

3. Sweeping: what is all the yelling about ?

Why do we sweep ?

We sweep to help the rocks to end up where we want.

Good sweeping can get a great result from a mediocre throw.

Bad sweeping can get a poor result from a great throw.

Sweeping can help a rock on a draw shot to slide several meters farther.

Sweeping can reduce the amount a takeout rock curls.

Some types of sweeping combined with some types of brushes can cause rocks to curl a lot more than they would have curled without sweeping.

All rocks with a turn slide down the ice with a gradual curving path. Moderate sweeping at any point on the path can change the end location of the rock.

Rocks thrown really fast don't curl as much as rocks thrown very gently.

The yelling is a loud conversation amongst team members.

The skip's (line caller's) yelling on a takeout shot is to request that sweepers start or stop sweeping and control the curve of the running stone to get it to hit the target just where the skip and the team had planned.

The yelling might be repeated commands/requests about starting to sweep or stopping sweeping.

The skip may also yell instructions about sweeping the team's rocks once contact is made on other rocks in play.

The sweepers yelling concerns the speed of the rock sliding down the sheet of ice. The skip needs to know the speed of the sliding rock to gauge how much it will curl.

Screaming does not promote good communication but all players need to speak up or yell loudly to be clearly heard.

Some curling arenas are noisy and have bad acoustics. Curling arenas can get very noisy with a lot of games going on at once.

If no one speaks, the team does not know what is happening. Most teams have minimum communications of a line call and some weight calls for a simple shot.

Sweeping equipment, practices and rules have undergone many changes in recent years.