

Glossary of Curling Terms from the Chaska Curling Center!

Angle Raise: To raise a rock into the rings to score by hitting it at a precise angle.

Arena Club: A Curling Club that has to share ice with hockey. If curling was easy, they'd call it hockey!

Back House: The portion of the house (scoring area) that's behind the tee line*. *See Tee Line below.

Biter: A stone that is barely in the house. The rock is "biting" the house and is scoring.

Burned Rock: When you touch a rock while sweeping with your body or the broom. The rock then is taken out of play.

Buried: When a rock is completely guarded by another rock above it. There is no way to take it out when it's buried.

Come Around: A draw shot meant to "come around" a guard and become "buried".

Circus Shot: A very difficult shot usually called in desperation. "Those guys have rocks buried in the house. Our only chance to score is to throw a circus shot!"

Eight Ender: When a team scores all 8 of their rocks in one end by getting them closer to the center of the house than their opponent. All hell breaks loose in the arena when a team scores an 8 ender. It's about 100 times rarer than a hole in one!

Free Guard Zone: The first 4 stones of any end played may not be used to remove a rock from play if they are in the "FGZ". The FGZ is located above the house and inside the Hog Line.

Guard: A rock that is thrown intending to guard one you have in the house scoring so your opponent cannot take it out.

Hammer: The last shot of any end played. "C'mon Jeff, you gotta score a point with the Hammer!"

Hog Line: The 4" wide line horizontal to the sheet 33 feet from the Hack. You have to let the rock go before you reach the Hog Line when delivering a stone.

House: The scoring area of the sheet. A house is 12' in diameter and contains a button (dead center), the 4' circle, the 8' circle and the 12' circle.

In Turn: Releasing the rock with a rotation on it that brings the elbow towards the body or "in" to the body. **See Out Turn as well.

Keen: Ice that is fast! Ice that requires less effort to get to the far end. "Boy the ice is keen tonight".

Light: A rock thrown lightly requiring teammates to SWEEEEEP! "John threw it light again! I'm tired of sweeping his rocks!"

Never: An exaggerated call to not sweep. Similar to “Don’t even look at it”.

Out Turn: Releasing a rock with a rotation on it that brings the elbow away or “out” from the body.

Pair of Pants: When you throw a rock and it comes to rest right next to another rock of your own teams making a double take out easy for your opponent. “Geez Jeff, you left em a pair of pants”.

Pebble: The tiny frozen droplets that cover the ice. This is what the rock rides on when going down the ice.

Plan B: When a teammate throws a rock poorly and you know right away they missed the desired shot. “Jeff’s way too heavy, go to Plan B on this one!”

Roaring Game: Curling’s nickname; It originates from the sound of the rocks “roaring” down the ice.

Sheet: Each game is played on a sheet of ice...NOT A LANE! 😊

Spiel: A Bonspiel. Usually a weekend tournament. Here in Minnesota we have bonspiels almost every weekend at some curling club. You are guaranteed 3 games and tons of fun.

Steal: To score a point or points in an end when you don’t have the Hammer. *See Hammer above.

Tee Line: The horizontal line in the middle of the house that intersects with the center line. “Throw Tee Line weight there Jeff, it’ll be a beauty!”

Take Out: To throw a rock with enough force to remove your opponent’s rock from play.

Weight: Refers to amount of speed or “weight” you put on a rock. “Jeff we need you to throw more weight for this take out”.

Curling is super fun, easy to learn and a lifelong sport. It has some bits of Bocce ball, Shuffleboard and even Chess in it. As a matter of fact one of curling’s nicknames besides “The Roaring Game” is “Chess on Ice” because of all the strategy involved.

Feel free to come on down to the Chaska Curling Center and say Hi. We’ll get you on the ice and make sure first and foremost you enjoy it and have fun with it...after that we can help you improve your game quickly and before you know it you’ll be challenging Jeff for the 2018 Olympic Games!

Hope to see you on the ice!

Cheers!