

# How to Count to Four (and other Doubles Curling Tips)

## When can we hit?

*The Rule:* No rocks may be removed from play (including the pre-positioned rocks and any rocks in the house) before the 4th rock of the end is thrown (Paraphrased from R16(e) of USA Curling Rules of Curling and Competition 2022-2023)

If you have difficulty understanding this rule, choose whichever explanation is most compatible with your way of thinking

*Explanation 1:* The 4th rock of the end may be used to remove any rocks (including guards) from play.

*Explanation 2:* The hammer team's second player may hit with their first shot.

*Explanation 3:* The only person in an end who can remove stones from play with their first shot is the hammer team's second player. Everyone else must wait until their second shot to hit.

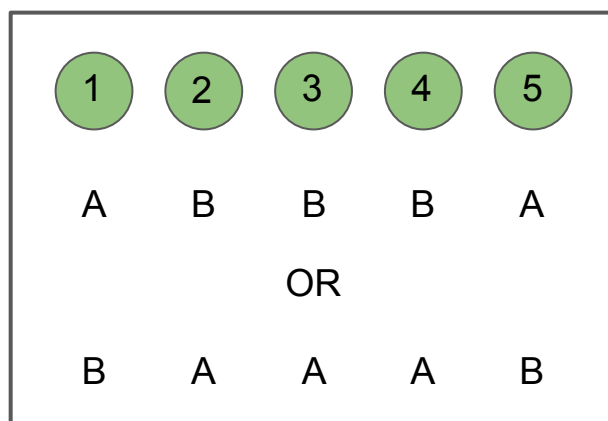
## How does this Power Play thing work?

Once per game, when they have hammer, each team may exercise a Power Play. Pre-positioned rocks are moved from the centerline to the wings (flip this card for position details). This is usually used in an effort to generate higher scoring opportunities for the hammer team. Either side of the sheet may be chosen.

## What is the shooting order?

The first player on each team to deliver a rock must also deliver the final rock (shots 1 and 5). The second player will deliver the middle 3 of your team's rocks in the end (shots 2, 3, and 4). Throwing order may not change WITHIN an end, but may change between ends.

E.g. In the first end, player A (delivering rocks 1 and 5) throws both rocks through the house, but player B (delivering rocks 2, 3, and 4) makes 3 clutch draws. In the second end, player B may now throw first and last and player A will throw the middle three shots.



