

Changes in the WCF GC Rules. 2013

Over the past two years the WCF GC Rules committee has been deliberating changes in the Rules. The prime intention has been to clarify the wording throughout and to produce changes where players have shown concern about some of the rules. Naturally, not all of the committee and our advisors have felt the same way about all of the rules discussed, but we have probably considered nearly every possible variation that would make any sense. It has not been easy, given the wide range of player skill, physical ability and determination, the differences in cultures and the age range of players we are providing an environment for. We have arrived at a set of rules that we believe will be acceptable to most players, without being totally unacceptable to any.

The new rules are coming to you now as a draft for your comments. Would you please pass them on to your interested players or to a selection for their comment. **Please feed comments back to the committee by 13th September 2013, by sending them to your representative on the WCF GC Rules committee or directly to the Secretary General (secretary@wfcroquet.org).** It is our hope that any modifications needed will be made by 1 October 2013.

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Notes on Changes in the GC Rules

Rule 1 Minor wording changes, but note

1(d) In the 7 point game the last (7th) hoop is now hoop 9. This makes the play to the last hoop similar to that in the 13 and 19 point games.

1(f) has been expanded to cover what happens if both players have been competing for the wrong hoops and at least one wrong hoop has been run

Rule 2 The rule has been expanded to make it the same as applies in Association Croquet as the two games are played on the same courts in many places. Apart from introducing tolerances for court layout, there are no changes here.

Rule 3 (a) introduces tolerances and permission to straighten a leaning peg.

(b) introduces tolerances and permission to straighten a leaning hoop

(c) and (d) Clearer specification, but no significant changes.

Rule 4 No significant changes.

Rule 5 The rulings have been incorporated in the rule. In events where more than one round is played among the same players the manager may choose to alternate the winning of the toss.

Rule 6 The rulings 9.1 and 9.2 have been included in this rule. Otherwise it is unchanged.

Rule 7 a commentary has been added

Rule 8 The ruling has been added and two new rules dealing with advice from an opponent or spectator have been added.

Rule 9 Ruling 9.3 is added as 9(h). Ruling 9.4 was felt to be giving too much advice to the striker, but a modified form appears as 9(i).

Rule 10 Defining of the halfway lines has been moved from the diagram to 10(a). A commentary is added to clarify when a ball is over a halfway line. The three rulings have been added to the rules.

Rule 11 Rule 1(e) defines which ball is to be played in any turn and who is the striker. When something else happens this rule now looks at what to do if (b) the striker has not played the striker's ball (c) the striker's partner in doubles has played, or (d) anyone else has played. These cases cover all situations when the first wrong ball played is noticed. If more than one wrong ball is played before play is stopped then (e) deals with the case where a player has played an opponent's ball and the opponent plays before it was noticed; (f) deals with the case where a ball is played in correct sequence after out of sequence play; and (g) deals with a series of wrong ball plays terminated by a wrong ball being noticed or the game ending. A major concern here has been our inability to agree on a method that would prevent 'gifted' hoops in all cases

Rule 12 No significant change.

Rule 13 There has been some contradictory ideas about the time when a striking fault may occur ends. We have adopted here in the commentary the same approach as that used in Association Croquet, which has the advantage of clarity. Also 13(a)(10) has been returned to the list of faults.

Rule 14 A time limit of 1 minute between strokes has been introduced. When there is a referee in charge of a match there is no change. When there is no referee in charge the players are encouraged to resolve the issue amicably, but failing that to seek a referee.

Rule 15 As we now have an approved WCF Refereeing Regulation, we did not feel it necessary to repeat the issues here.

Rule 16 The allocation of extra turns in Handicap Doubles matches has been changed, so that the handicaps of the higher handicapper on each side is compared with the lower handicapper on the other side. See 16(c). This is intended to allow the extra turns to the higher handicapped player on each side.

Appendix The Appendix that outlines a system for using an automatic handicap system has been replaced by the system used in New Zealand, as a more complete system. Members are free to use the system described, to modify it or to replace it if so desired. At present we have little or no International handicap play, and many members play no handicap games, so there is little need for a common system.