

Regular Season Ice  
Preparation Manual  
*Saint Louis Curling Club*



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## **Step 1:**

# ***Wet and Dry Cuts***

### **Number of People Needed: 1**

Before anybody goes on the ice, the Zamboni driver should make a wet cut on the rink. After the wet cut has frozen the Zamboni driver should then do a dry cut. During this time, equipment should be readied outside of the main rink entrance.

If the driver has not prepared curling ice before, politely ask them to take an extra lap at the end and drive straight into the Zamboni garage instead of making the turn into the garage. This will help make the unavoidable ridges straighter. If the Zamboni driver is feeling enthusiastic/adventurous, feel free to suggest for him/her to do a dry cut down the center of each sheet.

No one should be on the ice while the Zamboni is on the ice.



***Figure 1.1: Zamboni doing a Dry Cut***

## Step 2:

# Scoreboards and Sticky Mat

### Number of People Needed: 1

The scoreboards for each sheet should be hung immediately after the Zamboni does the dry cut. If there is time between the wet and dry cut, feel free to set up the scoreboards then, but it is not entirely necessary.

**CAUTION:** *Be careful and stay close to the boards for the wet cut ice may be slick.*

The scoreboard rigs are made up of the scoreboard and the metal hangers and should be hung up on the glass at the East end of the rink as seen in Figure 2.1. To further identify the sheet, signs with the sheet letter, as seen in Figure 2.2, may be hung up on the opposite end of the rink.



**Figure 2.1:** Hanging Scoreboard



**Figure 2.2:** Hanging Scoreboard

A blue sticky mat, as seen in Figure 2.3, should also be placed at the main entrance to the ice. The sticky mat helps clean shoe soles to reduce floor to ice particulate transfer.

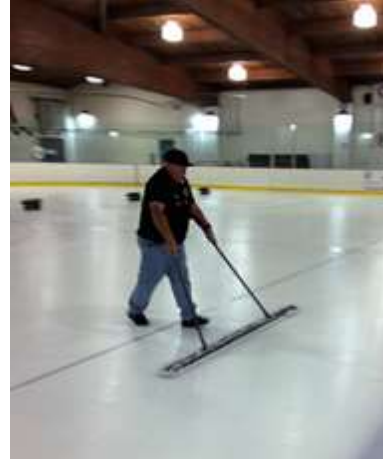


**Figure 2.3:** Sticky Mat

## **Step 3 (Optional):** **Mopping Rink**

**Number of People Needed: 1-2**

If time allows, clean the rink from with the dust mops. This can be done by pushing a mop from goal line to goal line and back again several times as seen below in Figure 3.3. After every two to three swipes down the length of the ice, shake the mop at the boards to release any accumulated snow/particulate.

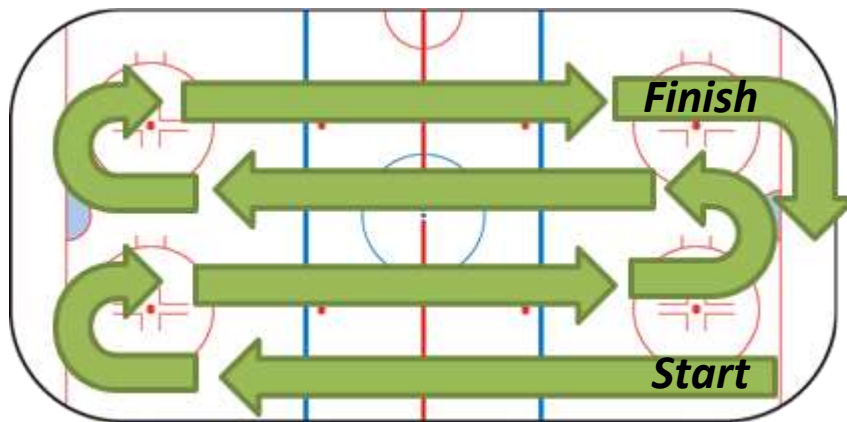


**Figure 3.1: Mopping the Ice**



**Figure 3.2: Mop on Tarp at Ice Edge**

Before mopping, make sure that the mops are close to the temperature of the ice. If they are not close to ice temperature, they have the possibility of freezing to the ice and creating problems. Freezing can be avoided by placing the mops and nipper on tarps on the ice edge, as seen in Figure 3.2. This part can be done at the same time as the scoreboards.



