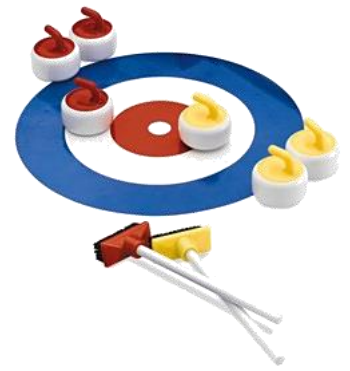




STRATEGY

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Understanding the Free Guard Zone

In an attempt to make the game more exciting and offensive, the FGZ was put into effect in the early 90's. The FGZ is the area between the hog line and the tee line, excluding the house. The rule states that any rock located in this zone may not be removed from play by the opposing team until after the fourth rock of the end has been delivered.

Effectively Using the FGZ

Teams that are behind in points will want to generate offense. They will throw up rocks in this area to be used as guards knowing the opponents can't remove them right away. Teams ahead in score will want to play more defensively and will want to take the game into the house and avoid playing around with guards.

In general.....

Teams that have the last rock (hammer) want to play to the wings (side of the house) or throw corner guards. This allows the center to remain open and give the skip a shot to at least score. Conversely, teams that do not have the hammer want to keep play to the center of the sheet, playing center guards and trying to steal a point at the conclusion of the end. Playing center guards blocks the center scoring area, making it more difficult for the opponent.

The hammer

Teams with the hammer try to score 2 or more points per end. This is why you may have seen a team throw their last rock through the rings. They didn't want to settle for one point. They will try to score 2 or more in the next end.



Free Guard Zone