HOUSECALL

Learn the game. Love the game.

Before You Step on the Ice

A beginner's guide to four-player curling



Start safely

- Warm up. Use properly fitting footwear and double grippers when walking on the ice.
- Ask your club about head protection.
- Stay within your abilities. Ask your instructor about delivery sticks or other support.
- Follow your instructor's directions before stepping onto the ice.

Meet your team

Four players share the work. Each delivers **two stones per end**. The **skip** directs the team's play and can deliver in any position.

Listen to the call, communicate clearly, and be ready for your next job.

The game in one minute

Two teams alternate deliveries. Each team has **eight stones**, so a full **end** contains 16 deliveries. An end is one round of play, followed by scoring.

Your goal is to finish with stones nearer the **button**, the center of the **house**, than your opponent's closest stone.

Score at the end

At most one team scores in an end. Count one point for each of that team's stones in or touching the house that is closer to the button than the opponent's nearest stone.

The colored rings do **not** have different point values.

No stone in or touching the house? It is a **blank end**: no score.

Example: Exactly two of your stones are closer than their nearest stone. If both are in or touching the house, you score **2**.

Two good questions for your instructor

“What is my role on this shot?”
“Where should I stand so I am safe and out of the way?”

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Ready for Your First Visit

Bring this page, ask questions and fill in your club's details.



Words you will hear

End One round of deliveries, followed by scoring.

Hammer The final stone of an end. In standard four-player curling, the team that scores gives up hammer. A blank end normally keeps hammer with the same team. Event rules can vary.

Turn The direction of rotation given to a stone at release.

Sweeping Brushing ahead of a moving stone can help it travel farther and stay straighter. Follow the team's calls.

Play with good spirit

- Avoid distracting the player who is delivering.
- Acknowledge accidental rule breaches and tell your instructor.
- Congratulate good shots by either team.

Before you arrive

- ☐ Confirm the time and arrival instructions.
- ☐ Bring clean indoor shoes and warm, stretchy clothing. Ask what equipment is provided.
- ☐ Tell the club about any access or support needs.

Your club visit

Club _____

Date and time _____

Address _____

Contact or website _____

Equipment or access notes _____

One question I want to ask _____

Learn more

World Curling basics: worldcurling.org/about/curling/
Curling Canada safety: curling.ca/about-us/about-curling/safety-first/
World Curling rules: Rules of Curling 2026 - Spirit of Curling and R12 Scoring
Curling Canada first lesson: Week 1 Introduction - Equipment (p. 8)

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