



Backgrounder

What is Mixed Doubles Curling?

Mixed Doubles – History

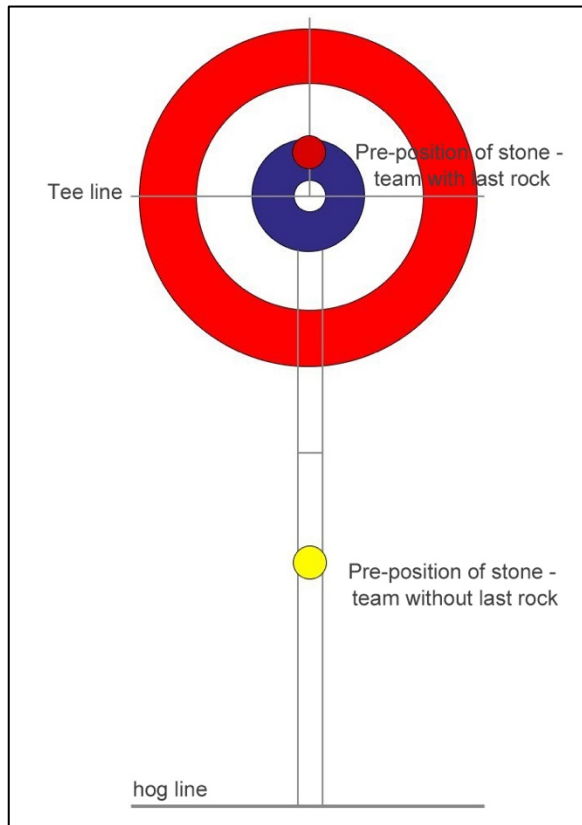
- The idea of Mixed Doubles curling was developed by Curling Canada's Warren Hansen in 2001
- The first World Mixed Doubles Championship took place in 2008 and has been held annually since 2008.
- A total of 39 countries competed in last year's world mixed doubles curling championship as the sport has caught on globally. Games are fun and fast – some being played in just over an hour!
- Mixed Doubles Curling is an exciting, athletic, and fast-paced game that takes about half the time of a traditional curling game to play.
- It has been increasing in popularity with many countries around the world involved in the sport. In fact, it was big in Europe before it caught on in Canada.
- Mixed Doubles curling made its Olympic debut at the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang. Canada's team of John Morris and Kaitlyn Lawes captured the Gold Medal.

Playing Positions

There are two players per team—one male and one female. Each team has six stones each, but they only throw five of them. One rock from each team is pre-positioned depending upon who throws the final stone (who has “hammer”).

- One player plays stones one and five
- The other player plays stones two, three and four.
- Both players are allowed to switch playing positions in-between ends.
- Both players can sweep
- Having a player holding the broom at the other end is optional.

- No rocks can be removed prior to the fourth rock delivered. This applies to all rocks in play including those pre-positioned at the start.



Game Play - Rock placement

At the beginning of each end, one rock from each team is pre-positioned depending on who throws the last rock.

The team with the hammer (throwing second in order) has one rock pre-positioned on the centre line behind the button in the house with one rock from the opposing team guarding it about a broom-length away from the top of the house in the free-guard zone.

Player one throws the first and fifth stones while the second player throws stones two, three and four. The players can switch positions between ends.

The teams alternate throwing their rocks until all of them have been played.

Sweeping

When a rock is thrown, the second player can sweep the rock or remain in the house to keep an eye on the path while the shooter gets up and sweeps the rock themselves.

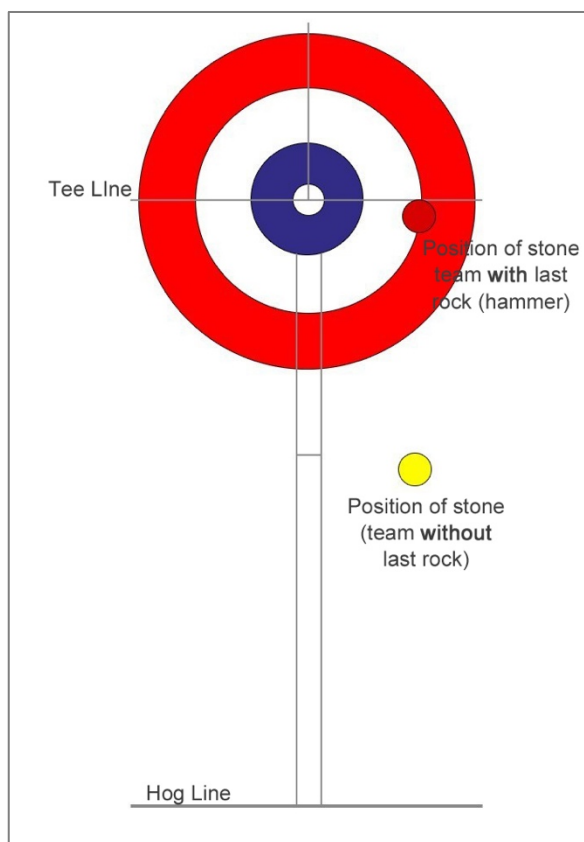
Other key difference from the 4-person team game.

Blank ends (where no one scores a point) in mixed doubles are rare and if they do happen, hammer goes to the team who did not have it in the blanked end. So, it's not an advantage to blank an end in the hopes of scoring more points in the next one.

Choice of hammer. If one team scores in an end, the other team has the choice to have hammer or not in the next end.

Power play

Teams can call a power play once per game when they have the hammer. The power play shifts the pre-positioned rocks on the centre line to the edge of the eight-foot circle on the left or right side of the sheet with the opposite guard also moving over so it is aligned.



Power Play - Rock placement

The team implementing the power play has the option to shift the re-positioned rocks either to the left or the right the edge of the eight-foot circle.

Duration

Games are eight ends.