**Figure 3.3: Mopping Pattern**  
Not to Scale

## **Step 4:** ***Placing Hacks***

### **Number of People Needed: 1-2**

When the Zamboni is done cutting, one person should place hacks so that the front outside corners of the rubber footholds are barely touching the two black dots which have been drilled into the ice. Be aware that some dots may be faint. Figure 4.1 shows a placed hack between two black dots. Please note that the dot on the right is dark and the dot on the left is faint and situations similar to this are likely to happen with some of the drilled marks.



***Figure 4.1: Hack with Black Dots***

Once the hack has been placed, help the hack bite into the ice by placing two stones on the hack (one per rubber section) as seen in Figure 4.2 below. In order to achieve optimum adherence, leave the stones on each hack for at least two minutes. If stones are unavailable another person may stand on top of the hack to help it bite into the ice.



***Figure 4.2: Covered Stones on Hack***

When all of the hacks have been set, place a carpet section on top of the stones as seen in Figure 4.2. This allows the stones to stay dry during the pebbling process.

## Step 5: **Bringing Stones onto the Ice**

**Number of People Needed: 3+**

Each set of stones should be brought onto the rink as soon as the Zamboni is done with the dry cut. The stones can be found in the three freezers and should be carted onto the ice. Figure 5.1 shows an example of a cart with stones.



**Figure 5.1:** Stones on a Cart



**Figure 5.2:** Wooden Ramp

To help get the stones on the ice, a wooden ramp should be placed between the ice and floor as seen in Figure 5.2.

*The first twenty stones should be used to help set the hacks.* The remaining stones should be placed back towards the boards. See Figure 5.3 for an example of how the stones should be lined up at the boards. As the setup process is completed the stones may be brought up to their corresponding sheets.

During this step it is important to be **GENTLE** with the stones. Each stone is expensive and should be treated accordingly. Also be sure to not place any stones on the floor. Placing stones on the floor could result in particles adhering to the stone's running surface.

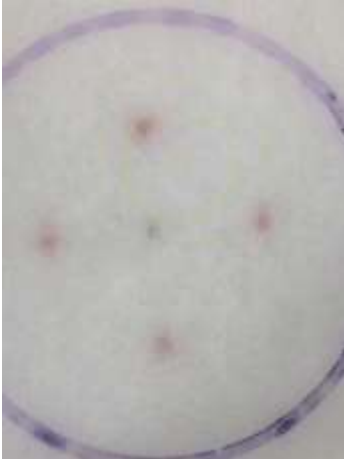
**CAUTION:** *The stones are heavy (~40 lbs), so please lift wisely.*



**Figure 5.3:** Stones along Wall

## **Step 6:** **Creating Houses**

### **Number of People Needed: 2-4**



**Figure 6.1:** *Four Red Dots with Button in the Middle*

Each house button is designated with the use of four red marks in the shape of a diamond as seen in Figure 6.1. Using a house drawing rig, place the pointed bolt in the center of the dots and have another person push the outside broomstick around in a circle. Before heading out onto the ice, place four fresh sharpie markers in the holes in the rig.

The SLCC has two house drawing rigs and the houses for each sheet should be made simultaneously on either end. Utilizing both rigs will help cut down on ice preparation time.

Once the houses have been drawn, a third person should lightly spray the lines with a pesticide sprayer as seen in Figure 6.3. For maximum effectiveness, hold the nozzle around six inches above the ice. The person spraying will also need to spray the regulatory lines which are addressed in Step 7.



**Figure 6.3:** *Spraying the Lines*



**Figure 6.2:** *House Drawing Rig*



## Step 7: **Drawing Regulatory Lines**

**Number of People Needed: 2-4**

Using the bi-folding frame seen in Figure 7.1, connect the black dots that span each sheet. Each sheet should have six sets (two dots per set) of black dots, which denote the hog, tee, and back lines. Line up the frame at the black dots and draw a black line with a marker. To keep from kneeling down on the sheets, it is recommended that a marker stick is used.

