



# 2024 St. Paul Cash Rules of Play

October 18-20th, 2024

## *Rules of Play*

### **“Five-Rock Free Guard Zone” and “No Tick Rule”**

The “Five-Rock Free Guard Zone” rule and the “No Tick” rule will be in effect.

- If teams are unsure if a stone is on the center-line, there will be a triangle on the ice to aid in determining whether or not a stone is on the center-line. If both teams cannot come to an agreement, signal for an official to make a decision. The official’s decision is final.
- If a violation occurs, the non-offending team has the option to:
  - a. Remove the delivered stone from play, and replace all stones that were displaced to their positions prior to the violation taking place;
  - b. OR leave all stones where they came to rest.

## **Pace of Play**

- All games are 8 ends.
- Games will not be timed, but we are asking teams to play quickly. Games that fall behind, will be warned to pick up the pace. The event chairs reserve the right to If needed to resort to a buzzer or timing teams that are playing slow.

## **In-Game Measurements**

All rock measurements, whether for scoring or free guard zone purposes, are to be completed by the players. If it is determined by the players that an official is required, the official will be called in to measure, and the official ruling will be final.

## **Extra End**

Extra ends will be played towards the home end. To maintain the playing area, please bring stones to the away end along the sides of the sheet.

## **Timeouts**

Timeouts are not allowed.

## *Pre-Game Warm-Up Rules / Draw Shot Challenge (DSC)*

- Practice starts **15 minutes** before the scheduled draw time.
- Flip a coin and the winner gets a choice of turn and order of practice **OR** color of stones. Teams must throw on opposite sides.
- Each team is allowed to throw 1 stone per player – 4 practice stones from the home end to the away end, then 4 stones back to the home end. The last 2 stones can be thrown by the same player, but no player can throw more than 2 of the 4 stones.
- The teams will alternate throwing of practice rocks to speed up the process. For the first 7 rocks (4 down and 3 back), please play fast. You do not have to wait until the other team's rock is fully stopped before you begin the next throw.
- One player will throw 1 stone – not included in the 8 practice stones – for the DSC, which may be swept. For three-handed teams, one player must hold the broom, but they are permitted to leave the house to sweep. Any player can throw the DSC.

- Coaches and 5<sup>th</sup> players can be on the ice until the last practice rock is thrown and then must leave the ice.
- One player from each team should measure your opponent's DSC and agree on the value before moving the stone. Men's team, please record your results.
- Failure to stop a stone in the rings is recorded as 73 inches. If the throwing moves the stone prior to it being measured will be recorded as 73 inches.
- Hammer is awarded to the team winning the DSC.
- In the case of a tied DSC (both teams pin, miss the house, or an exact tie), the same player will throw without sweepers, but sweepers may walk alongside during the throw.
- For the Men's draw only, the best 3 of 4 will count towards a team's total DSC. If teams are tied, the 4th stone will be used to break that tie.

## Women's Event Rules

The 2024 St. Paul Cash Women's Event is a triple-knockout format consisting of 14 teams. 7 teams will qualify for playoffs.

### *Women's Playoffs*

14 Team Triple Knock-Out to qualify 7 teams.

- A.** 2 Teams (A1-A2) will qualify from the "A" side. There will be an "A" side qualifier game on Saturday night to determine who will be the A1 qualifier. A1 will get a bye in the playoffs and be directly seeded into the semifinal.
- B.** 2 Teams (B1-B2) will qualify from the "B" side. The two "B" qualified teams are determined, they will be ranked by play by pre-event ranking.
- C.** 3 Teams (C1-C2-C3) will qualify from the "C" side. The three "C" qualified teams are determined, they will be ranked by play by pre-event ranking.

## Sheet Assignment

The sheets for the Playoffs will be assigned after the teams have qualified to ensure fairness and quality of viewing for spectators and streaming.

## Playoff Hammer Determination

The higher seed – based on the team’s qualification stage (i.e. A, B, C) – will have the choice of hammer **OR** rock color. If hammer is chosen, the other team will choose color and turn. In this situation, there will still be a pre-game practice, but the DSC rock will not be thrown – just throw 4 rocks down and 4 rocks back, then start the game. If the teams qualified at the same stage (i.e. both teams are As or Bs or Cs), the same DSC procedure followed during the triple knockout will be used to determine the hammer.

## Men’s Event Rules

The 2024 St. Paul Cash Men’s Event is round-robin, pool-play, with one cross-pool game consisting of 17 teams. There are three pools of four and one pool of 5. Eight teams will qualify for playoffs.

### *Men’s Playoffs and Tiebreakers*

#### **Tiebreakers**

Tiebreakers will take place at 9:30pm on Saturday night, if needed. If more than one tiebreaker draw is needed, teams will be eliminated based on:

1. Head-to-head, then
2. LSD

Hammer will be determined by DSC. If the teams have already played each other, then the winning team in the round robin will get the hammer.

#### **Qualifying**

All teams, except the Goldline Curling Bracket (Red) will play the 3 other teams within their pool and one cross-pool game which was already determined based on seeding. After the round robin is complete, the teams with top 8 records will advance to the playoffs. There is no guarantee that two teams will advance out of each bracket.

Teams will be ranked by:

1. W/L Record, then
2. Head-to-head (if applicable), then
3. DSC Total.

A team will not be eliminated with a 3-1 record, without playing a tiebreaker game. There will be tiebreakers played if there are more than 8 teams that are 3-1 or better. A team can be eliminated with a 2-2 record. There is only one draw for tiebreakers. So, for example;

- If two teams are tied for the final spot, a tiebreaker game will be played.
- If three teams are tied at 3-1 or 2-2 for the final spot, one team will be eliminated based on DSC and the other two will play for the final spot.
- If four teams were tied for two spots, there will be 2 tiebreaker games for the two spots.
- If there are three teams tied for 2 spots, one team will be in the playoffs based on DSC and the other two will play for the final spot and so on.

### **Sheet Assignment**

The sheets for the Playoffs will be assigned after the teams have qualified to ensure fairness and quality of viewing for spectators and streaming.

### **Playoff Hammer Determination**

The team with the better overall win/loss record will have a choice of hammer/1st practice **OR** color/2nd practice. If the teams have

the same record, then the team with the higher seed will have the choice of color/1st practice OR turn/2nd practice and the DSC procedure will be used to determine hammer.

**For anything not covered above, the World Curling Federation Rules will apply.**

### *2025 Women's and Men's National Championship Qualifications*

- Two highest-finishing women's and men's teams – not already qualified – from the St. Paul Cash Spiel, October 18-20, 2024, will qualify for the 2025 USCA National Championship.
- Teams final ranking will be based on the final playoff ranking.
- Should two or more teams vying for a berth to the 2025 Women's and Men's National Championships spot get eliminated at the same stage of the playoffs (for example both teams lose in the quarterfinal or semifinal), tiebreaker game(s) may be required.
  - This game will be played during the following draw. The teams will be ranked by:
    1. W/L record, then
    2. Head to head (if applicable), then
    3. DSC total.
  - Overall record will determine the hammer. If the teams have the same record, then the higher ranked team will get the choice of color **OR** practice order/choice of turn. The DSC procedure will be used to determine the hammer.

If you have any questions, please contact Phill Drobnick ([phill.drobnick@usacurling.org](mailto:phill.drobnick@usacurling.org))