

USA Curling Stone Program Information for Clubs

[Revised 7/8/11]

The pricing information included in this document relates to stones purchased through the World Curling Federation loan program. There is a contractual agreement that is completed between the club and USA Curling. A sample copy of the contract is included within the pages of this document.

The cost of the stones is \$6,960.00 per set (16) with first payment due December 2011 (or in the year that a club begins the stone purchase). The remaining balance is paid in four annual installments due in December of each year. However, a club may also choose to make installments during the year that accumulates to the total payment due in December.

There are also some handling/upfront costs involved with the shipment. They include import duties, fees and taxes, freight from Stevens Point, WI to your site and a freight return deposit. The cost of the import duties, fees & taxes is based on the total charged to us by the shipping company and divided by 28 (number of sets) to determine the cost per set, which will be charged to the clubs. **This cost is \$10.63/stone: \$170 for 1 set, \$340 for 2 sets, \$850 for 5 sets, and so on.**

The freight return deposit is an estimation of the cost to ship the stones back to USA Curling (or to another location) if you choose not to keep the stones or are unable to pay for the stones within the repayment schedule. This freight return deposit will be deducted from your final installment if you do keep the stones.

One other requirement is that the club has to provide us with proof of insurance each year during the term of the contract.

If you are interested in purchasing stones for your club through the WCF Stone Loan Program, please complete the request form included within this document, return it to USA Curling, and we will be in touch with you shortly.

Things to Consider When Looking For Stones

Common Kinds of Curling Granite

Blue Hone

- This type of granite is mainly characterized by its color and condition of the strike bands
- Light gray with random white specks throughout stone
- Half moon shaped chips are predominant in blue hone granite stones
- Used in inserting, blue hone is the optimum material for repairing running surfaces of pitted stones
- Due to the density of the granite blue hone is the most undesirable granite type for striking bands
- Once Blue Hone stones have begun to chip they are irreparable
- If your club has Blue Hone stones, they can be reconditioned providing that the strike bands are in good condition
- If you strike bands have begun to chip, your club should be planning to have your stones replaced

Ailsa Craig Common Green

- Green in color, Ailsa Craig Common Green stones have large black deposits in the stone that are outlined with white flecks
- The make-up of this type of granite includes dissolvable material that makes this granite very susceptible to pitting
- The strike bands of the Ailsa Craig granite stones are very much like those of the Blue Hone granite in that it is not uncommon to find half moon shaped chips in the strike bands
- Taking into consideration the quality of the strike bands and the chance of pitting, reconditioning is not recommended
- Inserting this type of granite is highly recommended but the decision depends on the condition of the strike bands, namely the number and depth of the chips
- There is vast difference in the quality of Ailsa Craig Common Green granite. It can be quite good or can have a large amounts of impurities allowing for holes and rapid deterioration of striking bands

Red/Brown Trefor

- Red/Brown Trefor can be found in several shades of brown, and will always have white and black flecks that run throughout the stone
- Trefor granite is a larger grained granite which leaves it slightly susceptible to pitting in the running surface, but make it excellent material for strike bands
- Red/Brown Trefor is suitable for both reconditioning and inserting, although inserting is our recommended option
- Inserting Trefor granite brings the best of running surface material together with the best granite for strike bands

Blue Gray Trefor

- Usually deep blue/gray color, blue gray trefor granite has prominent white flecks that can be easily spotted throughout the stone
- This type of granite can be reconditioned, but is more prone to pitting in its lighter shades. Like all trefor granites, blue/gray trefor is an excellent candidate for inserting

Keanie

- The Keanie name derives from the family name of the company making these stones rather than the proper name of the granite
- Pinkish in color, with large white and black flecks throughout, keanie granite is a very porous material
- This quality makes Keanie stones high risk for pitting and/or developing flat spots in its strike bands
- Keanie stones can be inserted to obtain good performance from the running surface. This is a good option if the stones are only going to be used a few games per week. This will make for very inexpensive stones for casual use
- If your club's stones are made from this granite, serious consideration should be paid to replacing your stones

Hybrid Stones

- Trefor with blue hone inserts
- Keanie with blue hone inserts
 - Inserting curling stones with Blue Hone inserts is a procedure that has been used in curling stone repair since the early 1960's

