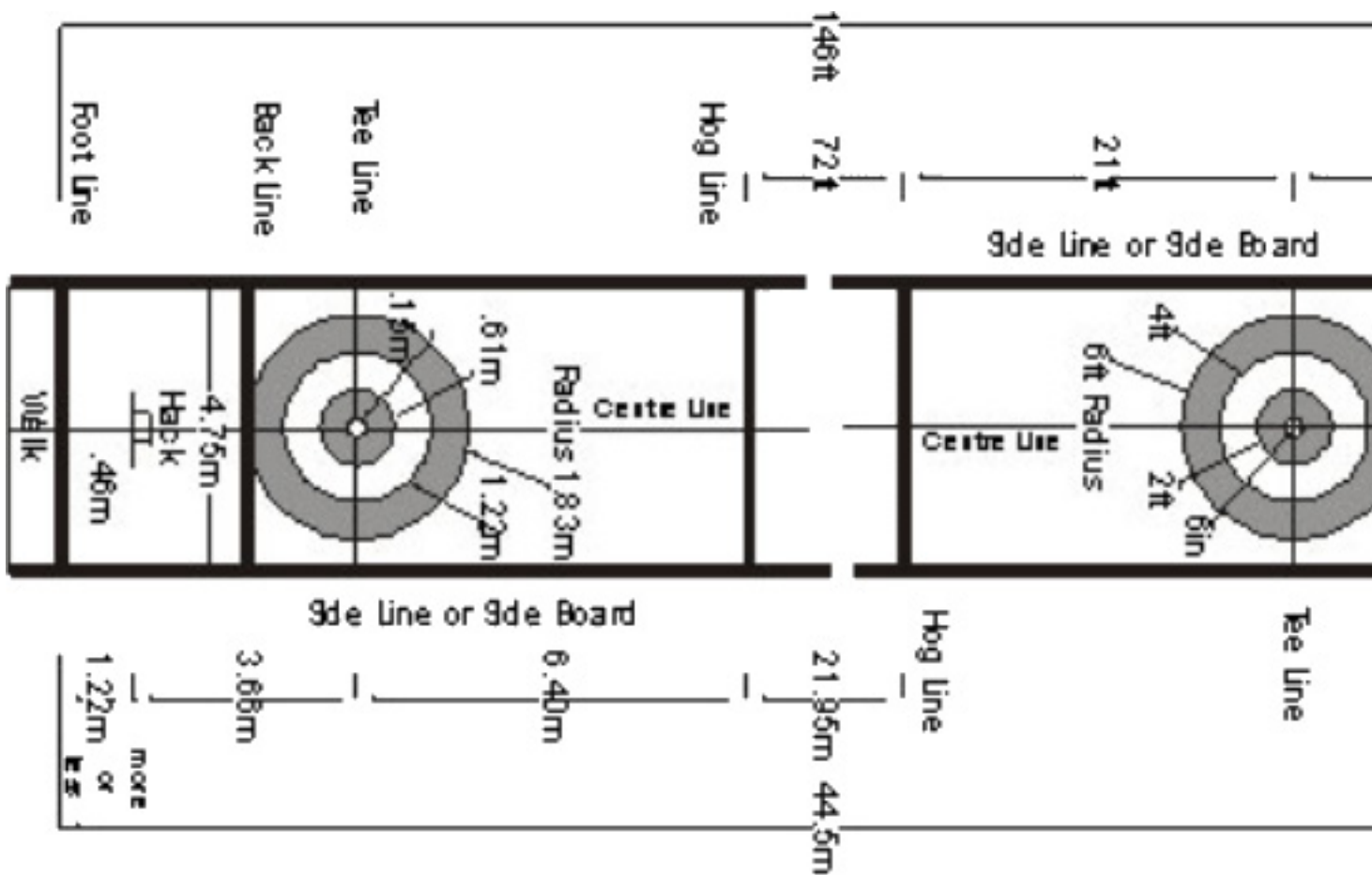


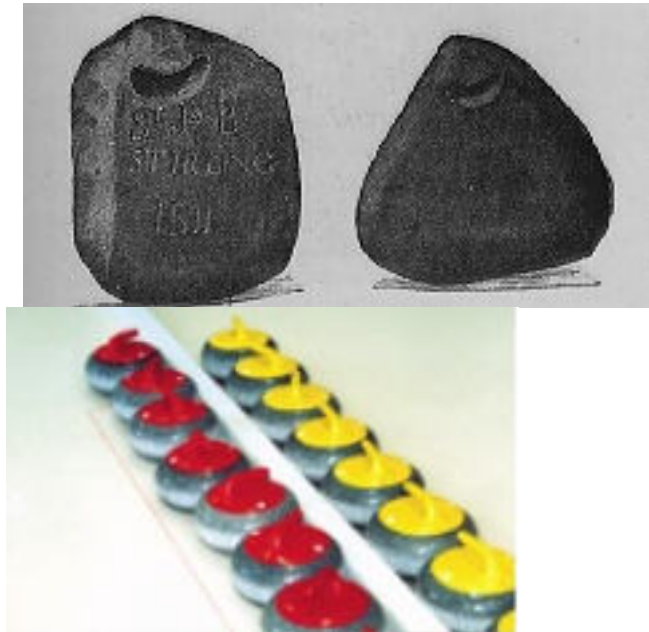
**CURLING** it means: **C**oncentration, **U**nits, **R**esponsibility, **L**eisure, **I**ntelligence, **N**eeds, **G**roove

The game of curling is played on ice with (approximately) 20-kilo (42-pound) granite stones. The playing surface - a 'sheet' - is 42m (138 feet) long from hack to hack, and just over 4,75m (14 feet) wide, with a house at both ends. In each 'end' of the game 16 stones are played, 8 by each team, and at the conclusion of the end, the team with one or more stones closer to the button than any opposition stones, scores the equivalent number of points. Each of the four members of a team delivers 2 stones each, one at a time, alternating with the opposing team.

