HOUSECALL

Before You Step on the Ice

A friendly first look at curling



Learn the game. Love the game.

[CLUB NAME] [INSTRUCTOR NAME]

The game at a glance

4
players on a team

2
stones per player

8
stones per team

Teams alternate deliveries during each end.

The goal: finish closest to the button.

Comfort and safety on the ice

Warm layers and clean shoes

Wear stretchy clothing. Keep loose items secure.

Grippers for moving around

Use a slider only as your instructor directs.

Your instructor sets the pace

Warm up. Pause whenever you need to.

Support is welcome

Ask about head protection or a delivery aid.



A quick tour of the sheet

The sheet is the lane of ice you play on.



Hack

The foothold for delivery.

House

The target rings.

Button

The centre of the house.

Simplified view, not to scale

Your four-player team

Delivery order

1	2	3	4
Lead	**Second**	**Third**	**Fourth**
2 stones	2 stones	2 stones	2 stones

The skip calls the shots.

The skip can deliver in any of these positions.

An end and the hammer

An end is one round of 16 stones.

1 **Teams take turns**

One delivery at a time.

2 **Everyone finishes the end**

Then the teams agree on the score.

3 **The next end goes the other way**

The game continues along the same sheet.

Hammer

The last stone of an end.

The scoring team gives the hammer to its opponent.

The delivery

Line — The intended path of the stone.

Weight — The pace that helps it reach its destination.

Turn — The rotation you add as you release.

Your instructor will show you the movement on the ice.

Sweeping is teamwork

Sweeping can help a stone travel farther and stay straighter.

“Sweep”

Brush the ice ahead of the stone.

“Whoa”

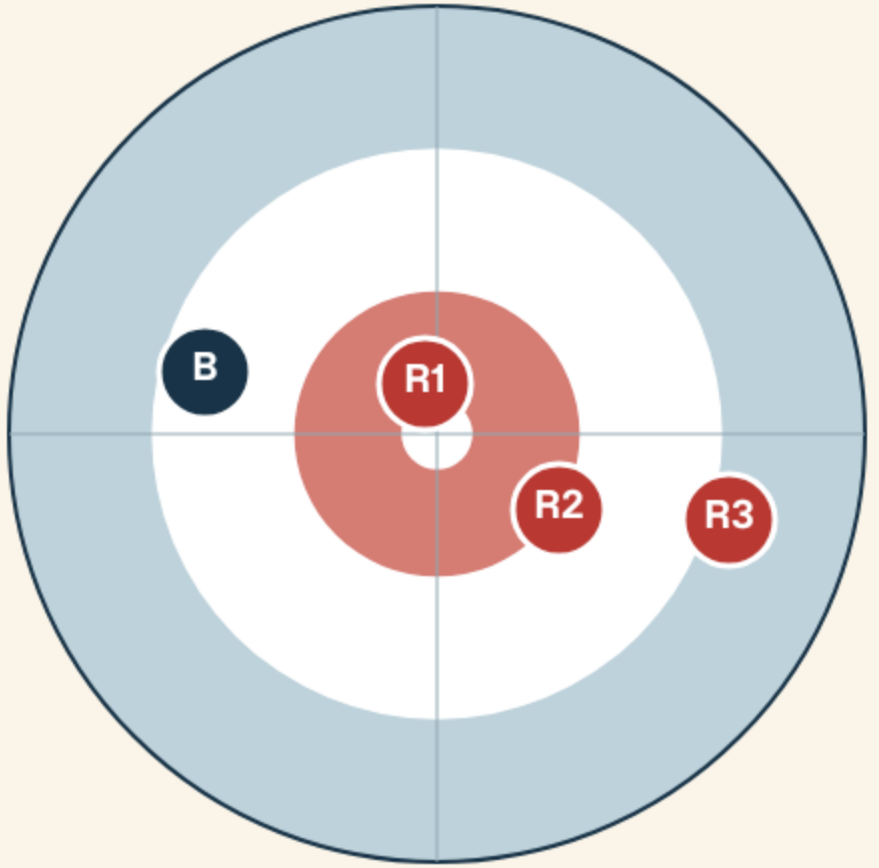
Stop sweeping. Keep listening.



Scoring: the closest stones count

At most one team scores in an end.

