

Basic Rules, Play, and Strategy

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Basic Rules and Play



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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
 - Lead sets up skip rocks to speed play
- 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)
- Raise (tap a stone deeper into rings)
- Takeout (hit a stone out of play)
- Hit and roll (takeout and carom to one side)

What does sweeping do?

- Makes stone go farther
- Makes stone go straighter
- You get both effects whether you want them both or not!



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Who can sweep where?

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



Sportsmanship

- Start and end every game with a handshake.
- Be a good loser and a gracious winner
- Always compliment a good shot; never cheer your opponents mistakes
- Call your own fouls (*e.g.*, burned or moved stones)



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Game Etiquette

- Be ready to throw! Prepare to shoot as soon as the opponents have thrown
- When your opponents are throwing, sweepers should stand quietly between the courtesy lines at the side of the sheet; Skip and vice-skip should stand quietly behind house
- Stay out of the center of the sheet after your team's shot is completed
- Wait for the score. Stay out of the house until thirds agree on the score

League Etiquette

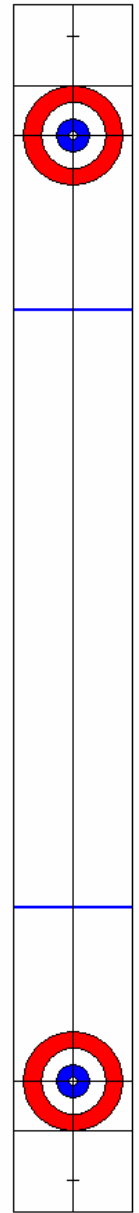
- Show up for your game on time
- If you must miss a game, contact your skip and arrange for a substitute
- Substitutes should be of a similar skill level—specific substitution rules may apply in league play



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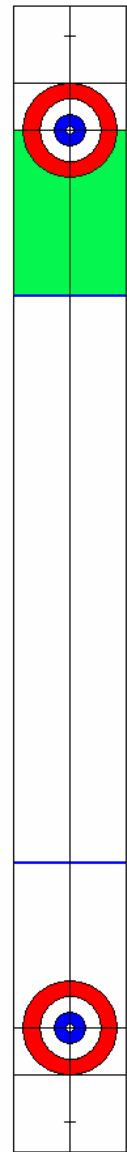
When are stones removed from play?

- 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



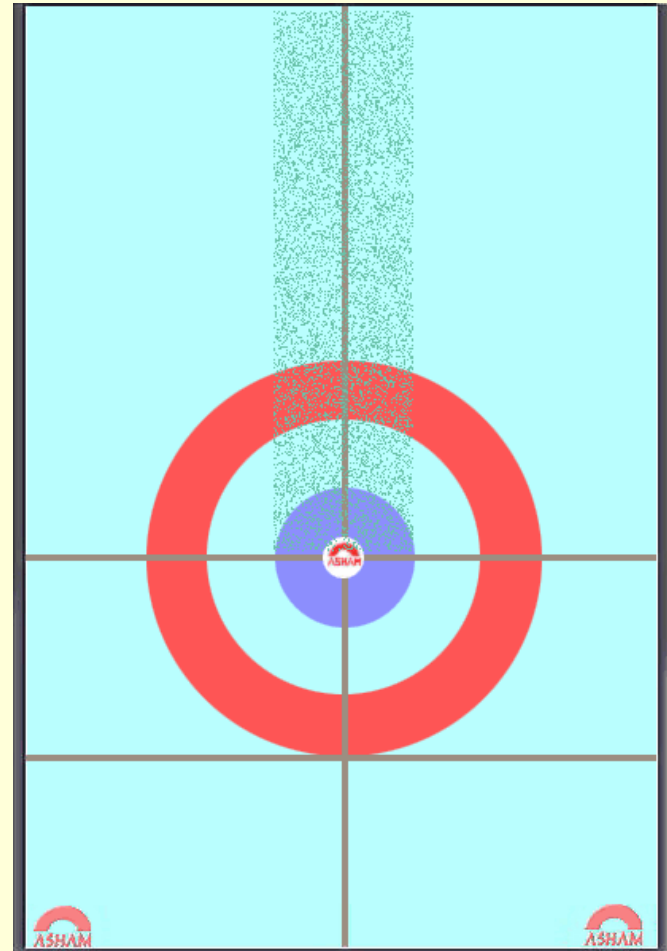
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End-by-End Goals

- 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!



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