Sport Manitoba – Safe Sport

Although not mandated, Curl MB has suggested that the Manitoba Stick Curling Association (MSCA) clinicians and coaches review Sport MB's Safe Sport Policy Manual.

Sport MB's Policy Manual focuses on keeping sport safe for youth. It highlights a) what is expected of coaches and clinicians, b) complaint and discipline mechanisms and c) appeal and alternate processes all with a focus on youth.

There are several things that are easily extendable to a wider population of athletes. We will attempt to include these as we discuss "Safe Sport"

What is Safe Sport?

Safe sport refers to creating and maintaining an environment that prioritizes the physical and psychological well-being of all Participants. It involves a commitment to providing optimal experiences, while actively preventing and addressing all forms of Maltreatment, including abuse, Harassment, neglect, and discrimination. (Sport Manitoba-Safe Sport Policy Manual, page 3, March 6, 2026)

Note the definition is for the ***well being of all Participants***!

What is the MSCA doing in support of Safe Sport?

a) Since 2025, all MSCA clinicians, coaches, umpires/adjudicators and executive members are required to complete the "Respect In Sport" online module. The Respect In Sport module is a renewable (every five years) that addresses many aspects of athlete/coach/executive interactions. As of November 2026, the MSCA has 21 certified clinicians, 13 adjudicators/umpires (7 In-training), 8 Board members and 2 coaches that have completed the Respect In Sport Module
b) Since 2025, all MSCA clinicians, coaches, umpires/adjudicators and executive members are required to have completed a Background Check. As of November 2026, 21 clinicians, 13 adjudicators/umpires (7 In-training), 8 Board members and 2 coaches have submitted their credentials for Curl Manitoba's Criminal Record Review.
c) All Introductory Clinics now include discussions regarding safe practices on the ice. The MSCA module "How to Use a Delivery Stick-Introduction" suggests a) double grippers when delivering a rock and b) the use of protective head wear while on the ice surface. The Manitoba Stick Curling Development Centre (MSCDC) inventory now includes a selection of grippers and head wear that are available for sizing and use during clinic offerings.

These are all designed to provide a ***safe physical environment*** for athletes participating in the sport of 2 Person Stick curling.

d) Although originally designed for dealing with youth athlete/coach/organization interaction, the ***Rule of Two*** is now moving to participant/coach/organization interaction.

Safety in Numbers

Rule of Two

The goal of the Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable, and justifiable. When following the Rule of Two, two responsible adults (a coach, parent, or screened volunteer) are present with a participant. There may be exceptions in emergency situations. Check with your sport organization as to how the Rule of Two is enforced.

The Rule of Two is a leading practice to ensure a safe sport environment for all.

INTERACTIONS

- Two trained and screened coaches
- One participant

- One trained coach
- One screened adult
- One participant

- One coach
- Two participants

- One coach
- One participant

How the Rule of Two works

Work as a team. A coach should have another coach or screened adult (parent or volunteer) present when interacting with participants.

Remain open to the public. Have a training environment that ensures all situations are open, observable and justifiable.

Plan transportation. Have two adults present when traveling with a participant(s), and refer to your club travel policy.

Be sensible. Be considerate of the gender of the participant(s) when selecting coaches or volunteers.

Transparent communication. Ensure that all communications are sent to a group and/or include parents/guardians, without one-to-one messaging.

The Rule of Two in virtual settings

In addition to the recommended guidelines, virtual training sessions also entail the following:

Parental awareness. Obtain consent for virtual sessions, plus inform parents of activities that will occur.

Record each session and they should be in a professional setting (not a bedroom).

Weekly debriefing. Encourage regular check-ins with parents, coaches, and participants about the virtual training.

Whether you are a coach, participant, parent, or volunteer, we are all on the same team to make sport safe and fun for everyone.

Keep Sport Safe, Smart and Secure

For more information, visit
coach.ca/RCM

coach.ca
Coaching Association of Canada
Association canadienne des entraîneurs

e) Be aware of the power imbalances that may arise among participants/athletes and coaches/clinicians/adjudicators/organizations
    a. The MSCA has developed a series of scripts that can be used to avoid/ease confrontational situations. The scripts include hog line, speed of play and rock speed infractions
    b. The MSCDC offers pre championship sessions to discuss/reinforce the role of umpires/adjudicators at MSCA Provincial championships (scheduled for Feb. 3 and 10, 2027). Sessions also attempt to anticipate issues/concerns that might arise at the MSCA Provincial championships and prepare umpires/adjudicators to deal with these in a fair and consistent manner
    c. The MSCDC offers post championship reviews (scheduled for March 3, 2027), to discuss how umpires/adjudicators dealt with issues arising at the MSCA Provincial championships and what worked well and possibly suggest new/alternative approaches
    d. The MSCDC has developed an "Ethical Decision Guide" that describes ethics/code of conduct and outlines identifying/deliberating/resolving/analyzing an issue. A case study is in development that will illustrate use of the principles discussed in the Guide.

Duty to Report

In Manitoba, it is the legal responsibility and duty of anyone who reasonably believes that a child is, or might be, in need of protection or suffering from child abuse, to Report the information to a Child & Family Services (CFS) agency or, if deemed appropriate, to a parent or guardian. (Sport Manitoba-Safe Sport Policy Manual, page 12, March 6, 2026).

Elder abuse in Manitoba is recognized as a serious public health and human-rights issue, and multiple provincial services exist to ensure safety, reporting, and support. Although not mandatory, it is the responsibility to report **Physical, emotional, psychological, financial, sexual abuse, or neglect** committed by someone in a position of trust (family, caregiver, friend, coach, clinician, Adjudicator)

Seniors Abuse Support Line (24/7), Phone: 1-888-896-7183, provides **c**onfidential, free, province-wide support from trained counsellors for anyone unsure, concerned, or experiencing abuse.

These are all designed to provide a ***safe psychological environment*** for athletes participating in the sport of 2 Person Stick curling.

Commit to providing optimal experiences for 2 Person Stick Curling by

a) Acting as an ambassador of the sport by agreeing to enforce and abide by national and provincial/territorial rules and regulations

b) Taking ownership of actions and decisions made while officiating

c) Respecting the rights, dignity, and worth of all Participants

d) Act openly, impartially, professionally, lawfully, and in good faith

e) Be fair, equitable, considerate, independent, honest, and impartial in all dealings with others

f) Respecting the confidentiality required by issues of a sensitive nature, which may include discipline processes, appeals, and specific information or data about Participants

g) Honour all assignments unless unable to do so by virtue of illness or personal emergency, and in these cases inform a supervisor at the earliest possible time

h) When writing Reports, set out the actual facts to the best of their knowledge and recollection

i) Dress in proper attire for officiating Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy