

Sunday, 28 March 2004

**To:** All Club and Federation Secretaries

**From:** Chairman of Golf Croquet Rules Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you will see from the attached copy of an article that will be appearing in the next issue of the Gazette, we have been forced to issue some rather rapid Golf Croquet law changes for the 2004 season. It would be appreciated if you ensure that a copy of this article is displayed prominently in your clubhouse and brought to the attention of your members who regularly play Golf Croquet. We would apologise for having to take such last minute action but we do not believe there was any alternative approach.

I would ask Federation Secretaries to circulate this article to non registered clubs within your area.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Arliss".

Bill Arliss  
Chairman, Golf Croquet Laws Committee

## **GOLF CROQUET RULES**

Many of you will have no doubt heard or seen on a web site that the WCF Golf Croquet Rules committee have released a new version of the rules in time for the forthcoming World Championship at Southwick and Compton. But please don't worry, you will not have to rush out and buy a new laws book and learn a different way of playing the game before the season starts in April. In fact some of the temporary laws that the CA issued before the start of last season have now been adopted in principle in the new WCF rules. There are however two fundamental changes in the new WCF rules that will affect the basic way in which the game is played and of course we must take account of these changes in our domestic play, particularly as several of our players will be involved in the World Championship.

Our problem has been that the new WCF rules were not released until 15 March and this has given us very little time to get things organised for our domestic scene. We have therefore decided that the best and easiest course for the 2004 season is to retain our present laws as they stand together with the changes introduced at the start of last season and issue three further changes for the 2004 season, which are described below.

The new WCF rules are an interim issue that will be reviewed after the World Championship and a brand new edition will be issued. The CA laws committee will at the same time review our internal position with a view to accepting in part or in full the new WCF rules for our internal use in the 2005 season.

For the new season the temporary changes on laws 5,6 and 8 as agreed for last season, will be retained. These cover the choice of going first or second as winner of the toss, the extension of the starting area for club play, the clarification about a boundary ball and the relief for limited backswing. Other than the extended starting area, these changes are now incorporated in the WCF rules.

A minor change in the CA Laws is that the reference to non metallic ends are removed from law 3(d)(1) to line up with the requirements in the WCF rules and also those for Association Croquet

The first major change is in the Half Way Law. i.e Law 12 Playing for the Next Hoop. The revised wording tidies up the procedure for moving a ball to a penalty spot and put the onus on all players to identify any ball that is past the half way line and not subject to an exception. Effectively any ball that has to be moved must be moved before the shot following that in which a hoop is scored.. The major change is that the opponent can now decide which penalty spot a ball is sent to. The full wording of the law is given at the end of this article.

The other changes concern faults. The WCF rules committee have been persuaded to include the definition of a striking period in the rules and have defined the period as the time between when the ball is first struck and when the striker leaves his/her stance under control. This is very similar to the present CA laws definition of striking interval and we agree it makes certain advanced refereeing functions slightly easier. We have therefore adopted it.

The first sentence of Law 14(a), Striking Faults is replaced by the following:

*The Striking Interval is defined as starting from the time the striker's ball is struck by the mallet and ending when the striker leaves his/her stance under control.*

The WCF have also adopted the Association Croquet principle that after a striking fault, the opponent can decide if he wants the balls left where they lie or replaced in their original positions. So now after that almighty 'crush' that scores a hoop and gets the ball down to the next hoop, it is unlikely to be replaced so that you can have another go in the next shot.

Law 14 (b)(1) is amended to read *Any ball moved during that stroke is either replaced in its original position or left where it lies at the choice of the opponent. No point is scored for any ball and the turn ends. In handicap play, the balls must all be returned to their original position if the player intends to take an additional stroke.*

As a consequence of the change in the definition of the Striking Interval in Law 14 it is necessary for us to include the same fault as that described in Law 14(a)(10) also as a non-striking fault in Law 13. This is because the fault in question may arise without the striker's ball ever being hit. Law 13(a) is therefore amended by the addition of – *It is also a fault if the player causes a hoop or the peg to move or shake a ball at rest by hitting a hoop or the peg with the mallet or any part of the body or clothes.*

The full wording of Law 12 is now

## **Law 12 Playing for the Next Hoop**

(a)

(1) *At the end of a stroke in which a hoop point has been scored, any ball (other than the ball that scored the hoop point) which is resting beyond the halfway line between the hoop scored and the next hoop in order (see Law 12(d)) is a "relevant ball" for the purposes of this Law.*

(2) *A relevant ball shall be moved in accordance with Law 12(b) before the next stroke is played unless Law 12(c) applies.*

(3) *If the side which owns a relevant ball plays a stroke before it has been so moved and the opposing side or referee forestalls play before the opposing side has played a stroke, then the opposing side may choose to have the stroke in error cancelled and any balls moved replaced so that Law 12(a)(2) may be applied.*

(b)

(1) *A relevant ball shall be placed on either of the penalty spots D or E on Diagram 3 as chosen by the opponent of the owner of the relevant ball.*

(2) *If the relevant ball when so placed will obstruct the playing of another ball which will be played before the relevant ball, the relevant ball is placed after the other ball has been played.*

(3) *If the relevant ball cannot be so placed because of the presence of another ball which will be played before the relevant ball, the relevant ball is placed after the other ball has been played.*

*(4) If the relevant ball cannot be so placed because of the presence of another ball which will be played after the relevant ball, the relevant ball is placed on the boundary in contact with the other ball and as close as possible to the penalty spot.*

- (c) A relevant ball shall be played from where it lies:*
- (1) if it reached its position as a result of:*
    - (i) contact with an opponent's ball, or*
    - (ii) an opponent's stroke, or*
    - (iii) peeling the ball that scored the hoop point, or*
    - (iv) being hit by its partner ball which scored the hoop point in the same stroke.*
  - (2) if the opponent of the owner of the relevant ball:*
    - (i) plays a stroke before it has been moved; or*
    - (ii) announces before it has been moved that it shall be played from where it lies.*
- (d) Referring to Diagram 3, the halfway lines are as follows. When the next hoop in order is hoop 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 or 13 the halfway line is DE. When the next hoop in order is 3 or 9 the halfway line is BG. When the next hoop in order is 5 or 11 the halfway line is CH. When the next hoop in order is 7 the halfway line is AF.*

Diagram 3 in the present laws shall still apply.

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Small inserts for the present rule book giving details of these changes are available from the CA Office on request

Bill Arliss

Chairman, Golf Croquet Rules Committee