

Croquet – Rule Interpretations

The following is a non-exhaustive list of rule interpretations based on USCA (and when applicable, local) rules.

§ Shots

SITUATION: Blue Plays, but Black plays next, followed by Yellow. Before Green plays, it is discovered that Red has been skipped.

RULING: Black's turn stands. Yellow must replace any balls moved during its turn to their positions prior to Yellow's turn. Red plays its skipped turn, followed by Yellow.

SITUATION: Green has been skipped, but it is not discovered until Green's next turn.

RULING: All play up to this point stands as it is now Green's next turn. (Comment: The rules regarding out of play do not entitle an offended player to two or more consecutive turns as the result of a skipped turn.)

SITUATION: Orange plays, but inadvertently hits the Blue ball on the back swing.

RULING: Orange must replay the shot again.

SITUATION: It is Orange's turn, but the player strikes the Black ball.

RULING: This is a wrong ball fault. Black and any other balls moved on this shot are returned to their previous positions. Orange loses the current turn and the next ball takes its turn. (Comment: Accidentally striking a ball is different than a wrong ball fault.)

SITUATION: Green is in the Jaws of the Wicket it is trying to score. Red, who is positioned against an upright of the same wicket, wishes to attempt to roquet Green in an attempt to place them in a disadvantageous position. To do so, Red strikes the ball with the mallet so that the ball is driven directly into the upright so to dislodge Green.

RULING: This is a mallet fault (specifically, an illegal crush shot) as the ball must be struck in any direction away from the upright^[1]. All balls must be replaced to their previous positions. Red loses the turn and the next ball takes its turn.

§ Wicket & Roquet

SITUATION: It is Black's turn and Black is looking to score its next wicket. Red lies entirely behind the non scoring plane of the wicket, but is close enough that Black cannot score the wicket without striking Red as well. On Black's shot, the ball strikes Red as it enters the wicket and black: (a) clears the wicket, (b) comes to rest in the jaws of the wickets, or (c) rolls backward and returns to its original position.

RULING: In (a), Black scores the wicket and has a continuation shot. It may attempt to roquet Red for two shots, but is not obligated to do so. In (b) or (c), the wicket is not scored, but Black has roqueted Red and has two shots and may play any legal croquet shot as its first shot.

SITUATION: It is Yellow's turn and Blue is in the jaws of the wicket Yellow is attempting to score. On Yellow's shot, Yellow peels blue through the wicket and either (a) passes through the wicket as well or (b) does not score the wicket.

RULING: In both cases, Blue scores the wicket on the peel by opponent. Yellow does not score the wicket because the striking of Blue comes first. Yellow now has two shots off Blue because of the successful roquet shot.

SITUATION: It is Blue's turn. Orange is in the jaws of Blue's next wicket. In attempting to score the wicket, Blue hits orange and successfully scores the wicket, leaving Orange in the jaws.

RULING: Blue has not scored the wicket. However, if Blue was live on Orange, Blue now has two shots and can use the bonus shots to score the wicket, if desired. (See also: [USCA 9 wicket site's official interpretation and illustration](#).)

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[1] – See <http://www.croquetamerica.com/croquet/rules/american/page11.php#rule11.5>