

Sandwich Croquet Club, Inc.

Member Handbook

2023



The Sandwich Croquet Club (SCC) was established in 2011 by founding members; Ed Gardella, Bob and Nancy Spalding, and Bill and Grace Day. The club is located at Sandwich Hollows Golf Course, a public course owned and managed by the town of Sandwich in Massachusetts. For the first year, the club opened using equipment loaned by the Heritage Croquet Club. With the support of the town, a full-size championship croquet court was built at cost by the Crowell Company Inc, along with generous financial donations from club members. Through community outreach and the growing popularity of croquet on the Cape, the club has grown to more than 60 active members today. Organized games of golf croquet, six, and nine wicket are played several times a week.

Sandwich Croquet Club, Inc.

Introduction

Purpose

The purposes and mission of the Corporation are to promote, encourage and facilitate local, regional, national, and international competition and recreational and social enjoyment of the sport of croquet, to raise awareness of, provide access to and support participation in the sport of croquet in the corporation's local and regional area, and to engage in all lawful activities related thereto as more fully set forth in Article IV of the articles of incorporation, as the same may be amended from time to time.

Membership

The Sandwich Croquet Club, Inc. (SCC) is an all-volunteer club, and the hope is that members will be able to contribute their time and energy both on and off the courts.

Any person interested in the SCC's purpose and activities and willing to subscribe to the club's bylaws may apply for membership by emailing sandwichcroquet@gmail.com, then submitting a completed application and payment of annual dues.

There are three levels of membership offered to new and continuing members. The annual membership covers the entire season which generally runs from May through the end of October weather permitting. For summer visitors, both a one-month membership and a membership for two consecutive months are available.

An application for membership will be accessed through SignUp Genius, www.signupgenius.com. All payments may be made online or by check made payable to Sandwich Croquet Club, Inc., P.O. Box 284, East Sandwich, MA 02537.

A list of all members and their contact information is maintained and sent by email to all members. A paper copy is kept on the bulletin board in the main shed. Members not wishing to have their contact information shared should indicate so upon registration.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the SCC and will consist of four officers (President, Vice-President, Clerk, and Treasurer) and three Directors, as set forth in the bylaws. The board meets a minimum of monthly during the season and as needed in the off-season. Updated by-laws can be found on the SCC website.

Club Pro

The Club Pro, Bob Kroeger, is available to members for private and small group lessons. Members may email Bob at bobkroeger@aol.com for further information, costs, and schedules.

USCA Membership

United States Croquet Association (USCA) is the national governing body dedicated to developing croquet as a serious sport in the U.S., US territories, Canada, and Bermuda, and that represents the U.S. in other international croquet associations. The USCA is a nonprofit organization. You can view the website at www.croquetamerica.com

As a member of the USCA the SCC receives benefits such as the ability to host sanctioned tournaments, have access to traveling instructors, belong to a national network of croquet clubs and receive support from the national organization.

SCC members who join USCA will receive an Official USCA Rule Book and the ability to compete in USCA sanctioned tournaments at the state, regional, and national level; eligibility for the US National Team; the USA Croquet News magazine; a monthly e-newsletter; access to a national network of croquet clubs; and more. There are individual and couple memberships available. Applications for USCA membership may be made directly on the USCA website (www.croquetamerica.com).

Rules of Etiquette and Good Practice

Adapted from the complete rules of golf croquet maintained by the World Croquet Federation (WCF GC Rules 5th Ed.)

Court Etiquette

Croquet is a game that should be played with good sportsmanship as it is the foremost attitude of how a player approaches the game and behaves both on and off the courts.

Players are responsible for maintaining good standards of behavior towards other players, officials, equipment, courts, and spectators.

Courtesy should be extended to all players whether opponents or partners during play. Shaking hands or tapping mallets with recognition of a game well played at the end of play is customary.

A player is deemed to have behaved unacceptably when a player argues aggressively or continuously or is aggressive toward another player.

Swearing or abusive language is never acceptable.

Talking or texting on mobile phones during a match should be avoided.

Drinking (coffee, water, etc.) is not permitted on the playing court and smoking and alcohol are not permitted. Water may be placed anywhere on the court sidelines.

Dress Code

White clothing is recognized as the traditional standard of dress when on the croquet courts. White clothing is encouraged, but not required. All players are required to wear flat-heeled shoes that will not damage the playing surface. All players are expected to wear whites at tournaments.

Court Set Up & Player Preparation

All players are requested to assist with set up and breakdown before and after play. Set up information can be found in the main shed, including diagrams.

Players should come prepared to play with ball markers and a tossing coin.

