



CSCA RULES COMMITTEE 3 ROCK RULE REVIEW SUMMARY

At the beginning of the 2024-2025 curling season the CSCA Rules Committee reviewed inquiries about the 3 Rock Rule and whether or not consideration should be given to an evolution that might put more rocks in play in our format.

The conclusion reached by both the CSCA Rules Committee and the CSCA Executive was that no change was necessary at that time but all agreed that finding a way for participants to chime in on the discussion was necessary beyond word of mouth.

Purpose: To solicit feedback and perspective of Stick Curlers on a possible future change to the current 3 Rock Rule.

With that in mind a 5 Rock Rule Pilot Project was conducted all across Canada between November 1, 2024 and January 31, 2025 with over 400 Stick Curlers taking part in the process. The request was to have 2 Person Stick Curling leagues introduce a 5 rock rule in place of the current 3 rock rule for 1 or 2 games and have participants answer a set of survey questions in order to gather feedback on the topic for future consideration. Provincial / Territorial Representatives were asked to reach out to contacts in their areas to consider participating.

195 of those curlers responded to the survey questions posed. Respondents were not tracked by geographic area, gender, age or any other metric.

Summary of answers to survey questions:

- 70% of those responding said the change didn't alter the type of shot they would normally play at the beginning of each end.
- 67% of those responding said it did change the type of shot they would normally play to finish each end.
- 63% of those who responded that it changed the type of shot at the end of an end felt that was a positive.
- 72% of those who responded said the 5 Rock Rule forced them to play more varied shots than they would normally play.
- 74% of those who felt they played more varied shots thought that was a positive.
- 71% of those who responded did not feel the change delayed the game longer than normal.
- 43% of all respondents would recommend that the change to a 5 rock rule be considered at some point in the future.
- 44% of all respondents would not recommend making the change to a 5 rock rule.
- 13% of all respondents provided commentary summarized below:
 - Appreciation of being included in the process
 - Misunderstanding the intent
 - Confusion on how to proceed
 - Felt the change shifted to favour more skilled players
 - Felt the change more fun because there were more rocks in play
 - Felt the change less fun because there were more rocks in play
 - In total review of comments there were slightly more that were not in favour of the change than those in favour.

Conclusions by CSCA Rules Committee and CSCA Executive resulting from the pilot project:

- Acknowledge that there is no clear mandate or majority opinion to favour changing the current 3 Rock Rule at this point in time.
- Acknowledge that there is enough feedback to keep the conversation moving forward as our format evolves and grows through the years (similar to the traditional game moving from 3 Rock, 4 Rock, 5 Rock Free Guard Zone and No Tick)
- Current CSCA Brand has a solid base and changing this particular cornerstone rule at this time may facilitate players leaving the game.
- On the flip side we do not feel that leaving the 3 Rock Rule untouched at this point will facilitate exits nor keep new players from joining.

- With the changes coming to how the National Championship Event will be conducted in 2026 and beyond it is the recommendation that we do not also add a change to a key factor in our rules format at this time.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Pilot Project and we look forward to continued open communication on any and all possible major changes to our rules in the future as we continue to evolve our sport and our brand. Please never hesitate to reach out to any of the CSCA Rules Committee members on ways you think we can improve.

This summary is being provided in advance of the CSCA Annual General Meeting to hopefully keep you fully informed and the topic will be part of open discussion during the AGM in Grande Prairie if there are any followup questions.

Regards,

CSCA Rules Committee and CSCA Executive.