

Golf Croquet - Rules, Tips and Tactics No 1

Good morning all Lymington Club golf croquet players

We all enjoy our golf croquet and often have questions about the rules or tactics when we are playing. Trying to understand the rules is particularly difficult as they are written in great detail to cover every eventuality that may arise in the highest level competitive play.

We are club players, playing for fun but a basic knowledge of the rules would help us to play better and improve our game. With this in mind I hope to write every 2 or 3 weeks, to try to explain one or two rules, in the simplest way I can, which are relevant to players of our level, not international players.

I will not always get it right, so if you disagree with me, or find what I say confusing, just let me know and I will do my best make the situation clear.

So, let's start at the beginning.

Try to arrive a few minutes early to take a few practice shots on the court. This gives a feel for the mallet and an idea as to whether the grass is playing slow or fast. Play a few long and short shots.

The game begins with a coin toss. The winners start. The rules say there is no choice.

Having the first shot to the first hoop is a big advantage. If you can judge the distance to the first hoop well enough to have a chance to run the hoop with your next shot this is a great confidence boost for your team and makes your opponents anxious. Clearing your ball, which is now 20 yards away from the starting point, is extremely difficult and unlikely. You should have a great chance of a straight forward shot to run (get through) the hoop on you next turn. 1 up in next to no time!

We normally play in teams of 2, so this is a team game and not an individual game. When playing, look for opportunities to promote your partner's ball (hit it into a better position with your ball) or protect it (by getting in the way of your opponents' next ball, or clearing it out of the way) This can greatly improve the team's chance of winning the hoop.

That's all for today.

Next time we will look at what the rules say when someone plays out of order.