

CROQUET NORTH AC LEAGUE RULES 2026

1. League matches shall consist of 2 doubles and 2 singles games.

Matches are normally played on two full sized lawns. Doubles games on one lawn and singles on another, both morning and afternoon; but it is possible to play all games on one lawn should this become necessary. A minimum of 3 players / team are required. There is no requirement for the same players to play in both the morning and afternoon.

Exceptionally where a club cannot provide 3 players, a match can consist of 4 singles games (ie a minimum requirement of 2 players). Prior notice of this must be given to the opposing club before the day of the match. Although this arrangement should generally be avoided it is preferable to not playing the match at all.

Teams should normally consist of one low bisquer and 2 high bisquers, with the high bisquers playing one singles game each. However, this is not mandatory and should one team decide not to follow this policy the other team has the option to do so or not. The players and the order of play for the whole match shall be agreed at the start of the match.

2. All games will be played to current Croquet Association handicap singles and handicap doubles play laws. Players should have their handicap card with them, so that they can confirm their handicap if required.

All players must play off their correct CA (or if none club) handicap subject to a maximum of 20 in doubles. Players with handicaps over 24 are not considered sufficiently experienced to play singles games in this league.

In the case of singles matches between 2 inexperienced players only, the captains may agree for the match to be played to base 10.

Shortened games (18 or 22 point) and full-bisque play is acceptable provided both sides explicitly agree.

Local rules and smaller courts may be used with the prior approval of the League Manager. Once approval has been obtained from the League Manager, further approval is not necessary unless subsequent alterations are made to the size.

3. Time limits will be 3 hours and 15 minutes for both doubles and singles games with no additional time for double banking should this become necessary. Time limits for extended stoppages may be added if both sides agree. These time limits may be varied by agreement if both sides agree before commencement of the match, should special circumstances necessitate this.

4. In each of the doubles matches either team can elect to play Alternate Stroke. Once play has started this cannot be altered for that game.

5. The dates and venues of matches will be issued by the League Manager before the beginning of the season. The Home club should contact the Away club to finalise arrangements. Reasonable changes to dates, in particular playing on the Saturday instead of the Sunday should be considered, but in any case it is expected that all matches will be confirmed between the captains by mid April.

These may subsequently be changed by advance agreement between the clubs, but should a match be rearranged the onus for obtaining agreement for a revised date lies with the defaulter on the original date. Any date changes must be notified to the League Manager immediately.

The venue may be altered by prior agreement between the clubs involved.

The away team is recommended to confirm arrangements (including any catering) with the home team a few days before the match.

If a club fails to keep an appointment in accordance with the above procedure a walkover (ie 4-0 win) will be awarded against the club in default. However, the club defaulted against does have the option of playing the match on another date to be agreed between the clubs.

The results for games involving a team defaulting on more than one occasion during the season will become void.

6. Only members of a club shall be eligible to play for that club, and no player may play for more than one club (or team if a club has more than one team) during the season in this league.

7. For each league match 2 points will be awarded for a win and 1 point for a draw. The completed result sheet must be returned to the league manager by the representative of the home team immediately after the match.

8. At the end of the competition the total number of points gained by each team will be calculated and the team with the most points will be the winner. In the event of a tie on match points the team with the largest number of net game wins shall be the winner. If there is still a tie the competition will be shared by the teams involved, each being entitled to hold the trophy for an equal time.

9. In the event of an issue arising concerning the correct interpretation of these rules the team captains should endeavour to resolve this. If this is not possible the matter should be referred to the League Manager immediately. The League Manager will decide the issue.

10. The League Manager will be appointed by the Croquet North Annual general meeting, and shall be empowered to resolve any matters in dispute.

Julian Gibson

February, 2026.