

World Croquet Federation
Rules of Golf Croquet
6th Edition

Introductory Statement from the WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee

1. PURPOSES

- 1.1 To incorporate the Official Rulings published on 1 October 2018.
- 1.2 To make stylistic and location changes to the Rules to improve clarity and ease of use (see Paragraph 2).
- 1.3 To take further steps to align the Rules with the Laws of Association Croquet following the publication of the 7th Edition of the latter on 24 January 2021 (see Paragraph 3).
- 1.4 To add rules dealing with impasses, time-limited games and Advantage GC and to make non-substantive amendments to fill gaps and improve clarity and ease of use (see Paragraph 4).

2. STYLISTIC AND LOCATION CHANGES TO THE RULES

- 2.1 Every effort has been made to ensure that language and forms of expression are used consistently throughout the Rules.
- 2.2 The Glossary introduced in the 5th Edition has been expanded to include more defined terms and thereby shorten and clarify the main text. The first reference to a Glossary defined term that occurs in a rule or sub-rule is italicised to highlight the fact that it is a defined term.
- 2.3 Rule 15.1.5 (5th) (giving warning about a forceful stroke) has been moved to Rule 16.1 (behaviour). This is both logical and allows Rule 15 to be better organised.
- 2.4 The positions of Rules 17 and 18 in the 5th Edition have been exchanged. Rule 17 now covers penalty areas and penalty area continuation and Rule 18 covers alternative colours and double-banking. This arrangement means that Rules 1 to 17 now deal with the standard game of single-banked, untimed level play and Rule 18 to 20 deal with the variations commonly encountered, namely double-banking, time limited games and handicap play.
- 2.5 The main text of Rules 1 to 17 has been shortened and clarified by removing all references to matters covered in Rules 18 to 20 and replacing these references by “signposts” at the end of any affected rule. Each signpost states the relevant provision in Rules 18 to 20 within square brackets and in smaller font.

3. COMMONALITY WITH ASSOCIATION CROQUET

- 3.1 The 7th Edition of the AC Laws now includes gender-neutral language, fully numeric paragraphing, a revised approach to determining marginal situations connected with the scoring of a hoop point, a new law dealing with time-limited games and tables which summarise (1) the treatment of dynamic and marginal static decisions and (2) limits of claims.
- 3.2 The 6th Edition of the GC Rules has not adopted fully numeric paragraphing but has adopted the AC approach to determining marginal situations and a rule dealing with time-limited games (see Rule 19). A table which summarises the treatment of dynamic and marginal static decisions has been added as Table 1 at the end of the Rules. The 5th Edition adopted gender-neutral language and no further change has been made.

4. RULE CHANGES

4.1 General

There have been no significant substantive changes to the way the game is played other than the recognition of Advantage GC as a permitted variant.

4.1.1 The Glossary has been expanded to aid clarity and save space in the main text.

4.1.2 A new rule dealing with impasses has been added to Rule 15 (Refereeing) which reflects current practice.

4.1.3 A new Rule 19 (Time-limited games) has been added which provides guidance also based on current common practice but which provides organising bodies with flexibility.

4.1.4 A new Rule 21 (Advantage play) has been added to provide governance for a new form of handicap play that relies on setting different starting scores instead of extra strokes.

4.2 Rule 10 (Playing a wrong ball)

The wrong ball rule has always given rise to more queries from players than any other rule throughout the history of the game. It has now been re-organised and shortened with the intention of improving its clarity and ease of use. A further amendment of what is now Rule 10.5 is included as a Consultation Question (see the end of this document).

4.2.1 The special treatment of wrong balls in the first four turns of the game has been deleted apart from the exchange of colours case.

4.2.2 There are now just three classes of wrong ball, two of which are less common and one, where the striker's side plays out of sequence or plays an opponent ball, is the most common. Rule 10.6 now deals with the status of earlier strokes and points in all wrong ball cases.

4.2.3 The case where one side plays successive strokes is now covered by the wider error of a playing when not entitled – see Rule 10.3.

4.3 Other minor amendments

Minor amendments have been made to some other Rules in order to fill gaps and improve clarity and ease of use. The amendments are explained in more detail in the accompanying Changes Log. The most significant are set out below.

4.3.1 Rule 6.3.6 introduces the concept of annulling a stroke which means that it is treated as if it was not played. Annulment provides a convenient and economical remedy in some situations.

4.3.2 Rule 7 (Scoring a hoop point) has been amended to make it as consistent as possible with AC Law 20 while recognising that, unlike in AC, the scoring of a point changes the hoop in order for all four balls. Rule 7.9 (Hoop contested or run out of order) now directs that play continues in sequence when a player discovers the error while a new Rule 15.4 permits a referee to intervene and direct a penalty area continuation if they observe that both sides are contesting a hoop out of order.

4.3.3 Rule 8 (Offside balls) has been refreshed to fill gaps and improve its internal logic.

4.3.4 Rules 9.1 and 9.2 have been clarified.

4.3.5 Rule 9.5 (Interference by defective equipment) has been refreshed and reorganised, principally to incorporate two Official Rulings.

5. ACCOMMODATING PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES

The GCRC has discussed the issue of accommodating players with disabilities, but it was thought better to leave it to a general WCF initiative, along the lines of the approach used in Golf, than to complicate the Rules further by giving specific relief in individual circumstances. The GCRC joins the ACLC in recommending that the WCF should develop and implement a disabilities initiative.

6. CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

There are two specific topics about which the GCRC seeks the views of the playing community. These concern Rule 5.1 (the start of the game) and Rule 10.5 (possible extension of remedies when the striker's side plays a wrong ball). The Consultation Questions are set out in a separate document.

7. TIMELINE

The timeline for the development of the 6th Edition of the Rules has been and is envisaged to be as follows.

Aug 2021	Publication of 6 th Edition first consultation draft to Members representing Australia, Egypt, England, New Zealand, Spain and the United States for the attention of their national rules committees or equivalent bodies.
30 Sep 2021	End of consultation with national rules committees.
8 Nov 2021	Publication of Member (public) consultation draft on WCF website.
15 Jan 2022	End of Member (public) consultation
31 Jan 2022	[Proposed] Final version submitted to the WCF for the formal vote on adoption by the WCF Council.
1 Mar 2022	[Proposed] 6 th Edition approved by WCF Council.

7. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The public consultation is open to all players and administrators who should be informed of it by their national governing body ("NGB") as well as by the advertisement on the WCF website. Respondents are encouraged to send their comments and suggestions to the chairman of their national rules committees or, if their NGB does not have such a body, to the NGB officer named in the communication issued by the NGB about the holding of the consultation.

WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee

Brian Boutel (New Zealand, Chairman)

Jeff Hill (USA)

Stephen Mulliner (England)

Amir Ramsis (Egypt)

John van der Touw (Australia)

Alfonso Urbano (Spain)