device to decide whether a stone is in play at the 6 o'clock position, the umpire will do this visually and his/her decision will be final.

(10) All sixteen stones assigned to a given sheet shall be delivered at each end unless the players in charge of the house have agreed upon a score for the end or the game has been conceded.

5. TEAMS

(1) At the start of a competition every team shall be composed of four players, each player playing two stones and playing each stone alternately with his/her opponent.

(2) No player shall use footwear or equipment that may damage the surface of the ice. USCA Interpretation: No player shall cause damage to the ice surface due to footwear, and and/or body prints.

(3) The rotation of play established in the first end shall be observed throughout the game.

(4) Prior to the game, the opposing third players shall determine by lot which team shall lead at the first end after which the winner of the preceding end shall lead.

(5) Where a player is unable to continue to play in a game or to play at the start of a game, his/her skip may:

(a) finish the game then in progress and start any subsequent game with the remaining players, in which case the first two players shall throw three stones each; or

(b) bring in a qualified substitute for the game then in progress at the beginning of the next end, or at the start of any subsequent game. A qualified substitute is a person who meets the criteria for that competition. The rotation of play may be changed at the discretion of the skip or coach who shall inform the opposing skip of the new rotation. The revised rotation of play shall continue for the remainder of that game.

(c) commence the game with three players because one player is late, and the late player may enter the game in the next end, in his/her normal position.

(6) A player who has left a game because of illness, accident or other extenuating circumstances may rejoin his/her team at any time during any game in the competition, provided the rotation of play for the end in progress is not altered. If a substitute was selected the player may rejoin his/her team for the next game.

(7) No team shall substitute for more than one of the original players in a competition (or one male and one female in a mixed competition). However, any number of substitutes for that one player (or couple in mixed) is allowed.

6. SKIPS

(1) The skip has the exclusive direction of the game for his/her team.

(2) Subject to rule 5(3), the skip may play in any position in his/her team that he/she chooses.

(3) When it is the skip's turn to play the acting skip shall take charge of the house. The acting skip shall be the only player beside the skip allowed in the house when the opposition is throwing.

7. POSITION OF PLAYERS

(1) Only skips and acting skips in charge of the house for the time being may stand within the house and the skip of the playing team has the choice of

place and shall not be obstructed by the other skip, but behind the tee line the privileges of both in regard to sweeping are equal.

(2) The players, other than the skip and acting skip, shall not stand behind the house, but shall place themselves along the side of the rink between the hog lines, except when sweeping or about to deliver a stone. Non-delivering team members shall not take a position or cause such motion that would obstruct, interfere with or distract the delivering team. USCA Interpretation: Casual, non-distracting movement of players down the sidelines is acceptable.

8. DELIVERY

*(1) Right-handed players shall play from the hack on the left of the center line and left-handed players from the hack on the right of the center line. Any stone delivered from the wrong hack shall be removed from play immediately.

*(2) In the delivery of the stone, the stone shall be clearly released from the hand before the stone reaches the nearer hog line. If the player fails to so release the stone, it shall be removed from play immediately by the playing team. If the stone has struck another stone, the played stone shall be removed from play by the playing team and any displaced stone shall be replaced as nearly as possible where it originally lay to the satisfaction of the opposing skip. USCA Interpretation: Players may use a stick device to release the stone in any competition that does not lead to the World Championships or the Olympics.

*Delivery rules (1) and (2) apply to individuals using a stick device.

(3) Any hog-line infraction, agreed upon by both skips or at the direction of an observing umpire, if present, shall result in the stone being removed by the offending team. Any displaced stones shall be repositioned by the non-offending team. Benefit to either team is not a factor.

(4) A stone that has not been released from the player's hand and that has not reached the nearer tee line may be returned to the hack and re-delivered.

(5) Each player shall be ready to deliver his/her stone when his/her turn comes, and shall not take an unreasonable time to play.

(6) Where a player delivers a stone belonging to the opposing team, a stone belonging to his/her team shall be put in its place.

(7) Where a player delivers a stone out of proper rotation it shall be removed from play immediately by the playing team and returned to the player to be delivered in proper rotation, but when the mistake is not discovered until after the stone has come to rest or struck another stone, the end shall be continued as if the mistake had not occurred, and the missed stone shall be delivered by the player missing his/her turn as the last stone for his/her team in that end.

(8) Where the skips agree that a stone has been missed but are unable to agree as to which player missed his/her turn, the lead of the team that made the mistake shall play the last stone for his/her team in that end.

(9) Where two stones of a team are delivered in succession in the same end, the opposing skip shall remove the stone played by mistake, replace to his/her satisfaction any stone displaced by the stone played by mistake, and continue the end as if the mistake had not occurred, and the player who delivered the stone played by mistake shall re-deliver it as the last stone for his/her team in that end. Should the infraction not be discovered until after further rocks have been played, the end shall be replayed.

