



# LA CROSSE CURLING CLUB

## Tips on Skipping and Strategy

1. Without last rock, play to the center. With last rock, play to the sides.
2. Use the tee line as a point of reference for giving ice.
3. Learn something about the ice from every rock that is thrown, including your opponents rocks. When a rock is traveling down the ice, concentrate on learning the ice, rather than anticipating the result of the shot.
4. When calling sweeping for a draw shot, stand up. When calling sweeping for a take-out, squat down.
5. Often the best or safest play in an end is to get second shot, giving up a point to your opponents. Play to win the war, not every battle.
6. Adjust your strategy depending upon how your team matches up with the opponents. If the opposing lead and second are weak on take-outs, you may want to start ends in which you do not have the last rock by drawing into the house and then guarding, instead of placing guards and then drawing around them.
7. The best guard is second count.
8. On good ice, draw shots curl the most during the last one third of their course. Therefore, if you extend the course of the draw shot by sweeping the last portion of that course, the rock will curl more. Conversely, if you do not sweep a draw shot at the end of its course, it will curl less. This assumes the ice has normal curl and does not run straight.
9. On draw shots, sweepers should judge the weight, especially during the first half of the course of the stone. Beware of the sliding track on draw shots that are finishing down the center.
10. If your team is capable, play take-out shots to curl from the outside of the sheet to the inside. Many sheets of ice are "crowned" down the center, distorting the way rocks curl around the centerline. Less used portions of the ice are usually more reliable for take-out shots.
11. Less skilled players have difficulty making side-ice take-outs, because there is a tendency to slide up the center during delivery.