Count its stones in or touching the house
that are closer to the button than
the opponent's nearest stone.



R = Red B = Blue

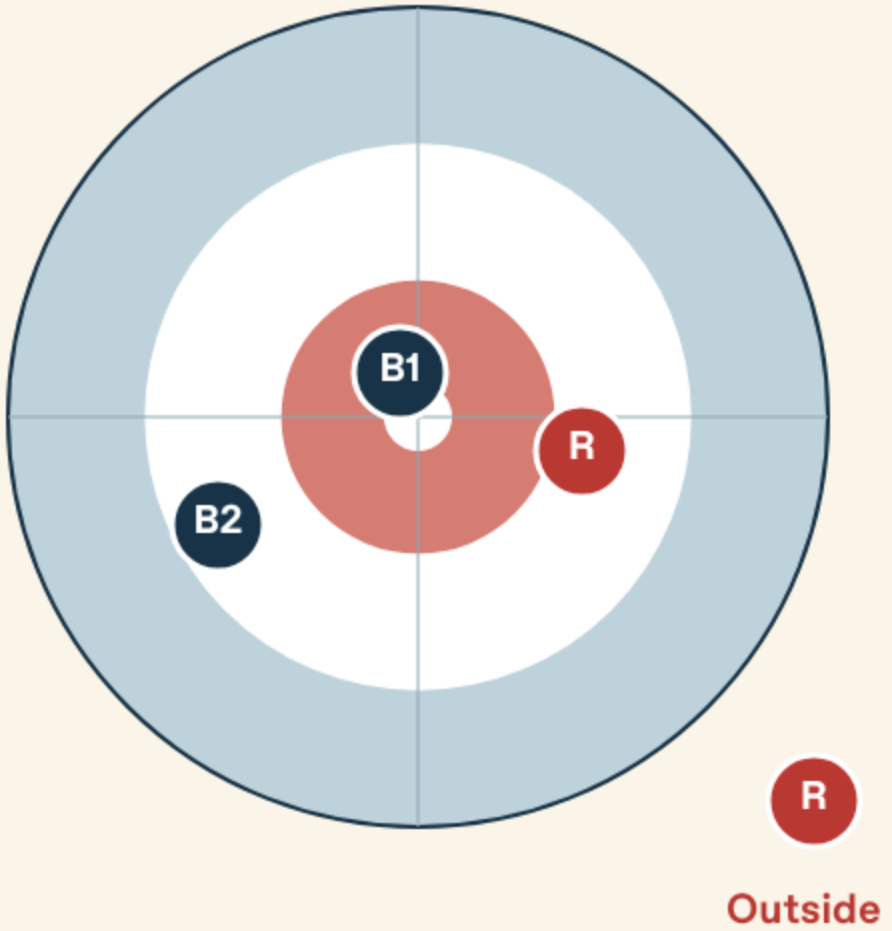
Red scores 2

Each counting stone is worth 1 point.

A scoring check

Which colour is closest?

What stops it from counting a second stone?



Blue scores 1

A stone wholly outside the house cannot score.

The spirit of curling

Quiet during a delivery

Stay still and out of the player’s line of sight.

Honesty about mistakes

Tell the instructor if you touch a moving stone.

Care for the ice

Keep hands and knees off the ice when waiting.

Agreement before clearing

Leave stones in place until the score is agreed.

Good curling!

Your first visit

There is room for questions. We all begin somewhere.

Club

[CLUB NAME]

Where

[RINK ADDRESS]

Session

[DATE AND START TIME]

Contact

[NAME / EMAIL / PHONE]

Arrival

[ARRIVE ___ MINUTES EARLY]

Equipment and access

[CLUB NOTES]

Learn the game. Love the game.

thehousecall.org

Sources and instructor resources

Official guidance for four-player curling and a safe first session

Game basics

worldcurling.org/about/curling/

Introduction to curling

usacurling.org/intro-to-curling

Safety First

curling.ca / Safety First

First-session clothing

curling.ca / Week 1 Introduction

Rules of Curling 2026

worldcurling.org / Rules of Curling

Getting Started in Curling

curling.ca / Teacher Guide

HouseCall artwork and learning

thehousecall.org

Delivery sticks in recreational play

worldcurling.org / Delivery Sticks