(10) Where a player delivers three stones in one end, the end shall be continued as if the mistake had not occurred and the fourth player of the team that made the mistake shall deliver one stone only in that end.

9. SWEEPING

(1) Between the tee lines, a running stone, or stone(s) set in motion by a running stone, may be swept by any one or more of the team to which it belongs. Any stone in motion is a running stone. A stationary stone must

be set in motion before it can be swept.

(2) Between the tee lines, no player shall sweep an opponent's stone.

(3) Behind the tee line, if the delivering team's choice is not to sweep, they shall not obstruct or prevent the opponent from sweeping the stone.

(4) Behind the tee line, only one player from each team may sweep at any one time. It may be any one player from the playing team, but only the player in charge of the house from the non-playing team, who shall not start to sweep an opponents stone until it reaches the tee line.

(a) The acting skip does not assume charge of the house until the skip leaves to throw his/her first stone, and then remains in charge.

(b) If the skip throws other than fourth stones, he/she shall resume control of the house when his/her second stone, and any other stone whose movement has been generated by that stone, has come to rest.

(5)(a) The sweeping motion, which shall be from side to side, shall leave no debris in front of the running stone and shall finish to either side of the stones. USCA Interpretation: The brush must move across the path (roughly perpendicular) and cover the running surface of the rock (approx. 5 inches) during each stroke. Brush head movement must be clear and visible.

(b) The sweepers and their equipment must be seen to be clear of the stone at all times.

(c) Penalty: If a team draws an infraction and the stone involved is their own it shall be removed from play. However if the stone involved belongs to the opposition, the opposition shall direct the repositioning of the stone to where they consider it would have come to rest had it not been infringed. If in the opinion of the non-offending skip repositioning of the stone would benefit the offending team, it may be left where it came to rest.

(6) In Wheelchair Curling no sweeping is permitted.

10. TOUCHED RUNNING STONES

(1) If a running stone is touched by any of the playing team or by his/her equipment, the touched stone shall be removed from play immediately by that team. However, if in the opinion of the opposing skip, removal of the stone would be beneficial to the offending team, then he/she may place the stone as nearly as possible to the position where he/she considers it would have come to rest had it not been touched. He/she may also reposition any stone or stones that would have been displaced had the running stone not been touched and been allowed to continue. For an opposing skip to reposition any potentially displaced stones, the infraction must have occurred inside the hog line at the playing end.

(2) If a running stone is touched by any of the opposing team or by his/her equipment, the stone shall be placed where the skip of the team to which it belongs considers it would have come to rest if it had not been touched.

(3) If the position of any stone is altered by a touched stone, the skip opposed to the team at fault may elect:

(a) to remove the touched stone and replace all other altered stones to the position where he/she considers they originally lay; or

(b) to leave the touched stone and all altered stones where they came to rest.

11. DISPLACED STATIONARY STONES

(1) If a stone which would have altered the course of a running stone is displaced by the playing team, the running stone shall be allowed to come to rest and may be left there or removed from play immediately at the discretion of the opposing skip:

(a) If the running stone is removed from play then all displaced stones shall be placed where the opposing skip considers they originally lay.

(b) If the running stone is left where it came to rest, then displaced stones must remain where they came to rest.

(c) The opposing skip may reject (a) and (b), and have any stone or stones placed where he/she reasonably considers they would have come to rest had the infraction not occurred.

(2) A stationary stone which is displaced and has no effect on the outcome



CLUB AND BONSPIEL USE

1. DEFINITIONS

In these rules, umpires' rulings, and other official documents of the UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION and its officers:

- (a) "competition" means a playdown by any number of teams playing games to determine a winner;
- (b) "end" means that part of a game in which the two opposing teams each deliver eight stones alternately and then determine the score;
- (c) where five players are registered, these five players have equal standing and may be used at any time in accordance with the rules, at the discretion of the skip or coach;
- (d) "USCA" means the United States Curling Association;
- (e) "game" means play between two teams to determine a winner;
- (f) "house" means the area within the outside circle at each end of the rink;
- (g) "match" means play between two or more teams on one side against an equal number of teams on the other side to determine a winning side by the total number of shots or games;
- (h) "rink" means an area of ice marked in accordance with Rule 3.

2. APPLICATION

These rules apply to games in USCA-member leagues, bonspiels or other competitions that do not lead to USCA National Championships.

