

SWEEPING

Advanced



Coverage

Efficient sweepers pay attention to the stone's running path. Only a portion of the stone – the 5 inch (12.5cm) running band – is actually making contact with the ice.

Any excessive movement of the brush, outside the path of the stone's running band, is wasted energy. Visualise which area of the ice the stone will travel, and then make sure your sweeping covers that area.

A brush head that swivels into a position, right angled to the stone, is most effective.

Speed & Pressure

The more speed and pressure applied to the brush, the more friction is generated affecting the ice surface. *It is impossible to achieve maximum speed and pressure at the same time.* When the stone is first released, most sweepers cannot move their brush across the same area of ice more than once because the stone is moving too quickly. The focus should be on putting as much pressure as possible on the brush. However, as the stone slows down, rapid sweeping will allow the brush to be swept repeatedly across a given spot. So, as the stone slows, increase the speed of the brush head and 'finish' the stone.

Judgement

Effectiveness is a crucial component of sweeping but more important is to be able judge when to sweep. Judge the weight (speed) of the stone as early as possible. Study all shots – your team's and your opponent's – so that you can get a better feel for the ice.

A sweeper must observe the distance the stone needs to travel, the speed and the rate at which the stone is slowing. Sweepers have the best perspective on the weight of the stone. It is their responsibility to judge weight.

An important aid in developing weight control is using split timing for both sweepers and deliveries.

Communication

Sweepers and the skip should maintain communication on every shot. Know what shot is being called and where brush was placed. Skips are usually very good at letting you know if the stone needs to be swept for line. Likewise, sweepers should call out the weight of the shot on release and as it progresses down the ice. Try to determine your own skip's voice. Use a few routine words to cover the types of sweep calls e.g. hurry, whoa, yes, no, line, light, never, heavy etc Try to assure that opposing terms do not sound similar e.g. yip & nope, up & on, don't sweep etc

Sweeping Tips

- Look up. Be aware of where you are and what the situation is at all times.
- Clean stones. Also clean the line of delivery before every shot.
- Stay with the stone until it comes to a complete stop.
- Be prepared for alternate sweeping calls from the skip.
- Finish sweeping to one side of the stone, do not lift brush off ice in front of stone to avoid pick ups.