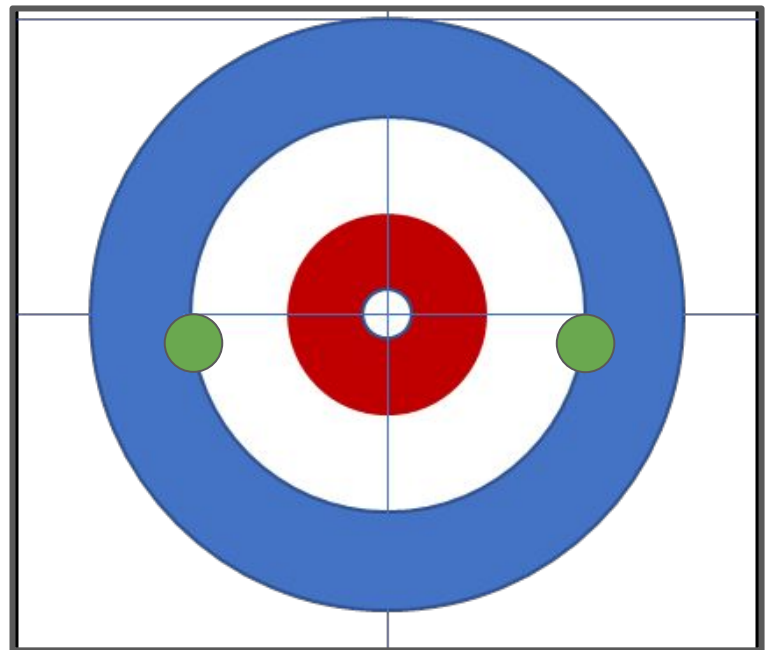
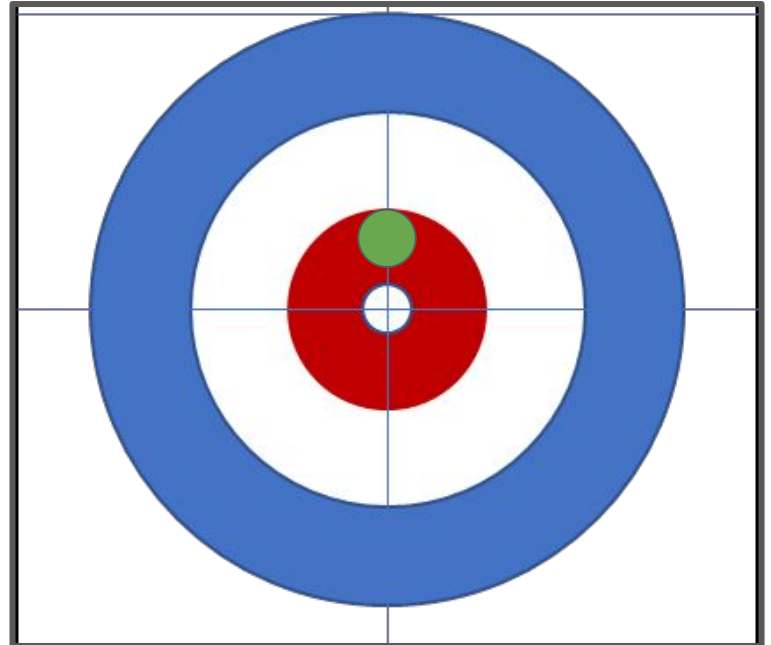
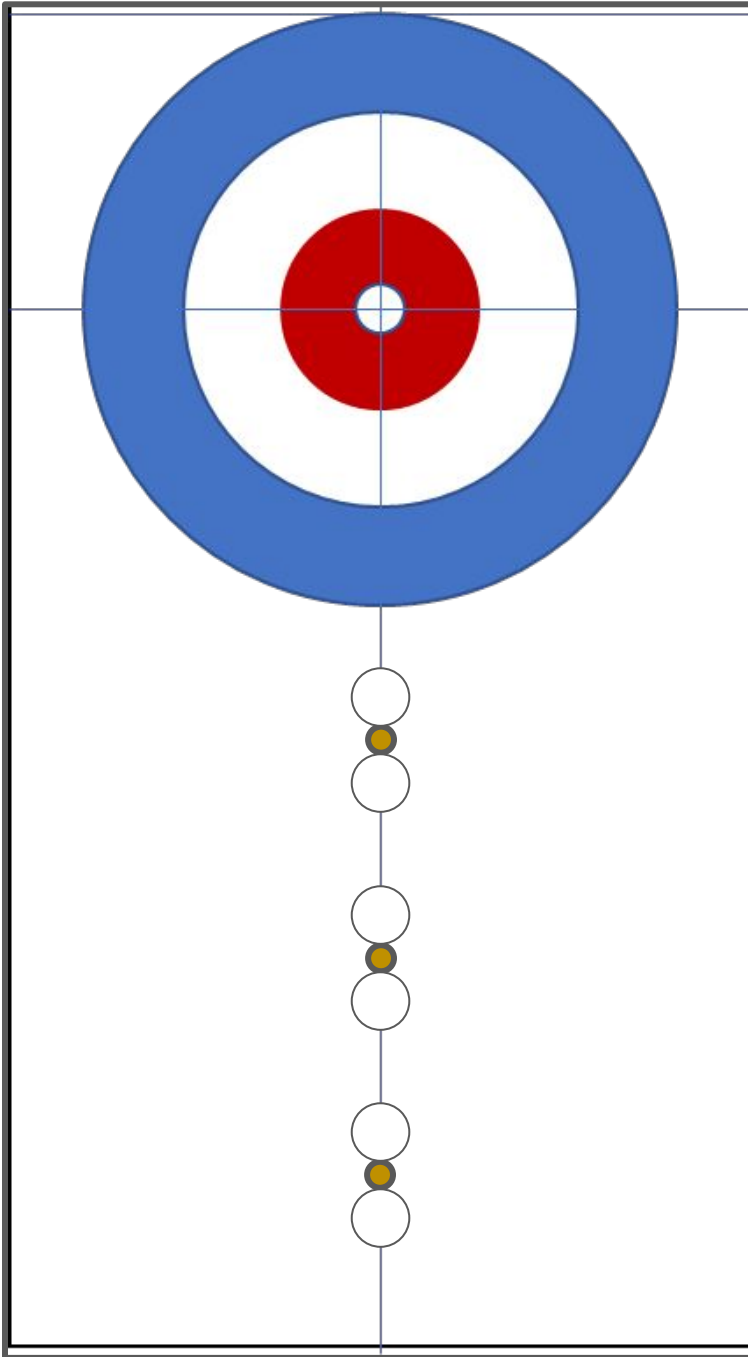
## Blanks are weird right?

Correct! Blanks are different in Doubles in that the hammer team does not retain hammer in the event of a blank. Why? I guess the people who made up the rules for this game thought fours players wouldn't be confused enough already so they added this to the pot.

## Where do the pre-positioned rocks go?

Did you score, blank, or lose the coin toss/choose rocks? Then you get a guard

Did the other team score, or blank (or you won the coin toss)? You start in the house, The back of the rock is tangent to the back of the 4' on the centerline



## What about the power play?

Your guard will be in the same position relative to relevant penny on the right or left side of the sheet such that it covers the rock in the house

The back edge of your rock will be at the intersection of the teeline and the 8'/12' border