

How to play Indoor Kurling

The equipment is stored in the Caretaker's Cupboard, but will normally be left out for you — a red padded bag which contains the eight 'stones' (4 red and 4 blue) and a cardboard tube which contains the Target and Push-rods.
(Ends for the push rods are in the padded bag.)



Set-up

Unroll the Target and secure it at an appropriate place on the floor with masking tape along the whole length of both top and bottom sides.

Run another length of masking tape along the floor for the 'oche'.

Take the 'Stones' out of the bag and screw the ends into the two Push-rods. You are now ready to play.

How to Play

There are several different ways of organising play – pairs, foursomes, groups – but we find 'Random Pairs' works well and encourages people to mix.

'Random Pairs'

Put a pen and slips of paper on each table and ask everyone who wants to play to write their name on a slip. *Hint: Make sure it's their full name or you'll end up with several the same!*

Before play starts, collect the slips and put them in a hat.

Draw two pairs at random from the hat. The first pair plays red and the second pair blue. It's a knockout between these pairs to get to the next round.

Depending on how many people are taking part and how much time you've got, each round can either be 'Best of three heads' or a Single head. *In order to fit play into an evening, we have used 'Best of three' in the first round and 'Single head' in subsequent rounds until the Final.*

The names of the losing pair go into a 'repechage' pot. When the last pair is drawn to play, if there are no partners left in the hat you pick them out of the repechage pot.

Keeping score

We find it easier to have two people in charge, one to note down which pairs have progressed and the other to supervise the play.

After the first round, the winners of the first game play the winners of the second game, etc, in the second round.

Pairs are then reallocated red and blue stones according to whether they are shown first or second in the new list games.

There is a flip chart provided and red and blue felt-tip pens in the padded bag if you wish to use them for showing the progress for all to see.

When compiling the second and subsequent rounds, you may again have to resort to the repechage pot to complete the list.

Play

Stand behind the 'oche' line and release the 'stone' along the floor in the direction of the target.

Don't throw the stones – they should glide gracefully.

At the end of each 'head' it's useful to have helpers available to roll the stones back to the oche.

Order of Play in the first head goes as follows:-

Red first stone; Blue first stone

Red second stone; Blue second stone

Red third stone; Blue third stone

Red fourth stone; Blue fourth stone.

When playing in pairs, player one plays stones 1 & 3 and player two plays stones 2 & 4.

For the second head, Blue goes first – and in the event of a third 'decider' head, Red goes first again. *Aficionados of real Curling will appreciate that the team playing second has an advantage in throwing the last stone, known as the 'Hammer'.*

Push-rods

Push-rods are provided for those who find it difficult to bend to release the stones – or anyone else who prefers to use them. They need to be extended and the ends screwed on before use. Use them by pushing on the handle of the stone. *They are not intended for 'sweeping' as in real curling!!*

Wheelchair users

Note that it's perfectly possible to play this game from a wheelchair.

Scoring

We generally keep life simple by saying that the team with a stone nearest to the centre wins the Head. *We say this even if no stone has ended up on the target. You may occasionally need a measuring tape to avoid arguments, but the referee's decision is final!*

If you want to prolong the evening by using proper Curling rules for scoring, then feel free!

At the end

Put the stones back into the slots in the red bag – carefully please, the foam padding is delicate. Add the ends of the push rods and the roll of masking tape and the felt-tip pens before closing.

Release the Target from the masking tape, roll it up (target-outwards) and put it in the cardboard tube. Collapse the push rods, slide them in and put the plastic cap back.

Note: Hold the tube with the taped end down, otherwise everything falls out!!

Leave the equipment where instructed – it will be put away later.