Basic Rules of Play

Players should strive to play by the rules of the game and not try to circumvent the rules or the underlying ethics of the game. Rules booklets for golf croquet, six wicket and nine wicket are available in the main shed.

The Striker

Only the striker (the player whose turn it is) should be on the court. All other players should be on the outside of the boundary line. An exception is in doubles play when the striker's partner may be on the court to help indicate a shot or ball placement.

Any player who feels that a play may result in a possible fault may ask a third party to supervise the shot.

When taking a shot, the striker should:

- Expedite taking the shot without excessive delay or casting and, in doubles play, keep strategy discussions short.
- Only follow the ball after the shot when all shots have been taken in that direction.
- Declare being offside before a shot is played.
- In golf croquet, declare being offside after the wicket is scored.

Other Players

Players should avoid any behavior that distracts another player who is attempting a shot.

For example:

- A player should not talk within earshot of the striker.
- A player should stand a reasonable distance from the striker and, where practicable, avoid moving into or standing in the striker's line of vision.
- A player should stand well away from the wickets or target ball.

- A player should avoid casting a shadow in the striker's line of play.
- A player should only give advice when requested and within the rules, such as which ball was played last. However, advice to forestall a striker from playing the wrong ball is always acceptable.

Double Banking

Double banking occurs when two separate games are played simultaneously on the same court, starting at diagonal corners.

When double banking:

- A player should delay taking a shot if it is likely to interfere with another game on the same court.
- The player who is already within a turn generally has priority over a player who is just starting a turn unless the priority player agrees otherwise.
- A player should ask the other team's players for permission to lift and mark their balls and should inform the other players when the ball has been replaced.

If another game is still in progress on the court when a game is finished, players should pick up the balls, as opposed to rolling or hitting them across the court.

Dispute Resolution

All players, especially the striker, should acknowledge and announce a faulty play.

If a dispute arises regarding the rules of play, any player may ask a third party to review the play. There should be no resistance by other players to this request. The third party's decision is final. Any clarification may be sought after the match. Detailed rules of play can be found in the main storage shed closest to the Clubhouse.

Court Scheduling

Hours of Play

Hours of organized play are established at the beginning of each season and posted on both the SCC website and the main shed bulletin board as well as communicated to members via email. Members are also welcome and encouraged to play or practice during non-organized play times which are designated as Open Play. A shot clinic will be provided for all members during each season.

To reserve a slot to play, whether it is organized or open play, the club utilizes SignUp Genius, www.signupgenius.com. At the beginning of each season, members will receive an invitation via email to reserve preferred playing days and times. This sign-up serves as a record of attendance as well as a liability waiver. All members are encouraged to create a SignUp Genius account. The courts are not available on Monday and Friday mornings due to regular maintenance.

Cancellation Notification

Given the difference in weather conditions across the Cape, cancellation of regular play will be left up to the discretion of the individual player. A player who decides to cancel, should do so on SignUp Genius.

In the case of a tournament or a special event where a group is expected, participants will be notified of the cancellation by email no later than 90 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.

Tournaments

The club plans for several tournaments during the season. These are for club members only. Normally there are golf croquet, six wicket and nine wicket tournaments. In addition, SCC may sponsor USCA sanctioned tournaments and/or non-sanctioned tournaments that include members from other clubs. There may be tournament fees for participation.

Facilities and Equipment

Parking

There is plenty of free parking to the right of the club entrance. Sandwich Hollows does **not** allow parking around the fountain as this is a fire lane and can block access to the clubhouse. Handicap parking is available near the clubhouse.

Golf Course Clubhouse

The clubhouse is close to the courts, has a restaurant with bar service, and provides public men and women restrooms. The clubhouse is available to all members and guests. Alcohol is only permitted within the clubhouse premises, unless otherwise permitted by the golf course management.

Courts

There are three courts available for play. Players must be careful not to create divots in the lawn surface. A divot repair tool is available on the shed door.

The courts are for SCC use only including organized and open play, special club events, and practice by members. Rental of the courts by outside agencies, privately paid lessons, and member's private parties are not allowed.

Storage Sheds

There are two sheds to house club equipment. Each unit should always be locked. Please request the combination from a board member. The last person to leave the courts should make sure that the courts are cleared of equipment, the equipment is safely stored, and the sheds are locked securely.

Equipment

SCC provides and maintains the balls, wickets, stakes, etc. The club has a variety of mallets of varying weights and lengths that club members may use. Members are encouraged to purchase their own mallet once they become familiar with the game. Mallets and other croquet equipment can be purchased from suppliers listed below. If there is sufficient interest, SCC may facilitate a group purchase.

