



Croquet – Game Rules

Object

The game is played by two sides. One side has the black and blue balls and the other side has the red and yellow balls. The object of the game is to advance the balls around the lawn by hitting them with a mallet, scoring a point for each hoop made in the correct order and direction. The winning side is the first to score the 6 hoop points and then finish by scoring one peg point for each of its balls. See diagram for the positioning, order and direction of scoring hoop points.

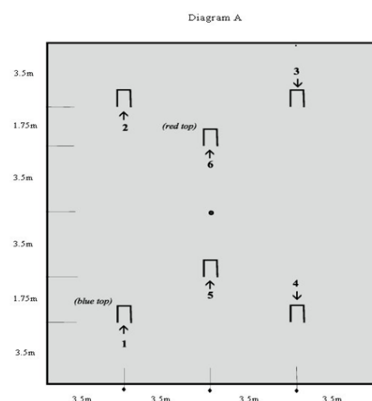
The winning side will therefore score 14 points.

The sides are made up of either one player per side (singles) or two players per side (doubles). The rules are the same for singles and doubles. The ways to play doubles are described later.

The players take turns and only one plays at a time. At the beginning of a turn the player (called the "striker") has one shot. After that shot the turn ends, unless extra shots are earned. The turn ends when the striker has no more extra shots to play. Then it is the opponent's turn to play

Setup

Place the peg in the centre of the area on which you will play
Place four hoops equidistant from the peg to form a rectangle 10.5 metres by 7 metres. The other two hoops are on the long centre line, with each 3.5 metres from the peg
All the hoops should be parallel to the shorter side of the rectangle
The boundary of the lawn is usually defined by flags or markers at each corner and should be 17.5 metres by 14 metres



Playing the game

The sides toss a coin to see who has the choice. The winner of the toss can either choose whether to play first or second. The loser of the toss chooses which pair of balls to choose (red/yellow or blue/black). There is no significant advantage in whether you play first or second.

Play starts from a point a metre in from the boundary in front of the first hoop.

The side to go first hits either of their balls into the lawn. When the turn has finished the other side plays a ball from the starting point. You are allowed to gain extra shots (of either kind) immediately.

All four balls must be played into the game in the first four turns. For example, if red plays first then the next turn is by black or blue. Let's say blue is chosen. Then the third turn of the game must be played with the yellow ball. The fourth turn of the game must be played with the black ball. When it is your side's turn to play you must first choose which ball to play. So if you are playing red and yellow, then at the beginning of each turn you can choose whether to play red or yellow. The ball chosen is the only ball that can be hit with the mallet during that turn. A turn consists of a single shot unless with that shot you earn extra shots. If you hit your ball so that it hits one of the other three balls you earn two extra shots. The first of these extra shots (the croquet shot) must be taken in contact with the ball that has been hit. To do that you pick up your ball and place it anywhere around the ball that has been hit. When you play the shot you strike only your striker's ball but both balls can move. This shot enables you to position both balls depending on what type of shot you play.

The second extra shot (the continuation shot) is then played from where your striker's ball lies.

After scoring a hoop you can start to earn extra shots again by hitting any of the other three balls.

A side wins the game by scoring six hoop points for each ball and then hitting the peg with both balls. This is usually done in the same turn during a croquet shot and the continuation shot.

Ideally, you take croquet from your partner ball near the peg. Line the balls up so that in the croquet shot the partner ball hits the peg, then in the continuation shot the striker's ball hits the peg.

However, you can also win the game by hitting the peg with each ball in two separate turns. For example, in one turn you strike red and it hits the peg. In a subsequent turn, you strike yellow and that hits the peg. You win if you complete these shots before your opponent hits the peg with both of his balls.

A ball that hits the peg and has scored the six hoop points in order scores a peg point and is removed from the lawn immediately.

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