

Basic Strategy For Beginning Parents

Typical goals:

- With hammer – score 2 or more or blank the end
- Without hammer – steal or force opponent to take one

Shot selection is determined by your team's goal for the end

- What is your goal for the end?
- What else is acceptable?
- What is unacceptable?
- Know when to “shift gears” – revise goals and adjust strategy

The goal for the end is dictated by several factors (HI SEAz):

- Hammer
- Ice
- Score
- End
- Abilities
- Free Guard Zone

Game is typically divided into 3 parts – early, middle, & late ends

Offense vs. defense – when to employ each

Using free guard zone to dictate style of play

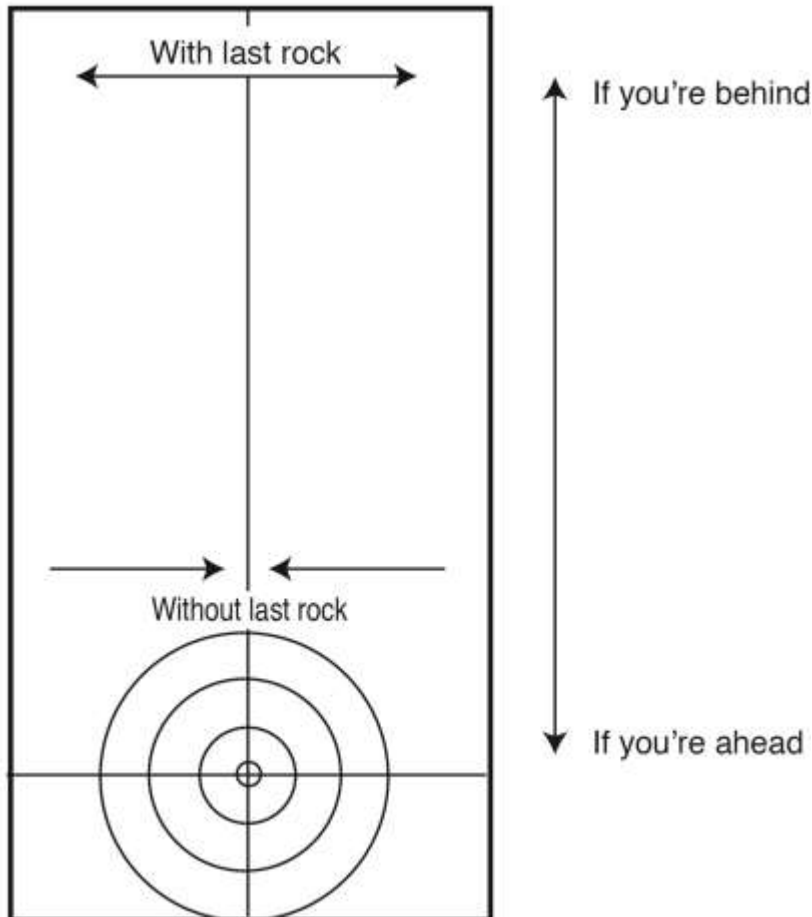
Control the path to the four foot

- With hammer – keep middle open and force play to outside
- Without hammer – plug up middle

In late ends, typically try to score in even ends

Strategy is limited by shot making abilities – work on technique & skills

Basic Curling Strategy



“HI SEAz” Strategy Factors

- **H**ammer – Who has the hammer? You can take more chances if you have the hammer. If they have the hammer, being aggressive may send you to the warm room early.
- **I**ce – How is the ice? Is it keened or heavy or is it changing during the game? Are there runs or falls? These and several other factors (quality of rocks, matched stones, who on your team is throwing the bad stones, etc.) may influence what shot you call and how an end is played.
- **S**core – What is the score? If you are way ahead or way behind, you may need to adjust your strategy to be more aggressive or defensive.
- **E**nd – What end are you playing? Do you have several ends to play or are you near the end of the game? Where you are in the game will impact your approach to the end.
- **A**bility & Aptitude – What is your team good at – hits or draws? Don’t call shots that a teammate is not capable of making, and try to force opposing players to play shots that they struggle with. What is your team’s mentality? Are you a defensive team or are you aggressive? Play to your strengths and their weaknesses.
- **Z**one – Use the free guard zone to your advantage. Teams can pursue an offensive or defensive style of play if they understand and use the free guard zone. Strategic shot calling, by itself, will not make this happen. Team members must be able to make the shots. It takes both sound strategy and shot-making to win hard fought games.

Phrases to Remember

- ABCs of a good delivery (alignment, balance, & curl)
- The most important line (the invisible line from the hack foot to the skip's broom)
- Practice with purpose
- Don't follow a miss with a miss
- Miss on the Pro Side
- Strategy – Read & play the scoreboard
- If fingers turn white grip is too tight
- Sweep with head over head
- Basic strategy – 2 for me and 1 for you
- A million \$ slide & a 2 cent release = a 2 cent shot
- Don't take the broom out of sweepers' hands
- Playing without a plan is planning to fail
- When you're up guards are not
- You will play the way that you practice

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The Spirit of Curling

Curling is a game of skill and of traditions. A shot well executed is a delight to see and so, too, it is a fine thing to observe the time-honored traditions of curling being applied in the true spirit of the game. Curlers play to win but never to humble their opponents. A true curler would prefer to lose rather than win unfairly.

A good curler never attempts to distract an opponent or otherwise prevent him from playing his best. No curler ever deliberately breaks a rule of the game or any of its traditions. But, if he should do so inadvertently and be aware of it, he is the first to divulge the breach.

While the main object of the game of curling is to determine the relative skill of the players, the spirit of the game demands good sportsmanship, kindly feeling and honorable conduct. This spirit should influence both the interpretation and application of the rules of the game and also the conduct of all participants on and off the ice.

Curling Etiquette

Etiquette is the courtesy and sportsmanship that you show your teammates and your opponents so that everyone can enjoy the game and play as well as possible without being distracted.

Before the game:

- Respect the starting time of your game.
- If you are unable to play, inform your skip and find someone (a spare) to play for you. It is your responsibility to find a substitute player.
- If you expect to be late, inform your skip or another member of your team.
- If possible, be on the ice at game time.
- Shake hands with your opponents, tell them your name and wish them good curling.

During the game:

- Be ready when it is your turn to deliver a rock, or your teammates' turn to deliver a rock.
- Be quiet and do not move when your opponent is about to deliver a rock.
- Stay on your own sheet of ice preferably close to the outside of the sheet when it is the opposition's turn.
- Pay attention to what is going on in your game. Use the opportunity to learn when a rock needs brushing or to learn game strategy.
- Compliment any player on a good shot. Do not show your frustration at an opponent's lucky shot or a teammate's poor shot.
- If you touch a moving rock while you are brushing, tell your skip immediately but do not stop the rock, unless told to by your skip.

After the game:

Give each of your teammates and opponents a handshake and thank them for the game before leaving the ice.