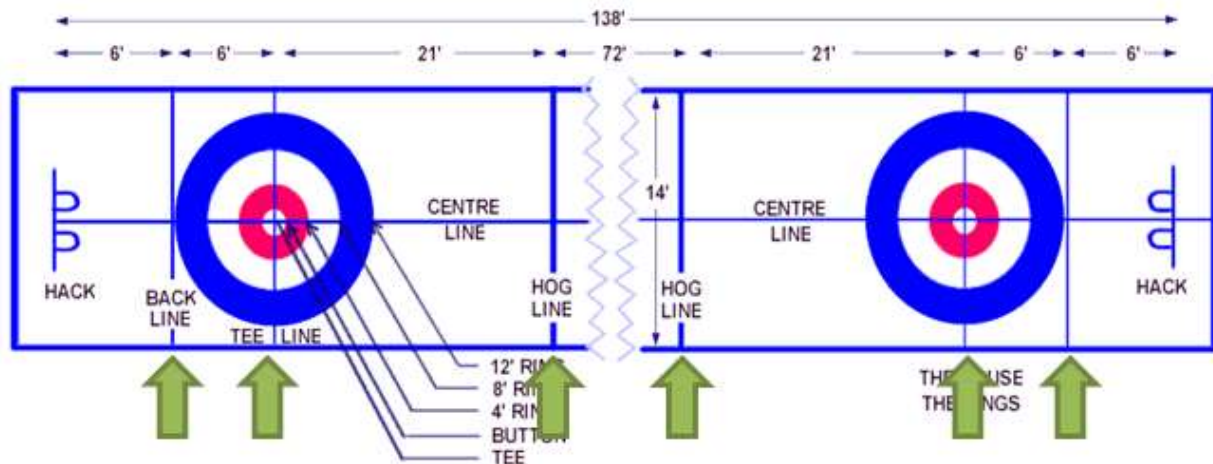
The SLCC has two bi-folding frames and the lines should be marked simultaneously on either end. Utilizing both rigs will help cut down on ice preparation time.

If preparation time is an issue, the most important lines are the hog lines followed by the tee lines. The back line may be considered optional.

Figure 7.2 highlights the referenced lines that are to be drawn with the bi-folding frame.



**Figure 7.1:**  
*Bi-folding Frame*



**Figure 7.2:** *Highlighted Lines to be Marked*

## **Step 8:** ***Pebbling***

**Number of People Needed: 1-2**



**Figure 8.1:** Pebble Can with Refill Line

Fill up the pebble cans with RO (Reverse Osmosis) water and pebble each sheet twice going two different directions with the same person. Going in opposite directions with the same person on each pebble run will ensure that all potential mistakes are covered. Make sure to also pebble behind the hacks.

The quality of the pebble strongly depends on if the person has been trained through a SLCC pebbling practice session; therefore, it is suggested to have a trained pebbler apply the pebble. If given quick instruction and oversight, a new member with no prior experience may apply the pebble; however, pebble quality may suffer.

Before pebbling, make sure that all the pebble can connections are tight and that there are no drips. When pebbling, the pebbler should walk backward (~45 seconds from hack to hack) and swing the pebble head 17-18 times for every 10 seconds. See Figure 8.2 for the proper pebbling form.

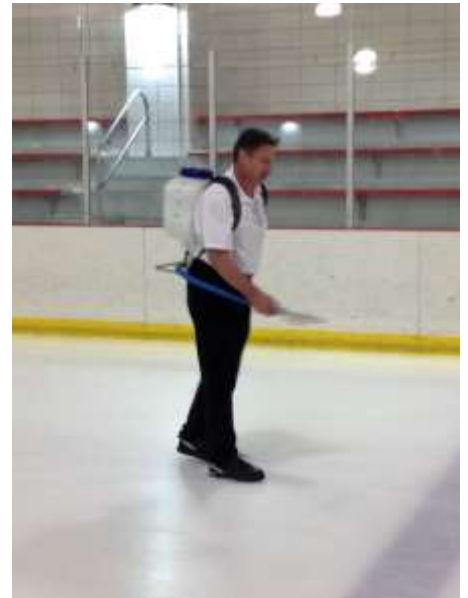


**Figure 8.3:** Coffee Kettle

In order to maintain a proper volume flow through the pebble head, it is recommended to refill the pebble can when it hits the "Refill" line as seen in Figure 8.1.

