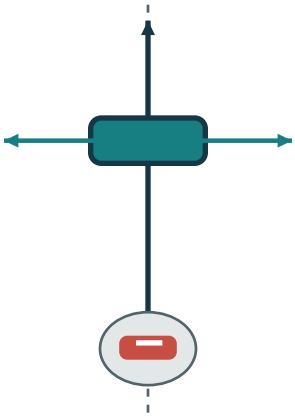
Directional Sweeping

Learn the variables, test the effect and respect the rules.

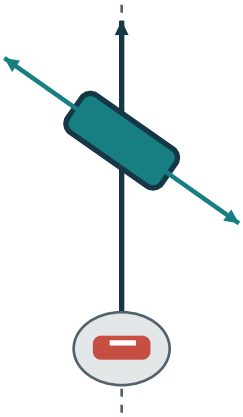
Sweeping can change a stone's travel. Directional sweeping tries to influence curl by how the brush works across the running path. Results depend on technique and conditions; standing on a particular side is not, by itself, a reliable instruction to make a stone curl more or less. [1, 2]

Describe the action precisely



One brush orientation

Top view; full pad on ice



A different orientation

Top view; full pad on ice

These drawings show variables to discuss with a coach. They do not assign a curl result. The arrows show brush travel; the dark arrow shows stone travel.

Keep four questions in mind

What is the stone's rotation? What is the stroke direction relative to its path? Where and how consistently does the brush contact the ice? What equipment, pressure and speed are being used?

Build safe, effective ordinary sweeping first. Test directional changes with a qualified coach using permitted equipment and technique.

Start with sound technique

Control and balance come before experimenting.

- **Stay stable.** Use secure footwear, a balanced moving stance and a grip you can control. Keep looking ahead for stones and other players. Ask a coach to check your movement.
- **Work close without contact.** Sweep the intended running path ahead of the stone without touching it or anyone else. Stop if you cannot maintain safe movement.
- **Keep the full brush pad on the ice.** Pad orientation is different from tilting a brush onto its edge. Do not dig the side or edge into the ice.
- **Use a controlled back-and-forth action.** Aim for a repeatable legal technique. Do not use push-dominated single strokes or try to slow the stone.

What may change the result

Stone rotation, speed, the running surface and ice condition interact with brush material, brush orientation, stroke direction, pressure, frequency and where brushing occurs. A result seen with one setup is not a guaranteed result with another. [1, 2]

A useful instruction has more than a side

"Left sweeper" or "right sweeper" can identify a person, but it does not describe the full action. Before using directional calls in a game, agree on who works, the stone's rotation, the specific coached technique and the intended effect. Confirm that it is permitted.

Evidence limit. A few successful practice shots can suggest a pattern. They cannot prove a universal cause or promise an exact amount of curl.

Run a controlled comparison

A supervised practice drill, not a guaranteed steering recipe.

1 Choose one question

With a coach, compare ordinary legal sweeping with one clearly described, permitted directional technique. Keep the brush pad flat. Do not test intentional slowing or edge-only contact.

2 Match the shots

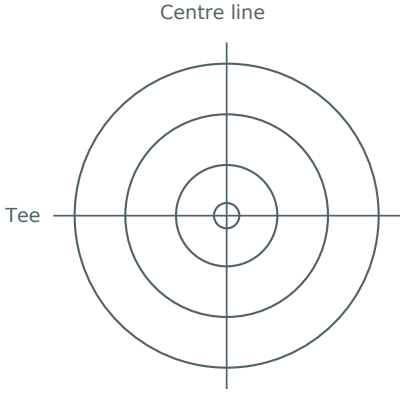
Use the same target, player, stone, turn, path and direction. Record timing and release quality. Use the same sweeper, brush and effort where possible. Mark obvious delivery mismatches.

3 Alternate and observe

Alternate A and B over several pairs so changing ice is less likely to favor only one condition. The house records both finishing distance and lateral finish. Repeat before trusting a pattern.

Comparison record

A = _____
B = _____
Turn / path / stone: _____
Coach: _____



Blank house for your notes

Pair	A: distance / side finish	B: distance / side finish	Comparable?
1			
2			
3			
4			

Measure side finish from the same agreed reference; note the view direction. If the deliveries differ, keep the observation but do not credit the difference to sweeping alone.

Know the rules that apply

Technique advice and competition requirements are different.

World Curling rules

Where adopted, R8 permits sweeping in any direction and does not require covering the stone's full width. Do not raise the brush head or leave debris in front of a moving stone. Finish sweeping to either side. R8 also restricts who may sweep and when. [3]

At the playing-end tee line: an opponent's moving stone may be swept only behind the tee line after it reaches the line. Only one player per team may sweep behind that tee line. In four-player curling, the non-delivering team's eligible player is its declared skip or vice-skip. The delivering team may use any player. Your team has first privilege to sweep its own stone, without obstructing an opponent entitled to sweep. [3]

World Curling event equipment policy

The September 2026 policy for World Curling Championships and Events prohibits techniques intended to slow a stone, push-dominated single strokes, and sweeping with only the brush's side or edge in contact with the ice. Equipment requirements also apply. Ask your club or event which rules and policies it adopts. [4]

Sources and scope

1. World Curling, Latest techniques and approaches, 2024. Firsthand accounts of variable technique and conditions. Apply the newer policy below. Read source.

2. Sonobe et al., Sports Engineering, 2024. Near-zero-rotation tests found a modest, variable directional effect. This is not a universal game recipe. Read source.

3. World Curling, Rules of Curling. Effective 1 September 2026, R8, pages 13-14; see R17(I) for mixed doubles. Read source.

4. World Curling, equipment principles. September 2026, pages 17-18; scope on page 3. Read source.

Club use. You may print and share this unaltered HouseCall guide for noncommercial club education. Keep the HouseCall and Mary Deuhs credit and sources. Third-party sources retain their own rights.

Independent educational resource; not an official certification or a substitute for club instruction. Original diagrams are schematic and not to scale. Edition: October 2026.