HOUSECALL

Curling through the years

From Scottish ice to today’s club game



Learn the game. Love the game.

A club history session • about 30 minutes

Four changes to watch for

1

Stones

What we send

2

Brooms

How we sweep

3

Ice care

What we play on

4

Strategy

What we choose

Which change would make the biggest difference to your game?

Scotland: start with the evidence

1511

engraved on a surviving stone

The Stirling Smith Art Gallery & Museum catalogues this early “loofie”.

Handholds, not a modern handle.

Frozen lochs and ponds.

Evidence of a game, not an exact invention date.

What would be harder without today’s equipment?

Sources 01, 02 · links on slide 14

Clubs give the game a shared language

1807

Montreal

The Montreal Curling Club forms and uses iron “stones”.

1838

Edinburgh

The Grand Caledonian club adopts formal rules.

1843

A royal name

The club becomes the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

Sources 01, 03 · links on slide 14

Stones: less variation, a fairer comparison

EARLY GAME

Different sizes.
Different shapes.
Different weights.

Standardisation gained ground after the 1838 club formation.

MODERN STONE

17.24–19.96 kg

including handle and bolt

Regulated size and weight

Sources 03, 08 • links on slide 14

Brooms evolve. So do equipment rules.

Corn brooms

gave way to

Pad-style brushes

Better tools raised new questions about fair play.

2016

The Sweeping Summit helps standardise elite brush fabrics and how they may be used.

Today: equipment and technique requirements still evolve.

Sources 05, 06 · links on slide 14

From waiting for frost to preparing a rink

OUTDOOR ROOTS

Wait for suitable ice

Natural ice and weather set the opportunity to play.

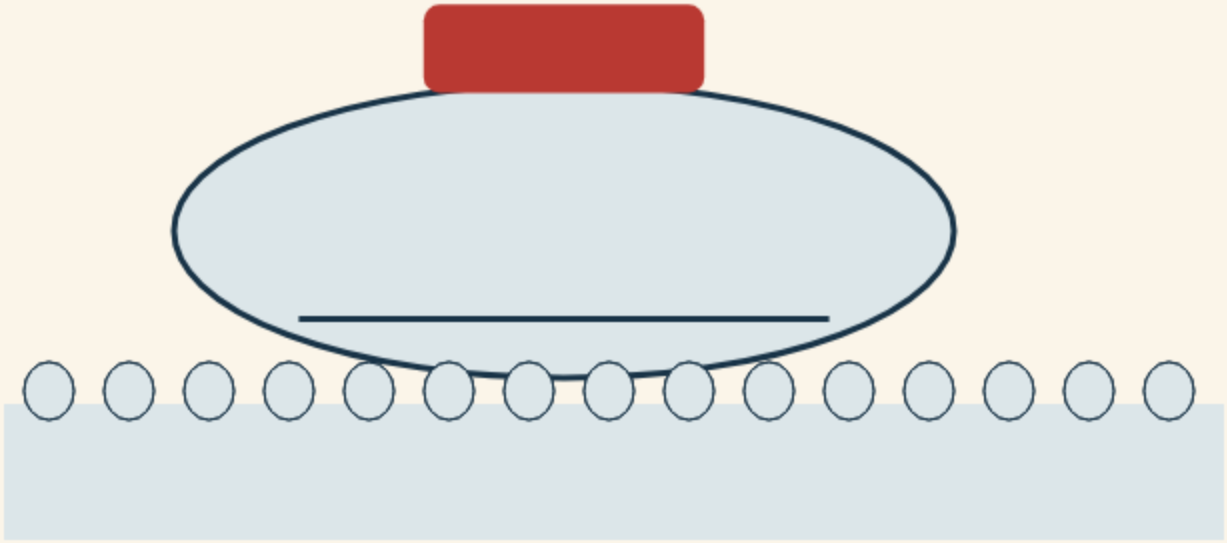
INDOOR COMPETITION

Prepare and monitor the ice

Temperature and ice condition can be managed.

Sources 01, 03 · links on slide 14

Pebble is a prepared playing surface



Frozen droplets on the ice

Enlarged schematic • not to scale

Spray

Water droplets create the pebble.

Freeze

Droplets freeze into raised bumps.

Maintain

Monitor wear; scrape and re-pebble as the surface is prepared.

Sources 04 • links on slide 14

A championship becomes international

1959

Scotch Cup

Scotland and Canada begin a men’s series.

1966

International federation

A body to organise the international game.

1979

Women’s world championship

The first edition is held in Perth, Scotland.

Sources 01, 05 · links on slide 14

A guard rule changes the choices

1991

Moncton tests a rule that keeps early stones in play.