- The denser, tightly grained blue hone granite has proven to be the most resistant to wear and moisture penetration
- It is for that simple reason that blue hone granite is still the best material for inserts today

Trefor with ceramic Tileserts

- This process is where the bottom of a stone is cut off flat and a ceramic floor tile is then epoxied to the bottom of the stone. Thompson's in Canada is the only company using this process
- This stone runs straighter with use

Life of a Stone

25-30 years before it needs reconditioning

This is assuming that the stones are taken good care of

Life of the stone is calculation on a 6 month season with 3-4 draws / day

180 x 3 x 25 = 13,500 games; 180 x 4 x 25 = 18,000 games

Things to Consider When Purchasing Stones

Buyers Beware, because of the demand for stones it can be a Seller's Market

Know your sources of supply – manufacturers, reconditioners, suppliers, & clubs

The reputation of supplier, post-sale warranty, etc.

Condition of stones – running surface & striking band, type of granite

Performance – try them or get references (honest & knowledgeable)

Need reconditioning? Consider cost & end result.

Purchase or lease

Are stones you are purchasing a matched set (same type of granite)

1 or 2 running surfaces (watch scribe marks)

Weight – suitable for reconditioning in future (38-39 pounds)

History of stones

Handles – metal or plastic

What are you willing to settle for and what can you afford

The supply of used stones is limited and varies from day to day. Considerable lead time may also be required for new stones. Plan ahead.

Things to Consider When Reconditioning Your Stones

Kind of granite

Running surface and / or striking bands

Inserts

Artificially aged

Transportation

Get references (complete list - 3-5 years)

Good Care

Cool down – keep dry!

Proper handling & storage

Care in transport

Use during play

USA Curling offers a stone loan opportunity to clubs through the World Curling Federation. To find out more information on this stone loan program contact the USA Curling office at 888-287-5377 or email info@usacurl.org.

Partial List of Curling Stone Suppliers & Reconditioners

Canada Curling Stone Co. (new & used)

1-1985 Blue Heron Drive
London, Ontario, Canada N6H 5L9
Contact: Fred Veale or Kimberly Tuck
Phone: 888-580-7951
E-Mail: fveale@canadacurlingstone.on.ca
Web-Site: <http://www.canadacurlingstone.on.ca/main.htm>

Kays of Scotland (new & used)

9 Barskimming Road
Mauchline, Ayrshire
Scotland, KA5 5AJ
Contact: Donald McCray
Phone: +44(0)1290 550256
E-Mail: info@kaysofscotland.co.uk
Web-Site: <http://www.kaysofscotland.co.uk/>

Steve's Curling Supplies (supplier)

5010 Ironwood Drive
Madison, WI 53716
Contact: Steve Brown
Phone: 608-222-1691
E-Mail: steve@stevescurling.com
Web-Site: <http://www.stevescurling.com/>

Dakota Curling Supplies (supplier)

PO Box 407
Langdon, ND 58249
Contact: George Phillips or Randy Darling
Phone: 800-256-0900
E-Mail: curling@utma.com
Web-Site: <http://www.dakotacurlingsupplies.com/>

Thompson Broom Manufacturing (supplier & reconditioner)

Transcona R.P.O.
P.O. Box 62057
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2C 5G2
Contact: Al Thompson
Phone: 888-832-3728
E-Mail: thobroom@thompsonbroom.mb.ca
Web-site: <http://www.thompsonbroom.mb.ca>

Olson Curling Manufacturing & Supplies, Ltd. (supplier & reconditioner)

10555 116 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5H 3L8
Phone: 800-661-2492
E-Mail: gord@olsoncurling.com
Web-Site: <http://www.olsoncurling.com/lceequipment.pdf>

CURLING STONE SALES CONTRACT

May 24, 2010

BETWEEN

The United States Curling Association ("USCA"), a Wisconsin Non-Profit Corporation. The USCA national office is located at 5525 Clem's Way, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54482.

AND

_____ (name of organization, to be referred to herein as "Club") located in (city) _____ (state) _____.

Street address of Club: _____.

Is Club a member of a USCA-member state/region? Yes [] No []

If yes, indicate the name of the state/region here _____

Or check here [] if a USCA "At Large" member club

If no, attach a paper describing plans for membership

[] the paper is attached

1. Definitions

"Stones" means curling stones, their handles and their protective shipping containers, two stones per container.