3. RINK

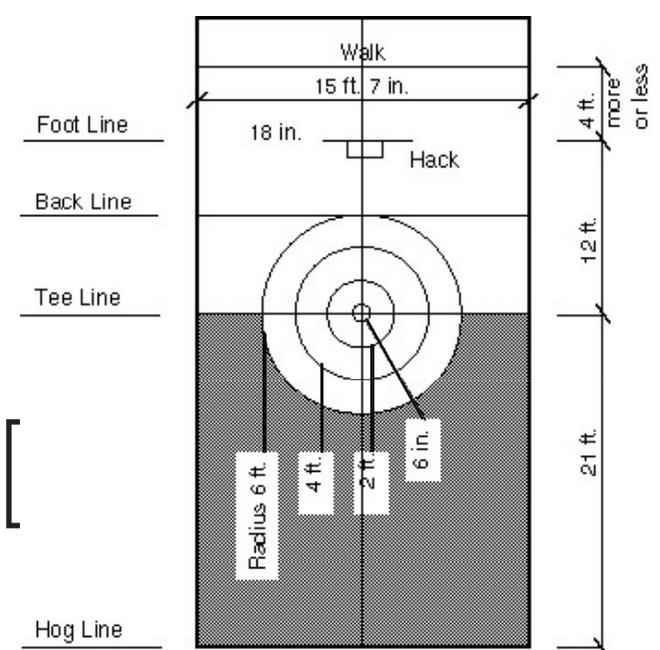
- (1) When possible, the rink shall be drawn on the ice in accordance with the diagram on the next page.
- (2) Two rubber hacks of a style and size approved by the USCA shall be placed on the line with the inside edge of each hack 7.62 cm (3 inches) from the center line on opposite sides of the center line. The length of the hack shall not exceed 20.32 cm (8 inches). The rubber of the hack shall be attached firmly to wood or other suitable material and the hack shall be recessed into the ice as much as is practical, but no more than 5.04 cm (2 inches) in depth. There shall be no obstruction behind the hack structure.
- (3) The back edge of the back line shall be at the outer edge of the outer circle where the center line crosses the back line. The 6-foot measure should be exactly at the outermost marking.

4. STONES

- (1) Curling stones shall be of circular shape.
- (2) No stone, including handle and bolt, shall be of greater weight than 19.96 kg (44 lbs.) or of greater circumference than 91.44 cm (36 inches) or of less

THE FREE GUARD ZONE

- 1) The area between the Hog Line and the Tee Line, excluding the House, shall be a Free Guard Zone.



THE SPIRIT OF CURLING

Curling is a game of skill and of traditions. A shot well executed is a delight to see and so, too, it is a fine thing to observe the time-honored traditions of curling being applied in the true spirit of the game. Curlers play to win but never to humble their opponents. A true curler would prefer to lose rather than win unfairly.

A good curler never attempts to distract an opponent or otherwise prevent him/her from playing his/her best.

No curler ever deliberately breaks a rule of the game or any of its traditions. But, if he/she should do so inadvertently and be aware of it, he/she is the first to divulge the breach.

While the main object to the game of curling is to determine the relative skills of the players, the spirit of the game demands good sportsmanship, kindly feeling and honorable conduct. This spirit should influence both the interpretation and application of the rules of the game and also the conduct of all participants on and off the ice.

of the running stone shall be replaced where it originally lay, by the opposing skip.

12. SCORING

- (1) Games shall be decided by a majority of shots and a team scores one shot for each stone that is nearer the tee than any stone of the opposing team.
- (2) Every stone that is within 1.83 meters (6 feet) of the tee is eligible to be counted. The 6-foot measuring device shall be the sole instrument used to determine whether a stone is in the house, at the conclusion of the end, subject to Rule 4(9).
- (3) Measurements shall be taken from the tee to the nearest part of the stone.
- (4) An end shall be considered as decided when the skips or acting skips in charge of the house at the time agree upon the score for that end. Should any stone(s) be displaced before agreement has been reached, the non-offending team shall receive the benefit which may have accrued from a measurement. Should an umpire displace a stone when measuring one of the stones involved in the measurement, the stones shall be considered a tie.
- (5) If two or more stones are so close to the tee that it is impossible to use a measuring device to determine the scoring stone, the determination shall be made visually by the umpire. If no decision can be made, the end shall be scored as a blank end.

13. UMPIRE

- (1) The umpire has the general supervision of all games to which he/she is assigned.
- (2) The umpire shall determine any matter in dispute between opposing skips, whether or not the matter is covered in the rules.

14. POSTPONEMENT

If for any reason a game is postponed to another time, or a game is suspended, the game will continue at the point the game was suspended.

- 2) No stone lying within this zone may be removed from play by the opposition until the first four stones played in any end have come to rest. Any shot played in those circumstances which results in an opposition stone being moved from the free guard zone, either directly or indirectly, to an out of play position is an infraction which shall result in the played stone being removed from play and any other stone if moved being replaced where it previously lay. All stones shall be replaced to the satisfaction of the skip of the non-offending team.
- 3) For any stone lying in the House, the normal Rules of Play shall apply at all times. Notwithstanding the Rules of Play No. 4(9), a stone may be measured by instrument by an umpire to determine whether or not it is in the House.
- 4) In all other respects the normal Rules of Play shall apply.