

SOUTHERN CROQUET FEDERATION

GC LEAGUE RULES

2023 SEASON

There are FIVE League Competitions this year (All are Level Play rules unless stated otherwise)

1. SCF Golf Croquet OPEN League
2. SCF Golf Croquet B-LEVEL (3+) League
3. SCF Golf Croquet ADVANTAGE League
4. SCF Golf Croquet ADVANTAGE 'One Court Clubs' League
5. SCF Golf Croquet DOUBLES ONLY League

Changes for 2023 are highlighted, plus a few other passages to which attention is drawn.

GC Rules

- All games shall be played in accordance with the WCF Rules of Golf Croquet 6th Edition.
- **Advantage GC play must also be in accordance with "Advantage GC 2023 How To Play – Complete (available from CA website)**
- **Both Captains must have a copy of the latest GC Rules book (with any subsequent amendments), and Advantage starting scores table if appropriate, in their possession at every match.**

Competition Regulations

- Fixtures should be played on courts of no less than 3/4 size (1/2 size for One Court League).
- Hoops should be set to 1/16" for the Open League and 1/8" for the B-Level, Handicap and Doubles Only Leagues.
- The use of Dawson balls is preferred for all matches.

Eligibility

- Open to any full member club of the SCF.
- Clubs may enter as many league competitions as they wish and may enter more than one team in a given league at the discretion of the Leagues Manager.
- **The B-Level (3+) League is restricted to players with a handicap of 3 or higher at any time during the seven days preceding the playing of the match.**
- A player may only play for one team in a given LEAGUE during any one season.
- A player may play in as many LEAGUES as they are eligible for (see above & Handicap cards).
- Clubs entering multiple teams into the same league competition must treat those teams as separate entities. Once a player has represented one team, they are not eligible for the other.

Handicap cards

(This section applies to ALL Leagues except the Doubles Only League)

- **At each match, all players must produce their current handicap card, properly signed off.**
- **The maximum eligible handicap is 12.**
- All singles games must be recorded on the players' handicap cards and count towards the Automatic Handicap System. **Level (L) or Advantage (A)**
- Team Captains must indicate on the results sheet, that they have inspected all opposition handicap cards. In the Open league an agreed Dynamic Grade ordering will suffice.
- Players failing to produce their handicap card for inspection, will be allowed to play off their stated handicap BUT must send a photocopy or scan of their card to the Leagues Manager within 7 days. Provided the stated handicap is verified upon the Manager's sight of the card, all results shall stand.

For failure to comply with the above, or the discovery of a discrepancy where a higher handicap was claimed – ALL GAMES INVOLVING THAT PLAYER WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING SIDE BY THE MAXIMUM SCORE.

Teams & Formats

- All League matches must be completed by the END of AUGUST (see also the *Administration by Leagues Manager* section at the end of these rules). Any matches played after this date without the agreement of the Leagues Manager, will not be counted for League calculations.
- Teams will consist of four players (two players for One Court League).
- Prior to the start of play, the Captains shall complete and exchange an Official Score Sheet, listing the order of their players, and this order shall not be altered for the duration of that match.
Doubles Only and One Court Clubs Leagues
 - Captains can list their players in any order irrespective of individual handicaps.Advantage and B-Level Leagues
 - Players must be in numerically ascending handicap order (Captain to decide in the case of identical handicaps).Open League
 - Players must be listed in descending order of Dynamic Grade obtainable from <http://rank.worldcroquet.org/gcrankdg/rank.php> within 24 hours preceding the match. In case of any ambiguity the most recent ordering will take precedence.
- Match formats and score sheets for each league are circulated prior to each season and made available on the SCF website.
- Advantage games will NOT be timed.
- Level games may only be timed if BOTH captains specifically agree.
- In a time limited game the CA Tournament Regulations T.4 will apply.

Fixture Making

- Fixtures are to be scheduled at the start of the season, and not later than 30 April without permission from the Leagues Manager.
- **Clubs with two or more teams in the same division must arrange the date of their mutual match(es) to be played before any other of their fixtures in that division.**
- **Dates and venues should be communicated to the Leagues Manager for inclusion in the SCF website.**

Changes to agreed fixture dates

- Courts being unplayable - Should it be necessary to rearrange a match, then the hosts shall offer three alternative dates to their opponents as soon as possible. All changes of dates to be notified to the Leagues Manager who will adjudicate in the event of disagreements.
- Unable to field a team - Should a team wish to postpone a fixture for this reason, it will only be permitted with the expressed agreement of their opponents. The opponents are not obliged to agree to a postponement and may insist that the fixture be played on the agreed date. In which case, the team being unable to field a full complement shall forfeit any parts of the fixture not played (losing those games to the maximum score 0-7).

