



COACH INTERACTION RULES 2023-2024

NOTE: All inquiries regarding the Coach Interaction Rules should be directed to:
Kevin Ouellette kouellette@nscurl.com

Nova Scotia Curling will be implementing Coach Interaction rules for provincial events during the 2023-2024 season. This system will apply to U15, U18, and U21 events.

Purpose

The goal of the EGI pilot project #2 is to allow coaches to truly be part of the game. It has been designed to allow coaches to better support their teams' performance and development.

Coaches are offered 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 teams' 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 Communication

During a game a coach may communicate with their team in the following situations:

- Coach Interactions (between 5-60 seconds),
- Between ends (up to 45 seconds),
- Mid-game break (4 minutes).

Coaches may only communicate with their players in one of the above interactions. There will be absolutely no talking or body language between the coach and an athlete unless it is during an above interaction. No talking or body language includes hand gestures, saying "good shot" or any other form of communication. Penalties will apply for non-compliance. See **penalties** below.

Positioning

Coaches will use assigned seating on the backboards at the end of the rink, positioned on the same side as their team's stones. In rinks with insufficient space on the backboards for chairs, coaches may stand just in front of the backboards at the discretion of the Chief Umpire/event organizer.

A coach may position themselves at either end of the rink. Once positioned they are not allowed to go to the other end of the ice if a 'Coach Interaction' is called.

The coach of the team who called the 'Coach Interaction' may access the ice surface behind the backline of the end that they are positioned. The opposing coach must stay on the backboards at the end they are positioned.

After each end coaches may travel to either end of the rink, down their sheets designated sideline, being respectful of games being played on adjacent sheets. The skip and/or third of the non-throwing team are to position themselves between the back-line and the hack.

Coach Interactions

Coach Interactions will replace the traditional 90 second time-outs.

Coaches are responsible for keeping track and policing the number of interactions used per end. Disagreements will be brought forth to the Chief Umpire/ Event Organizer. Coach Interactions may only be called by the team (athlete or coach) who is in control of the house.

Coach Interactions can only be called if the coach is positioned in the ice shed, at the end of the sheet of play. If the coach is positioned inside the club house the team will NOT be permitted a Coach Interaction. Interactions can be called by anyone on the team in control of the house or their coach. If the coach or a player wants an interaction, they must signal a "T" with their hands when the team is in control of the house. If anyone signals for an interaction, the team must use an interaction.

If a coach leaves the ice shed, they may enter: 1) at the conclusion of the end being played, or 2) during an end but they may not call a Coach Interaction until the opposition has played two shots.

The intent is that a coach needs to be committed to Coach Interactions, they will not be allowed to continually go back and forth between the ice shed and club house.

U15 & U18 games are allowed a maximum of one (1) Coach Interaction per end. Coach Interactions will last between 5-60 seconds, but no longer. The same rule applies for extra ends.

U21 games will be allowed a maximum of two (2) interactions in the first half of the game and a maximum of two (2) interactions in the second half of the game. These coach interactions can occur in the same end or in different ends. Coach Interactions will last between 5-60 seconds, but no longer. The same rule applies for extra ends.

Teams will be given one (1) interaction per extra end.

Unused Coach Interactions cannot be carried over to another end (U15 & U18 games) or to another half (U21 games).

Opposing coaches will also be allowed to interact with their respective team until the team that called the interaction has concluded their communication.

Between Ends

Coaches are allowed to meet with their teams at the conclusion of an end, after the stones have been returned to their respective corner. This will not be counted as a Coach Interaction. These interactions are not to exceed 45 seconds. In timed events the clock will begin when 45 seconds is over.

Mid-Game Breaks

Coaches will have four (4) minutes to meet with their team at the mid-game break.

Timed Events

Time clocks will run during Coach Interactions as normal Thinking Time.

U15 & U18 games will have a total time of 34 minutes to play an eight (8) end game.

U21 games will have a total time of 38 minutes to play a ten (10) end game.

For extra ends, time clocks will be reset, and each team will receive five (5) minutes on their clock.

Non-Timed Events

In non-timed events, Coach Interactions will last between 5-60 seconds.

Additional Provisions

Coaches are allowed to use their phone or tablet to record game statistics, write down notes or take photos of games scenarios, but they are not permitted to use it for communication purposes. Penalties will apply for non-compliance. See **penalties** below.

Coaches can wear a warm jacket over-top of their team jacket, with no expectation that they remove it during a Coach Interaction.

Coaches are expected to wear curling shoes while in the playing area.

Penalties

Penalties to coaches include:

- First offence - verbal and written warning
- Second offence – coach will sit 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)
- Third offense – the coach will be removed from play and will sit in the spectator seating for the remainder of the event. These infractions will be reported to NS Curling