

#### **4. Team operation and communication for every throw**

**Team member positioning on the ice:**

**The sweepers are close by the hack and the thrower when the skip is describing the shot. Sweepers then move into a position out of the thrower's way before the throw.**

**The skip stands proudly holding the brush as a target. The skip may motion with the brush other actions for the thrown rock and other rocks. The skip doesn't move the brush until the thrower has completed the delivery and the rock is on its way.**

**Immediately upon the rock being thrown, one sweeper moves close to the rock and starts to clean the ice in front of the stone. The sweeping pair initially identify if they believe the rock is slower or faster than planned. This might take a few steps and a few words to get an initial impression. In the case of a draw or guard shot, the sweepers might start to sweep immediately upon the release of the stone. The conversation between sweepers is often quiet.**

**The conversation during the rock's slide down the ice:**

**Start of the line conversation: Generally, the skip ( line caller ) reports the line of the throw to the thrower and the sweepers.**

**The line calls attempt to describe where the rock was thrown relative to the target line indicated by the skip.**

**The 'inside' line call means the thrown rock was thrown at a point closer to the target than allowed for by the skip target brush. This allows for less curve to achieve the desired result. Inside takeouts are generally swept right away.**

**The 'outside' line call indicates the thrown rock was thrown to a point further away from the target than the skip had indicated. This means the rock must curl more to achieve the desired goal. Outside draws or takeouts are not generally swept right away.**

**Second part of the conversation:**

**The sweepers make a weight call. The skip will use the information about the speed of the stone to envision the curve of the stone and what the end result might be.**

**The better the communication about weight the better the sweeping and rock positioning can be.**

**Sweepers might use stop watches to measure the elapsed time from back line to hog line or T-line to hog line. This speed measurement can help predict how fast the stone is moving and how far it will travel.**

**The conversation continues:**

**The skip reports whether the rock needs to curl more ( says ' needs to curl ' or 'stop sweeping ' ) or needs to be swept ( skip says ' sweep ' or agreed upon team word to start sweeping ) to minimize the curl to achieve the desired results or the skip reports things are going as planned ( skip says 'line is good' ). The sweepers respond with another weight call or a few weight calls as the stone slides down the ice. Fewer weight calls are expected for a speedy takeout shot.**

**Some stones may need few line and weight calls to get the best result.**

**Some stones slide in silence after the initial line and weigh calls while sweepers watch or sweep.**

**The skip may use their brush to indicate where the rock should ideally stop and ask the sweepers to get the rock there.**

**When the rock gets close to the line caller at the far end of the sheet, the conversation can be quieter.**

**The skip can provide further feedback to the sweepers as they finish their sweeping journey at the far house. The skip may advise if the rock curled more than expected or was thrown a lot harder than expected. The sweepers can pass this message to the throw back at the throwing end.**

**It is important to speak clearly and choose consistent and very distinct words. Don't use word pairs such as 'Woah !' and 'Go!' or 'No! and 'Go!' as stop and start words.**