

THE OFFICIAL RULES GOVERNING THE GAME OF CROQUET

Croquet. I loved it as a kid. We played all the time because there was a croquet set in the corner of everyone's garage in the 50's. The adults never played, except when we could con them into a game during a summer lawn party. We routinely destroyed them. It was great.

Everyone knows how the game is played, how the wickets are placed, etcetera. However, in competition on some of the notorious cross-country courts around the county, I've seen various rule discrepancies from one to the other. And so, to standardize our rule books, here are the official rules governing those areas where disagreement has occurred.

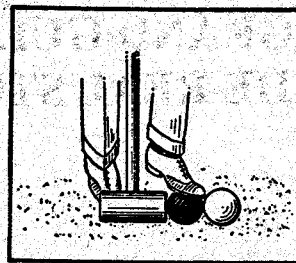
Each player has one shot at the start, and one shot for every wicket properly passed. Another shot is awarded when one's ball contacts the lower stake. (Play is not suspended upon contact with the lower stake, but continues on the same turn. The ball is not realigned a mallet's length in front of the stake, but is played from the position where it wound up after contacting the stake.)

A ball is through a wicket if a mallet handle can contact both sides of the wicket on the driving side without contacting the ball.

Contacting an opponents ball is called roquet. At roquet, the player's ball is dead, or "in hand", and may be placed in any position around an opponents ball for croquet or split-shot.

Two strokes are awarded upon contact with an opponent's ball. These strokes may be taken to advance one's own ball through the next wicket. Or, one of them may be used to either croquet an opponents ball, or to split-shot an opponents ball.

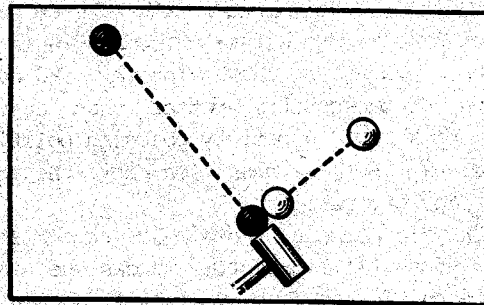
One croquets an opponents ball by placing his own anywhere around the other ball in contact with it, putting his foot on his own ball to hold it in place, and delivering a stroke to



"CROQUET" SHOT

send the other ball to either a safe distance or to an area where it can be used again after another wicket is successfully passed.

One split-shots an opponents ball by placing his ball at a desirable tangent in contact with his opponent's, and striking his own (without a foot to hold it in place) so that his



CROQUET; SPLIT-SHOT

opponent's ball is driven to a desired area, and his own ricochets to a more advantageous position on the court.

In partners play, a partner's ball may be utilized for roquet the same as an opponent's ball.

Alternate rules: Upon roquet, a croquet or split-shot is mandatory.

That's about it. Since Moab Rules call for inventiveness in wicket placement and choice of playing surface (mountains, creeks, deserts, orchards, river beaches, etc.), court specifications seem superfluous and unnecessary.