

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.

(1) 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)

(2) Players and coaches will be responsible for ensuring any sweeping brush brought to the field of play is compliant with this Moratorium.

(3) Hair brooms and corn brooms are not permitted as sweeping devices and may only be used as a sliding device.

(4) Any player using a sweeping device in competitions noted in (1) that is not approved by the WCF will be suspended from the competition and the game will be forfeited. The team cannot replace the player for the remainder of the competition and will play with three players (Mixed team would forfeit). A second infraction by the same team (any player, any time) will suspend that team for the remainder of the competition and for the next 365 days. The team will forfeit any (CTRS) points earned in that season.

(5) Each player must declare his/her approved sweeping device at the start of a game.

Penalty: if a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device, the stone shall be removed from play.

(6) A player may not change their brush head during a game, unless approved by the Chief Umpire.

Penalty: If a change is made without permission, the team will forfeit the game.

(7) If a 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.

(8) The target broom must be the declared sweeping device of the skip and vice-skip.

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 (even if it is compliant).

(9) Moratorium also covers pre-competition or pre-game practice, and the LSD for hammer.

Evening practices are exempt.

Penalty: If an unauthorized sweeping device is used in practice/LSD, the offending team will relinquish a hammer in the next scheduled game.

(10) Curling Canada's **Rules on Sweeping** remain unchanged General Rule 11(8)(a)(b)(c) or Officiated Rule 12(8)(a)(b)(c):

(a) Given that the intent of sweeping is to keep the path of the stone clean and to take a stone farther, there must be brush head movement in the sweeping motion

(b) the sweeping motion shall not leave any debris in front of a moving stone

(c) 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 (ie. 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 Summary)**

(11) 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 sweeping device prior to or during a game.