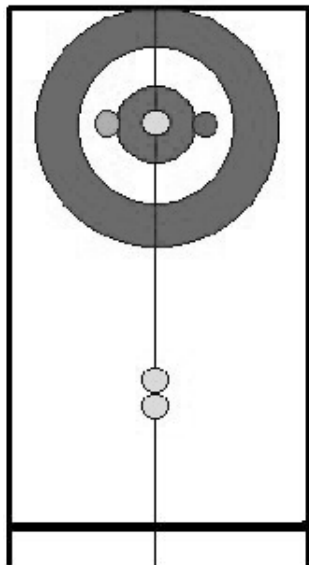


ANGLES

THE DRAG EFFECT

An excerpt of an article written by Bill Tschirhart, National Development Coach, Canadian Curling Association

There is an interesting phenomenon when stones are "frozen" or "almost frozen." When the lead stone is struck by a running stone, the trail stone will be sent in a direction which may surprise you. In this configuration of stones, we have two frozen rocks on the centerline. On the tee line are three stones.

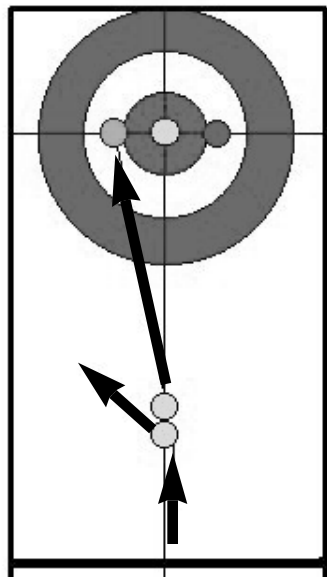


If a running stone strikes the tandem, the lead stone is clearly set in motion.

Any one of the stones on the tee line can be contacted by the lead stone at will. It all depends where the lead stone of the tandem is contacted.

As you can see, if you strike the lead stone on either side,

you get a very different reaction from the trail stone. In the diagram on the right, the lead stone is struck on the right side sending it to the left. The trail stone tends to be "dragged" slightly to the left as well, ultimately striking the left stone.



Conversely, by striking the lead stone on the left side, sending it to the right, the trail stone is again "dragged" slightly in that direction as well, ultimately making contact with the right stone.

QUESTION

Must the stones be frozen for this effect to work? No, and it's different from ice surface to ice surface.

ANSWER

Usually about a 4-5 cm. (half an inch) or more separation will kill the drag effect.

QUESTION

Does the turn applied to the running stone affect the "drag effect"?

ANSWER

It may, most times the turn of the running stone is more or less irrelevant.

QUESTION

How much "margin for error" is there on the lead stone ?

ANSWER

With experimentation, you will find that if you strike the lead stone too much to the side, it will not have enough energy transferred to it to make the trail stone travel very far. Usually about 5 cm. off the "nose" will cause the lead stone to move to the side thus "dragging" the trail stone.

