

COMMUNICATION

ON-ICE COMMUNICATION

Good communication during brushing may help a team succeed even when it does not execute as well as their competitors.

The Skip's ability to communicate the intended shot clearly to each member ensures that each curler is aware of the team's primary objective

We all know of teams made up of four good shot makers who do not communicate well and as a result do not achieve the success that is expected.

The curling team's success will be enhanced significantly if the game plan is developed before the game.

SIGNALS

Verbal instructions can be used very effectively in some situations. However, in most cases it is difficult to hear instructions that are shouted from one end of the sheet to the other. A set of hand signals to signify specific weights should be developed.

DRAWS

The Skip should tap his/her broom where the rock should end up. Then the skip should place the broom along the Tee Line to call the shot.

Obviously, there are variations on the draw shot. Here are some examples":

GUARD - Tap the broom where the guard should be placed.

TAP BACK - Lightly tap the rock to be moved and show how far it should be moved. Also, the Skip can hold the broom across his/her chest, and with a shoving moving call for the tap back.

HITS

The Skip can use a number of signals. It's important for the team to discuss these signals before the season (or the game) so everyone is clear.

Here are some examples:

- **HACK WEIGHT**
Tap Hack or Tap Wrist
- **BOARD OR BUMPER WEIGHT**
Tap Hip
- **NORMAL WEIGHT**
Tap Elbow
- **CONTROL WEIGHT**
Tap Chest
- **PEEL WEIGHT**
Tap Shoulder

NOTE: These are just examples. There are no hard or fast rules to signals, just as long as your teammates agree.

By using signals, each member of the team can see what weight is requested and the appropriate decisions can be made by the thrower and the brushers.

It is good practice to have the thrower and the brushers return the signal to the Skip. This tells the Skip all team members understood the call. Also, returning the signal assists the other team members to focus on the desired weight.