The stones are delivered from the hack at one end of the sheet to the house at the other end, by the player pushing off from the hack with the stone, and releasing it with a spin - 'curl' - which gives Curling its name. When delivering a stone, one can play a 'draw', which means the stone comes to rest somewhere in the playing area, or a 'takeout', whereby the delivered stone takes out an opposition stone. A draw stone that comes to rest in front of another stone, thereby making it difficult for the opposition to remove the guarded stone, is called a 'guard'.

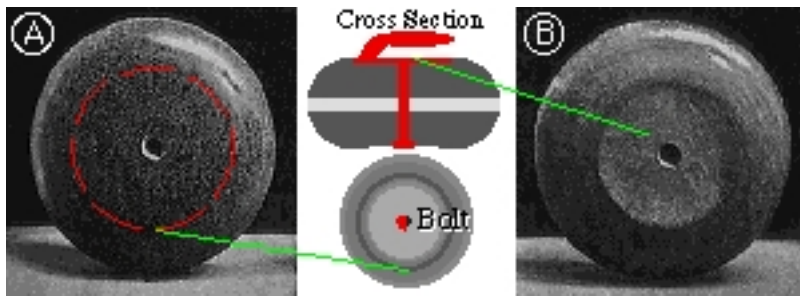


### THE CURLING ROCK ☐☐



The original curling stone - or 'rock' - used in Scotland, was just a large chunk of rock, without any particular size or shape bowled across the ice. This evolved into the 42 pound rocks we use today, which are made of granite and shaped and polished to a specified size and shape, concave on both upper and lower surfaces.

On some stones the degree of concavity is different on the two sides, allowing for reversal of the stone for 'faster' or 'slower' ice. A handle, usually on a circular plastic disc, is bolted onto the stone by way of a channel running through the middle of the stone.



## THE DELIVERY



### **THE TEAM**

A team consists of four players, called the 'lead', 'second', 'third' and 'skip', and they each deliver two stones in that order. The skip, as the name indicates, is the team captain, who decides where he/she wants the particular stone to end up, holds his/her broom for the deliverer of the stone to aim at, and directs sweeping. When it is the skip's turn to deliver stones, the third temporarily acts as skip. The two team members that are not delivering a stone may be called on by the skip to sweep in front of the delivered stone.

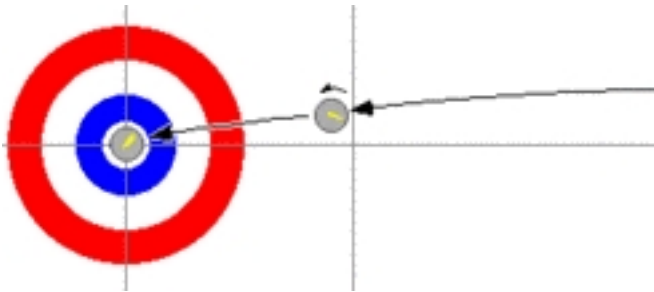
Such sweeping will both make a stone travel farther and reduce its curl, and so, can be used to assist the stone to behave in the manner desired by the skip. Vigorous sweeping requires curlers to be fit, and in a typical two hour game a curler walks almost two miles.

### **THE ICE**



5. **THE GAME**

Curling is always mentioned as a game of strategy by curlers, partly because it is, but also probably because they want to make sure that it's seen as more than throwing rocks and slipping around on the ice. Strategy is definitely the big thing in competitive curling, though. A great deal of effort goes into planning an end so your team's stone ends up closest to the center. There are a bunch of different strategic moves, and here we show the standards:

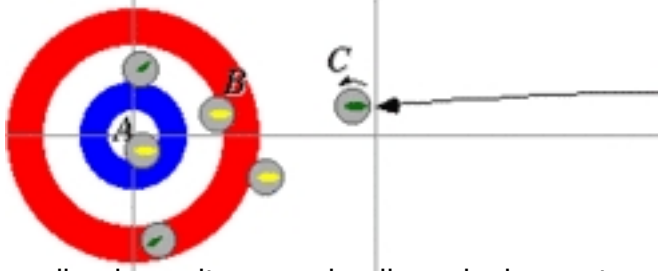


A 'Draw' is obviously the most basic move. You send the stone down the sheet, and with the help of the

The Draw



Here the green stone is taken out by the yellow. The yellow continues on, maintaining most of its momentum.



**Guarding** is, as its name implies, placing a stone in front of another (with a draw) to prevent a takeout. In

For more information about curling situations please have a look at Markus Sticker's Homepage:



## SOME MORE BASICS

A large element of the game not mentioned so far is the 'curl' of the stone. As you can see in the above diagrams, the stone is not coming in on a perfectly straight path. This is due to the curl put on the stone by the curler. As the stone is delivered, a slight spin is put on it, acting like a very, very slow curveball.



For more information on curling, please click [here](#). For more information on curling, please click [here](#).