Although it is highly suggested to use RO water, tap water may be used as a last resort. This choice may result ice purity drop.

Pebbling with warm water (~130° F) is optional. To do so, use the coffee kettle in Figure 8.3 to heat up the RO water and mix with room temperature RO water to attain ~130° F. It is recommended to pebble with 90° F water and then with 130° F water.



**Figure 8.2:** Pebbling the Sheet

## Step 9: **Nipping**

**Number of People Needed: 1**



**Figure 9.1:** Nipper on Tarp

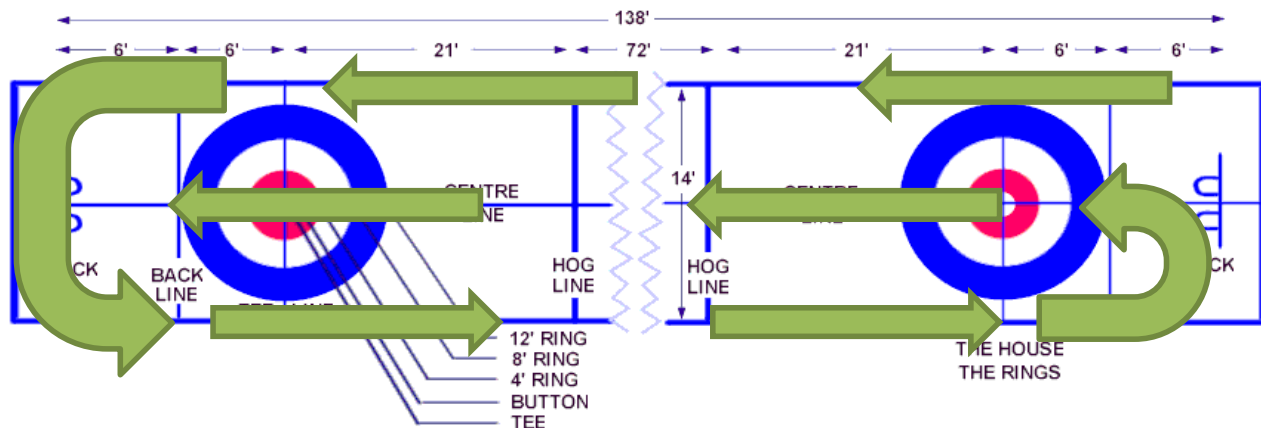
Nipping ice helps to flatten out the pebbles as well as removes any impurities that have traveled to the top of the ice. The first step of nipping is to bring the nipper and the wool broom onto the ice as soon as the Zamboni is done with the dry cut. As seen in Figure 9.1, the nipper is placed on a tarp at the edge of the rink. **CAUTION:** *The nipper blade is extremely sharp, so please be careful when handling.*

After a sheet is pebbled, it may be nipped. Make sure the wool broom is attached to the back, push the nipper from behind as seen in Figure 9.2, and utilize a three pass nipping technique. The three pass nipping technique involves starting on the right side of the sheet, nip the sheet edges. After nipping the sheet borders, nip down the center. Figure 9.3 shows the path the nipper should take in order to nip the entire sheet.



**Figure 9.2:** Nipper Nipping

After every sheet, the nipper should be lightly shaken at the edge of the rink in order to remove any accumulated snow. Once nipping has been finished place the nipper back on its tarp.

