



The Croquet Club of Zurich

Golf Croquet

An overview of the game

Golf Croquet is played between two sides as doubles each with two players (four players) or singles (two players) or individuals (four players). In doubles each player plays the same ball throughout the game (blue/black/red/yellow). In singles each player plays two balls (blue/black or red/yellow) and in individual each player plays the same ball throughout the game (blue/black/red/yellow).

In the commonly used alternate colours green and brown are partner balls and pink and white are the other partner balls. As a social game, it can also be played with more players but it requires a huge discipline in playing and in keeping track of the points scored.

The aim of Golf Croquet is to achieve a match by being the first player/team to reach the best of 1, 3 or 5 games. A game is won by being first to score the best of 7, 13 or 19 points as agreed prior to start of the match. Each game ends as soon as one player/team has scored a majority of the points to be played. The object of golf croquet is to be the first to score the best of points as set for winning the game. A scorekeeper, a croquet ball and a mallet are unavoidable in completing the game. Although a court on a perfect lawn is best to play on, a park should be regarded as an excellent alternative.

The Court

The standard court is 105' (feet) by 84' (feet), whereby in a park 50' by 40' (5 units by 4 units) is a good size. The corners are known as corners I, II, III, and IV and the boundaries as named south, west, north and east, regardless of the actual orientation of the court. There are six wickets (hoops) with one coloured peg in the centre of the court and four balls are used to play (blue, red, black and yellow). The wickets are contested as shown in Diagram at the end of this article.

The middle wickets are one unit from the centre peg and the outer wickets are placed one unit away from each boundary. The wickets are set parallel to the north and south boundaries. All balls are initially played from a position on the court within a yard of south west corner.

The Playing Rules

The order of play is blue, red, black, yellow, with blue/black and red/yellow as opposing teams. The order of play for the other colours is green, pink, brown and white. Each player takes one shot per turn only.

The opening shots are played from within one yard of the corner nearest hoop 4, and the players aim to run the wickets in order from 1 to 12. Each turn consists of a single stroke. Each player tries to score the same wicket until one succeeds, thus earning the point for that wicket.

There are no bonus or continuation shots in golf croquet and no extra turn is gained by running a wicket or hitting another ball. However, a player can use their shots to knock their opponents' balls out of bounds. If a ball goes past the boundary line, it is placed on the boundary in the approximate spot where it exited the court.

Once a wicket has been scored by any player or team, all players must then try to score the next wicket. At the end of a turn in which a point is scored, any ball more than halfway to the next hoop is an offside ball, unless it reached its position on the stroke just played, or through contact with an opponent's ball, or was moved to a penalty spot. When a player's ball is offside, the opponent has the option of making the owner of the offside ball to place it on one of the two penalty spots before the ball can be played again, the opponent chooses the penalty spot to be used. The penalty spots are on the East and West boundaries, even with the peg (the red points in the diagram below).

Jump shots are not permitted in golf croquet. If a struck ball leaves the ground, the striking player/team can't score on the play, and the opposing team may choose to replace any balls that have been moved because of the shot.

The scoring methods

Golf croquet games can be played to seven points (6 wickets plus stake), 13 points (12 wickets plus stake), or 19 points (18 wickets plus stake).

A ball must run the wicket in the proper direction to score a point, but a player might choose to gain position on the next wicket if the teammate is likely to win the current wicket. However, after a scoring shot, any ball that is more than halfway to the next wicket and was not involved in the scoring shot is considered offside and can be moved to a penalty spot by the opposing team.

A ball that clears a wicket after striking another ball or being struck by a striker's ball counts as a point. If two balls go through the wicket, the point goes to the ball that was closer to the wicket at the start of the turn.

A side scores a point when one of its balls is the first to pass through the next wicket in sequence, the ball must run completely through the wicket. Note that each wicket is scored by only one ball, so that both sides are always contesting the same wicket. If two balls pass through the wicket on the same stroke, the point is scored by the ball that was closest to the wicket at the start of the stroke.

