

# WDCC NEWSLETTER



## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

On behalf of the WDCC Board of Directors, **Mike Lutman** extends best wishes for Happy Holidays to all Wiarnton & District Curling Club members and their families.

The Board looks forward to 2026 and welcoming you back for the second schedule.

## REMINDERS FROM PREVIOUS EMAILS

### GROUNDHOG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**From Catherine Stofast/Dorothy Curran**

**Dorothy and Kevin Curran** are convening the Groundhog Bonspiel this year and need the help of three or four people to form a committee to help plan and organize the event. The Groundhog is one of WDCC's most popular and well-known bonspiels and always well attended.

If you can help them please contact Dorothy by phone 519-994-1868 or email at [dorothycurran11@gmail.com](mailto:dorothycurran11@gmail.com)

### STURLING HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

**From Judy Nafziger** - Please bring donations of non-expired food items, gift cards, or cash to the boxes in the front lobby for delivery to the Salvation Army in time for distribution at Christmas. Thanks for supporting Sturling Curling and thinking of our Community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHRISTMAS JITNEY

**Saturday December 13, 1-4 PM**

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Saturday December 13, 5-8 PM**

A Tuesday Morning Women's League Fundraiser

### SPOTZ

**Monday December 15, 10 AM**

Sign up on Board across from Women's Changeroom

### SCHEDULE 1 ENDS

**Friday December 19**

### SCHEDULE 2 STARTS (6 weeks)

**Sunday January 4, 2026**

### SPOTZ

**Monday January 5, 1-3 PM**

### TRIPLES JITNEY

**Saturday January 10, 1-4 PM**

Sign up on Board outside Bar

### WOMEN'S IN-HOUSE BONSPIEL

**Saturday January 17, 8:30 AM - 6 PM**

Shake Rattle and Roll at the Sock Hop

Sign up on the Board in Women's Changeroom

\$35 per curler

### SPOTZ

**Monday January 19, 1-3 PM**



## IMPROVE YOUR CURLING SKILLS BY PLAYING SPOTz!

SPOTz is a type of curling drill exercise where individuals practice various curling shots, and a personal score is kept. It is hoped that you get better at your shots each week, your score improves, and these shots then translate to other curling games that you play throughout the week.

In SPOTz there are eight different shots to perform, and each is done 4 times, once on each sheet. These are a takeout, wick, draw, guard, hit & stay, raise, chip & roll and a draw through a portal. Each week, a different starting sheet, and “handle” is determined. Practice with both out-turns and in-turns is gained.

Points are assigned for each of your shots, a 2, 1 or 0, depending on how well you make your shot. The person in front of you sets up your rocks on designated spots on the ice (hence the name) and records your score at each end. And you do the same for the person behind you.

A perfect score is 64, but an average score for most people is in the 20's. We've all got some improvements to make!

Each SPOTz session takes about 1 ½ hours. There is no sweeping. You are only practicing your shot-making skills, so you only need to bring your delivery device – a stick, a brace, or ‘naked’. You also do not have a team depending on you, so you can come out sporadically.

Does this sound like fun? Do you need the practice? Sign-up for SPOTz sessions is on the board across from the Women's Changeroom. Check the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter for planned sessions.

For further information, email **Brad Gesinghaus** at [coachbrad22@hotmail.com](mailto:coachbrad22@hotmail.com).

## HITS AND ROLLS

### NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL ALLOWED

**From Brad Gesinghaus** – Members are reminded that no outside alcohol is allowed to be brought into the club under the Ontario Liquor Licensing Laws.

### THURSDAY MORNING CURLERS NEEDED

**From Ron MacDonald** – Thursday morning curling is a relaxed group that enjoys camaraderie while trying to improve skills.

Although we have teams made up, so far this fall I believe we have not had any one team remain intact: primarily due to people simply unable to make all the games.

Currently we have 19 members and would appreciate more regular curlers. We have never had a spare list, so if you would enjoy playing the odd game, we would welcome you with open arms.

