

What Is Curling?

Curling is a complex sport based around a simple idea:

Slide a stone down a sheet of ice and have it stop as near the center of a set of rings painted in the ice (called the “house”). The fun is that your opponent will do everything tactically possible to prevent you from achieving this goal. So the game contains elements of great skill, strategy, finesse, exertion, and endeavour.

The perception that curling is a slow-paced game is just that — a perception.

The game itself is more than 500 years old and its true origin is hidden in the mists of time. But it was in Scotland that curling evolved and also where the mother club of curling, The Royal Caledonian Curling Club, was formed in 1838.

Fairness is curling's central component.

It is not uncommon for a player to announce his or her own rules violation. The “Spirit of Curling” encourages players to be honest, never seeking an unfair advantage over an opponent.

Shaking hands before and after games is customary.



2006-2007

Tentative Curling Schedule

Novice League

Sunday

October 1, 8, 15

Tuesday

October 3, 10, 17

Fall League

Sunday

October 22, 29

November 5, 12, 19,

December 3, 10, 17

Tuesday

October 24, 31,

November 7, 14, 28,

December 5, 12, 19

Winter League

Sunday

January 7, 14, 21, 28,

February 4, 11, 18, 25

Tuesday

January 9, 16, 23, 30,

February 6, 13, 20, 27



ECC curlers in action during Tuesday night league at Lloyd Center. All photos by Andie Petkus.

Evergreen Curling Club



The Newest Curling Club
on the West Coast

Located at
Lloyd Center Ice Rink
953 Lloyd Center
Portland, Oregon
503-288-6073

League Curling on Tuesdays
6:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
October 1 to February 28*

Learn to curl
any night when league play is in session
\$5 fee, 6:30 to 8:15 p.m.
Drop ins welcome

www.evergreencurling.org
email: info@evergreencurling.org
or call: Craig at 360-696-1759

* see web site for additional dates
and more information

Try Curling!

Stop by one of our “drop in” sessions at Lloyd Center on Tuesday evenings from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. One sheet of ice is open for those who wish to give curling a try. ECC members are available to give instruction.

A \$5 fee applies. Because space is limited to a maximum of 8 drop-in players per session, plan on being there by 6:30. We try to accommodate as many people as possible.

Olympic Curling

Curling debuted as a medal sport in the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Japan. It will be a prominent feature of the February 2006 Winter Olympics held in Torino, Italy.

Curling attracted many new fans at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City — the joke was that MSNBC stood for “Must Show Nothing But Curling” — so you can expect to see a lot of curling on television during the 2006 games.

The United States Curling Association, which has 131 member clubs in 11 regions, is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the World Curling Federation. About 1.5 million people from ages 8 to over 80 in more than 33 countries curl.



Strategy

Some people describe Curling as chess on ice. In many ways this is true because curling is not just about making each individual shot accurately — it's a total team effort and the end result is all that matters. The skip must learn to read the ice by watching how the stones are curling — similar to “reading” a green in golf — and to anticipate the strategy of the opposing team. Other comparisons have been made to bocce or shuffleboard — close, but not quite.

Sociability

One great tradition in curling is broom-stacking. This term refers to the social get-together after each game, which originated very early on in the history of the game.

This tradition lives on today, when it is still customary to share a beverage with your opponents after the game, or if time allows, even as a break during the game.

Sportsmanship

Curling is a game that prides itself on respect for the integrity of the game and fellow players. At the start of each game, players shake hands with both their own teammates and the members of the opposing team, introducing themselves and wishing everyone “good curling.”

It is customary to acknowledge a good shot made by any curler, regardless of his or her team, and it is considered poor form to cheer if the opposing team misses a shot, even if it benefits your team.

The end of each game is acknowledged with another round of handshakes between teammates and opponents.

Common Curling Terms

Rink: The building where curling takes place; a curling team; or the ice on which a game is played.

Sheet: The playing area of a specific game.

Stone, or Rock: The 42-pound piece of granite we all love and cherish.

House: The circular target that a stone has to reach in order to count.

Button: The “bullseye” of the house at the crossing of the Center Line and the Tee Line.

Center Line: The line that runs down the middle of the ice from hack to hack.

Tee Line: The line that crosses the center of the house perpendicular to the Center Line.

Back Line: The line behind the house. Once crossed, a stone is out of play.

Hog Line: The line each played stone has to cross to remain in play.

Hack: The rubber block at each end of a sheet that provides a foot-hold from which the stones are delivered.

Pebble: The frozen droplets of water applied to a sheet of ice before a game, reducing friction between the stone and the ice.

End: Component of a game, during which eight stones are played by each team in the same direction. Akin to an inning in baseball.

The Curling Team

Four players comprise a curling team:

Lead: Plays the first two stones for a team each end.

Second: Plays the next two stones.

Third, or Vice Skip: Plays two stones third in rotation. Usually directs the strategy when the skip plays his or her stones.

Skip: Usually plays the last two stones. Always directs the game and decides strategy and ice.