

# Rules of Curling for General Play

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## [Rules of Curling for General Play \(2010-2012\)](#)

### Summary of Rule Changes 2010-2011

#### 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 same hog line. If the moving stone is touched prior to the hog line, there is no option for the play to stand.

**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. The change gives the team whose stone was set in motion first right to sweep instead of the team in charge of the house.

**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.