

COMPETITION POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

World Curling Federation | November 2023



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POLICIES / RULES FOR BRUSH HEADS AND BRUSHING

It is the responsibility of each player and coach to ensure his or her sweeping brush meets World Curling Federation (WCF) 'Standards for Competition Equipment' and is listed on the WCF 'Conforming Equipment List'. This includes but is not limited to, ensuring a valid WCF Product Code is displayed on the pad or fabric, ensuring there is nothing between the fabric and the foam and ensuring the side of the fabric in contact with the ice is the side intended by the manufacturer, which will be the case if the WCF Product Code is visible on the fabric.

The penalty for sweeping with equipment in WCF competition games that does not conform to standards for Competition Equipment established by the WCF:

- 1) First team offence during a competition – the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game.
- 2) Second team offence during a competition – the team is disqualified from the competition and all players are not permitted to play in WCF competitions for a 12-month period (365 days).

A stabilizing brush, which is used only during delivery, need not be on the conforming list, but can never be used for sweeping. Rule C3 (i) - Penalty During LSD Stones and Games: If a non-conforming stabilizing brush is used to sweep, the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game. If a conforming stabilizing brush is used to sweep, the stone is removed from play, or for the LSD it will be recorded as the maximum (199.6 cm).

Penalty During All Practice Sessions: If a non-conforming or conforming stabilising brush is used to sweep, the player will be warned by an umpire, and if it occurs a second time during the same session, the player will not be allowed to continue in the practice session or participate in the LSD stones or in the game that immediately (same day) follows the practice session.

If a player is using a non-conforming brush for delivery, he/she must be aware that the brush head can never be used for sweeping. Lightly 'cleaning' the ice on the path of the stone to be delivered is permitted, as this is not considered to be sweeping. If a player has used the non-conforming brush to sweep the ice instead of lightly cleaning it when going down the ice or sweeps in the house (pre- or post-delivery), the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game.

The umpires will conduct random checks of brush heads during all competitions. The WCF reserves the right to undertake testing of approved equipment collected at WCF Championships and Events. The Chief Umpire may collect approved equipment from the participants, and any equipment collected for testing becomes the property of the WCF.

For all practices and games, a maximum of one conforming sweeping device per person can be taken into the field of play. Brush pads must be installed on the head assembly for which they are designed, with the exception being the oval heads, which can be installed on any assembly designed for oval heads. All sweeping devices will be marked with different coloured tape to identify which device belongs to which player or coach(s). For pre-competition / evening / special play-off / pre-game practices only these conforming brushes may be used to sweep, however a player or coach can sweep with any one of those brushes, their sweeping device need not be the one that is identified (taped) for their personal use during LSD stones and games.

For Last Stone Draws (LSDs) and the game, each player must declare the brush they will use for sweeping, and only that player can use that device for sweeping. The officials will keep a register of these brushes. Penalty is applied as per rule C3 (e).

A player may not change his/her brush head during a game, or during / after a pre-game practice, unless the Chief Umpire grants special permission. Permission will not be granted if the pad, handle or head are damaged due to brush abuse. Penalty is applied as per rule C3 (f)

If a team must change a player after the pre-game practice or during a game, the alternate player will have to use the brush head from the player he/she is replacing. If the brush head does not fit onto the alternate's brush handle, the alternate must play with the brush of the player who is being replaced. Penalty: If a new sweeping device is brought into the game without permission of the Chief Umpire, the team will forfeit the game.


WCF – Policies / Rules for Brush Heads and Brushing 15 September 2019

BRUSH INSPECTION

The above brush policy states, that the umpires will conduct random checks during all competitions and that the WCF reserves the right to undertake testing of approved equipment collected at WCF Championships and Events. The Chief Umpire may collect approved equipment from the participants, and any equipment collected for testing becomes the property of the WCF.

Please note, that the foam is considered a part of the brush-head. This includes brushes where the fabric can be replaced separately. In the collection of equipment for testing, the Chief Umpire will always collect the foam and the fabric when they are not attached in the manufacturing process. It is each team's responsibility to make sure they do have spare parts with them during all WCF competitions.

BRUSH MARKING

4 th player	
3 rd player (Male in Mixed Doubles)	
2 nd player (Female in Mixed Doubles)	
1 st player	
Alternate & Coaches	

WHEELCHAIR CURLING POLICY

This document outlines supplementary policies for wheelchair curling as mentioned in the "Rules of Curling". It is the responsibility of each player and coach to ensure that these policies are met.

