

Golf Croquet Handicapping Regulations

Effective October 2021

AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

HANDICAPPING REGULATIONS (Golf Croquet)

Overview

These Handicapping Regulations apply to all Golf Croquet competitions conducted within Australia and all accredited international matches.

These regulations are based on the WCF Golf Croquet Rules as adopted by Croquet Australia from time to time.

The Handicapping Regulations (Golf Croquet) need to be read in conjunction with The Rules of Golf Croquet, current edition.

The sections of The Regulations are:

- 1. Definitions
- 2. Players
- 3. The National Handicapper
- 4. State Handicappers
- 5. Club Handicappers
- 6. Tournament Manager
- 7. Tournament Handicapper
- 8. Handicap Card Use When Playing Overseas

THE REGULATIONS

1. **Definitions**

1.1 Croquet Australia also means Australian Croquet Association.

- 1.2 **AHS GC Card** means the Automatic Handicapping System Card for Golf Croquet issued by ACA. The cards are available on the Croquet Australia website <u>www.croquet-australia.com.au</u> for printing as needed.
- 1.3. A **State, Club or Tournament Handicapper** is an Official Handicapper who has been elected or appointed to that position by the agreed procedures of the relevant State or Club, or by Croquet Australia.
- 1.4. **Golf Croquet players** in these Regulations are members of croquet clubs in Australia who play Golf Croquet and are affiliated (through their Club and State) to Croquet Australia. They are herein referred to as players. Players will be allocated an ID number when they commence playing competitive games and will generally retain this ID number throughout their croquet career, although states may elect to issue a new ID number if a player moves from one state to another.
- 1.5. '**Tournament'** is an Official Tournament organised and run by Croquet Australia, State Association or Club. A tournament may consist of a single event or several events (eg. Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Open Doubles).
- 1.6 '**Event**' is a single competitive event, open to a defined range of players, and expected to have a single winner. Social events are excluded. An event may be a part, or independent, of a tournament.

- 1.7. 'Match' is either a single game or best-of-X games.
- 1.8. **'Competitive games'** are those which are part of an event. They are governed by Tournament Regulations and *The Rules of Golf Croquet*, and include but are not limited to
 - 1.8.1. Tournament games
 - 1.8.2. Interclub, interstate and international games; and
 - 1.8.3. Club competitions
- 1.9. '**Player's Handicap'** is a number used to determine the number of extra turns to be given or received in handicap play (Rule 16). It may also determine whether the player is eligible for a particular event.
- 1.10. '**Player's Index'** is a number recorded on the AHS GC Card, which changes after each competitive game. When the index changes sufficiently, it will trigger a change in handicap.

2. Players

Any player wishing to enter singles or doubles competitions or play competitive singles and doubles matches shall be entitled to do so only if they comply with these Regulations.

Players shall:

- 2.1 Complete an accurate entry on an official Croquet Australia Golf Croquet AHS GC Card for each competitive game played.
- 2.2 If their handicap changes as a result of any game played during an event the change takes place immediately and subsequent games are played using the changed handicap. Players are to have the Official Handicapper check and sign their card confirming the change before playing any other games or as soon as practical.
- 2.3 Immediately advise their Club Handicapper of handicap changes.
- 2.4. Show their official AHS GC card to Tournament or Competition Managers and Handicappers on request.

3. The National Handicapper

The National Handicapper (appointed by Croquet Australia) will have a role in developing and recommending overall policy, such as changes to the AHS. The National Handicapper will act as a point of reference to State Handicappers, and if appropriate to Club Handicappers

4. State Handicappers

State Handicappers shall ensure that the provisions of the Automatic Handicap System are adhered to within their state, liaising with the National Handicapper and Club Handicappers as necessary.

5. Club Handicappers

Club Handicappers shall set initial handicaps for players within their club and amend such handicaps as necessary if a player's capabilities improve and their handicap does not change automatically through competition play. They may also increase handicaps for players returning to croquet after a long absence, if necessary, or because there have been insufficient recent AHS entries for a properly equilibrated handicap to be achieved.

6. **Tournament Manager**

The Tournament Manager shall:

- 6.1. Cooperate with the Tournament Handicapper to check that player handicaps are accurately recorded at the time they commence play in an event.
- 6.2. At the end of an event record on an AHS1 Form the details of any player whose handicap has changed during the event and immediately forward it to the State Handicapper if required.

7. Tournament Handicapper

Tournament Handicappers shall:

- 7.1. At the start of an event assist the Tournament Manager in checking and accurate recording of player handicaps.
- 7.2. Be responsible for all handicapping issues during an event.
- 7.3. Sign off the AHS GC cards of all players whose handicaps change during an event. When signing off a card for a handicap change a Handicapper should check the calculations leading to the changes in handicap and ensure that recent games have been properly entered on the card.
- 7.4. During events have discretion to make non-automatic handicap changes for any player if their improvement is outpacing progress on their card, or because there have been insufficient recent AHS entries for a properly equilibrated handicap to be achieved. Any such changes shall be effective immediately.
- 7.5. Record and initial on a player's card non-automatic handicap changes as they are made.
- 7.6. Ensure that an Assistant Manager or other person is designated to perform the duties of Tournament Handicapper at subsidiary tournament venues.

8. Handicap Card Use When Playing Overseas

Croquet Australia, the New Zealand Croquet Council and the Croquet Association (UK) have agreed to allow Australian cardholders to use their Australian cards when playing in overseas tournaments.

