



ENGLISH CROQUET

THE OBJECT

The object of the game is to race around the circuit of hoops as shown in the diagram overleaf with each player trying to maneuver both their own and their opponent's balls to win points. Careful positioning of the balls at the end of each turn can restrict their opponent's chances of gaining points for themselves.

English croquet is played with four balls; black versus blue and red versus yellow. The first side to get both of their balls through the six hoops twice in the order marked on the diagram and hit the peg is the winner. Once a ball has completed the circuit and hit the peg (pegged out) it is removed from the game. The side which first completes this course with both balls wins the game. The game can be played as singles or doubles.

SCORING

A hoop point is scored when a ball passes right through each hoop (runs a hoop) from the correct direction and in the correct order. The point is scored whether the ball is struck directly with the mallet or with another ball. On running the hoop the striker gets an extra stroke – a continuation stroke. If the striker's ball causes another ball to run that ball's next hoop (peeling) its player gains a point but the striker does not gain a continuation stroke. To win, 26 points are required, 12 hoop points and 1 peg point for each ball.

THE GAME

The start of the game starts with a toss of the game. The winner can make one of two choices: whether they take the lead and play first or which pair of balls they will play with. If they take the choice of lead their opponent has the choice of balls and vice versa.

The side takes alternate turns. Each player starts by playing their balls into the court from the starting lines (balk lines). Once the four balls are on the court a side chooses which of its two balls it shall play in each turn.

A turn consists initially of one stroke only, but extra strokes can be earned in two ways:

- 1) If the player's ball runs its net hoop, they are entitled to another stroke.
- 2) If the player's ball hits another ball (makes a roquet), they place their own ball in contact with the displaced ball and then strike their own ball so that the other ball moves (takes croquet). The player is then entitled to one further continuation.

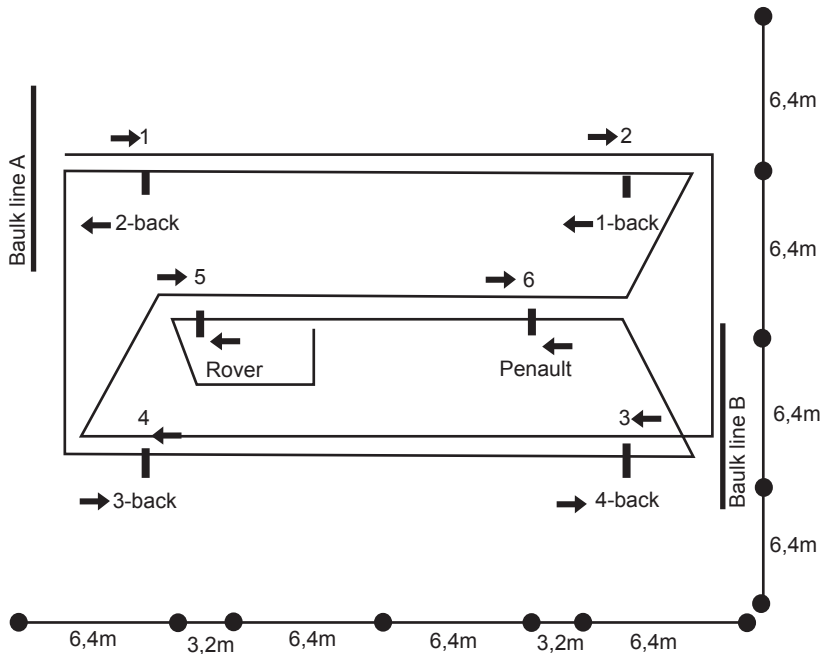
During each turn the player may roquet and then take croquet from each of the other three balls once, each time their ball runs its next hoop they may roquet the other balls once more. This enables the player to run many hoops in one turn (making a break).

A turn ends when a player has made all the strokes, to which he is entitled, or if a ball is sent off the court in a croquet shot, or if a fault is committed. (See list of rules)

After each shot any ball which has been sent off court is placed a yard inside the boundary, on the yard-line, nearest to where it went off. Any ball lying between the boundary and the yard-line, except the player's own ball, is also replaced on the yard-line if it has left the court or lies between the boundary and the yard-line.

When a ball has scored its last hoop point (becomes a rover) it can score the peg point either by the player directly hitting it on the peg or by being hit on the peg by another rover ball. The ball is then removed from the court.





DEFINITIONS

To run a hoop

When the striker hits a ball completely through a hoop in the correct order and the correct directions.

To make a roquet

When the player's ball strikes another ball.

To take a croquet

Having made a roquet the player places their own ball in contact with the displaced ball and then strikes their ball so that the other ball moves.

A continuation stroke

This is the additional stroke a player is entitled to having taken croquet.

Making a break

The combination of taking croquet and running hoops as many times as possible in one turn.

To become a rover

This occurs when a ball has passed through its last hop and only needs to hit the peg to finish the circuit. It's now known as a rover ball.

To peg out

This result when a player hits their rover ball on the peg or when it is hit on the peg by another rover ball.

To peel a ball

If the striker's ball causes another ball to run that ball's hoop, that other ball is said to be peeled through the hoop and gains a point. The striker does not gain a continuation stroke for peeling a ball.

Baulk lines

The starting lines at both ends of the court.

The yard-line

A yard (91,5cm) inside the boundary.