

The EYCC Board would like to recognize the amazing effort by the day time leagues to grow their programs. The Day Women, Day Men & Day Mixed are all filled over capacity and are still growing in numbers! These leagues also host very successful bonspiels, so successful in fact that they had to create a new bonspiel - The All Gender 6 Ender Bender in November - to deal with the demand. We thank every one of them that has put in their time and effort to make our day time programs such a success.



## **SWEEPING MORATORIUM STATEMENT**

### **Sweeping Moratorium on Brush Head Technology**

**In effect September 12, 2016 – April 30, 2018**

The purpose of this **Curling Canada Sweeping Moratorium** is to ensure a level playing field while protecting the integrity of the sport and the spirit of fair play. This will require **voluntary player compliance** without the intervention of officials.

This Moratorium will be in effect for the remainder of this quadrennial (ending April 30, 2018) and the subsequent updating of Curling Canada's Rule Book in June 2018.

#### **PART ONE – Moratorium Statement**

- Only World Curling Federation (WCF) approved brush heads\* will be allowed for use at Curling Canada championships leading to WCF events, WCF-sanctioned events, **and any event where CTRS points are available**. Approved equipment will be assigned a WCF Product Code. \* *Currently Nylon Oxford 420D (mustard yellow)*
- Many competitive events in Canada are not formally officiated; therefore, in the spirit of the sport of curling, **the obligation is on individual players (and/or coach)** to source a compliant brush head for play in these events. Players and coaches **will be** responsible for ensuring any sweeping brush brought to the field of play is compliant with this Moratorium.
- **Hair brooms and corn brooms are banned for use as sweeping devices**. During this moratorium, however, hair brooms and corn brooms **will be** allowed to serve as sliding brooms.
- Any Canadian player using a sweeping device in competitions noted in (1) that is **not approved** by the WCF will be suspended from the remainder of the competition and the game in question will be forfeited. The team **will not** be allowed to replace the player for the remainder of the competition and will play with three players. A second infraction by the same player or same team (any player, any time) will suspend that team for the remainder of the competition in question and for the next 365 days. In addition, the team will forfeit any Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) points earned in that season. A second infraction by a specific player will suspend the team for the remainder of the competition in question, regardless if the player's first offence was with another team. The player with a second offence will be suspended for 365 days from the date of the second infraction. (A first infraction in Mixed Doubles will result in suspension for the rest of the competition.)
- Each player must declare his or her approved sweeping device at the start of a game. **Only that player can use that device for sweeping during the game. Penalty:** if a player

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sweeps with another person's sweeping device, the stone shall be removed from play

- A player may not change their brush head during a game, unless the Chief Umpire grants special permission. **Penalty:** If a change is made without permission, the team will forfeit the game.
- If an alternate or substitute player comes into a game, they must use the brush of the player they are replacing. **Penalty:** If a new sweeping device is brought into the game, the team will forfeit the game.
- The target broom must be the declared sweeping brush of the skip and vice-skip. Using a separate or different broom as the target broom is **not** allowed (even if a compliant and approved version). **Penalty:** if the skip or vice-skip sweeps with a brush used for sliding, or any other non-declared broom, the stone shall be removed from play
- This moratorium also covers any pre-competition practice, pre-game practice, and the draw for last stone advantage. Evening practices are exempt. **Penalty:** If an unauthorized sweeping device is used, the offending team will relinquish last stone advantage in the next scheduled game.
- The sweeping techniques from Curling Canada's General Play Rule 11(8)(a)(b)(c) and Officiated Rule 12(8)(a)(b)(c) will continue to be enforced:
  - Given that the intent of sweeping is to keep the path of a stone clean and to take a stone farther, there must be brush head movement in the sweeping motion\*\*
  - The sweeping motion shall not leave any debris in front of a moving stone
  - The final sweeping motion shall finish outside the path of any stone.

\*\* *The WCF sweeping summit clearly showed that the direction of the brush head movement (i.e. east to west or straight up and back) had little if any out-of-the-ordinary impact on the curling stone when sweeping with a compliant brush head. (See National Research Council Public Executive Summary)*

- Random inspections of equipment by an umpire may be carried out during the event

and/or during a game. Players may request that an umpire inspect a brush prior to or during a game.

## Authority:

- The Chief Umpire is authorized to administer this Moratorium and may assign other umpires to perform various duties, as required.
- The Chief Umpire is authorized to make decisions regarding this Moratorium not specifically covered in this protocol.
- All decisions of the Chief Umpire regarding this Moratorium are final.

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## PART TWO – Recreation & Club Play, Bonspiels, Funspiels, etc.

Surveys show almost 99% of all Canadian curlers are recreational players. We understand the reluctance of a weekly or casual player to discard a relatively new brush head, and we agree with the WCF statement (September 10, 2016): "*The WCF recognises a great deal of previously compliant equipment, both new and slightly used, remains in the hands of manufacturers, retailers and individual curlers. It is neither reasonable or practical to expect this equipment should be immediately discarded in favour of equipment conforming to the pending specifications.*"

Curling Canada played a major role with the World Curling Federation and Canada's National Research Council in understanding, researching and creating new equipment guidelines to re-establish integrity in a fair playing field. As the world's largest curling jurisdiction, we are confident that the great Canadians who play this game each and every day will continue to curl within the true spirit of the game we are noted for.

