

## ICE TECHNICIAN GUIDELINES OCA COMPETITIONS

These guidelines are intended to help Ice Technicians better cope with ice conditions during competitions. This is a wish list, which will help made better ice conditions for OCA competitions

If you would like more information on any matter concerning the making of ice, your plant and equipment or rocks or if your club requires assistance to solve a problem, do not hesitate to contact an Ice Team member.

1. It is **recommended** that there not be any flooding, washing or melting of the ice surface within **one week** of the start of any competitions. This will give the ice a better chance to cure. If extenuating circumstances dictate that a flood is required during this time. Efforts must be made to force the ice to cure by repeated scraping and pebbling.
2. OCA Head Official will wish to examine the ice facilities, rocks, scoreboards and the measuring devices including **only one** 6-foot biter measurer. The Ice Technician should ensure that the centre hole is properly drilled and cleaned.
3. Keep the ice surface temperature cold enough to keep pebble from breaking down too early. Warm ice is conducive to knee and handprints, consequently it is better to keep the ice colder.
4. All ice surfaces should be scraped each day before the first play. A scrape is recommended between each draw, especially at regional playdowns. If the ice cannot be scraped between draws, the ice should be pebbled then dragged, clipped or nipped and then mopped. At the provincial level a scrape is required prior to every draw.
5. **Pebble and Temperature are the keys to good ice.** Always double pebble after scraping the ice. Make sure there is enough pebble to last 14 ends. This is another reason for keeping the ice colder.
6. At the completion of practice, the slide track from hack to the top 8-foot circle may be pebbled if the ice technician feels it is necessary.
7. There will be no sweep of the ice after practice, nor after the 5<sup>th</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> end unless requested by the players on that sheet or an Official. The Ice Technician and the Head Official may be asked to check the ice under extreme circumstances for example, foreign substances on the ice that makes playing conditions difficult. They will resolve the problem.
8. **There should be an Ice Technician or assistant on site at all times during a competition to monitor temperatures and to ensure that any problems that arise such as holes in the ice or hacks that come free are taken care of immediately.**
9. Rocks should be checked before regional playdowns and provincial finals. If they are notoriously bad, then the club should borrow rocks from a nearby club that has acceptable rocks. If borrowing rocks is not acceptable to the host committee, then that club should not host the competition. Rocks can be blueprinted and matched prior to the competition.
10. **It is recommended that no adjustments be made to the rocks during an event.**