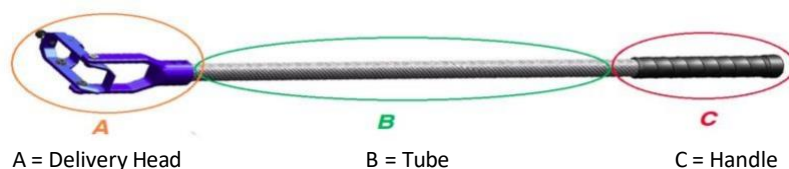
DELIVERY STICKS

The World Curling Federation (WCF) will not conduct a certification process nor an official approval process for delivery sticks in wheelchair curling. The WCF will offer annual consultation services to provide advice on a product's conformation to the standards. A sample product needs to be received by the WCF prior to May 31st. Feedback and advice will be completed by 31 July. A fee may apply.

Delivery Stick Standards

The delivery stick shall not convey any mechanical advantage other than acting as an extension of the arm/hand. Mechanical advantage is defined as the amplification of a force. Examples that can exert such a force are, but not limited to springs and pistons.

This diagram describes the terminology of a delivery stick.



The delivery stick must also abide by the following:

- It cannot contain any part that automatically aims or assists in aiming the stone.
- It cannot contain any part that adjusts the weight/speed of the stone.
- The overall length of the delivery stick must be no greater than 2.45m/8.04 feet. This measurement is taken when the stick is lying on a horizontal plane. It is defined as the distance from the furthest point on the handle to the outstretched end of the delivery head.
- The tube must be hollow and static in length throughout the delivery. However, adjustment of tube length is allowed between shots.
- Customisation of the handle, tube and delivery head are allowed if they fall within the "Wheelchair Curling Policy". Examples include tape, velcro and silicon.
- If the delivery stick conforms to the standards given it does not matter where the force is applied to the stone handle.
- Throughout the delivery movement a fixed connection must occur between the athlete through the handle, tube, and delivery head.

Please further note from the "Rules of Curling":

Rule 11 (c): "Teams must not use electronic communication equipment, or any device to modify the voice during a game. Except for stopwatches that are limited to providing 'time' data only, the use of electronic devices during the games, which provide information to players on the field of play, are forbidden".

DELIVERY STICK PENALTIES

The penalty for using a delivery stick in WCF competition games or practices, that does not conform to standards for Competition Equipment established by the WCF:

- a) First team offence during a competition: the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game.
- b) Second team offence during a competition: the team is disqualified from the competition and all players are not permitted to play in WCF competitions for a 12-month period (365 days).

All teams will be allowed a maximum of four delivery sticks (two in Wheelchair Mixed Doubles) within the field of play and any player can use any of those sticks at any time. No delivery stick can be changed during a game, or during / after a pre-game practice, unless the Chief Umpire grants special permission. Permission will be granted if the tube, handle, or delivery head are damaged in an accidental manner. Penalty: If a change is made without permission, the team will forfeit the game.

If a team brings in an alternate a player during a game, that team may replace a maximum of one delivery stick (not applicable for Wheelchair Mixed Doubles).

WCF – Wheelchair Curling Policy 8 September 2022

ACCREDITATION AT WORLD CURLING FEDERATION EVENTS

Regular teams = 5 players, 1 coach and 2 other team officials (e. g. - team leader, translator, etc.) Mixed Doubles teams = 2 players (1 male & 1 female), 1 coach and 1 other team official

Mixed teams = 4 players (2 male & 2 female), 1 coach and 1 other team official

Please note: At all WCF competitions, each team must have at least one person present who is at least 18 year's of age by the end of the 30th day of June before the competition is to take place.

Privileges granted should include:

Players (5) (2 for Mixed Doubles) (4 for Regular Mixed):

- free entry to the venue for all games (when not playing, a seat in the team area)
- possibility to have accommodation in the team hotel(s)
- access to the official's field of play, when in the alternate position and the team is playing
- access to the players' lounge and other 'team' areas (medical / massage / interview area, etc.)
- may use the event's team transportation system (could be a team car / van or shuttle system)
- ticket to the Welcome Reception and Farewell Banquet, for a fee
- medal and other appropriate award items

Team Coach (1):

- same as the players

Second Team Official (1):

- free entry to the venue for all games
- access to the official's field of play when their team is playing and into the team area when not playing
- Organising Committee has no obligation for transportation, only if space available; also, no guarantee of accommodation in the team hotel, only if space available
- ticket to the Welcome Reception and Farewell Banquet, for a fee

Third Team Official (1) for Regular 5-Player Teams:

- free entry to the venue for all games
- access to team areas
- Organising Committee has no obligation for transportation, only if space available; also, no guarantee of accommodation in the team hotel, only if space available
- ticket to the Welcome Reception and Farewell Banquet, for a fee

Definition Translator

A translator must be officially registered as one of the team officials as listed above.

That person is allowed to join the coach during a team time-out but could also be called by the officials to help with translations.

