

Basic Rules for Curling (information from Club Coach – Reference Material):

A rock must clear the far hogline to remain in play, except if it hits another rock which is in play.

A rock which stops completely across the back line is out of play.

A rock which touches a sideline is automatically out of play.

Rocks may not be measured during an end for comparison or to determine if it is counting by means of any physical device to aid the visual until the last rock of the end has come to rest, unless one of the following two situations occur: If the two skips cannot determine whether a rock has crossed the backline, when in close vicinity to the centre line, the six foot measure stick can be used. If after the delivery of any of the first three rocks of an end both skips cannot determine if a rock is in the **Free Guard Zone** or touching the rings, the six foot measure stick can be used.

After the first end, the winner of the end throws first in the following end. (Remember in the first end, a coin flip decides who throws first)

The skip has control of the game for his/her team and may deliver any position rocks they choose. However the order of play, once established, may not be changed for that game.

Right-handed players shall deliver, from the left hack, left-handed players from the right hack.

In delivery the rock must be clearly released before it reaches the near hog line. If it is not, it shall be removed from play by the delivering team.

If a running rock is touched by any member or equipment of the delivering team, it is removed from play by the delivering team if it is touched before it crosses the far hogline. If it is touched after the far hogline, it is allowed to come to rest and the skip of the non-delivering team has the right to decide the position of the rock(s) affected.

The **5-rock Free Guard Zone** rule is in effect, which means that any opposition rock coming to rest in the Free Guard Zone may be moved, but may not be removed from play, until the fifth rock of the end (Free Guard Zone is the area between the hog line and the tee line, excluding the "house").

Between the tee lines a rock may be brushed by any one or more of the team members (although it is not good practice to try to brush your own rock!). It may not be brushed by any opposition player.

Behind the tee line the delivering team shall have first privilege of brushing their stone. A lead or second of the delivering team may brush behind the tee line. Only the skip or vice skip of the non-delivering team have the privilege of brushing behind the tee line.

No player may start to brush an opponent's rock until it reaches the tee line.

The brushing motion shall not leave any debris in front of the rock and clearly finish outside of the path of the rock.

A team may not play at any time with fewer than three players.

If a player delivers a rock of the wrong colour, a rock of the correct colour will be put in its place.