



Sweeping Moratorium on Brush Head Technology

Effective September 12, 2016 to April 30, 2018.

With the recent releases from the World Curling Federation and Curling Canada, the Ontario Curling Association will be implementing a policy for events as detailed below:

EVENTS leading to a NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP that advances to a WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Any event hosted by the Ontario Curling Association leading to a National Championship that advances to a World Championship or events that qualify for CTRS points must comply with the Curling Canada “Sweeping Moratorium on Brush Head Technology” effective September 12, 2016.

In summary

- (1) Only World Curling Federation (WCF) approved brush heads will be allowed for use at Ontario Championships leading to a National Championship that advances to a World Championship or other events where CTRS points are available.
- (2) In all events, the obligation for compliance is on the individual players (and/or coach) to source a compliant brush head for play. Players and coaches will be responsible for ensuring any sweeping brush brought to the playing field is compliant with the moratorium.
- (3) Hair brooms and corn brooms are banned for use as sweeping devices. During this moratorium, however they will be allowed to serve as sliding brooms.
- (4) Any player using a sweeping device in competitions noted in (1) that is NOT APPROVED by the WCF will be suspended from the remainder of the competition and the game in question will be forfeited. The team will not be allowed to replace the player for the remainder of the competition and will play with three players. A second infraction by the same player or same team (any player, any time) will suspend that team for the remainder of the competition in question and for the next season. A second infraction by a specific player, at anytime, will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season and for the next season.
- (5) Each player must declare his or her approved sweeping device at the start of the game. Only that player can use that device for sweeping during the game. **Penalty:** If a player sweeps with another person’s sweeping device, the stone shall be removed from play. (see Rules of Curling for Officiated Play – Rule 10 which states “stone is removed from play immediately and all other stones returned to original position prior to offence”)

- (6) A player may not change their brush head during a game, unless special permission is granted by the official in charge or Chief Umpire at formally officiated events.
NOTE to OFFICIALS & UMPIRES – Special permission is to be granted only if the head in question is damaged beyond use by an action other than intentional destruction by competitor/team, or the brush head is causing damage to the ice surface through no intentional action of the competitor/team.
- (7) If an alternate or substitute player enters a game that has started, they **MUST** use the broom of the player they are replacing. **PENALTY:** If a new sweeping device is brought into the game, the team will forfeit the game.
- (8) The target broom must be the declared sweeping brush of the skip and vice-skip. Using a separate or different broom as the target broom is **NOT** allowed and is considered a breach of rule 5 with the same penalty.
- (9) The moratorium covers any pre-competition practice, pre-game practice, and the draw for last stone advantage. **PENALTY:** If an unauthorized sweeping device is used, the offending team will relinquish last stone advantage in the next scheduled game.
- (10) The sweeping techniques from Curling Canada’s General Play Rule 11 (8)(a),(b),(c) and Officiated Rule 12 (8)(a),(b),(c) will continue to be enforced.
- (11) Random inspections of equipment by an umpire may be carried out during any event and/or during a game. Opposing players may request an inspection of a brush head prior to or during a game.
- (12) **Authority:**
- (a) The Chief Umpire is authorized to administer the Moratorium and may assign other umpires to perform various duties, as required.
 - (b) The Official in Charge is authorized to administer the Moratorium.
 - (c) The Chief Umpire is authorized to make decisions regarding this Moratorium not specifically covered in this rule protocol. The Official in Charge is asked to contact the Official on call for clarification and guidance regarding any rulings.
 - (d) All decisions of the Chief Umpire or Official in Charge and Official on Call are final.

EVENTS UNDER THIS PROTOCOL:

- U-21 Men’s and Women’s
- Men’s Tankard
- Women’s Scotties Tournament of Hearts
- Senior Men & Women
- Mixed Championship
- Mixed Doubles Championship

EVENTS leading to a NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP that do not advance to a WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

As these events do not lead to a World Championship, the OCA recognizes the reluctance of a player to discard a new brush head, we agree with the WCF statement (September 10, 2016): “The WCF recognizes a great deal of previously compliant equipment, both new and slightly used, remains in the hands of manufacturers, retailers and individual curlers. It is neither reasonable nor practical to expect this equipment should be immediately discarded in favour of equipment conforming to the pending specifications.”

The Ontario Curling Association strongly encourages all players to transition to compliant brush heads immediately or before the start of the 2017-18 season. Players will be able to use non-compliant heads in competition up to but NOT INCLUDING the Provincial finals of any event leading to a National Championship that does not advance to a World Championship.

- (1) All players competing at a Provincial Championship will be required to conform to the moratorium as detailed under “EVENTS leading to a NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP that advances to a WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP”.
- (2) At no time may a player sweep with a hair or corn broom. These brooms may only be used as a throwing device.
- (3) All penalties and enforcements will be in place at the Provincial Championship.

EVENTS UNDER THIS PROTOCOL:

- U-18 Men’s & Women’s
- Travelers Curling Club Championship
- Master Men’s & Women’s (subject to National Master’s Advisory Committee rules)

EVENTS leading to a PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

As these events do not lead to a National Championship, the OCA recognizes the reluctance of a player to discard a new brush head, we agree with the WCF statement (September 10, 2016): “The WCF recognizes a great deal of previously compliant equipment, both new and slightly used, remains in the hands of manufacturers, retailers and individual curlers. It is neither reasonable nor practical to expect this equipment should be immediately discarded in favour of equipment conforming to the pending specifications.”

The Ontario Curling Association strongly encourages all players to transition to compliant brush heads immediately or before the start of the 2017-18 season. Players will be able to use non-compliant heads in competition up to and INCLUDING the Provincial finals of any event leading to a Provincial Championship that does not lead to a National Championship.

EVENTS UNDER THIS PROTOCOL:

- Timbits, U-15 Challenges, U-18 Mixed, U-21 Mixed Doubles
- Hit, Draw and Tap
- Silver Tankard and Women’s Tankard
- Best Western and Fairfield Marriott Challenge
- Colts and Trophy
- Intermediate Men & Women
- Senior Mixed
- Stick Championship

INFORMATION FOR MEMBER CLUBS and PARTICIPANTS

The Ontario Curling Association supports the two WCF statements for consideration at the club level of curling:

- “For leagues, competitions or events where substantial prizes or awards are earned, it may be advisable to require sweeping equipment conforming to WCF specifications be used as a condition of competition”.
- “In keeping with the ‘Spirit of Curling’, individuals who are elite competitors or very proficient sweepers should consider whether it is ‘fair’ that they use non-conforming equipment in a recreational competition even if the rules allow it”

The OCA agrees with Curling Canada’s statement in which they “encourage everyone to consider the true spirit of the sport of curling and refrain from using previously banned brush heads”.



OCA