"Handling costs" means all freight, import duties, fees and taxes.

"Insurance" means inland marine "all risk" coverage against physical damage or other loss of Stones.

"Deposit Amount" means handling costs plus insurance.

"Purchase Price" means the total cost Club agrees to pay for Stones.

"Purchase Period" means the five-year period when Club shall make annual payments to complete Club's purchase of Stones.

"Care" of Stones means efforts to keep Stones, while in storage, dry and with running and striking surfaces protected from damage; while in use, "Care" means Stones will be used only in supervised play, which includes practice by any experienced curler(s). All protective shipping containers must be kept in serviceable condition until the Club has completed all payments.

"Use" means Stones used exclusively for the sport of curling.

2. Use, Storage and Purchase of Stones. USCA has purchased new and newly refurbished Stones from the World Curling Federation (WCF) for resale to clubs in USA and has purchased new curling stone handles. The same, as described in Section 3, will be delivered to Club at an address to be agreed upon to be used at address listed above. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, insurance and handling costs are the responsibility of Club. Stones are described in section #3, below.

Address where stones will be stored and used (if different locations, Club will so note here):

Club agrees to notify USCA in writing within 30 days of any change in use and storage addresses.

3. Number, cost and description of Stones.

a. Number of stones purchased by Club: _____

_____ are refurbished Stones

Purchase Price is \$ _____ per Stone, total \$ _____

_____ are new Stones

Purchase Price is \$ _____ per Stone, total \$ _____

b. Handling Costs for club:

Freight Scotland to Stevens Point \$ _____

Import Duties, Fees and Taxes \$ _____

Freight Stevens Point to Club \$ _____

Freight Return Deposit \$ _____

Total Handling Costs Deposit \$ _____

c. Description of stone I.D. numbers:

4. Transfer. USCA shall deliver the sets of stones and handles as described in Section 3 to Club upon signing of this agreement and the payment of the \$ _____ Handling Costs Deposit. Until full payment for said stones and handles is made, the same shall continue to be the property of USCA/WCF on lease to the club.

5. Purchase not completed. If Club decides to not complete payment or defaults in the payment for said sets of stones and handles, then club shall return said sets of stones and handles to USCA in their original protective containers. The shipping expense will be paid using the freight return deposits. No amount of the Deposit will be refunded to the club. None of the paid annual instalments shall be refunded to the club.

6. Payment schedule. Club shall pay USCA the total sum for said stones and handles as stated above in equal annual instalments of \$ _____ each due on December 1st. The first annual instalment is due December 1, 20xx. The final annual instalment is due December 1, 20xx. No interest shall be charged as long as there is no default. The Freight Return portion of the Handling Cost Deposit will be deducted from the final instalment amount due to complete the sale.

7. No warranty; due care; right to inspection; non-transferable. USCA implies no warranty of Stones and handles, which are accepted by club on an "as is" basis. Club will Care for Stones and handles to maintain their original condition except for normal wear from use in the sport of curling. USCA has the right to inspect Stones and handles at Club site upon five (5) days notice, during club business and/or league hours. Club may not transfer custody of Stones and handles, or assign this purchase agreement, without prior written consent of USCA.

8. Reclamation of stones. When an instalment payment is not timely received by USCA, USCA reserves the right to reclaim Stones and handles, and no refund of previous instalments shall be made unless agreed in writing by USCA. The USCA reserves the right to reclaim Stones and handles at any time, if in the opinion of the USCA, Club has ceased to function and Stones and handles are either not in use during the usual curling season or Stones and handles Care is in jeopardy. If annual instalment is not paid by the December 1st due date, Club shall pay a late fee of 5% of the total due and interest on the annual instalment due of 12% per annum until the same is paid in full.

9. Insurance. Through the end of the Purchase Period, Club agrees to insure Stones and handles at Club cost, and to forward a copy of Club's initial insurance policy and each annual paid renewal to USCA. Club shall name USCA as an additional insured on said policy. If USCA receives no proof of insurance, or if the USCA determines Club Insurance is deficient, USCA reserves the right to arrange insurance for Stones and handles during the balance of Purchase Period. The cost of insurance shall not be unreasonable. The cost of insurance will be added to the annual instalment payment owed by Club to USCA each year until Club has paid purchase price in full and assumes ownership of Stones and handles.

