

Lawn Croquet

Teams & Order of Play

The point of croquet, of course, is to use your mallet to hit your ball through the wickets and into the stake(s), and finish doing so before your opponent(s). Croquet is usually played as a team game, with two or three people to a side. The order of play is always blue, red, black, yellow, followed by green and orange if six croquet balls are being used. In team play, blue/black/green goes against red/yellow/orange.

Each player has one shot per turn but can earn extra shots by scoring a wicket or by striking another ball, which is known as a roquet. Scoring earns one bonus shot and roquetting earns two. New bonus shots can only be earned on the final bonus shot, and there's a limit of two at once. With the optional "deadness" rule, a roquetted ball can't be struck for a bonus again unless the striking player has first scored another wicket. If a ball stops out of bounds, place it inside the boundary in a direct line from its position.

The Court

Court size is officially 100 feet long by 50 feet wide for nine wicket and 105 feet long by 84 feet wide for six wicket, but who's counting? If you're playing nine wicket, which is known as backyard croquet, create a double diamond formation by placing a wicket at the exact center of the court, flanking it with opposing wickets on each side (about 16 feet up/down and 20 feet out from the exact center), and then add a wicket-wicket-stake setup at the center on each end (each six feet apart, with the stake six feet from the boundary line). If you're playing six wicket, which is known as American croquet, place a stake at the center of the court and then form two inward-facing wicket triangles on either end (the triangle tips facing the stake and the bases facing the top/bottom boundary lines).