

Carleton Heights Curling Club
Rules of Play for Open Doubles
(modified from *Curling Canada* official rules)

A team is composed of **two players of any gender**. Alternate players are allowed.

Scoring is the same as in a regular game of curling. **Each end begins with one “positioned” stone per team**, and these stones are eligible to be counted in the scoring.

Each team **delivers five stones per end**. One player on each team delivers the first and fifth stones; the other player delivers the second, third, and fourth stones. *The player delivering the first stone can change from end to end if desired.*

A doubles game uses a **modified free guard zone**. *No stone in play, including the “positioned” stones, can be moved to an out-of-play position prior to the delivery of the fourth stone of the end* (out of 10 total stones delivered). If there is a violation, the delivered stone is removed from play and the displaced stone(s) are put back in their original position(s), at the discretion of the non-offending team.

What does this mean, exactly?

- The first three stones of an end can't be used for take-outs
 - Team A, stone 1: No take-out
 - Team B, stone 2: No take-out
 - Team A, stone 3: No take-out
 - Team B, stone 4: *Take outs now allowed!*
- “Ticks” and light taps are ok at all times. You can nudge a rock, but you can't remove it from play. This includes guards placed on the center line! Doubles doesn't observe the “no tick rule”.
- If the other team taps your rock early, and you can sweep it out of play, you get to put it back.

Before the start of every end, **one team shall place their team's “positioned” stone at the playing end of the sheet** in one of two positions, designated A and B (see Figure 1). The opponent's “positioned” stone is then placed in whichever position (A or B) remains vacant.

Position A: The stone is bisected by the center line and immediately in front of the midpoint between the hog line and the upper edge of the house. **This position is marked by a penny embedded in the ice on the center line.**

Position B: The stone is bisected by the center line and is in the back of the 4-foot circle. **The back edge of the stone is aligned with the back edge of the 4-foot circle.**

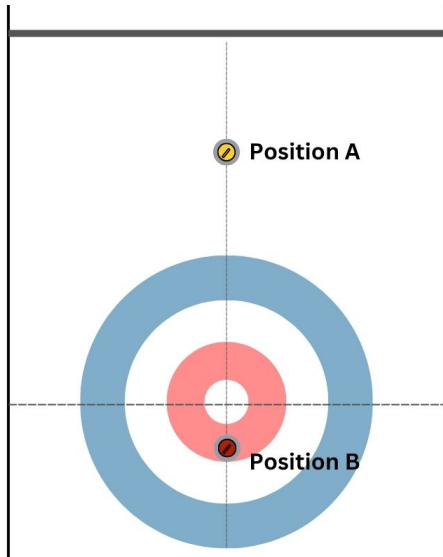


Figure 1.

Placement of “positioned” stones in a typical end of doubles curling.

There is an alternative placement called the **power play** that can be used once per game, once per team (See Figure 2). *If it is your team’s turn to place a stone in “position B”, you can choose to use the power play.*

The **in-house stone** (Position B) belongs to the team who chose to use the power play option in that end. That stone is placed with the back edge of the stone abutting the front edge the tee line, with half the stone in the 8-foot and half in the 12-foot circle.

The **guard stone** (Position A) is positioned immediately in front of the same midpoint of the sheet between the hog line and the upper edge of the house, approximately one metre to the left or the right of the centre line, *on the same side as the in-house stone*. **This position is also marked by a penny embedded in the ice** to the left/right of the center line.

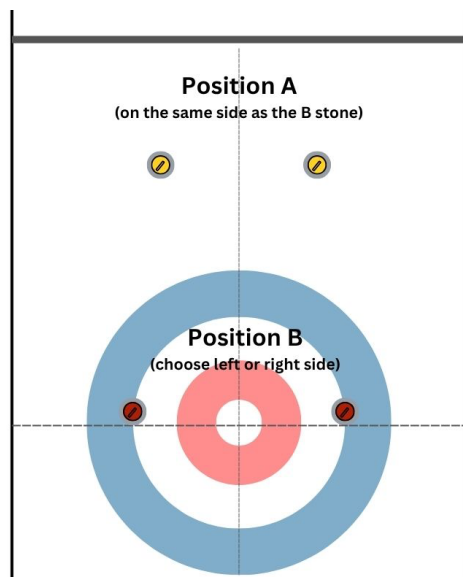


Figure 2.

Placement of the “positioned” stones for the power play option.

At the beginning of the game, the team having the decision on the placement of the “positioned” stones shall be decided by a coin toss.

The team whose “positioned” stone is in Position A will deliver the first stone of the end. The team whose “positioned” stone is in Position B (i.e., the in-house stone) will deliver the last stone of the end.

What does this mean, exactly?

- If your team wins the coin toss **and you want the “hammer”** (last rock advantage), your positioned stone goes in the house.
- We also respect the usual rule that the team who loses the coin toss gets to choose the colour of stones to deliver.

Following the first end, the team that did not score shall have the decision on placement.

If neither team scores in an end, the team that delivered the first stone in that end shall have the decision on placement in the next end.

What does this mean, exactly?

- Unlike in a regular game, **you lose the hammer if you blank the end**.
- The exception would be if the team with the decision on placement prefers to place their “positioned” stone in Position A (i.e., the guard). But realistically nobody is going to do this.

While a team is in the process of delivery, that team’s non-delivering player may be **anywhere** on the ice surface.

After delivery, **either or both players may sweep their delivered stone** and any stones set in motion belonging to their team anywhere in front of the tee line at the playing end.

What if I deliver with a stabilizer or a stick?

- If you can exchange your device for a broom quickly enough, you may still have time to help sweep your own rock. Or, leave the sweeping to your partner!

If a player delivers a stone out of proper rotation, the delivered stone is removed from play and any displaced stones are returned to their original positions by the non-offending team. Should the infraction not be discovered until after the delivery of a subsequent stone, play continues as if the infraction had not occurred.

All other rules and etiquette are as described in the Rules of Curling for general play observed by the Carleton Heights Curling Club.