To be eligible to be registered as a translator / interpreter, that person must be able to communicate fluently in the language of the team (if not English) and also be able to translate that language to English.

MAINTENANCE OF CURLING STONES DURING COMPETITIONS

- Any maintenance on the stones will only be done with WCF approval during an event.
- The recommendation for maintenance after the start of a competition must come from the event Chief Ice Technician, and then approval must come from the WCF Technical Delegate after consultation with the Chief Umpire.
- Maintenance work would only be done when there is a minimum of two days remaining in the round robin. This timing restriction is to ensure the stones are played for several games prior to the start of the playoffs.
- The maintenance work is done to return the stones to the condition they were in at the start of the competition. It is not intended to significantly alter the conditions for the athletes.
- Additional practice will not be organised after the stones have been maintained.
- The teams will always be informed when any maintenance work is done on the stones.

COACHES DELIVERING STONES

Pre-Event + Special Play-off Training

- any 2 of the 3 accredited team officials are allowed in the Field of Play
- both can deliver stones

Pre-Game Practice, Training if a team has a bye or has won a game by forfeit + Evening Practice

- any 2 of the 3 accredited team officials are allowed in the Field of Play
- coaches are **not** allowed to deliver stones

Note: The 2 officials going into the Field of Play for these practices can change from training to training.

DELAYED LAST STONE DRAW (LSD)

If for any reason, one or more sheets are delayed, and LSD stones cannot be delivered, after 60 seconds of delay the other sheet(s) where LSD stones can be delivered, will be allowed to do so.

TEAM WITHDRAWAL (DNS)

If a team withdraws from a competition and it is too late to change the draw, the team they are to play get a bye. They can have a 30-minute practice starting at game time with one or both sets of stones to be confirmed by the Chief Umpire.

MIXED DOUBLES – PLACING OF STONES

Each team is responsible for the placement of their stone. If either team delays the start of an end, their timeclock will be activated. If both teams delay the start of an end, the time clock of the team that must start the end will be started.

SPARE STONES FOR PLAY-OFF GAMES

At WCF competitions, players are often given a choice of stone selection for the play-off games. On the official stone selection form, there is space for two reserve stones (except in Mixed Doubles).

In the rare situation, that a stone must be replaced during a game, the team would be given the option, to replace the paired set of stones if they would like to. If they decide that they only want to replace the unplayable stone, that is their final decision for that game.

ORIGINAL TEAM LINE-UP

An individual can only be listed **once** on the original team line up. Each individual must select to be listed as either a player, **or** coach, **or** other team official.

CHANGING OF A TEAM MEMBER ON THE ORIGINAL LINE-UP AFTER THE TEAM-MEETING

The rule clearly says: Any changes / additions must be declared by the end of the team meeting.

In the team meeting document, we also say: If a team must change a person on the coach bench (extenuating circumstances, i.e., sickness), the CU will consider the circumstances and their decision is final.

The following would be considered extenuating circumstances:

- Sickness or injury, normally for the rest of the event; but it is up to the CU to decide if a coach who can return is allowed back on the coaches bench
- Must leave the competition for home and will not return

A change cannot be made if it is clear, that the team official will return to the event after only one or two games. In that situation one of the other registered team officials must take over that position. If a coach must leave the event and is replaced by another coach, the accreditation of the leaving coach must be handed to the WCF Technical Delegate so that an accreditation for the new official can be issued.

TECHNICAL TIME-OUTS

If a team requires a technical time-out due to an issue with personal equipment (e.g., brush, delivery stick in wheelchair curling, wheelchair, or any clothing), the technical time-out cannot last more than 5 minutes (10 minutes in wheelchair curling). After that time the game must resume. If a team cannot resume after the 5 minutes (10 minutes in wheelchair curling) have elapsed, they will forfeit the game.

If a technical time-out is caused due to an external force (e.g., power-failure, stone issues etc.), the Chief-Umpire will have the decision on how long the time-out will last for. Rule **R13** will then be applied.

MEDICAL TIME-OUTS

If a team needs to call for a medical time-out, the Chief Umpire will consult with the medical personnel and the affected team after 5 minutes. After that consultation, the Chief Umpire will decide how long the medical time-out will last. The maximum extra duration is 10 minutes (total of 15 minutes). The Chief Umpire will then consult with the ice-crew and informs the teams so that they can prepare for the recommencement.

Should the affected team not be able to re-join the game after 15 minutes (e.g., not enough players, no alternate), the team will forfeit the game.

TIMING AT WCF EVENTS WITHOUT TIME-CLOCKS

Before the event, the Chief Umpire together with the Event Technical Delegate will share a document indicating a schedule, within what timeframe each end of a game should be completed.