10. Annual confirmation for auditors use. Club shall, when requested annually, supply written confirmation to USCA auditors giving the number of Stones and handles held by Club and Stones' I.D. numbers, on behalf of USCA.

11. Ownership transfer to Club. Stones and handles shall become the property of Club from the date on which the Purchase Price in section #3, above, has been paid **in full** to USCA. Stones and handles shall remain the property of USCA/WCF until such time as payment in full has been received.

12. Conditional on status of region membership. This Contract is conditional on Club attaining and maintaining status as a member in good standing of a USCA-member State or Region Curling Association, status as a USCA-member "At-Large" club, or such other membership status or provisional status in order to satisfy this agreement as USCA may grant in writing to Club.

13. Hold Harmless. USCA and Club shall mutually indemnify, defend and hold harmless for all acts under their respective control, their officers, trustees, directors, members, employees, volunteers, agents, subcontractors and suppliers, and the successors of each of them, from and against any and all causes of action, claims, damages, liabilities, losses, costs and expenses, including reasonable legal counsel fees (together, "Losses"), resulting there from, which may be brought or made by whomsoever, or which may be suffered, directly or indirectly, by reason of or in any way arising out of or in connection with (a) any act, error or omission by Club or USCA or by Club or USCA officers, trustees, directors, members, employees, volunteers, agents, subcontractors and suppliers in connection with the performance of Club or USCA obligations under this Agreement; (b) any breach by Club or USCA of any warranty, representation or other provision of this Contract; or (c) any participant in a curling event using the Stones and handles.

14. Changes to this contract; entire contract, breaches. Modification, renewal or cancellation of this contract is valid only in written form. This contract sets forth all of the terms and conditions, and the entire understanding of the parties. Breach of any provision does not render void other provisions.

15. Headings. Paragraph headings herein are for convenience only and do not modify the contract.

16. Disputes; Arbitration. USCA and Club shall use good faith efforts to agree upon any matter that requires their mutual consent pursuant to the terms of this Contract, and to resolve any disputes arising under or in connection with this Contract. Any disputes regarding the interpretation and/or the execution of this Agreement, if not agreed between USCA and Club through good faith efforts, shall be subject to Binding Arbitration. If the foregoing procedures do not resolve the dispute, then the parties shall proceed to binding arbitration in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"), except that the parties shall be entitled to reasonable document and deposition discovery from each other limited to the matters in dispute. A judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator shall be final and not subject to appeal, and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

The arbitration proceeding shall be held at a site of USCA choice. Each of the parties shall agree upon the appointment of one arbitrator. If they are unable to agree upon an arbitrator, they agree that one shall be appointed pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the AAA. The arbitration shall be binding, final, not subject to appeal, enforceable and in lieu of any right to sue or seek other arbitration in any court or tribunal. Each party shall bear its own costs of such arbitration.

17. Contacts. Notice in writing shall be made to those listed below.

To USCA:

Rick Patzke, Chief Operating Officer
United States Curling Association, Inc.
5525 Clem's Way
Stevens Point, WI 54482
Tel: 715-344-1199
Fax: 715-344-2279
Email: rick.patzke@usacurl.org

To Club:

Tel: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Contract by their authorized officers as of the date first written above.

United States Curling Association Inc.

By: _____
Title: _____

Club:

Club Name: _____

By: _____
Title: _____



Stones Request Form

Return form to:
USA Curling
5525 Clem's Way
Stevens Point, WI 54482
or fax to 715-344-2279

Club/Arena Information

Name of Arena/Club _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____

Primary Contact Information

Name of Primary Contact _____

Affiliation with Club/Arena _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Fax Number _____

E-mail _____

Request Details

How close is your club/arena to starting curling? (i.e. By-laws, Board of Directors, 501C3, etc.) _____

Number of Sheets (16 stones per set) your club/arena is requesting _____

Is your request to:

Purchase outright _____ First Payment due December 2011 _____

Comments _____

USA Curling Use

Date Request Submitted _____ Request Received By _____

Follow-up Action _____
