

LAPHROAIG®

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THE SPORT OF CURLING

THE GAME:

Often referred to as “chess on ice” or “winter golf,” curling is a 500-year-old Scottish sport requiring physical skill and mental toughness. Curling is played indoors on 145-foot long by 15-foot wide pebbled curling sheets. Each game is comprised of 10 ends – similar to innings – and two teams of four players. Both teams take turns sliding 42-pound, polished granite stones down the ice toward the target, or “house,” to score points. Each player releases or “delivers” two rocks per end with either a clockwise or counterclockwise rotation, which allows it to curl as it glides down the ice. Team members use the curling brooms to sweep the path of the rock to make it travel further and, if needed, straighter toward the target. Only one team can score per end. After all 16 rocks have been thrown, the team with the rock closest to the center of the house scores one point for each rock it has closer to the center as compared to its opponent.

CURLING HISTORY:

Curling originated in the 16th century in Scotland when hardy Scots slid odd-shaped rocks called “loafies” on the frozen lochs and marshes of Scotland. Scottish immigrants brought the curling sport to the United States around 1832. By 1855, curling clubs flourished in American cities including New York City, Detroit and Milwaukee. The first curling Olympic demonstration was in 1924 in Chamonix, France. It was also an Olympic demonstration sport in 1932, 1988 and 1992. Curling was approved as a full-medal Olympic sport in July 1992, and was first contested as a medal sport at the 1998 Games in Nagano. During the past two Winter Olympic Games, curling led television ratings in the United States for all Winter Olympic sports.

CURLING EQUIPMENT:

Although played on ice, curlers do not wear ice skates. Rather, players wear curling shoes which optimize their performance on the ice. Additional equipment includes a curling broom and curling stones.

CURLING TERMS:

House: A 12-foot-wide set of concentric rings that are painted near each end of the rink. The goal of the game is to have one or more of your team's stones closer to the center of the house than those of your opponent.

End: Similar to an inning, there are 10 ends in each curling game.

Hammer: Last shot of each end.

Broom: Used to sweep the ice surface in front of the stone, the broom clears any debris. Sweeping can help the stone travel up to 15 feet further and helps the stone to go straighter, when desired.

8-ender: Similar to a hole-in-one in golf, an 8-ender occurs when one team scores all eight of its stones, which is the most that can be scored in a given end.

Skip: Acting as the team captain, the skip calls the shots from the house and typically throws the last two stones of each end.

Lead: The lead position throws the first rocks.

Second: The second position throws second.

Third: Called the third or vice skip, this position throws third and takes the place of the skip in the house when he/she delivers his/her stones.

INTERESTING FACTS:

The largest curling stone on record (before uniformity) was the 117-pound "Jubilee Stone."

There are 145 curling clubs in the United States across 35 states with approximately 16,000 curlers.

Curling teams are traditionally identified by the last name of the team "skip," or captain.

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