



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:

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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 www.croquet-australia.com.au 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.

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.

AC Handicap	Initial Index	Initial GC Handicap
less than -1	2350	-3
-05. to -1	2100	-1
0 to 0.5	2000	0
1 to 1.5	1900	1
2 to 3	1800	2
3.5 to 5	1700	3
6 to 7	1600	4
8 to 9	1500	5

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 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.