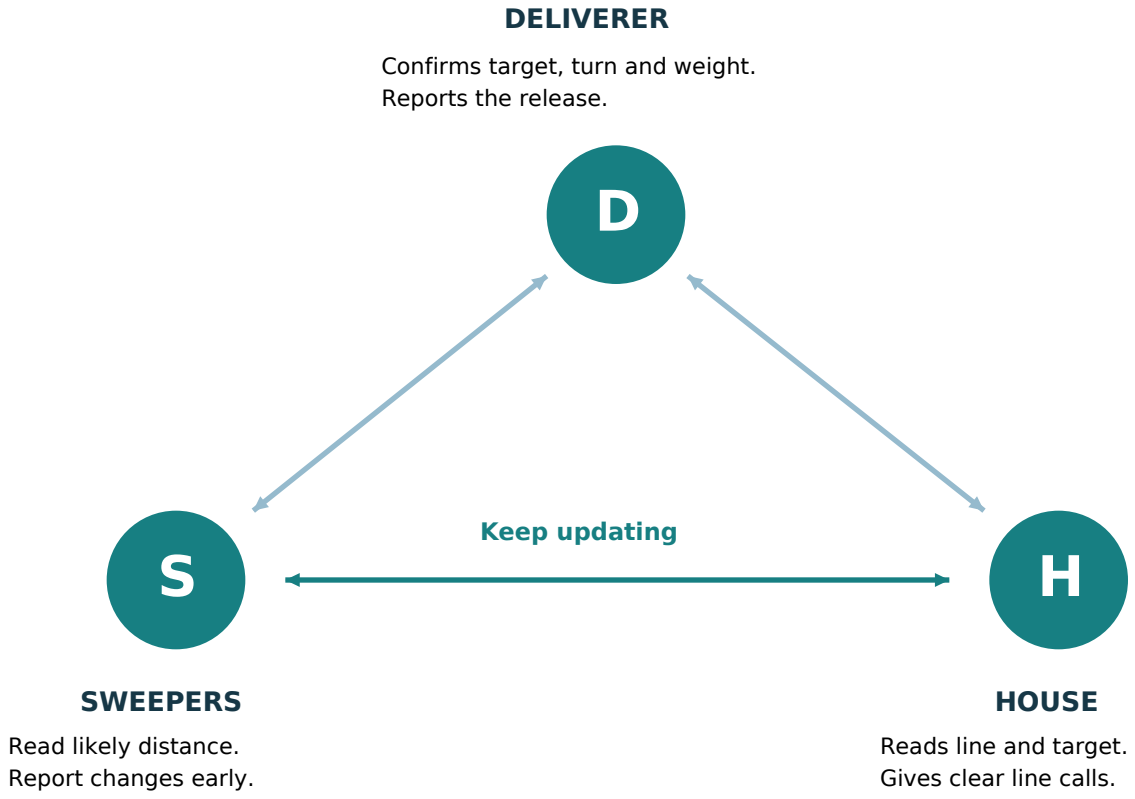
Team Communication

Connect the deliverer, sweepers and player in the house.

A good call gives teammates information they can use now. Before the shot, agree on the target and the words. During the shot, keep weight estimates and line calls moving both ways. After the shot, share one useful observation. [1]



Assign jobs before play

Decide who gives the main weight update, who times or watches the release, and who controls line calls from the house. Agree how the sweepers respond when a weight need and a line need compete. The player in the house may be the skip or vice.

These are suggested team roles, not rules assigning every spoken decision. Rotate practice jobs so everyone learns what each teammate can see.

Agree on clear words

Use a small vocabulary that everyone can hear and understand.

A weight call predicts how far the stone is likely to travel. Line means where it is heading across the sheet. Named finishing areas are often clearer for beginners than numbers. If you use a numbered zone system, agree on it together. [1]

Example call	Agreed meaning
"Short" / "Top four" / "Back eight"	The sweeper's current estimate of where the stone will stop.
"Yes for weight"	Sweep to help the stone reach the target, within the team's agreed plan.
"Yes for line"	The house wants sweeping for the path of the shot.
"Off"	Stop sweeping. Stay ready and clear of the stone.
"Update weight"	Give a fresh distance estimate now.
"Line good"	Report the current line. This alone is not a command to sweep.

Close the loop

Give one short call. Acknowledge it when needed. Update only when useful information changes. If a call was not heard, repeat it clearly. Avoid several teammates giving conflicting instructions at the same time.

Choose the protocol together. The phrases above are HouseCall examples. They are not official commands, and other clear team systems can work.

Talk through one shot

Example only: a draw called to the front of the four-foot circle.

1. **Before the delivery**

   House: "Draw, front four. This turn. Here is the broom." Deliverer repeats the target and turn. Sweepers confirm the intended weight and know the backup plan.

2. **At release**

   Deliverer: "Felt a little light." One sweeper watches the release. If the other uses a watch, the time supports the call rather than replacing judgment.

3. **Early travel**

   Sweeper: "Short of the house." House: "Line good. Yes for weight." The team acts using its agreed division of roles. Sweepers keep reading the distance.

4. **As the stone slows**

   Sweeper: "Now top four." House: "Off." Sweepers stop, stay ready and give another update if the estimate changes. The example is a conversation pattern, not a prediction.

5. **After it stops**

   Team: "Finished front four; note the time, sweeping and finish." Record one useful observation. Talk about the shot, the ice and the plan without blaming a teammate.

Before the next shot

Resolve confusion before another delivery. Ask "Did you mean sweep for weight or for line?" Use a calm voice, listen to the answer and change the next call if needed.

Practice one clear message

A ten-minute drill for ordinary club teams.

1. **Choose the system**

   Agree on target zones and sweep / stop words. Assign one main weight voice and one house voice. Rehearse once while standing still.

2. **Play three practice draws**

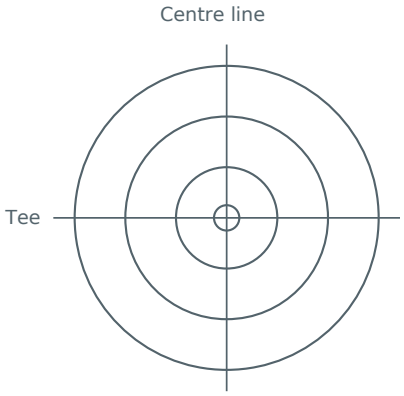
   Call the target before each delivery. Give an early weight estimate, a later update and clear house instructions. Keep all players safely clear of the stone.

3. **Swap jobs and review**

   Rotate roles. Ask what was heard, what arrived too late and which call helped. Keep one improvement for the next set.

Write the team agreement

Weight voice: _____
House voice: _____
Sweep / stop words: _____
If calls conflict: _____
One improvement: _____



Blank house for your notes

Sources and scope

1. Curling Canada, Discover Curling. Printed pages 46-52 support timing, observing release and communication among the deliverer, sweepers and house. Read source.

2. World Curling, Rules of Curling. Effective 1 September 2026. Spoken team routines do not replace R8 sweeping rules or the rules your competition adopts. Read source.

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