01 / 2026-27 CLUB RULE UPDATES

Sweeping update for 2026-27

Technique changes and the current penalty process

Scope: World Curling standing curling, including mixed doubles where adopted. Confirm your league rules.

Dates: Policy introduced January 6, 2026; rulebook dated September 1, 2026. Local adoption may vary.

Checked: October 10, 2026. World Curling rulebook dated September 1, 2026; current clean file revised October 6.

Do not sweep to slow your own stone

World Curling prohibits techniques intended to make a stone lose speed. Its January policy specifically prohibits isolated, mainly pushing brush strokes, including with the brush in a normal or "knifing" orientation. Returning the brush on the ice or lifting it before resetting does not make that technique permissible. [1,2]

Example: A draw is too heavy. Do not try to "brake" it with repeated push-only strokes. Stop sweeping or use a permitted technique; do not try to make the stone decelerate. [1,2]

What good sweeping still looks like

Sweeping may help a stone travel farther, hold its line, and enhance curl within the permitted limits. The policy also rejects deliberately making a stone fall back against its turn substantially beyond what the ice would cause, and leaving debris in its path. [2]

The underlying R8(a) requirements remain: the brush may move in any direction; it need not cover the whole stone. Do not lift the brush head or deposit debris in front of a moving stone. When you stop sweeping, finish to a side of the stone. [4] **Existing requirement:** Do not sweep with only the side or edge of the brush head touching the ice. [5]

Current R8(a) penalties in officiated play

In officiated play, an observed violation while a team sweeps its own stone brings a warning to the whole team. Further violations by that team during the **same event**, not just that game, bring these consequences:

- During a Last Stone Draw: record the maximum distance.
- During a game: the other team chooses to leave the stone in play, or remove the delivered stone and restore displaced stones. [3]

Example: A team warned in its morning game does not get a fresh first warning in its afternoon game at the same event. [3]

Before your league starts

Ask which rules your league has adopted and who will resolve disputes. The umpire-based penalty process above should not be presented as an automatic procedure for every unofficiated club game.

This handout concerns sweeping in standing curling, including mixed doubles where these rules apply. **Wheelchair curling and wheelchair mixed doubles do not allow sweeping.** [3]

Official sources

1. World Curling announcement of the Sweeping Technique Policy. January 6, 2026.
2. World Curling Sweeping Technique Policy. January 6, 2026. Technique restrictions.
3. World Curling Rules of Curling 2026. R8(a), R14(d), R15(b). Use the current R8(a) penalties.
4. World Curling Rules of Curling 2025. R8(a), for the unchanged sweeping basics.
5. World Curling Statement of Principles Regarding Competition Equipment. September 2026, page 18.

Educational summary. Your governing body and event rules control. Current rules: worldcurling.org/rules

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