

From the Winnipeg Free Press

# Curlers Welcome Electronic Hogline

*Device will be standard at major competitions*

---

By Paul Wiecek

---

**T**HUNDER BAY, Ont. — Curling ushered in a brave new world here yesterday with the world-wide debut of the electronic hogline detection device.

The technology, which uses electronic sensors to detect anytime a curler fails to release a rock in time, will now be standard equipment in all major curling competitions, including the Scott Tournament of Hearts, the Brier and the World Curling Championships.

The technology was greeted with almost universal relief among the players here yesterday.

“It takes the element of human error out of it,” said Canada’s Colleen Jones.

“People trust this a lot more. You know it can’t lie. And before, you knew mistakes were being made.”

There were no hogline violations in the six games played here yesterday.

The system, called ‘Eye On The Hog,’ was developed by a Saskatoon company.

It uses innovative technology to detect a strip frozen into the ice at the hogline and a bare hand touching the handle. Circuitry in the handle turns on green lights after a valid release or flashes red lights if a violation has occurred. The lights sit atop the rock.

Randy Ferbey, who was famously burned by a couple of bad hogline calls in the semifinal of the 2001 Worlds,

says the new devices prove what he’s been saying all along.

“It just shows what we already knew—we don’t go over.”