**Ladies Fun Bonspiel**  
**JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Shake Rattle and Roll**  
**At the Sock Hop**



0:30 – Coffee  
09:00 – Start  
Coffee \* Lunch \* Snacks \* Prize Table  
\$15 Per Person \* 2 – 6 end games

**Sign up as a Team or Individual**  
**ONLY 32 SPOTS AVAILABLE**



**Sign Up Sheet In Ladies Locker Room**

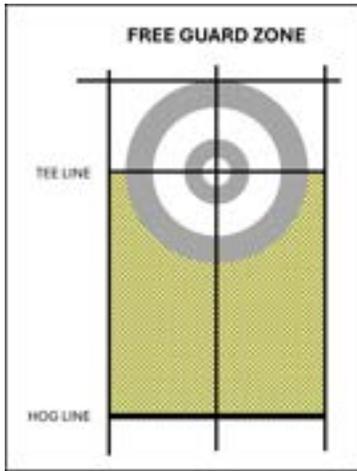


# EXPLAINING THE 5-ROCK RULE

For conventional 4-person team curling, I don't think we explain the 5-rock rule very well.

We assume that just by saying "We are playing the 5-rock rule" that everyone understands what that means. So here is a refresher/explanation.

The free guard zone is the area between the hog-line and the tee line, excluding the rings. (yellow-shaded)



The 5-rock rule says that if an opponent's rock (rock 1 in diagram on upper right) rests in the free guard zone you cannot remove it from play until after the 5th rock of the end has been thrown (total of both teams' rocks).

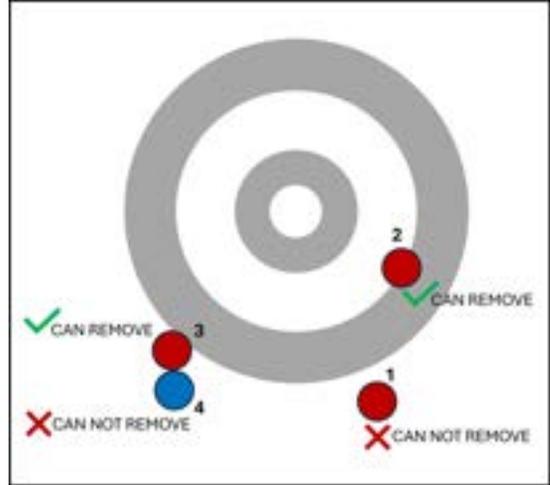
BUT there are oddities that can occur. The assumption for the rest of the article is that 5 rocks have not been played.

If a rock is touching the rings (rock 2), it is not in the free guard zone so you can play a takeout on it. Even just a biter can be taken out (rock 3).

Here's where it gets really interesting! If the rock is just biting the rings, so close that you are not sure if it is in or not, you ARE ALLOWED to measure to confirm it. That makes sense, doesn't it? If it is in, you can play takeout on it, if it is out, you can't remove it from play.

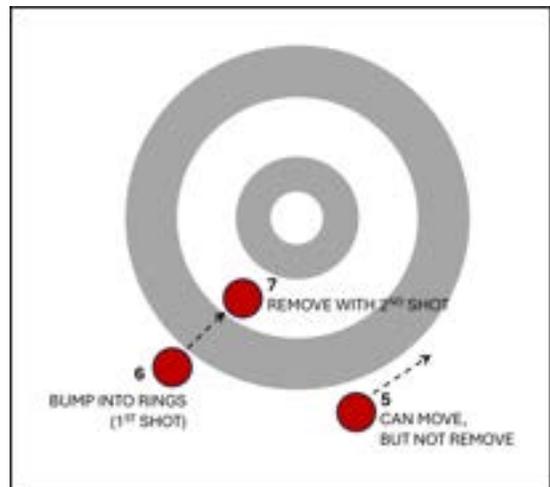
So, assume we measured, and the rock is biting the rings. If you play the takeout and successfully

remove the biter with a nose hit (rock 4), your rock would now be in the free guard zone so the opponent now cannot remove it from play. The rule applies to both teams.



You can always remove your own rocks from the free guard zone - the rule applies only to opponent's rocks. If your own stones are getting in the way you are allowed to clear them out.

You can play a hit on your opponents' rock in the free guard zone, as long as it is not REMOVED from play. So, if you tick their rock (rock 5) to the side but it is still in play, that is legal. You can even bump it into the rings and then take it out with your next rock (rocks 6 and 7). Dangerous maybe, but legal as well.



Such a simple rule huh?

Hope this helps explain how it works.  
(article by **Rick Corcoran**; diagrams by **Leah Robert**)