

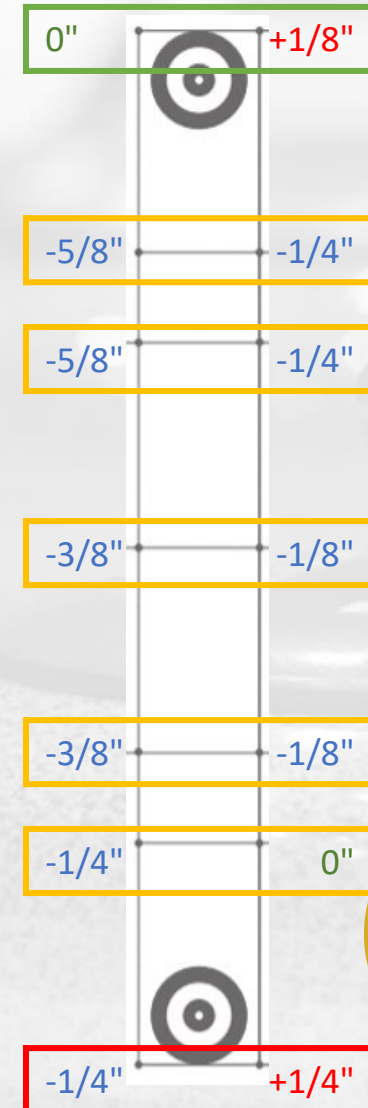
# USA Curling Ice Tech Education: Making Ice in an Arena Setting

June 21, 2023



# What Makes Good Curling Ice?

- Flat, level ice is necessary for rocks to curl and reach reasonable positions in the playing area
  - **1/8" or less** difference from one side of a given sheet to the other is best
  - **1/4" difference** is playable, but only one side of the sheet can be used
  - **1/2" or greater** is generally unplayable and can become unsafe when rocks fall onto other sheets
- Smooth, clean ice is best for consistent play
  - Debris and skate marks can cause rocks to behave erratically during a game
  - Snow left on the ice is dangerous for curlers to walk on



# Why is Arena Ice Challenging?

- Tolerances for good curling ice are much tighter than for hockey or skating
- Achieving flat, level ice requires considerable, additional time and effort
- Rink schedules often demand quick turn over between events, limiting time allowed for ice resurfacing to meet curling needs

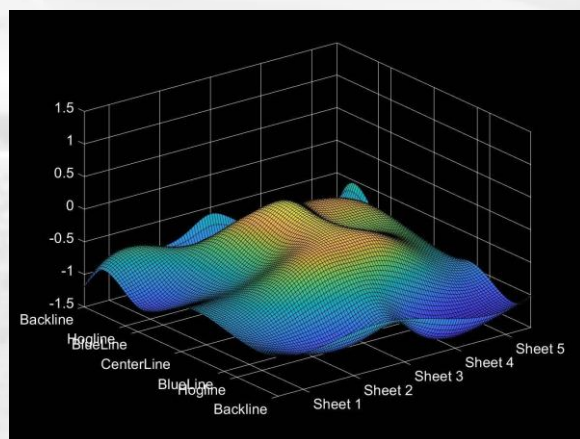




# Common Ice Pad Shapes

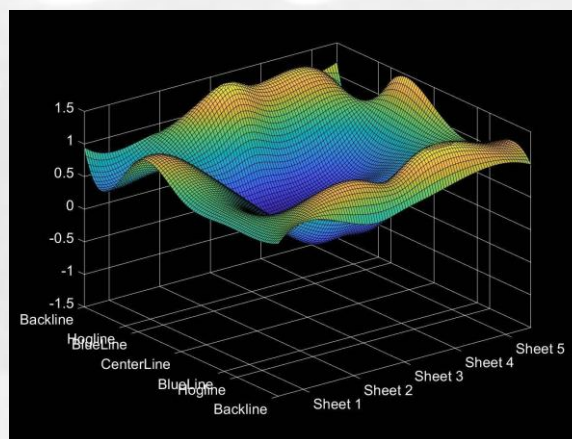
## Crowned

- Simply high in the center and low around the boards
- Requires cutting at the center, difficult to fix with flooding



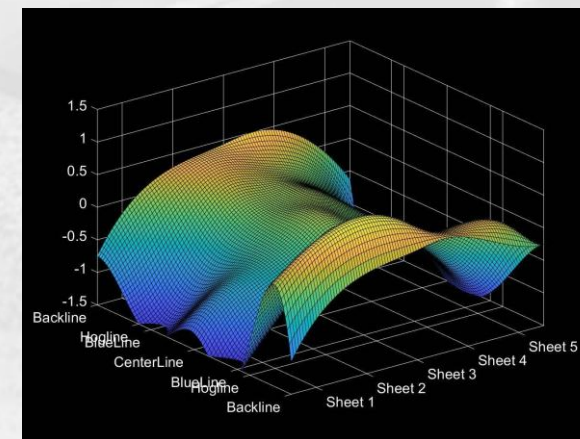
## Dished

- Low at the center and high at the boards
- Benefits from cutting along the boards and flooding in the center
- Easiest shape to flatten



## Saddle

- Complex shape
- Difficult to fix with flooding, requires careful cutting



(PC: Jaclyn Pytlarz, Silicon Valley Curling Club)

# What Can a Facility Do?

- Figure-8 dry cut before league
- Ensure all Zamboni snow is removed from the ice. Leaving snow on the ice creates a dangerous condition for curlers
- Flooding with treated water
  - Improves ice quality for curling
  - Treated water freezes faster and harder than water with high levels of impurities
- Investing in a laser level can improve ice quality all around



# What Can an Arena Club Do?



## League Prep

- Brush and mop the sheets before pebbling
- Pebble with larger (74 to 72) pebble heads
  - Bigger pebble may help overcome some smaller defects, debris in the ice
  - Allows more surface area for rocks to try to curl
- Run rocks or nip after pebbling
  - Takes extra time but improves first-end play
  - Running rocks crushes pebble. Improves early-game speed but may wear out faster if pebble is soft
  - Nipping is less destructive to pebble than running rocks, and may improve curl, but results may vary on unlevel ice

# What Can an Arena Club Do?

## Operations

- Store rocks somewhere cold (and ideally dry)
- Offer to help survey ice surface for the rink
- Contribute to a rink's laser level investment



# Questions?

If you think of more to ask after this session,  
feel free to contact us

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