



Curling Etiquette

Although curling is governed by rules, player behaviour is also important and is based on the basic principles of courtesy and respect. All other rules, roles and responsibilities emanate from these principles.

The suggestions below are made in the spirit of curling's rich traditions. They are universally observed by all who enjoy the sport, which is a larger and more enthusiastic community every year.

Before the Match

- Be on time for your match. Arrive early enough to change, organize your gear, and enter the ice house just before your match begins.
- Enter the ice house only after the ice maker has finished.
- If you cannot play a match, inform your skip and your league coordinator who will choose from the Spare Player list, if required.
- If unavailable at the last minute, phone the curling Centre or your skip (they may be able to find a player among those at the Centre). Also let your skip know if you are running a few minutes late, so they will not replace you.
- Start the match on time, even if it means beginning with three players.
- Wear clean shoes that will not damage the ice surface. Change slip-on grippers at least annually, and /or whenever they start to deteriorate (shed debris). Do not wear curling shoes anywhere else.
- Use boot cleaners every time you enter the ice house.
- Ensure curling equipment is clean to prevent debris from falling on the ice.
- Wear clothing that is clean and free of lint or decoration that might fall on the ice.
- A team that defaults must inform both the other team and the Centre.

During the Match

- Shake hands with members of both teams and wish them "good curling".
- Opposing players (generally the leads) will turn the wheel at the start of the match to determine last stone advantage.
- Curling matches are limited to two (2) hours, which affords players roughly 15 minutes for each end, so it is important to play promptly.
- If your team starts an end, the lead should be ready to go. When you are throwing next, stand on the backboard but remain quiet and out of sight of the opposition thrower until they finish calling their shot. Then gather your rock and get in the hack, clean the stone, and begin your pre-shot routine.

- When an opposing player is preparing to deliver a rock and you are not throwing next, stand to the side of the sheet, single file and between the hog lines. Move only after the stone has been released.
- Never cross in front of a player who is in the hack and about to deliver a stone.
- Do nothing to distract or harm the play of the match, particularly as it applies to the other team.
- Focus on your match and ignore play on other sheets.
- Keep your equipment out of the way near the backboards so that nobody trips over it.
- When delivering your rock, do not leave your fingers, palm of your hand, wrist or knee on the ice. This results in “flat” spots in the ice.
- Pick up any hair, lint or dirt you see on the ice and deposit them off the ice or to the side or end of the sheet. This helps minimize “picks”.
- When you have finished sweeping your team’s rock and are walking back down the sheet, keep to the edge, and walk in single-file. Remember that the other team will be throwing their rock and the sight lines down the sheet should be clear. You should avoid stepping onto or walking up and down the sheet of ice next to the one you are playing on if it is in use.
- If you are standing on the sidelines, and you see that the other team is throwing their next rock on your side, close to the edge of the sheet, give them some room by moving to the sidelines on the other side (but before the player delivers the rock).
- Only one sweeper is permitted behind the tee line. Identify, with the other member of your team sweeping with you, which one of you will continue to sweep once the rock is behind the tee line. The team delivering the rock has 1st privilege of sweeping its own rock but must not obstruct or prevent opponents from sweeping.
- The second and third should put the rocks away in a single line along the edge of the sheet. It is not necessary to put the rocks in order as this wastes time.
- Only skips and thirds may congregate inside the hog line. They shall position themselves behind the back line when the delivering team is in the process of delivery. Both players shall be motionless with their brooms positioned in a manner not to interfere or distract the attention of the player who is preparing to deliver a stone.
- At the conclusion of an end, all players remain outside the rings until the opposing thirds have agreed on the score.
- It is the third’s responsibility to post their team’s score immediately on completion of an end, and to update the results on the draw board at the completion of the match. If an end results in a big score, it is courteous to delay posting the score until the opposing team wins an end.

- Do not hesitate to cheer an opponent who has successfully made a difficult shot. Never say or do anything to hurt the feelings of a player who has missed a shot.
- Do not swear, taunt or slam your broom on the ice.
- A buzzer will sound when there are 25 minutes left. At that point, you are required to finish the end in progress, and **if 15 minutes are left**, you may play a last end.

After the Match

- Shake hands with members of both teams.
- It is customary for the four members of the winning team to offer to buy a drink from the bar for each of their counterparts on the opposing team. Members of the losing team are strongly encouraged to offer to buy a reciprocal second round of drinks.

General

- Treat others as you wish to be treated.
- Curling des Collines is pleased to offer an environment free of both tobacco and cannabis smoke. Vaping and e-cigarettes are not permitted.
- Curling des Collines' bar will be run in accordance with the responsible beverage service obligations of the Institut du tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec (ITHQ). Intoxicated behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Pets are not permitted. Service animals require advance approval from a member of the Board of Directors.
- Curlers are asked to return chairs and tables they may have moved back to their original positions.
- Curlers are asked to help keep viewing windows and ledges clean and clutter-free.
- Curlers are asked to raise problems or to make suggestions to their skip, who will communicate with their league Coordinator.
- 9-1-1 will be called if any curler or visitor is sufficiently unwell that medical attention is warranted.

Board of Directors
Curling des Collines