Abandonments mid-match and unplayed games

- In the event that the fixture has to be abandoned, it should be completed at a later date using the same players and replaying any games not completed.
- If it is not possible to complete the match later with the same players, the entire match should be replayed.
- If neither is possible, the result shall stand based on the completed games in the abandoned match (and all other games in that match shall be recorded as draws for half a point each). Captains may agree to leave games unplayed (recorded as drawn) if circumstances prevent completion of the match.
- If a player is unable to complete a game or games for any reason (eg through injury or illness) the opponent will be awarded the game(s) by default.
- Advantage games abandoned mid-game for any reason may declare a result using the calculation or scoring scales described in "How to Play" provided both captains agree.

Final matches

- A league may be split into separate divisions (North and South) if the number of entries require.
- If there are two separate divisions a North v South final match will take place in September hosted by the Northern club in odd numbered years and by the Southern club in even numbered years. The date to be mutually agreed from a choice offered by the home club. The usual match format for that league will be used.
- If there are more than two divisions the Leagues Manager will define an appropriate play-off.

Final matches – Advantage League 2023

- The top team from each Division will enter the semi-final/final stage. The three teams will be ordered (1, 2, 3) in order of precedence by
 - (a) League points gained
 - (b) Number of matches won
 - (c) Number of games won(If Divisions are of unequal size the *percentage of maximum possible* will be used for ordering).
- Team 2 will play a semi-final match at home against Team 3.
- Team 1 will play a final match at home against the winner of the semi-final match.
- Results criterion 6 below will be used to determine the winner of any drawn final matches.

Results

- The result of each fixture is determined by the number of games (or 'rubbers' in the Open and B-Level Leagues) won by each team.

Fixture win	= 2 points
Fixture draw	= 1 point
Fixture loss	= 0 points
- The full list of criteria for deciding the League position precedence will be:-
 1. League Points.
If two or more teams are tied:-
 2. The number of 'rubbers' won (*a rubber is the best of three result in Open & B-Level*)
 3. The number of game wins.
 4. The result(s) of the match(es) between the tied teams (*this is the 'who beat whom' rule*).
 5. Quality of wins. Each team receives DOUBLE the number of points achieved by opponents they defeated PLUS the number of points achieved by opponents they drew with. This procedure can be repeated if necessary using the new points table.
 6. The result of the singles match 1 v 1, or in a doubles match the result of the final 1&2 v 1&2 match. NOTE this step will apply should any North v South final finish as a draw.
- Hoop scores will be recorded but NOT used to order teams.
- **It is the responsibility of the winning Captain to report the result of the match to the Leagues Manager or, in the event of a draw, the home Captain shall assume this responsibility.**
- BOTH Captains must check and sign the Official Score Sheet, which the winning (or home) Captain shall send to the Leagues Manager without delay.
- The Leagues Manager will then update the SCF website accordingly and forward Level play results to the CA GC Rankings Officer.

Administration by Leagues Manager

- Teams are expected to arrange their own fixtures on dates and at venues that are mutually convenient.
- Teams must be prepared for the possibility of playing an away match at the ground of any of the other teams in their league (subject to that team having suitable facilities).
The default will be, that the fixture venue will alternate between opposing teams each season.
- If a fixture is left unplayed due to reasons attributed to the away team, then the next time that the two clubs are scheduled to play, the venue will still be that of the original home Club.
If a fixture is left unplayed due to reasons attributed to the home team, then the next time that the two clubs are scheduled to play, the original home team will be required to travel.
- If two teams can't agree on a venue on the occasion of their first league meeting, then the League Manager will toss a coin to decide.
- **Any team that fails to complete ALL of their fixtures by the end of August (except for reason of abandonments) may have all of their results discounted for the purposes of league calculation at the discretion of the Leagues Manager.**

CA Tournament Regulations will apply unless otherwise stated above and the decision of the Leagues Manager is final in all matters.

Roy Tillcock
February 2023

SCF GC Leagues Manager

Roy Tillcock, 25 Queens Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 3BG
01983 565370 **scf.gcman@gmail.com**

SCF webmaster

Steve Fisher **dr.s.m.fisher@gmail.com**