



November 27, 2015

## Moratorium on Brush-Head Technology

**For all Provincial/Territorial competitions leading to Curling Canada and World Curling Federation Championships.**

Given that the 2015-2016 championship season is part of the 2018 Olympic Qualification Process, **Curling Canada** is aligning with the **World Curling Federation's** (WCF) Brushing Moratorium Statement. Additionally, Curling Canada provides the following supporting statement for the 2015-2016 Canadian Provincial/Territorial Playdown process leading to 2016 Canadian and ultimately 2016 World Curling Championships (note: this position may be updated without notice):

- (1) Only brushes and brush heads available for sale to the public at retail outlets will be allowed on the field of play.
- (2) No modified, custom-made or homemade brushing equipment will be allowed on the field of play. This does not apply to branding / cosmetic related modifications.
- (3) Brush-head fabric that has been embossed / sealed / textured / modified from its original woven form will not be allowed on the field of play. The process of embossing is often undertaken for the purpose of waterproofing the fabric by making use of coatings like polyurethane, acrylic, PVC etc. and produces a "plasticized" look.
- (4) For brush head fabric to be allowed on the field of play, the fabric must have a woven appearance that is visible to the "naked eye". The intent is to ensure the fabric makes contact with the ice as opposed to the embossed / sealed coating used to waterproof the fabric.
- (5) Brush heads containing "hardening" or "stiffening" materials inserted between the outer fabric and the internal cushioning material of the brush head, **are not** allowed on the field of play. These materials may include but are not limited to: plastic, fibreglass, wood, and Teflon. In addition, brush heads that are constructed in a manner that greatly reduces the "normal" amount of compression may not be allowed on the field of play as determined by the Chief Umpire.

**Compliance - Teams** currently using brush-head technology not in compliance with the above moratorium may comply by:

- (1) If applicable, reversing the brush-head fabric to place the fibre weave on the exterior [in contact with the ice]; or
- (2) Utilizing alternate brush-head fabric comprised of fibre weaves that are visible to the "naked eye"; or
- (3) Using a hairbrush.
- (4) If applicable, removing any "Hardening or "Stiffening" inserts from between the fabric and cushioning material, or using an alternative brush.

**Note** - A Provincial / Territorial Member Association may choose not to address the aspect of the moratorium that deals with hard inserts and brush-head compression if the competition in question does not have access to an appropriately trained umpire. Curling Canada will continue to work with the World Curling Federation and the Players Association to establish an evidence-



based, well-defined equipment approval policy.

## **Enforcement**

- (1) Players and coaches will be responsible for ensuring any brush brought on to the field of play is compliant with the moratorium.
- (2) Once a player has selected one approved brush for that game, no replacement of that brush, brush head or brush-head fabric shall be made without the approval of the assigned umpire.
- (3) Players may exchange brushes between themselves with the exception of exchanging with the skip (person in charge of play for the team).
- (4) Random inspections of equipment by an umpire may be carried out during the event and during a game. Players may request an umpire inspect a brush prior to or during a game.

**Penalties** - If a player is found to be using a brush that is not allowed on the field of play under this moratorium, the offending team will forfeit that game.

## **Authority**

- (1) The Chief Umpire is authorized to administer this moratorium and may assign other umpires to perform various duties, as required.
- (2) The Chief Umpire is authorized to take decisions regarding this moratorium but which are not specifically covered in this protocol.
- (3) All decisions of the Chief Umpire regarding this moratorium are final.

**The World Curling Federation has issued a list of currently approved brush heads. That list includes, but is not limited to, the following brands (If you have any questions about other brush heads, please contact Curling Canada at [rules@curling.ca](mailto:rules@curling.ca)):**

- (1) Asham TX
- (2) Balance Plus EQ
- (3) Balance Plus – “older models”
- (4) Goldline Norway Pad
- (5) Hardline IcePad – fabric inverted without plastic insert
- (6) Performance – “older models”
- (7) Warthog – woven side
- (8) Hair brushes – various brands

Respectfully,

### **Patricia Ray**

Curling Canada Interim Chief Executive Officer

### **Jonathan Mead**

World Curling Players Association

### **Pierre Charette**

Grand Slam of Curling