That schedule includes extra time for measures, rulings etc. Should there be an extraordinary situation, the umpires will take that into account.

If a game is falling behind that schedule, the Umpires will first talk with both teams and ask them to speed up. From that point on, that game will be closely observed and if the game falls further behind schedule, then rule C6 (m) will be applied.

Rule C6 (m) states: If an umpire determines that a team is unnecessarily delaying a game, the umpire notifies the skip of the offending team and, after that notification, if the next stone to be delivered has not reached the tee line at the delivery end within 45 seconds, the stone is removed from play immediately.

We all know that some stones do need longer discussions. If the front-end of the team is ready in the hack when it is their time to deliver a stone, the game will not fall behind schedule even if the stones of the back end need some longer discussions.

If issuing warnings for single stones does not help that teams are playing within the timeframe allocated for a session, the Chief Umpire together with the Event Technical Delegate will decide on further actions.

PROCEDURE

The umpire will issue a 45 second warning to the team member in charge of the house and at the same time start their stopwatch. If the stone is not delivered within 45 seconds, the stone will be removed from play.

The warning applies to that stone only. If the pace of play does not improve, further 45 second warnings will be issued as required.

REPLACING MEMBER ASSOCIATION(S) AT WCF EVENTS

Should a Member Association (MA) be unable to compete at a World Curling Federation event, due to disciplinary sanctions, travel restrictions, etc. the MA will be replaced by the highest ranked team from the previously completed edition of a qualifying championship or lower division. If there is no completed qualification event, world ranking will be used:

ECC-A - the next highest MA from the previous ECC-B would be promoted

ECC-B - the next highest MA from the previous ECC-C would be promoted

ECC-C - open entry - play with fewer MAs

PCCC-A - the next highest MA from the previous PCCC-B would be promoted

PCCC-B - as long as there is no C-Division, play with fewer MAs

WWhBCC - open entry - play with fewer MAs

WWhCC - the next highest MA from the previous WWhBCC

WWhMDCC - open entry - play with fewer MAs

WMDQE - open entry - play with fewer MAs

WMDCC - the next highest MA from the previous WMDQE would be promoted

WJBCC - open entry - play with fewer MAs

WJCC - the next highest MA from the previous WJBCC

WWCC / WMCC - Depending on which region is affected, it would be the next highest MA from the previous ECC/PCCC

WSCC - open entry - play with fewer MAs

WMxCC - open entry - play with fewer MAs

EVENING PRACTICE

Only athletes are allowed to deliver stones during evening practice.

There is no evening practice at the following events: WJBCC, WMxCC, WMDQE, WSCC, ECC-C, YOG.

PROCEDURAL POLICIES

- Only medal winning teams are required on-ice for closing ceremonies.
- Players are allowed to depart from a competition after being eliminated and after notifying the World Curling Federation Event Technical Delegate (TD). For events where a Per Diem or function tickets are provided, these will not be provided after a player has departed.
- No speed traps are allowed for pre-game practice (only pre-event and evening practice).
- If coaches are working with more than one team at an event (e.g., Men's and Women's WSCC teams) and those teams play at the same time, a coach must declare which team he/she will coach in any one session (can change from session to session). If a person is designated as the Team Coach for more than one team at an event (e.g., Men's and Women's WSCC teams) that person is entitled to receive any medal won by the team(s).
- A team may change the athlete delivering LSD stone up until the time of delivery even though they had designated a different athlete in CuCoS.
- A coach is entitled to use a mobile or tablet (with no network connection) during a timeout in place of a magnetic board.
- Games recorded by team support staff for technical review cannot be publicly distributed at any time due to WCF broadcast rights.
- If a team quits the game before they have fulfilled the minimum number of required ends, the penalty or sanctions are determined by the WCF.
- If a team must forfeit a game because they don't have enough players (illness or injury), the remaining player(s) can still participate in the pre-game practice and delivery their LSD(s) according to the rules, as long as they have the minimum players on the ice as per the WCF rules.
- A team with a bye may be allotted practice (30 minutes) at the start of the scheduled game time. The opponent of a team that forfeits a game may be allotted practice (30 minutes) once the forfeit is confirmed.
- If the CIT recommends that an additional ice-maintenance is required, the Technical Delegate after consulting with the CIT and CU will make the final decision. If the decision is taken that there is an ice-scrape required after the start of the game, all players on the ice are allowed to throw one stone each in both directions, alternating with the opponent (the team not having Last Stone Current End (LSCE) throws first).
- A maximum of 2 of the 3 accredited team support staff (if there is more than 1) can be designated to sit on the bench. The two designates can change from game to game.
- No tick-shot rule: If the stone is touching at least part of the centre line marking, it is considered on the centre line.