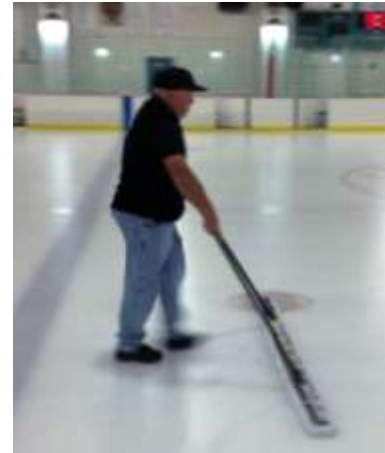


**Figure 9.3:** Nipper Path on Sheet

## **Step 10 (Optional):** **Mopping and Cones**

### **Number of People Needed: 1**

In order to collect any remaining snow/particulate, one person should mop behind the nipper. Once the nipper is done with a sheet, the mopper may utilize the same three pass technique as the nipper. The three pass mopping technique involves starting on the right side of the sheet, mop the sheet edges, and then go down the center. Figure 10.2 shows the path the mopper should take in order to mop the entire sheet. After every sheet, go to the side boards and shake off the accumulated snow/particulate.



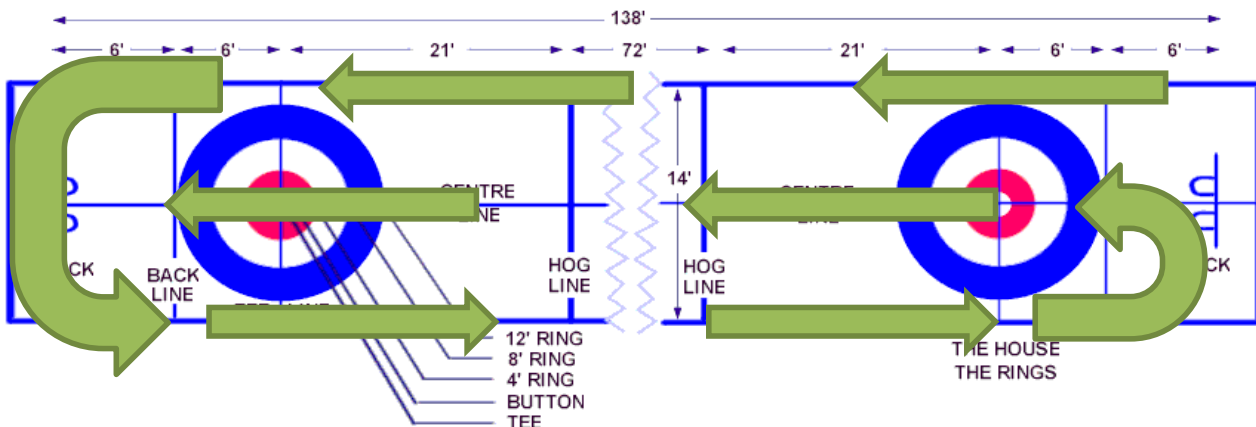
**Figure 10.1: Pushing a Mop**

Be sure that the nipper has moved on to the next sheet before beginning to mop.

If pressed for time, the mop is big enough to mop the sheet in two passes; however, be sure to overlap runs in the center.

Once mopping has been finished, place the mop on its tarp.

Since the sheets are currently packed together, boundaries between sheets will be shown through small safety cones. Each shared boundary line should receive five cones: one at each hog line, one in the center, and one between center and the hog line on each side.



**Figure 10.2: Nipper Path on Sheet**

## **Equipment Removal**

At the end of the draw, all equipment is to return to its home in the curling storage room. This excludes the nipper, which is stored blade up on the wooden junior stone racks.

### **Hacks**

Remove the hacks by gently tapping the back of the rubber footholds with a hammer. Any shearing across the ice should loosen the hacks. Only use a stone as a hammer if a hammer is unavailable. **BE GENTLE!**

### **Stones**

Stones should be organized by color and sheet and carted off to the freezers. The freezers are labeled by sheet in order to keep things organized. Please DO NOT let the stones touch the ground for this is not good for the stone's running surface.

### **Nipper**

The nipper should be stored blade up on top of the junior boxes. Wipe any remaining snow/water off of the blade with a cloth. It is important to have a dry blade to prevent rusting.

### **General**

Please make sure everything is off of the ice for the Zamboni driver.