2018–19

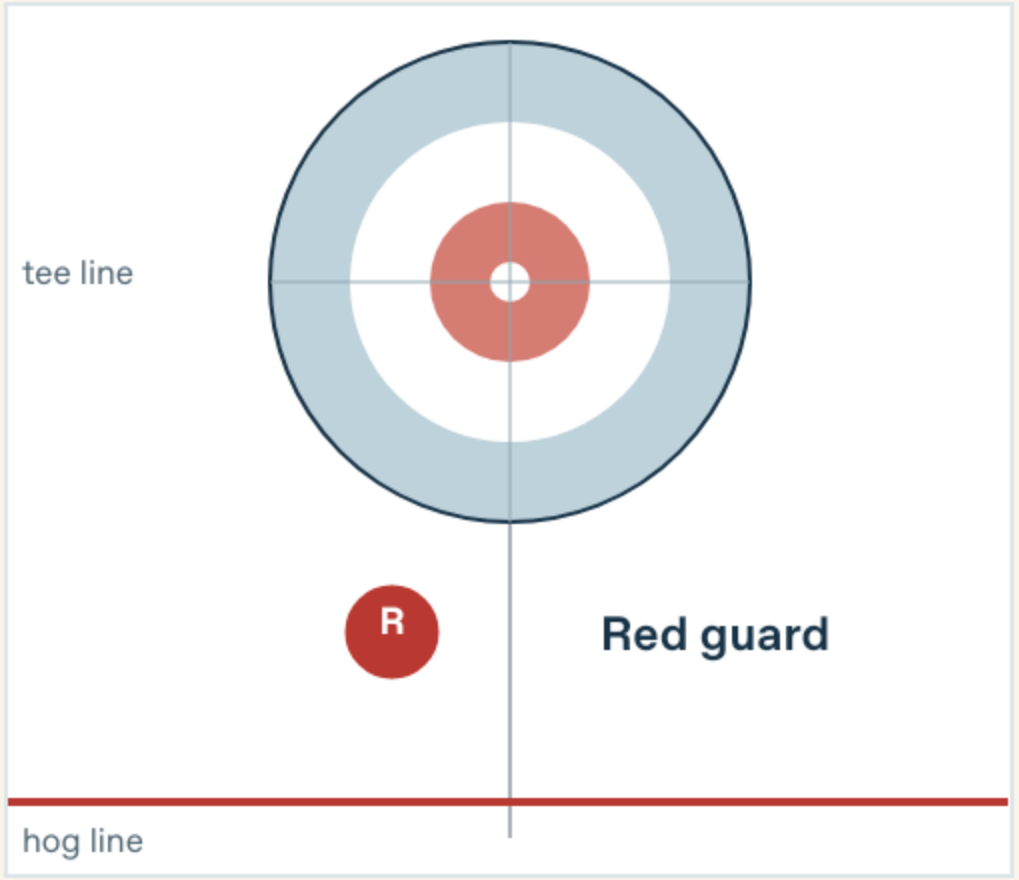
International play moves to a five-rock free guard zone.



First five deliveries: no removing an opponent’s FGZ stone.

Sources 03, 07, 08 · links on slide 14

Try the change: play around a guard



Schematic · not to scale
Sources 07, 08 · links on slide 14

Red has played stone 1.
You are Yellow, playing stone 2.

Can you remove the guard?

If not, where could you draw?

What would be a useful miss?

Olympic and Paralympic milestones

1924	1998	2006	2018	2026
Chamonix	**Nagano**	**Torino**	**PyeongChang**	**Milano Cortina**
Men’s curling	Women’s + men’s medal events	Wheelchair curling at the Paralympics	Mixed doubles at the Olympics	Wheelchair mixed doubles at the Paralympics

Sources 01, 05, 09 • links on slide 14

Take the history back to your next game

1 What did standard stones change?

2 Why thank the ice team?

3 What does a protected guard make possible?



Learn the game. Love the game.

Sources 03, 04, 07 · links on slide 14

Sources & further exploring

01 **World Curling**
History of curling

02 **The Smith museum**
The stone engraved 1511

03 **Curling Canada**
History: stones, clubs and the FGZ

04 **Curling Canada**
About curling: ice and pebble

05 **World Curling**
50 years: pp. 11–15, 44–51

06 **World Curling**
Current elite brush specifications

07 **Scottish Curling**
The five-rock rule (2018)

08 **Curling Canada**
Current rules: stones and FGZ

09 **International Paralympic Committee**
2026 mixed-doubles debut

Artwork: approved HouseCall Granite and Sweep.
Other visuals: original editable teaching schematics.

Checked 25 October 2026 · full URLs in speaker notes · source entries linked in the PDF