While the moratorium does not extend to recreation play, club play or bonspiels that are not part of the Canadian Team Ranking System, and while curling rinks in Canada have autonomy over their own fields of play, we suggest recreation players may use brush heads previously banned or built during the 2015-16 season (or earlier).

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Additionally, we wholeheartedly support these WCF statements for your consideration at the club level:

- *“For leagues, competitions or events contested primarily for recreation or fun, or for competitions or events contested primarily by novice or inexperienced curlers, it may not be necessary to limit which sweeping equipment can be used as a condition of competition.”*
- *“For leagues, competitions or events where substantial prizes or awards are earned, it may be advisable to require sweeping equipment conforming to WCF specifications be used as a condition of competition.”*
- *“In keeping with the ‘Spirit of Curling’, individuals who are elite competitors or very proficient sweepers should consider whether it is ‘fair’ that they use non-conforming equipment in a recreational competition even if the rules allow it.”*

We would also encourage everyone however, to consider the true spirit of the sport of curling, and regardless of the brush head in use, all players should **revert to the sweeping techniques / styles in play prior to the 2015-16 season.** Most of the ‘unusual’ sweeping methods encountered last season have been dispelled as demonstrated / verified by the results of the Sweeping Summit and the executive summary of the NRC.

- When **using compliant material**, the sweeping angle (90 degrees or north-to-south or 45 degrees) was determined to be **irrelevant** in affecting the stone other than taking it farther or keeping it straighter. Or more simply put, **sweeping east to west does not make a non-compliant brush head compliant.** **Conclusion:** sweep in any direction you want, but do not leave debris in front of the stone and the last brush stroke should be away and to the side of the path of the stone.
- When using compliant material, having two sweepers on a draw shot **will** carry a stone further than using one sweeper. **Conclusion:** return to form from the 2014-15 season with **both** sweepers brushing on either side or the same side of the delivered stone.

- When using compliant material, sweeping take-outs with one sweeper to either keep it straight or to make it curl more, had little if any effect. **Conclusion:** using two sweepers for take-outs is better than one sweeper only.



The Icebreaker was a sell-out success!

We welcomed new and old curlers to the Club in truly East York style. Everyone enjoyed playing a six-end game, followed up with a delicious dinner – thank you Chef Mike – and had a great scavenger hunt that had teams running around the Club. And yes, we even had prizes!

Curling – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Team Stephen Smith with Jens Wilke and Raymond Ho

Scavenger Hunt – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Team Aidan Ritchie with Jason Chang, Kathryn English and Matt Dermody

This was also the bonspiel that introduced the new Super Lockers. As most of you have noticed, there is a "Super Locker" in each of the Men's and Women's change room. Every time a Club member plays in a Club bonspiel, their name will be entered into a draw (which will take place at the end of the curling season) for a chance to “win” the use of the super locker for the next curling season. Since the lockers were installed for this season, we couldn't let them sit empty all year, so a name was drawn for each locker at The Icebreaker.

**Congratulations to Jasmine Yan and Raymond Ho, this year's Super Locker winners!**

## Snack Bar Confidential:

Snack Bar 3.0

Greetings, all!

Thanks for having me back for my third season running the kitchen here at EYCC. Already a month in, hard to believe!

I will continue to strive for the highest quality of food this season, while incorporating new ideas with classic favourites.

Monday and Tuesday nights see the return of Kieran, on loan from my friends over at Grapevine Catering, allowing me to actually curl a couple of times a week myself this season!

New part time additions are Travis, who is doing a great job on Sundays, and Matt, who has only worked a couple of shifts but seems like a talented young cook.

This season I've also taken on the kitchen operation duties at Leaside Curling Club, and am having a blast with the extra responsibility. I will continue to work the line Wednesday to Friday nights at East York, and prepare as many of the specials as possible!

As always, I encourage all to say hello, provide feedback to me personally, and make suggestions and/or requests anytime.

Thanks for reading!

MM

## *When the big rocks collide*

November 6, 2016 · 11:08 AM



Curling technician Dave Merklinger shows the fine points of a Kays of Scotland curling stone at the Memorial Arena in Cranbrook. Preparations for Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling are well underway. / BARRY COULTER

### Barry Coulter

When the big rocks collide, it's high drama indeed. Prepare for tectonic shifts in Cranbrook — centre of the curling world for the next week.

Sixty teams are in town for the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling, a stop on Sportsnet's Tour Challenge, and along with the high quality ice, the rocks are of premier importance to curlers, and thus to the fans.

There are two main manufacturers of curling rocks — Kay's of Scotland and Canada Curling Stone. These two rivals will both be represented at Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling, which commences in bold fashion Tuesday, Nov. 8, at Western Financial Place, and runs until Nov. 13 at WFP and the Memorial Arena.

