

## **YORKSHIRE CROQUET FEDERATION**

### **AC League Rules (As Amended December 2025 and March 2026)**

#### **1.0 Introduction and Eligibility**

1. The object of the AC Leagues is to encourage friendly but keen competition between Clubs in the Federation.

1.1 The Short Croquet League is intended to encourage less experienced players to participate in matches. Teams should, as far as possible, be chosen with this objective in mind.

1.2 The AC Handicap League is for players of all standards. The winning Club will be eligible to represent the Federation in the Croquet England Secretary's Shield in the following season.

1.3 The Leagues are open to all clubs who are members of the Yorkshire Croquet Federation and, subject to clause 3.1 below, all competitors will be members of the club which they are representing.

1.4 All competitors must hold a current Croquet England Short Croquet or AC Handicap depending upon the League in which they are playing. At the end of a match players will be expected to update their handicap card accordingly. Cards should be made available for inspection on demand by the opposition team captain.

#### **2.0 The League Manager**

2.1 The League Manager will be elected at each Federation A.G.M. and will be responsible for running the Leagues during the season. The Manager will have the power to resolve any disputes over these Rules or any matter not covered by them.

2.2 The League Manager will coordinate arrangements for the season's fixtures, publishing a list of provisional dates for matches, which Clubs will confirm or rearrange, to mutual satisfaction. Match dates should be agreed no later than 4 weeks before the match is to be played and all changes to the published list should be notified to the League Manager. If any Club is unable to fulfil a fixture on the originally agreed date, one further rearrangement is permitted by mutual agreement. If Clubs are unable to agree a date, the home team has priority.

#### **3.0 The Leagues**

3.1 Clubs can enter more than one team in a League but no player can play for more than one team in each League in any season. To avoid cancelling a match, a team can, with the consent of the opposing team, include one player who is not a member of that Club, provided they represent no other team in that League in that season. There is no restriction on teams substituting new players in the second half of a match and each substitute will play in the same position in the team order as the person who they are substituting.

3.2 Short Croquet League games will be played under Croquet England rules for Short Croquet utilising one or two courts (i.e. two or four Short Croquet courts).

Two formats are permitted, and should be agreed at least 4 weeks before the match is played. Where Clubs cannot agree, format B will be played:

Format A: Teams of 4 players, where a match will consist of 4 doubles and 8 singles.

Format B: Teams of 3 players, where a match will consist of 2 doubles and 8 singles.

The order of play will be laid down by the League Manager from time to time or as agreed at the A.G.M.

The time limit is 75 minutes for both doubles and singles. There is no time allowance for double banking. The maximum handicap will be 10 bisques.

In doubles, each side has a handicap equal to half the joint trigger indices of their individual handicaps rounded down to the nearest trigger index

**As a trial for the 2026 season**, Law 50 of The Laws of Association Croquet applies to either side of any game of doubles in the AC Short Croquet League that agrees to it. This permits Alternate Stroke Doubles to be played by either side of a doubles game at their discretion.

3.3 AC Handicap League games will be 26 point, full bisque to base 10 games played under Croquet England rules for handicap singles or ordinary handicap doubles on full or near full-sized courts, utilising one or two courts.

Three formats are permitted and should be agreed at least 4 weeks before the match is played. Where Clubs cannot agree, format B will be played:

Format A: Teams of 4 players, where a match will consist of 2 doubles and 4 singles (two courts)

Format B: Teams of 3 players, where a match will consist of 2 doubles and 2 singles (one court)

Format C: Teams of 3 players, where a match will consist of 1 doubles and 4 singles (two courts)

The order of play will be laid down by the League Manager from time to time or as agreed at the A.G.M.

The time limit is 3 hours for both doubles and singles or 3 hours 15 minutes if any part is double banked but this may be varied if both team captains are in agreement. The maximum handicap will be 24 bisques.

In doubles, the number of bisques for each side will be the difference between half their aggregate handicaps and the base of 10 or if half the aggregate handicaps of either side is less than the base of 10, the number of bisques given by the lower-handicapped side to the higher is half the difference between their aggregate handicaps. A fraction of a bisque above a half is counted as one bisque, a fraction below a half as a half-bisque.

