

Basic Rules, Play, and Strategy

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Basic Rules and Play



Order of Play

- Lead (2nd & 3rd sweep)
 - Second (lead & 3rd sweep)
 - Third or Vice-Skip (lead & 2nd sweep)
 - Skip (lead & 2nd sweep)
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- Each player throws two stones each
 - When skip throws, vice-skip controls the house



Roles of Positions

- Front end (lead & 2nd)
 - Set tone for end with initial shots
 - Primarily responsible for judging weight
- Back end (3rd & skip)
 - Third communicates between front end and back end; judges line on skip shots
 - Skip determines strategy, calls shots, primarily responsible for judging line



Types of Shots

- Guard (shot short of rings)
- Draw (shot into rings)
- Freeze (draw to another stone)
- Takeout (hit a stone out of play)
- Hit and roll (takeout and carom to one side)
- Raise (tap a stone deeper into rings)



What does sweeping do?

- Makes stone go farther
- Makes stone go straighter

- You get both effects whether you want them both or not!



Who can sweep where?

- Any member of your team may sweep any of your moving rocks between the tee lines
- Only one player (usually the skip or vice-skip in control of the house) may sweep behind the tee line
 - Both your own rocks or opponents rocks may be swept behind tee line

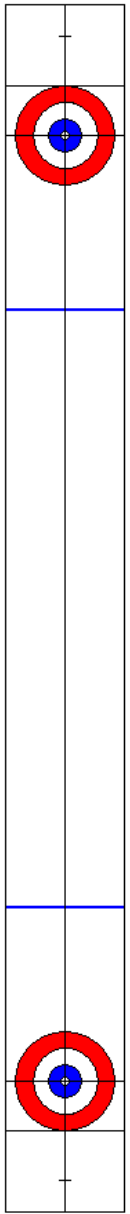


Etiquette

- When it is your turn to throw, retrieve your stone, clean it and prepare to step into the hack as soon as your opponent has released his/her stone
- When your opponents are throwing, sweepers should stand quietly between the courtesy lines at the side of the sheet
- Stay out of the center of the sheet after your team's shot is completed

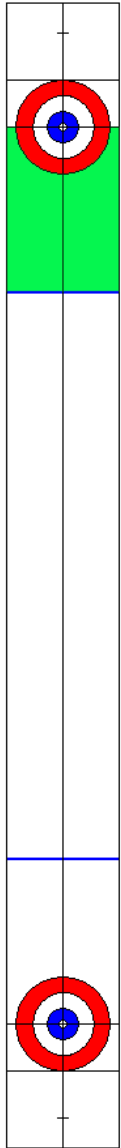


When are stones removed from play?



- If a stone touches the side line or completely crosses the back line.
- If not released on delivery prior to hog line or fails to cross far hog line
- If sweepers touch a thrown stone while running
- If an opponent's stone in the *free guard zone* is removed from play prior to the 5th stone of the end

Free Guard Zone



- The Free Guard zone is that space between the far hog line and the house
- Opponent's stones residing entirely in the free guard zone may not be removed from play until all the lead stones are thrown by both sides
 - You may remove your own free guard stones from play
 - You may bump, tap, raise or wick opponent's free guard stones as long as they remain in play

Basic Strategy



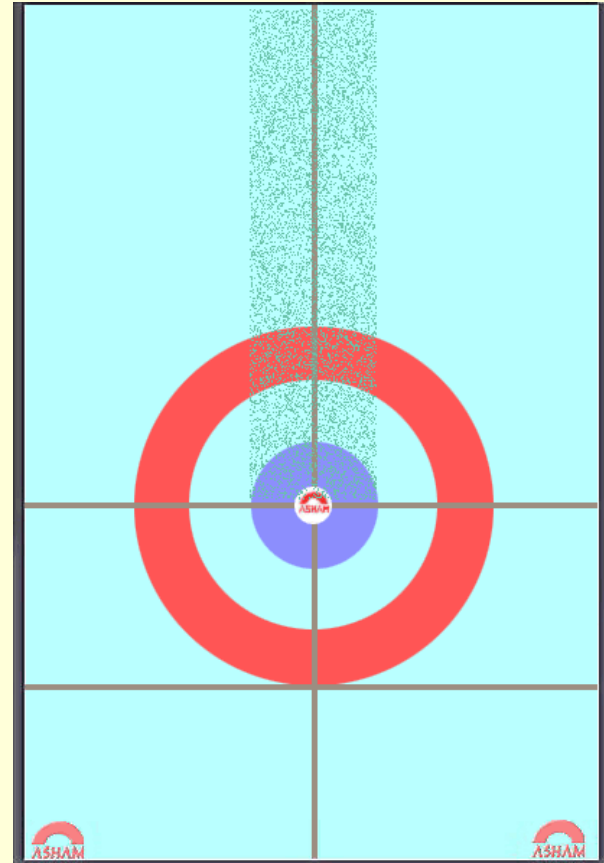
End-by-End Goals

- With last rock
 - Goal is to score 2 or more points
- Without last rock
 - Goal is to hold team with last rock to only 1 point or to “steal” 1 point
- Guards are required to achieve these goals



Control Zone

- That part of the sheet between the four-foot lines and in front of the tee line
- Most scoring occurs within the control zone



Control Zone

- Team with last rock tries to keep control zone open
 - Guards and draws to the side of house
- Team without last rock tries to keep control zone blocked
 - Guards and draws near the center line
- Both teams will generally try to hide stones behind guards



Good Curling!

Don't forget the most important rule
and strategy, win or lose:

Curling is fun!

