



DOUBLES CURLING—LET’S GET PLAYING!

Introduction to Doubles Curling for the Curling Club

September 2015

An exciting opportunity for your club to grow!

Doubles curling is growing in interest and gaining popularity around the world. Mixed Doubles is now played in more countries of the world than the traditional game itself. In a few short years, the World Curling Federation (WCF) has developed a Mixed Doubles World Championship, and it has been officially added as a sport to the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea.

This discipline of the game has been a little slower to catch on in Canada, but that is beginning to change. In order to keep Canada on the “top of the curling world” we need Doubles Curling to become established through regular league and bonspiel play. Curlers need an opportunity to experience the game and to master the games’ different skills and strategies. It is exciting, challenging and a unique opportunity for curling clubs to attract new curlers to a more fast-paced version of the game.

About Doubles Curling

Beyond the obvious difference, a two-person team versus a four-person team, the core elements of the game itself remain intact in the Doubles game. Teams can be mixed, or of the same gender, young or mature curlers. Your club does not require special equipment or ice preparation, although the game is more fun on ice that curls. Curlers of all skill level can play. With only six stones, eight ends and two players, games are fast-paced and have lots of stones in play!

What’s Different?

- An entire game can be played in approximately **75 minutes!**
- Teams only have six stones in an end and two (one of each colour) are positioned before each end starts
 - Each team shall deliver five (5) stones per end. The player delivering the team’s first stone of the end must also deliver the team’s last stone of that end. The other team member shall deliver the team’s second, third and fourth stones for that end.
 - The player delivering the first stone can change from end to end.



Ontario’s Kim and Wayne Tuck compete at the 2014 World Mixed Doubles Championships

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Rules of Doubles Play

1. A team is composed of two players
2. The scoring shall be the same as in a regular game of curling.
3. The “positioned” stones that are placed before the beginning of each end are eligible to be counted in the scoring.
4. Each game will be scheduled for eight (8) ends.
5. Each team shall deliver five (5) stones per end. The player delivering the team’s first stone of the end must also deliver the team’s last stone of that end. The other team member shall deliver the team’s second, third and fourth stones for that end.
6. The player delivering the first stone can change from end to end.
7. **Modified FGZ** – No stone in play, including the “positioned” stones and those in the house, can be moved to an out-of-play position prior to the delivery of the fourth stone of an end (the fourth delivered stone is the first stone that can remove any stone from play). If there is a violation, the delivered stone shall be removed from play, and any displaced stone(s) shall be replaced to their original position by the non-offending team.
8. While the team is in the process of delivery, the non-delivering player must be positioned inside the hogline, with at least one foot on the ice surface at the playing end of the team’s sheet, OR, in a position on the team’s sheet to sweep the delivered stone. After delivery, either or both players may sweep their delivered stone and any stones set in motion that belong to their team anywhere in front of the teeline at the playing end. This applies during all of the team’s delivered stones, including the Last Stone Draws.
9. If a player delivers a stone out of proper rotation, that stone is returned to the hack to be delivered by the correct player, after any displaced stones have been replaced 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.
10. Based on the ice conditions, when no event official is available to make the decision, the teams shall determine the specific placement of the Position A Stone prior to the start of the pre-game practice (if applicable), and that same placement must be used for the entire game.
11. **Position of stationary stones** – Prior to the start of every end, the team with the choice (or hammer) shall place their team’s stationary stone, and their opponent’s stationary stone, in either position “A” or “B”:
 - The Position “A” stone is placed bisecting the centre line, midway between the hog line and the front of the house.
 - The Position “B” stone is placed so it bisects the centre line and the back edge of the stone is in alignment with the back edge of the four foot.If they choose to place their stone ‘out front’, they shall deliver first stones in the end. Therefore, should they choose to be behind the button, they shall have last stone in the end. The team not scoring in the previous end, shall have the ‘choice’ in the next end. If the end is blanked, the choice shall change to the team that delivered first in the blanked end.
12. **Power Play** - Once per game, each team with last stone, has the option to place the stones in a “power play” position. The in-house stone (A) of the team with last stone in that end is placed with the back edge of the stone on the teeline, splitting the 8 foot and the 12 foot rings. The guard is re-positioned from the centre-line to a direct line between the middle of the in-house stone and the middle of the hack. The in-house stone will be directly behind the guard. The guard position will be at the same distance from the rings as the normal position of the centre guard for that game. The team calling the power play can decide which side of the house they would like the stone to be placed. A power play cannot be called in extra ends.



Opportunities to Compete

Both the OCA and the NOCA hold Mixed Doubles Provincial Play-downs with the winners advancing to Curling Canada’s Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship. Provincial competition dates and locations can be found on their websites:

Ontario Curling Association
[Mixed Doubles Competition](#)

Northern Ontario Curling Association:
[Mixed Doubles Competition](#)

Hosting a Doubles bonspiel?

