

Sweeping

Purpose: Reduce Friction Between the Rock and the Sheet of Ice

- Polish the pebbles.
- Eliminate the frost and debris from the sheet's surface.
- Generate a quick melting of the pebbles to create a thin layer of moisture acting as a lubricant between the ice and the rock.

How Do You hold a broom?

Players shall hold approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the broom with the non-dominant hand and place the dominant hand a bit lower ($\frac{1}{3}$) on the broom handle (much like a hockey stick).



Position of Hands on the Broom

What Position Does One Take?

- Place hips to form a 45 degree angle with the line of the rock. Position yourself in front of the rock's center.
- The player bends forward at waist level so that most of his or her weight is over the sliding foot. In this way, the broom's head touches the ice. In this position, known as open, the player's shoulders are in the travelling direction and no obstacle prevents him or her from seeing the other end of the sheet. The player is facing the house.

- Sometimes a player is more comfortable sweeping on one side rather than another. It is important to agree with your partner on the preferred side and to decide who will be sweeping closest to the rock. Ideally, a player should be able to sweep on both sides of the rock

How Does One Proceed?

- Rhythmic and quick motions on the line of delivery in front and in the middle of the rock, not on the sides. Remember that only 6 to 8 inches of the rock's surface touch the ice.
- Press down on the broom.
- Keep the broom's angle high, the applied pressure will be more effective.
- If you apply pressure on a scale with your broom, you will see the difference depending on the angle of the broom.
- Stay as close as possible to the rock to get maximum efficiency. But, be careful not to touch the rock! And breathe!
- By combining speed, consistency and pressure in front of the rock, you will gain maximum efficiency.

Source: <https://curlingdescollines.ca/index.php/en/41-curling-info/289-sweeping>

Sweepers' Roles and Responsibilities

A good sweeper is not content with only applying pressure on the ice according to his skip's instructions. His role is much more complex and strategic. Here are the sweeper's principal functions.

1. A sweeper shall be clear on the delivery called for by the skip and make sure both he and his partner are aware of it or of the plan B, if necessary.
2. A sweeper shall judge as best he can the weight and the line of the rock as soon as it is released by the delivering player.
3. A sweeper shall inform the skip of his perception and take into account his partner's comments.
4. A sweeper shall follow the rock and pay attention to the moment where it will lose speed or start to curl.

5. A sweeper shall react quickly to the skip's request for sweeping and adjust to it. A sweeper shall always follow the rock and be ready to sweep on demand.
6. If needed, a sweeper shall work with the skip to evaluate a possible alternative plan and avoid any negative impact of the delivered rock for his team.
7. When the rock comes to rest, sweepers shall return to their position close to the hog lines on the other side of the sheet.

Other than sweeping vigorously, the most difficult aspect of a sweeper's role is to judge the rock's weight. To attain this, the use of a stop-watch can help. However, this needs for the delivery to be flawless, without restraining the rock or weighing it down. You can also count in a rhythmic fashion to calculate the weight of the rock in accordance with the speed of the ice. You can also judge according to your pace as you follow the rock. To achieve a certain level of skill in judging the speed of a rock, you must first stay focused on the game and develop your own reference points.

Finally, when the other team is playing, we sometimes ask a sweeper of the team to stand on the hog line to make sure the delivering player does not cross it.

Source: <https://curlingdescollines.ca/index.php/en/41-curling-info/290-sweepers-roles-responsibilities>