

Pittsburgh Curling Club

Ice and Equipment Procedures



A. Job descriptions.

1. There will be one person assigned by the icemaster to coordinate setup and teardown each night. That person will be referred to as either setup foreman or teardown foreman.
2. The setup foreman should report to the arena a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time. At that time the foreman will unlock all necessary cabinets and begin preparing for setup. Prep includes: making sure there is plastic to set the rocks on ice with, getting out the necessary ice brooms and rock box, getting the pebble tank ready, and making sure there are volunteers to help with the tasks.
3. The setup foreman will coordinate the volunteers from the first draw in carrying out the rocks and assigning tasks to complete setup. Tasks include: installing hacks, icebrush, pebble, rockbox, finebrush, and scoreboards.
4. The teardown foreman will coordinate removal and storage of all club equipment at the end of the curling session.

B. Setup procedure

1. **Rocks** are to be moved from the storage cabinet to the ice surface as quickly and safely as possible once the zamboni driver has completed two passes around the outer circumference of the ice sheet creating a 10ft. section of fresh ice from the boards outward. One person should stand guard and watch the volunteers to make sure no person or equipment gets near the path the zamboni driver is taking. The rocks are to be placed on plastic sheets up against the boards and should be left there as long as possible. A minimum of 30-40 minutes is generally needed to chill the running edge enough to begin play. Volunteers for this task is limited to adults. **No one under 18 is permitted on the ice while the zamboni is on it.**
2. **Hacks:** All hacks should have mounting bolts set up in the installation position. Use the tub and small cart in the upright cabinet to haul the hacks to the back of the ice arena and fill the tub with hot water, enough to cover the mounting bolts. After the zamboni is finished and off the ice, hack installation can begin.
 - A. **Installation:** Take a hack from the hot water and set it centered over the positioning marks on the ice. Allow the mounting bolts to burn indents into the ice. Lift the hack and using a cordless drill with a 3/8" bit, drill down just enough to allow the mounting bolts to sink in and allow the hack to lie flat on the ice. The hack will freeze solid within 10 minutes. When finished with installation, do not empty water out of tub. Save it for teardown. Usually we just let it sit on its cart off in a corner near the front of the ice sheet.

3. **Icebrush:** After the zamboni has cleared the ice, each sheet should be cleaned with the 90" icebrush. A pass up each side of the sheet usually is enough. This is to clean off the residue that may have been left from the zamboni. If necessary use more passes if the ice appears to need it. This is critical, as the ice needs to be as clean as possible before pebbling can proceed. As a pass is completed the icebrush should be cleaned off. This is done by brushing off the 90" brush with a small hand brush and should be done in one of the corners out of the way.
4. **Pebbling:** After a sheet is declared clean by the Icebrush crew it is ready to accept pebbling. Pebbling is reserved for those volunteers who have received training and pebbling certification from the Icemaster. Contact the Icemaster to setup training and certification. A separate manual will be provided to those who have completed pebbling certification that will cover pebbling procedures of the Pittsburgh Curling Club.
5. **Rockbox:** One person is needed to run the rockbox after pebbling is completed on a sheet. The rockbox is used to help prepare the pebble for play. Walking the rockbox on each side of the sheet, favoring the center, does this. The second pass can overlap the centerline a bit. If there is enough time a third pass splitting the centerline can be done.
6. **Finebrush:** The 90" finebrush is used to clean the smallest pieces of debris and ice on the sheet. The finebrush should be run in coordination with the rockbox. The finebrush should be cleaned after each sheet by brushing off the debris with a small hand brush. This is done in one of the corners where there is no traffic during play. Once a sheet has been rockboxed and finebrushed it is declared ready for play.
7. **Scoreboards:** Scoreboards and any advertising banners can be put up after the zamboni has cleared the ice.
8. **Final prep step:** When a sheet is ready for play and not before, the rocks can be brought forward from their chilling area on the plastic to their appropriate sheets. The plastic should then be taken back to the storage area, draped out to dry. When dry they can be refolded and put into storage.

C. During play procedure

1. The foreman will also be responsible for charting conditions each night. Thermometers and humidity gauges should be set out during setup. Also, an infrared temperature device is there to monitor sheet temperature and rock temperatures. A book with charts is in the upright storage cabinet.
2. When a match is completed the sheet is to be cleaned with a finebrush, pebbled and then run the rockbox with a finebrush following. When this is done the sheet is ready for the next draw.

D. Closing procedure

1. As the matches are completing during the last draw all equipment not necessary (icebrooms, rockbox ect.) can be put back into their storage areas. Rocks are to be stored in their cabinet, arranged by sheet number and rock color.
2. **Hacks:** Hacks are removed by using the cordless drill and the special socket. Back out the mounting bolts until they are out of the ice. A gentle kick on the back of the hack should break it free of the ice. If hack won't break free, get some warm water and pour a little over the metal. Hack should then break loose. Run the mounting bolts back to their set position and store in the plastic tub in the upright storage cabinet.
3. Once all equipment is off the ice, take water left in tub from setup and pour onto ice surface in the areas that the rocks were originally set on the ice to chill. This will cover the ring marks that were made during the chilling process.
4. Close all doors to the ice surface. Make sure any garbage is picked up and all equipment is stored and locked down.
5. You're probably tired, thirsty and hungry by now, so go across the street to carbo load and rehydrate (coincidentally it's the same strategy used by marathon runners!)