

## Golf Croquet - Rules, Tips and Tactics No 2

I am delighted by the reception of my first attempt at explaining a bit about golf croquet and exploring some of the rules.

If you feel that this is not for you, please let me know and I will remove you from my email list.

So today; what the rules say when someone plays the wrong ball.

The Croquet association rule book covers all sorts of eventualities. From our point of view, I will confine my comments to when we suddenly discover that the wrong ball is being or has been played.

The rule is that all players are required to stop any player from playing out of sequence and to stop play if a wrong ball has been played.

No blame attaches to the player of a wrong ball, because all players are equally responsible. Rectification is applied, not punishment. The idea is to get the game going again with minimum interruption or unfairness.

At the start of the game:

If any wrong ball is played in the first four turns, the balls are replaced in the positions they occupied after the last valid stroke and play carries on from there.

If all four opening strokes have been played in the correct colour sequence, but by the wrong sides, the players retain ownership of the colours they have played for the rest of the match.

Definitions for clarity.

The striker is the owner of the next ball in sequence after the one that has just been played, regardless of whether that was a correct ball or whether it was played by the correct player.

Partner Ball is the ball belonging to the striker's partner.

During the rest of the game if the wrong ball has been played:

Solutions: The non-offender chooses either:

## 1 Replace and Replay

No points are scored for any ball

All balls moved in the last stroke are replaced and the stroke is replayed by the correct striker

## 2 Ball swap

Any points scored count

The balls remain where they stopped, except that the positions of the ball that was played and its partner ball are exchanged.

Play continues with the next ball in the colour sequence after the one that should have been played.

I think that is all we need to know at present to provide us with a quick solution to a common problem.

Next time, accidentally moving another ball or accidentally touching your own with your mallet when you are addressing it.

Regards

Graham H

## Question

Would it be best/easiest to apply Option 1 here?

It would be easiest to apply option 1 and often it may make little difference, but in a situation where, for example, the wrong ball played finished on the wrong side of the hoop, the exchange means that one ball is left on the wrong side of the hoop and play continues with the next ball in the colour sequence after the one that should have been played. So you or your partner will be playing and may be able to clear or obstruct the opponent ball remaining on the attacking side of the hoop.. You therefore deny them a “second chance” to play and you gain an advantage.

Replace and replay is the only remedy if a player plays an opponent ball or the striker’s partner plays the striker’s ball.

I hope that makes sense!