

## **Curling Canada's Coach Interaction Rules** **2024-2025 Under-12 Pilot – Triples and Fours**

Curling Canada, along with all our Member Associations, support opportunities for coaches and young athletes to have more communication with each other throughout a game which is an advantage in other sports. Having coaches on ice level allows coaches to better support their teams' performance and development. Coaches will be provided with more convenient and frequent access to their team while the game is being played. This begins by positioning the coach in a better physical position where they are better able to view the game, listen to their team's conversations, and interact when permitted. Not only are we expecting to see improvements in our youth curlers' development on the ice, but in our coaches and their satisfaction as we empower them to be more involved in the game.

The new Coach Interactions will replace the traditional time-outs that we used in the past. The following rules will be used for U-12 Triples and Fours competitions:

- U-12 coaches will be allowed a maximum of two (2) interactions per end.
- Unused interactions cannot be carried over.
- Teams will be given two (2) coach interactions per **extra end**.
- During a Coach Interaction, opposing coaches will also be allowed to interact with their respective team until the team that called the interaction has concluded their communication. Coach Interactions may last between 5-60 seconds, but not longer. If a team uses less than that amount of time, the opposition team's opportunity to communicate ends as well.
- During a Coach Interaction, coaches may meet with their team either on the backboard or behind the backline. The team calling the interaction gets priority of the position of where they want to meet.
- Interactions can be called by anyone on the team in control of the house or their coach. If the coach or a player wants an interaction, they must signal a T with their hands when their team is in control of the house. If anyone signals for an interaction, the team must use an interaction.
- Coaches are responsible for keeping track and policing the number of interactions used. Disagreements will be brought forth to the league or event coordinator.
- Time between ends will be sixty (60) seconds. Coaches will be allowed up to forty-five (45) seconds of talking time with their team between ends and coaches may meet with their team either on the backboard or on the sideline between the hog lines. Coaches will then have 15 seconds of travel time to be seated before the first stone of the end is delivered.
- Coaches will also have five (5) minutes to meet with their teams partway through the game. This will occur at the half-time (i.e., 2<sup>nd</sup> End break) in Fours, or after End 2 in Triples.
- Coaches may stand on their designated sideline (i.e., side where their rocks are at the home end) between the hog-lines, or in corresponding assigned seating behind their skip. From either of these positions, they may speak quietly with their players between when they transfer control of the house until the other team's rock crosses the far hog-line. This timing is intended to ensure that the curlers make their own decisions outside of interactions.
- Between ends, coaches can travel to either end respectful of games on adjacent sheets. Coaches must only travel along the sidelines, and they must wear suitable footwear to be on the ice.
- A single interaction will officially end after the coach and curlers stop talking and the coach returns to one of their designated positions.

- If there is an alternate player, they can stand or sit with the coach. The alternate player can take part in the team talking time between ends and during the mid-game break. The alternate player cannot take part in any Coach Interactions during an end.
- There will be absolutely no talking or body language by the coach to their team unless between when they transfer control of the house until the other team's rock crosses the far hog-line, during an interaction, opposition interaction, or between ends. Body language includes hand, body gestures, signaling or any other form of communication. Penalties to coaches include: First Offense - verbal and written warning. Second Offense - coach will sit inside with no interactions or communication for the remainder of the current game (if before mid-game break) or the entire next game (if after mid-game break). If the coach repeats the infraction again, they will be removed from play and will sit in the spectator seating for the remainder of the event. These infractions will be reported to their Member Association.
- Coaches are allowed to use their phone or tablet to write down notes or take photos of game scenarios, but they are not permitted to use those devices or smart watches for communication purposes. First Offense - verbal and written warning. Second Offense - coach will sit inside with no interactions or communication for the remainder of the current game (if before mid-game break) or the entire next game (if after mid-game break). If the coach repeats the infraction again, they will be removed from play and will sit in the spectator seating for the remainder of the event. These infractions will be reported to their Member Association.