Attachments: Annex A: Setting an initial GC Handicap Annex B: Handicap Change Points Annex C: Index Changes in Level Play Annex D: Index Changes in Handicap Play

Setting initial handicaps for players new to any form of croquet

Players who are new to croquet may have their initial handicap set by the following procedure. Start from the fourth corner and count the number of strokes taken to run hoops one to six inclusive. Complete this exercise three times to the best of their ability. The total number of strokes over the three rounds is the grading score. This score is used to assess their handicap and index from the table below.

| Strokes Taken | Initial Index | Initial Handicap |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 50-54 | 1350 | 7 |
| 55-60 | 1300 | 8 |
| 61-64 | 1200 | 10 |
| 65-70 | 1100 | 12 |
| 71-78 | 1050 | 14 |
| >78 | 1000 | 16 |

This will not be an accurate handicap as it measures only some of the skills and tactics needed. Players should initially play with this handicap and the automatic system will eventually obtain a correct value. Note that players should not be started automatically on 16.

Setting initial Golf Croquet handicaps for players with an Association Croquet handicap Players who start Golf Croquet with Association Croquet experience may have their handicaps and initial index set from the following table. The first column should be modified, if necessary, to fit a National Croquet Association's handicap range in Association Croquet. Similar tables should be devised where other forms of croquet are commonly played.

| Initial Index | Initial GC Handicap |
|---------------|--|
| 2350 | -3 |
| 2100 | -1 |
| 2000 | 0 |
| 1900 | 1 |
| 1800 | 2 |
| 1700 | 3 |
| 1600 | 4 |
| 1500 | 5 |
| | 2350 2100 2000 1900 1800 1700 1600 |

The three times round test described above may be used for players with higher Association Croquet Handicaps.

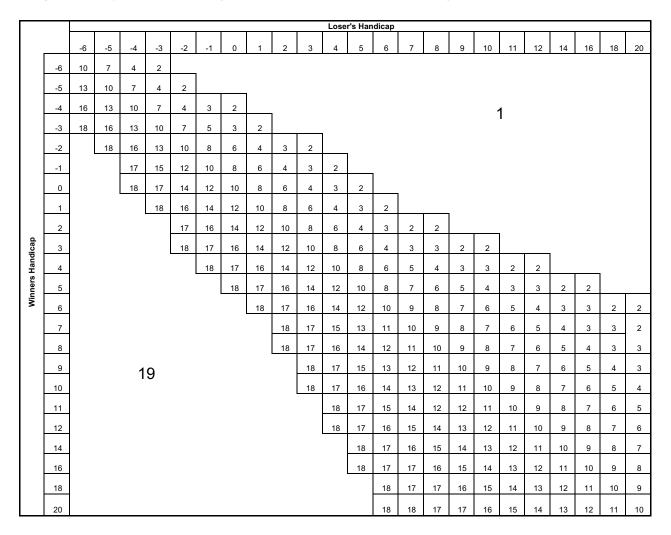
When handicaps change

Golf Croquet Handicaps change when the player's index points reach a trigger point for a handicap which is not their current handicap. They change immediately before the next game played, even if the next game is part of the same best-of-3 or best-of-5 match. The trigger points are shown in the next table. The table also shows the range of index points for which the handicap on that line does not change.

| Handicaps | Trigger Points for this handicap | Range for which there is no change for this handicap |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--|
| -6 | 2800 | 2650 or more |
| -5 | 2650 | 2501 to 2799 |
| -4 | 2500 | 2351 to 2649 |
| -3 | 2350 | 2201 to 2499 |
| -2 | 2200 | 2101 to 2349 |
| -1 | 2100 | 2001 to 2199 |
| 0 | 2000 | 1901 to 2099 |
| 1 | 1900 | 1801 to 1999 |
| 2 | 1800 | 1701 to 1899 |
| 3 | 1700 | 1601 to 1799 |
| 4 | 1600 | 1501 to 1699 |
| 5 | 1500 | 1401 to 1599 |
| 6 | 1400 | 1351 to 1499 |
| 7 | 1350 | 1301 to 1399 |
| 8 | 1300 | 1251 to 1349 |
| 9 | 1250 | 1201 to 1299 |
| 10 | 1200 | 1151 to 1249 |
| 11 | 1150 | 1101 to 1199 |
| 12 | 1100 | 1051 to 1149 |
| 14 | 1050 | 1000 to 1099 |
| 16 | 1000 | 950 to 1049 |
| 18 | 950 | 900 to 999 |
| 20 | 900 | less than 949 |

Index Changes in Level Play

Singles: a player's index changes in accordance with the following table



Doubles

The difference in the combined handicaps of each side is determined, and the points gained by both winners and the points lost by both losers is shown in the table:

| Difference in combined handicaps | Larger combined handicaps won | Smaller combined handicaps won |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 0 to 3 | 5 | 5 |
| 4 to 7 | 6 | 4 |
| 8 to 11 | 7 | 3 |
| 12 to 15 | 8 | 2 |
| 16 or more | 9 | 1 |

Index changes in Handicap games

Singles

In handicap singles games the winner's index increases by 10 and the loser's index decreases by 10.

Doubles

In handicap doubles games the indexes of both winner's increase by 5 points and the indexes of both losers decrease by 5 points.