- National Croquet Center: www.nationalcroquetcenterproshop.com
- Oakley Woods Croquet: www.croquetstore.com
- Wood Mallets: www.woodmallets.com

Health and Safety

The first aid kit is found in the main shed.

Mallets should be used with care after proper instruction. Improper use can result in injuries to the wrists, elbows and shoulders resulting in technique errors. Tripping over wickets and balls can be dangerous. Never walk backwards without checking if there are any wickets waiting to trip you. Be careful when lifting wickets as you could put undue pressure on your back. It is best not to carry more than three wickets at a time. Proper sun protection including acceptable clothing and sunscreen is advised.

Non-Members and Guests

The SCC encourages members to bring guests who may be interested in SCC membership. These non-members are invited to participate in play for two sessions at no charge.

All children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The SCC welcomes other USCA members to play on the courts during organized play hours if they are accompanied by a SCC member. A \$5.00 donation per guest is suggested.

All visitors must sign a liability waiver, which can be found next to the donation box in the shed prior to play.

Social Events

The SCC sponsors social activities during the season. Members' guests are welcome. Several times during the season members will have a meal after organized play in the clubhouse.

Towards the end of the season, there is an annual meeting and awards dinner.

Community Outreach

Lessons are offered to interested members of the community at the beginning of each season. The goal is to spread interest in croquet and encourage new members.

The club also works with a local organization to provide several sessions of play and instruction for a group of special needs adults.

Club Merchandise

Members will have the opportunity to purchase club logo merchandise, such as shirts and hats, during the season. Information and order forms will be emailed to members at the beginning of the season. Samples will be available at the courts during the first week of the season.

Communications

Website

SCC maintains a website where you will find current important information regarding the club activities, days of play, photos and much more. Please visit www.sandwichcroquet.com

Calendar

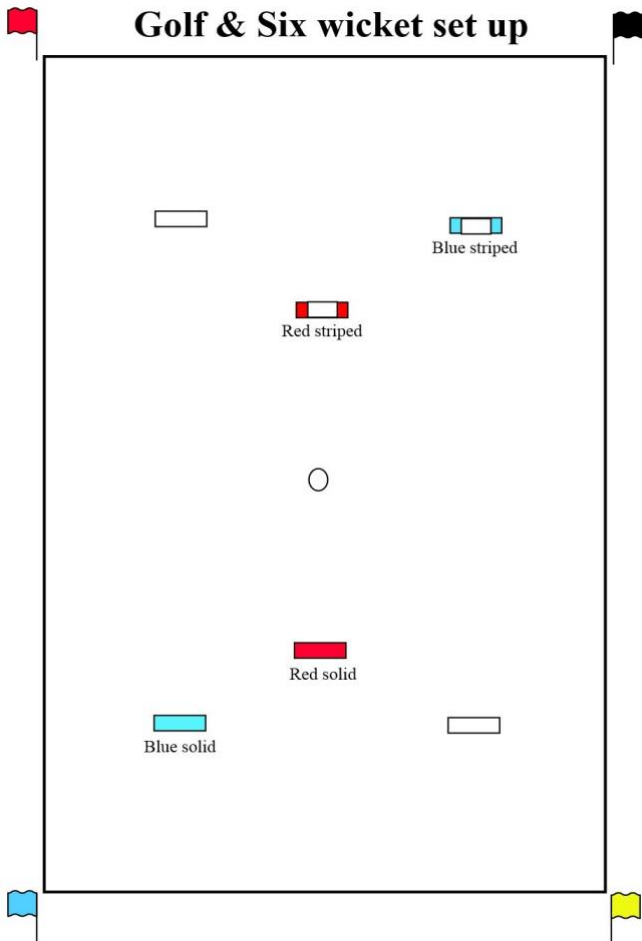
The calendar is maintained and displayed on the website and on the main shed bulletin board. Monthly reminders for events are emailed to all members.

Instagram

SCC has set up an Instagram account, Sandwich_Croquet_Club. Activities will be posted there, such as announcements for beginner lessons and tournaments as well as pictures of opening day, National Croquet Day, club tournaments, etc. Members are encouraged to SCC on Instagram and to encourage friends and family members to do so as well. Authorization to post member photos is included in the membership application.

