

Policies / Rules for Brush Heads and Brushing:

It is the responsibility of each player and coach to ensure his or her sweeping brush meets World Curling Federation (WCF) 'Standards for Competition Equipment' and is listed on the WCF 'Conforming Equipment List'. This includes but is not limited to, ensuring a valid WCF Product Code is displayed on the pad or fabric, ensuring there is nothing between the fabric and the foam and ensuring the side of the fabric in contact with the ice is the side intended by the manufacturer, which will be the case if the WCF Product Code is visible on the fabric.

The penalty for sweeping with equipment in WCF competition games that does not conform to standards for Competition Equipment established by the WCF:

- (i) First team offence during a competition – the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game.
- (ii) Second team offence during a competition – the team is disqualified from the competition and all players are not permitted to play in WCF competitions for a 12-month period (365 days).

A stabilising brush, which is used only during delivery, need not be on the conforming list, but can never be used for sweeping. Rule C3 (i) - Penalty During LSD Stones and Games: If a non-conforming stabilising brush is used to sweep, the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game. If a conforming stabilising brush is used to sweep, the stone is removed from play, or for the LSD it will be recorded as the maximum (199.6 cm).

Penalty During All Practice Sessions: If a non-conforming or conforming stabilising brush is used to sweep, the player will be warned by an umpire, and if it occurs a second time during the same session, the player will not be allowed to continue in the practice session, or participate in the LSD stones or in the game that immediately (same day) follows the practice session.

If a player is using a non-conforming brush for delivery, he/she must be aware that the brush head can never be used for sweeping. Lightly 'cleaning' the ice on the path of the stone to be delivered is permitted, as this is not considered to be sweeping. If a player has used the non-conforming brush to sweep the ice instead of lightly cleaning it when going down the ice, or sweeps in the house (pre or post-delivery), the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game.

The umpires will conduct random checks of brush heads during all competitions. The WCF reserves the right to undertake testing of approved equipment collected at WCF Championships and Events. The Chief Umpire may collect approved equipment from the participants, and any equipment collected for testing becomes the property of the WCF.

For all practices and games, a maximum of one conforming sweeping device per person can be taken into the field of play. Brush pads must be installed on the head assembly for which they are designed, with the exception being the oval heads, which can be installed on any assembly designed for oval heads. All sweeping devices will be marked with different coloured tape to identify which device belongs to which player or coach(s). For pre-competition / evening / special play-off / pre-game practices only these conforming brushes may be used to sweep, however a player or coach can sweep with any one of those brushes, their sweeping device need not be the one that is identified (taped) for their personal use during LSD stones and games.

For Last Stone Draws (LSDs) and the game, each player must declare the brush they will use for sweeping, and only that player can use that device for sweeping. The officials will keep a register of these brushes. Rule C3 (e) - Penalty: If a player sweeps with another person's sweeping device the stone shall be removed from play, or for the LSD it will be recorded as the maximum (199.6 cm).

A player may not change his/her brush head during a game, or during / after a pre-game practice, unless the Chief Umpire grants special permission. Permission will not be granted if the pad, handle or head are damaged due to brush abuse. Rule C3 (f) - Penalty: If a change is made without permission, the team will forfeit the game.

If a team must change a player after the pre-game practice or during a game, the alternate player will have to use the brush head from the player he/she is replacing. If the brush head does not fit onto the alternate's brush handle, the alternate must play with the brush of the player who is being replaced. Penalty: If a new sweeping device is brought into the game without permission of the Chief Umpire, the team will forfeit the game.