

GOLF CROQUET The Thinking Sport

The 6th edition of the Rules of Golf Croquet, which was published in 2022, has been used for any references to the rules in this book.

<https://worldcroquet.org/croquet-information/golf-croquet/the-rules-of-golf-croquet/>

Any important changes to the rules since the publication of the book in March 2024 will be summarised in this document, which will be updated when necessary.

This will include Official Rulings and Commentary and any changes to the Guidance to Referees issued by Croquet England.

Where relevant, if any figures or descriptions in the book need to be corrected, then the corrections will be given here.

Some new GC Official Rulings have been issued by the WCF GC Rules Committee, taking effect from October 7th 2024.

OR 6.2.1 – start of the striking period

In Rule 6.2.1, the words “apparent intent” are to be interpreted as if they were a Glossary term with the following definition:

Apparent intent A player takes a stance with apparent intent to play a stroke when a referee or other observer might reasonably conclude that the stroke about to be played could be played from that stance.

Commentary The words “when a player has taken a stance with apparent intent to play a stroke” refer to the impression given by the stance and not to the player’s state of mind. A player who takes a stance, which appears to a referee or other observer to be a stance from which they can reasonably play their next stroke, has started the striking period. A statement or series of statements from the player that they do not yet intend to play their stroke will not prevent the striking period from starting.

If the player contacts with a ball in a practice swing after the striking period has started, they will play a stroke and possibly commit a fault. Prior to the occurrence of any such contact, the player remains entitled under Rule 6.2.2 to quit the stance under control and then restart the process of playing the stroke.

OR 8.4.4 – offside direction

In Rule 8.4.4, the words “after all balls moved by the stroke are replaced and any points scored by the stroke are cancelled” should be interpreted as if they read: “in which case all balls moved by the stroke are replaced, any points scored by the stroke are cancelled and play continues by the offside owner replaying the stroke in accordance with the offside direction.”

Commentary This Ruling confirms that, if an offside opponent exercises their right to give or repeat an offside direction, the next stroke in the game is a replay of the offside owner’s last stroke from the designated penalty area. The offside opponent is also entitled to let the offside owner’s stroke stand and, in that case, the next stroke in the game is played by the offside opponent.

OR 12.1.2 – overlapping play

In Rule 12.1.2(b), the words “the non-striking side is to lose its next stroke (see Rule 6.3.7)” are to be interpreted as if they read: “the unlawful stroke is not replayed and the striker’s side plays the next stroke in the game with the partner ball of the ball played in the lawful stroke.”

Commentary This confirms that the non-striking side loses only the stroke that it played prematurely and clarifies what happens next.

Although the regulations concerning the adjudication of uncertain situations do not constitute changes to the rules, I have included them here for reference as they are often misunderstood.

The relevant Rule from the 6th Edition is also given:

- 6.4.4 *When there is doubt about whether a ball has left the court **then the ball has left the court.***
- 6.6.1 *When there is doubt about where a ball left the court, **then the player who caused the ball to leave the court (or a referee, if present) is to decide.***
- 7.7.1 *When it is uncertain whether a ball at rest within the jaws of the hoop in order is in a position to run the hoop to score the point **then the ball can run the hoop and score the point from that position.***
- 7.7.2 *When it is uncertain whether a ball has completed running the hoop in order **then the ball has completed running the hoop.***
- 11.3.1 *When it is uncertain whether a fault was committed in a stroke **then a fault was committed if an adjudicator or the striker believes it more likely than not that the Rule was infringed.***
- 15.2.2 *When there is a difference of opinion on a matter of fact **then the opinion of the player with the best view is to be preferred but, if all views are equal, the opinion of the player who played the stroke is to be preferred.***