Revised 4/2/2023

Appendix

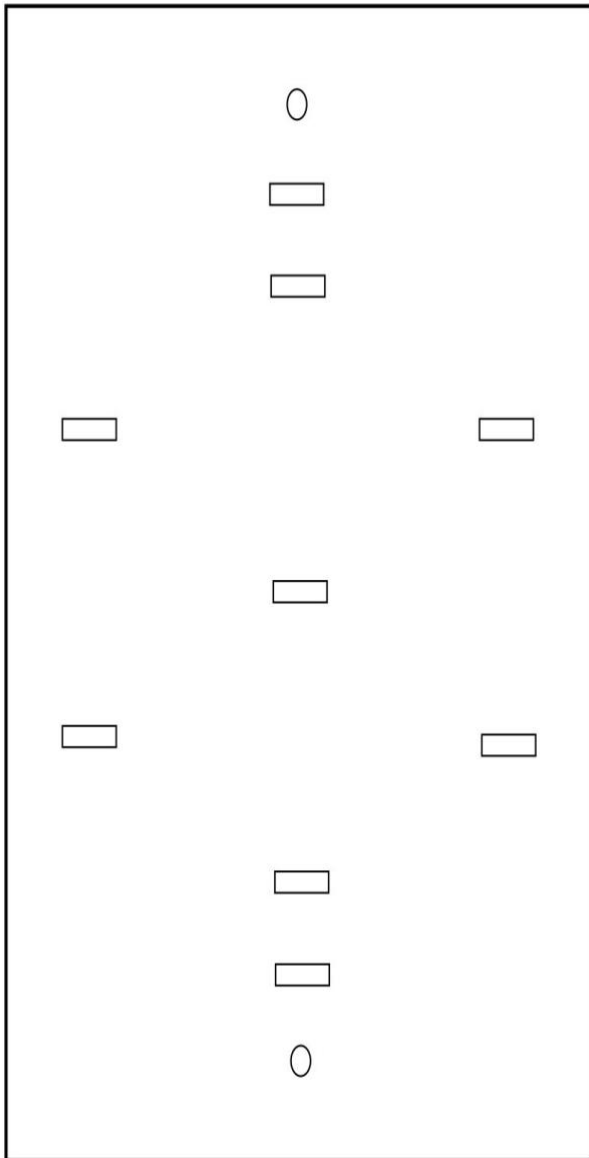


Golf Croquet is a fast-paced game for all skill levels. The object is to be the first to score seven wickets.

Six wicket or American Rules is a game of strategy where the balls move through the course of wickets and onto the stake.

Both games can be played as individuals or in teams.

Nine wicket set up



Nine wicket croquet is a less formal game than the six wicket version of the sport. It is often referred to as back yard croquet.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Aliveness - Eligibility to hit another ball with your ball to earn bonus strokes, i.e., if Blue is alive on Red, that means that the Blue ball may legally strike the Red and gain two bonus strokes as a result.

American Rules Croquet -The form of 6-wicket croquet most played at USCA clubs in North America.

Association Rules Croquet -(Also called "International Rules Croquet") the form of the sport of 6-wicket croquet most played in countries outside North America.

Backyard Croquet - The game played by millions, usually with lightweight equipment on slow and/or irregular surfaces, on a court up to 100' by 50', with nine wickets and two stakes in the traditional double-diamond configuration.

Ball in Hand - A ball that needs to be repositioned on the court in relation to another ball which it roqueted.

Bonus stroke – A stroke earned by either going through a wicket or striking another ball.

Break – Scoring more than one wicket in a single turn.

Clearing Deadness – The restoration of eligibility to hit other balls for bonus strokes which is achieved when a ball goes through its proper wicket.

Continuation Stroke - The bonus stroke earned for going through a wicket or following the Croquet Bonus Stroke.

Croquet Stroke or Croquet Shot - The first of two bonus strokes earned for hitting another ball with your ball; the game is named for this unique stroke, which allows players to move around not only their own balls but also the opponent's.

Deadness - Ineligibility to earn bonus strokes by hitting another ball with your own ball.

Golf Croquet - The simplest form of the game, excellent for beginning players and large social events.

Peg - Another name for the stake.

Pegged out or Staked out - Out of the game, after one's ball or balls are driven into the finishing stake; also, a croquet player's euphemism for the physical demise of another player.

Pioneer Wicket - The next wicket to be scored plus one, as in one's instruction to one's partner: "Set up in front of my pioneer wicket."

Roquet - A stroke in which the striker's ball hits another ball upon which it is entitled to take bonus strokes.

Rush Shot - A roquet that sends the ball a significant distance in the targeted direction of play.

Six-Wicket Croquet - The serious or advanced forms of the sport of croquet played throughout the world, as contrasted with the more casual forms of Backyard Croquet, 9-Wicket Croquet or Lawn Croquet.

Stake - The most common name for the peg in the middle of the six-wicket court or on either end of the 9-Wicket court.

Wickets - The metal or wire openings set in the lawn through which points are made, also called "hoops". They can drive you crazy.