

CROQUET (con't)

Occasionally two wickets are placed in the center instead of one.

The wickets should extend above the ground ten inches but the width is optional.

Balls and Mallets: Wooden or hard rubber balls, three-and-three-eighths inches in diameter, are used. These are colored red, white, blue, and black.

Mallets may be of any size and style, and may be changed as often as desired in the course of the play.

The Play: The object is to drive the ball by hitting it with the face of the mallet through the series of arches, following the specified course. The stake at which the play starts is called the home stake. The ball is placed in front of the home stake, and hit through the first two arches, to the right-wing arch, to the center arch, to the lower right-wing arch, to the two lower center arches, and to the lower stake. The ball is then played back to the home stake by hitting it through the lower center arches, to the lower left-wing arch, to the center arch, to the upper left-wing arch, to the upper center arches, and to the home stake.

Each player making an arch or stake may have a trial at the next one in order, and continues until he misses. Instead of making an arch, a player may, with any stroke, hit the ball of a partner or an opponent, and then may lay his ball beside the one that was hit and strike it so as to move the other ball as well as his own; a partner's ball thus may be sent forward to a better position and an opponent's ball is driven to a place from which it will be more difficult or impossible to make an arch. The player or team first to finish a round of the arches and stakes is the winner.

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