**CURLING MATCH TERMINOLOGY**

Curling, probably more than any other sport, has its own unique terminology (like hurry hard and burning a rock, among others). Here are the key curling words and phrases you need to know to blend in at your next bonspiel:

* **Blank end:** An end where no points are scored.
* **Button:**The very center of the target rings or house.
* **Delivery:** The action of throwing a stone to the other end of the playing surface.
* **End:** The way a curling game is divided. An end is like an inning in a baseball game. A curling game has either eight or ten ends.
* **Hammer:** The last rock of the end.
* **Hack:** The foothold in the ice you use to push off from when you deliver the stone.
* **House:** Also known as the *rings*, this is the name of the giant bull’s eye at either end of the sheet of ice. It consists of a set of concentric circles, called the 12-foot, 8-foot, 4-foot, and the Button.
* **Hurry hard:** A directive given to sweepers by the skip or third, to begin sweeping.
* **Rock:**Also known as a stone, the granite playing utensil that a curler delivers. Regular-sized rocks weigh approximately 44 pounds.
* **Sheet:** The frozen playing surface on which the game is played.

**Tee line:** The line on the playing surface that runs through the middle of the house.

### THE MEMBERS OF A CURLING TEAM

In curling, the team you play on is called a *rink.*The rink is made up of four players: the *lead,* the *second,*the *third* (also called the *vice,* *vice-skip,* or *mate*), and the *skip*. Each player has specific duties:

* **Lead:** The lead throws the first two rocks of the end and then sweeps the next six. The lead must be very good at throwing guards and a strong sweeper.
* **Second:** The second throws the third and fourth stones of the end and should be strong at playing takeouts. The second sweeps the first two stones and then the final four of the end. The second and the lead need to be in sync when sweeping together.
* **Third:** The third (or mate or vice), who throws the fifth and sixth rocks of the end, must be good at all shots, but especially draws. It is the third’s job to set up the shots that will be thrown by the skip, and to help the skip discuss the strategy of the final two stones of the end. The third also posts the score at the conclusion of the end.
* **Skip:** The skip is the captain of the team and decides the strategy. It’s the skip’s job to tell the other players where to throw their shots and when to sweep. The skip also delivers the last two shots of the end. The skip must be good at all types of shots.