

Curling Canada's Coach Interaction Rules – (Pilot year) **2023 Under-18, Canada Winter Games and Under-21 National Championships**

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 athletes' performance on the ice, but in our coaches and their satisfaction as we empower them to be more involved in the game.

Coach Interactions have been piloted in a few provinces over the past few seasons with special thanks to CURLSASK for leading this initiative. All provinces and territories will see Coach Interactions implemented this season at our Under-18, Canada Winter Games and Under-21 National Championships. These new Coach Interactions will replace the traditional time-outs that we have been using in the past. The following rules will be used for games at nationals for U18 Men/Women, U20 Mixed Doubles and U21 Men/Women. Listed below are the rules:

- Coaches will be allowed a maximum of one (1) interaction per end. Opposing coaches will also be allowed to interact with their respective team until the team that called the interaction has concluded their communication. The same rule applies for extra ends. Unused interactions cannot be carried over.
- Coach Interactions will last between 30-60 seconds, but not longer. If a team uses less than that amount of time, the opposition team's opportunity to communicate ends as well.
- Coaches may meet with their team either on the backboard or on the sideline between the hog lines for all interactions.
- Interactions can be called by the team in control of the house or their coach. If the coach is calling, they can vocalize to the player in control of the house.
- Coaches are responsible for keeping track and policing the number of interactions used per end. Disagreements will be brought forth to the Chief Umpire.
- Four (4) minutes of Thinking Time will be added to the clock for all eight (8) end games (U18 and Canada Winter Games) and five (5) minutes will be added to the clock for all ten (10) end games (U21) this season. Time clocks will run during interactions as normal thinking time. One (1) minute of Thinking Time will be added for each extra end.
- Coaches will be allowed up to forty-five (45) seconds of talking time with their team between ends. Coaches may meet with their team either on the backboard or on the sideline between the hog lines. Time clocks will begin when the 45 seconds is over.
- Coaches will also have four (4) minutes to meet with their teams at the 4th end break (U18 and Canada Winter Games) or 5th end break (U21) respectively.
- Coaches will use the assigned seating on the backboards during the games with their chairs positioned on the same side as their team's rocks. 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 and is sitting on their designated seat behind the sheet.
- There will be absolutely no talking or body language by the coach to their team unless during an interaction, opposition interaction, or between ends. No talking or body language includes hand gestures, saying "good shot" or any other form of communication. Penalties to coaches include: First Offense - Warning. Second Offense - loss of interaction in the same or following end. Third Offense - sitting 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).
- Coaches are allowed to use their phone or tablet to record game statistics, write down notes or take photos of game scenarios, but they are not permitted to use those devices or smart watches for communication purposes. Coaches will be removed from play if they are using any devices for communication purposes.