



Ontario Grandmasters Curling Association
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Est. 2006

Sweeping and Brush Head Technology

The rules on brooms and sweeping in curling have been clarified.

The World Curling Federation, Curling Canada and the Ontario Curling Association have issued guidelines for curlers in competitive curling within those umbrella organizations.

1. The Curling Canada Broom Head Moratorium and the World Curling Federation Approvals List has informed the Ontario Grandmasters Curling Association Brush Head Policy.
2. We wish to highlight **and reinforce** the acceptable brush-heads and sweeping technique for OGCA competitions.
 - (1) Only brushes and brush heads available for sale to the public at retail outlets will **be acceptable** on the field of play. Exception: Recovered heads that have been recovered either at home or by a re-seller will be acceptable if the fabric meets the intention of the moratorium.
 - (2) Brush-head fabric that has been embossed / sealed / textured / modified from its original woven form will **not be acceptable** on the field of play. The process of embossing is often undertaken for the purpose of waterproofing the fabric by making use of coatings like polyurethane, acrylic, PVC etc. and produces a “plasticized” look.
 - (3) For brush head fabric to **be acceptable** on the field of play, the fabric must have a woven appearance that is visible to the “naked eye”. The intent is to ensure the fabric makes contact with the ice as opposed to the embossed / sealed coating used to waterproof the fabric.
 - (4) Brush heads containing “hardening” or “stiffening” materials inserted between the outer fabric and the internal cushioning material of the brush head, are not **acceptable** on the field of play. These materials may include but are not limited to: plastic, fibreglass, wood, and Teflon. In addition, brush heads that are constructed in a manner that greatly reduces the “normal” amount of compression may not be acceptable on the field of play.
 - (5) Hair brooms and corn brooms are banned for use as sweeping devices. These devices are allowed for the delivery of the rocks
 - (6) Each player must declare his or her approved sweeping device at the start of the game and only that player may use that device for sweeping during the game.
 - (7) If an alternate or substitute player enters a game that has started, they **must** use the broom of the player they are replacing.
 - (8) The target broom held by the skip must be his/her declared sweeping brush. The target broom held by the vice-skip must be his/her declared sweeping brush
 - (9) The sweeping techniques from Curling Canada General Play Rule 11 (8) (a), (b), (c) will continue to be enforced.
 - (10) These guidelines apply to pre-competition practice, pre-game practice and the draw for last rock advantage as well as the game itself.

Clarification:

The Ontario Grandmasters Curling Championships will be following the guidelines and recommendations of the World Curling Federation and Curling Canada to play within the **‘Spirit of the Game’**.

What this means for this event:

- We will not be insisting that you use the new Nylon Oxford 420D mustard yellow broom heads (henceforth referred to as conforming broom heads).
- If you use any kind of directional sweeping (includes switching and only using one sweeper at certain times to ‘steer’ the rock), we expect you to be using the new, conforming broom heads.





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- If you use non-conforming broom heads (including Norway, EQ, and Hardline, with the waterproof fabric reversed, and plastic insert removed), we expect you to employ conventional sweeping methods (two sweepers, not sweeping the rock in order to make it curl, etc.)
- Hair brooms and 'home made' brush heads with waterproof fabric and plastic inserts can no longer be used as a sweeping device.

So, in summary, if you wish to use directional sweeping, your team should be using the new, conforming broom heads. In that case, we suggest you advise your opponents before the game that your team is using the new, conforming broom heads and you may use directional sweeping.

As always, we encourage you to use common sense and respect the 'Spirit of the Game' in which we all play. In the case of repeated infractions, please inform the local official. We sincerely hope it does not come to this and common sense prevails.

Frequently asked questions re Sweeping Policy

Q – Can players use the broom heads with plastic inserts &/or fabric which has been textured, sealed or modified from its original woven form.

A – No. The plastic inserts must be removed and fabric inverted.

Q – How does the policy apply to 3 person teams?

A – On a 3 person team the sweeper should consistently sweep from the same side throughout the shot and cannot switch sides while sweeping a thrown rock.

Q – Do all 4 players require the conforming fabric to attempt directional sweeping?

A – No, but the 2 sweepers on a given rock must be using the conforming fabric. So, only 2 conforming broom heads are required on a given team.

Q – Can a sweeper change who is closer to the rock, aka switch, if they are NOT using conforming broom heads?

A – No. That is directional sweeping and not allowed unless conforming broom heads are being used.

Q – What happens if the opposing team are using directional sweeping techniques and do not have conforming broom heads?

A – The non-offending skip should remind the skip of the team that is not complying of the Sweeping Policy and request that the team desist from using directional sweeping. If the non-compliant team persists in using directional sweeping, the Skip should report the issue to the local Umpire.

We ask that you comply with these guidelines.

Ontario Grandmasters Curling Association Executives