Dave Merklinger from Vernon, one of the ice technicians working with Mark Shurek, has done ice for the Briers, the Scotties, and other major events. This is his first Grand Slam, working with his friend icemaker Mark Shurek. Merklinger gave a little tour of one of the stones ready for use — in this case, Kays of Scotland down at the Memorial (Canada Curling Stone are in use at WFP).

He hefts a stone, points out the bottom, where a different colour and kind of granite has been inserted. "This is blue hone granite — the best kind of granite you can get," Merklinger said. "This is the

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only part of the stone that touches the ice. Only a ring about one-eighth of an inch on the bottom of the stone actually touches the surface.

Merklinger displays the top and side of the stone. "The outside core, or casing, is of an inferior quality, but it is much better for striking and it's much better for holding moisture.

"It's the best of two worlds when they learned how to do this," Merklinger said.

The forty-pound masses of rock can seem pretty cumbersome and indelicate, but they can be thrown with pinpoint precision. And of course, being the main instrument of their trade, curlers can get pretty finicky about the stones.

"Of course, they're human, and of course they'll blame a rock if they think that it's not reacting the way they think it should react," Merklinger said. "And nothing's ever perfect. But they're generally pretty close.

"But you can actually feel if there's an inferior running surface (on the bottom of the stone). A little pit here, or a little rough spot there. Curlers can pick that up pretty quick, and they'll just give it away to the lead — the skip gets the perfect pair. That's the way it should be."

The curler's heightened awareness of the qualities of the rock makes for a potent mix when combined with the superstitions of the athlete. Merklinger has seen a lot in his time in the curling business.

"There are all kinds of superstitions," he said. "They can go right from the number of the rock they're throwing. Some curlers don't like to throw a seven or eight — they like to throw a four or a five. They don't like to throw yellow rocks, they like to throw blue rocks."

Sportsnet is travelling with its own tested and calibrated rocks, using both Kays of Scotland and Canada Curling Stone. The rival makers of curling stone both have their own unique quarries in the U.K.

Basementgeographer.com reports that not just any type of granite can be used to make these 17-20 kg (38-44 lb) rocks. With stones crashing against each other repeatedly, over and over again for years on

end (20-30 years is a healthy lifespan), an average curling stone sees thousands of such collisions over its lifespan, meaning that the type of granite used has to be extremely durable, non-porous, and shatter-resistant.

Such rock is extremely hard to come by, and traditionally the only two suitable types of granite for curling, blue hone and common green, were only found on Ailsa Craig, an island off Scotland. Kays have an exclusive agreement with the island's owner, the Marquess of Ailsa, to harvest the loose boulders on the island. The most recent harvest removed 1,500 tons of common green and 200 tons of blue hone — enough to make about 8 000 stones, which would be enough to supply 500 rinks.

After searching for years for its own source of high quality granite, Canada Curling Stone now has the exclusive rights to harvest granite from the Trefor quarry on the Llyn Peninsula in north Wales at the Trefor quarry. Not only is the supply of rock available far greater, Trefor is more durable than Ailsa Craig blue hone and so is better suited for crashing and banging but Ailsa Craig blue hone is less porous and better suited for sliding on ice. According to [basementgeographer.com](http://basementgeographer.com), many rinks are moving to a sort of hybrid stone: stones with traditional Ailsa Craig blue hone running band inserts (the smoothest, least-porous type of granite for gliding along the ice) attached to Trefor bodies and strike bands (the middle portion of the stone that collides with other stones) along the outside. A hybrid stone as such can extend the lifespan of the stone to 40-50 years.

"These are beautiful," Merklinger said the rocks, stacked in boxes at the Memorial, ready to go into action. "The technology that has gone into crafting the stones in the last 20 years is unbelievable."

Merklinger added that he's observed an increase in popularity and participation in curling.

"I think with the advent of TV and everything that's going on — televising the Slams — there's actually an increase [in curling participation]."

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Merklinger managed the Vernon Curling Club, and has seen an increase in membership in the last five years.

"A lot of it has to do with the Olympics. A lot of it has to do with televised events like the Slam. And it's a fun game to play."

## Editor's Note:

Submission deadline is the 12th of each month. Articles are subject to editing. Submissions may be sent to:

rocktalk@eastyorkcurling.ca

## Upcoming events

**Broomspiel - November 26th, 2016 - Open Format / \$160.00 per team**

**Shuffle Up N' Spiel - December 3rd, 2016 - Open Format / Individual Entry / \$60.00 per person**

**Game On Spiel - January 7th, 2017 - Little Rock's Bonspiel / Team Entry / \$160.00 per team / Curlers must be aged 7 to 12**

**Robbie Burn's Ladies Bonspiel - January 14th, 2017 - Women's Bonspiel / Team Entry / \$180.00 Early Bird or \$200.00 after December 1st, 2016**

**Escape the Soap Spiel - January 28th, 2017 - Open Format / Individual Entry / \$60.00 per person / A Sudsy Adventure for the Puzzled Curler**