The winner is the side that scores the most points out of the total hoops contested. When a player or team reaches a winning point total the game is over.

All interested Person are welcomed to join in!

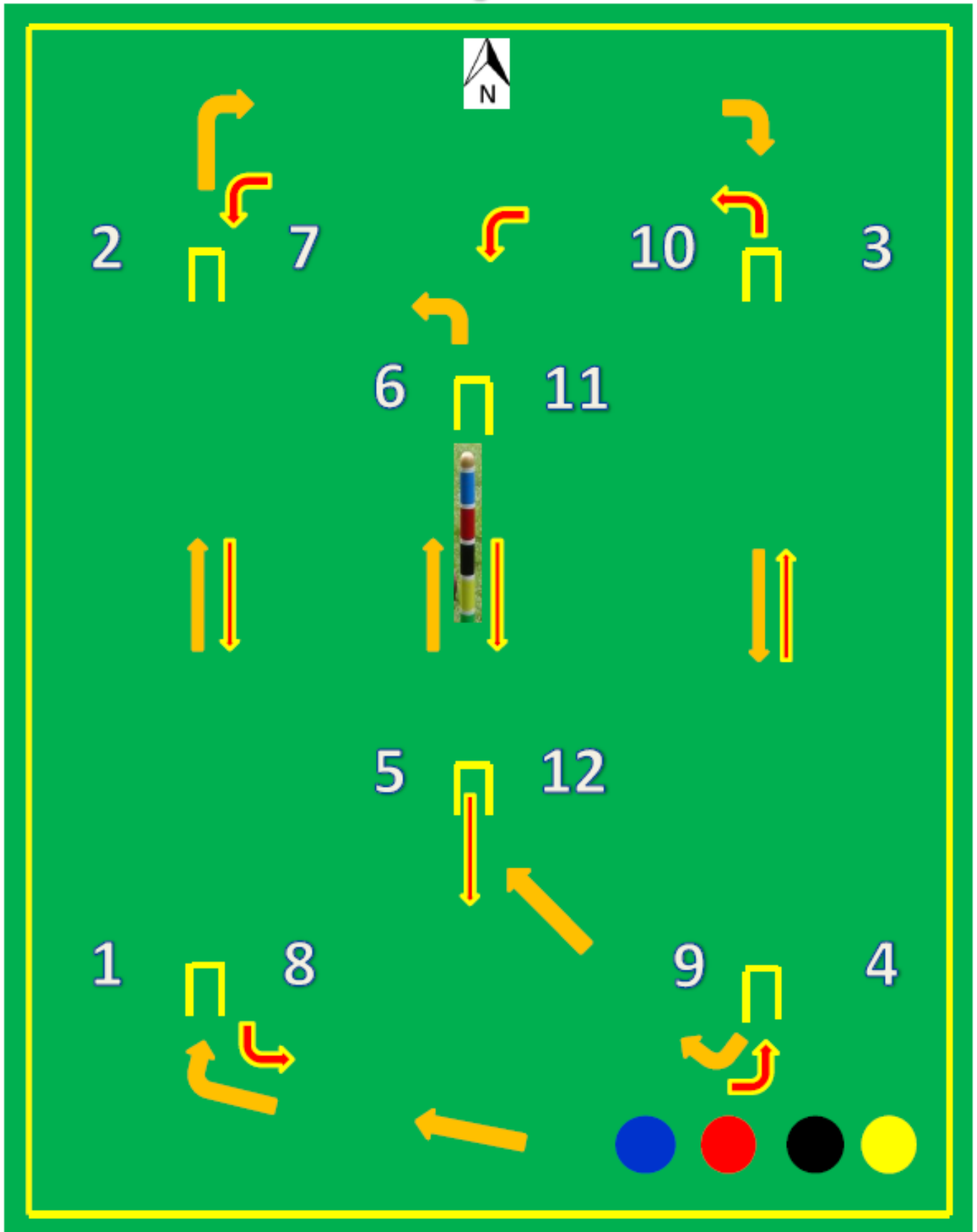
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Golf Croquet Court



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