Law 50 of The Laws of Association Croquet applies to either side of any game of doubles in the AC Handicap League that agrees to it. This permits Alternate Stroke Doubles to be played by either side of a doubles game at their discretion.

3.4 The results of all matches should be reported to the League Manager by the home team within one week (and may also be reported by the away team). By 20th October, the League Manager will send final results and League positions to each Club's match secretary. Match secretaries must notify the League Manager of any errors and/or omissions by 1st November, after which, no changes will be accepted.

3.5 The final League positions will be determined by the League Manager as follows: results of matches will be recorded as 'games won' by each team. Hoop points scored in individual games will not be considered.

a) For each match, 2 points will be awarded for a win and 1 point for a draw, the winning team being the one with the greatest total of points.

b) If two or more teams have the same total points, the team winning the greatest percentage of games will be the winner (i.e. games won as a percentage of games played).

c) If there is still no outright winner, the team with the greatest difference between games won and games lost will be the winner.

d) If there is still no decision, the result of the game(s) between the tied teams will be taken into account, following steps a, b, c, above.

e) If there is still a tie, the teams will be declared joint winners with the entrant to the following seasons Croquet England competitions being determined by lot.

#### **4.0 Matches and Play**

4.1 The commencement time for matches shall be 10.00am unless otherwise agreed between match secretaries. Players may warm up during the ten minutes prior to the start of play, taking care not to loosen the hoops or the peg.

4.2 If weather conditions render one Club's ground unfit for play, the venue for the match may be changed by mutual agreement in order to meet the agreed date, but the record of the original venue will stand.

4.3 If a Club fails to keep a match date in accordance with rule 3, a walk-over win will be awarded against the defaulting side. If a member of a team fails to arrive to play at the agreed time or fails to play for the full time for any game, the game(s) affected will be conceded as lost by the defaulting side.

4.4 A walk-over will be regarded as a win, scoring 3-1 in AC Handicap and 8-4 in Short Croquet.

4.5 As the Laws state, in ordinary handicap doubles a player may not play the partner ball. If a member of a team is not present at the start of the game, their ball is placed on a baulk-line at the choice of the team member who is present, when it would otherwise have been played into the game, and will be deemed to have been played by the absent player. Should the absent player arrive during the game, they may play the ball from wherever it lies at the start of the team's next or subsequent turns, after the opponents have started at least one turn knowing that the missing player has joined the game.

4.6 If a match is not played and the League Manager resolves that neither Club was at fault, or that both Clubs are equally liable, the match will be recorded as 'no result'. Similarly, if a match result is not reported to the League Manager by 1st November, by either the home or away team, it will be recorded as 'no result'. All 'no results' will be recorded as 0-0 and neither team will get any points.

4.7 Matches, once started, must be completed on the day without significantly overrunning the normal finish time. If a match cannot be finished owing to weather, ground conditions or other external factors (not including player availability problems) team captains should try to agree shortened formats, to permit all games to be completed, while allowing a reasonably normal game of croquet to be played. Where they cannot agree such shortened formats, or mutually agree to stop all play, or circumstances prevent completion of games, the match result will be determined on the basis of completed games only at that point and the score recorded accordingly. No uncompleted game may be conceded to an opponent, but either team captain may concede the match to the other, thus awarding 2 points to the winning team (the games won/lost remaining as they are, for completed games only)

4.8 Players not in possession of their handicap cards at the start of a match will be allowed to play off their stated handicap but must send a photocopy or scan of their handicap card to the League Manager within 7 days. Provided the stated handicap is verified all results shall stand. Failure to comply with the foregoing or the discovery of a discrepancy where a higher handicap was claimed will result in any games won by that player being conceded to the opposition.

4.9 Players' handicaps and index numbers at the start of a match must be recorded on the score sheets. Players' names should be clearly shown on the score sheet, including a full first name.

## **5.0 General**

5.1 These rules may be amended at any General Meeting of the Federation by a simple majority of delegates present.

5.2 NOTE: The Yorkshire Croquet Federation Golf Croquet League Rules are contained in a separate document.