Be sure and add your bonspiel to the OCA or NOCA’s bonspiel pages:

[OCA Bonspiels](#)

[NOCA Bonspiels](#)

Tips for Getting Started in Your Club

- Post the rules on the ice—include a diagram for the stone placement
- Look for un-used ice times at your club—remember you only need around 75 minutes to play a full game.
- Incorporate doubles play into youth leagues—kids love to play this discipline!
- Make second or third draws of the night “doubles format” if people don’t want to curl too late
- Consider a senior/masters day-league
- Consider having a “coachable” session—where you play with coaches on the ice to help curlers through the rules, etc...
- Have a mixed doubles expert offer a clinic—the OCA Clinic Team is ready to offer them for the 2015-2016 season!
- Start an inter-club league to generate some fun social opportunities!
- Have a bonspiel to introduce the game to your club
- Have some fun with it!—the WCF is trialing the game with light shows and music playing—Make it a fun experience!



Success Story

The Calgary Winter Club has a Mixed Doubles success story, as Brenda Rogers who is one of the WCF's top umpires when she's not helping run her club, explains.

"We've completed three years of a Mixed Doubles programme of upwards of twelve Teams that we run in two eight-week sessions - eight weeks before Christmas and eight after Christmas. We were the first league in Canada and it's growing - absolutely. There's a lot of interest in getting families involved and we've got people coming from other sports who are not curlers taking it up. They love it and they're enjoying it - two tennis players have even joined our men's curling league with another team, they like it so much."

Brenda explains that, for her club, it really has been an easy entry into the sport for some people. But there is another bonus, for existing curlers.

She explained: "The other thing it's done is that some of our curlers who are normally front end players and who have never had the opportunity of playing in the house, are coming into the house now and they are advancing."



2015 Ontario Mixed Doubles Champions—
Brad and Casey Kidd

Ice not curling enough to accommodate the above stationary stone positions?

Alternate stone positions and a **RULES POSTER** for your club can be found at:
www.ontariocurlingcouncil.com

Find an Ambassador!

As we all know, our curling club volunteers are vital to the success of the club. Creating excitement around a new discipline of curling will require some work—A “Doubles Ambassador” calls others to action and motivates their peers to try Doubles Curling. Find the person in your club who loves the game and can generate a buzz! Make them your Ambassador! As an Ambassador, you look for creative ways to integrate doubles play into your club, bring information about doubles play back to your club and board of directors, organize clinics, leagues and bonspiels.



Northern Ontario's Eric Gélinas & Courtney Chénier (Photo John Schwartzburg) Compete in the 2015 Canadian Mixed Doubles Championships

Development Tips

- Doubles is a fast-paced version of the game. Improving your overall cardio fitness levels, core body and leg strength, flexibility and balance will help you enjoy the game more.
- Practice, practice, practice ... mastering three key shots in your repertoire will help improve your individual and team results regardless of whether you throw stones one and five or two, three and four.
 1. The freeze to the stone on the button is how the game is defined early in each end and at any time in the end.
 2. The tap back (back eight to back four weight) repositions stones and moves your opponents stone out of scoring position for yours but keeps them in play to respect the modified free guard zone where stones must remain in play.
 3. Finally, an up weight take out where not much ice has to be taken to hit the centre stones straight back into the stones on the centre can be game changing and turn a certain score by your opponent into a steal of multiple points in an end.
- Develop your judgement skills so that you are aware of your body and stone speed and line of delivery—improving your kinesthetic sense of your body position, movement on the ice and drive from the hack will help you judge better what the result of your thrown stone is and your ability to communicate that with your partner at the other end of the ice to sweep. When it is only you that has to sweep the stone for line of delivery and/or weight with only minimal assistance of your partner, heightening your own senses on the end result of your own shot can make a big difference in a close game or a multiple end score
- Work on angles and understand the “drag” effect - with stones always in play, understanding where to hit a stone and the angle it will travel afterwards or what direction a hit stone will “drag” after hit on its face can change the outcome of an end or the game. Remember to always consider the angles that your shots will leave for yourself and the opponent. Where you leave your shooter is as important as the removal of a stone. Work in practice on hitting stones in the house and rolling the shooter to the centre or raising the centre guard into the button area.
- Taking three is like taking two in traditional play - strategically using tap backs and stones near but not on the button, lead often to scoring three or more in an end and not just one or two. Mastering the ability to control all six rocks you have in play can get you back into a game quickly. It is always a matter of measuring the risk with the reward. Ice conditions and your opponents abilities will greatly define how you use all of your stones to maximize your scoring.

Want to learn more about Doubles?

Check out:

- [Youtube](#)—has plenty of games—great way to learn the strategy
- [Word Curling Federation](#)—including an “Introduction to Mixed Doubles Curling” video

Acknowledgments

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Ontario Curling Council

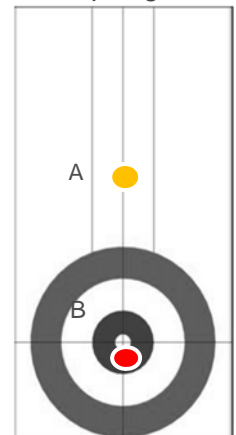
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