

Golf Croquet Rules – Q & A

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Q1. Blue enters the hoop from the wrong side, coming to rest just clear of the plane of the non-playing side (Diagram 2(i) to the Rules). Red promotes Yellow to a position behind the hoop which will allow Yellow to clear Blue in its next turn. As Red is struck, Blue rolls into the jaws of the hoop (Diagram 2 (ii) to the Rules). What should happen?

A1. The position of Blue, clear of the non-playing plane of the hoop, has been agreed by Red playing the next ball in order. Blue should be replaced where it was, clear of the non-playing plane of the hoop, prior to Red's stroke. Rule 6(h) refers.

Q2. The Red, Black and Yellow balls are all nearly touching close to the hoop. Black "plays" by bringing their mallet to the ball, but does not quite touch it. As the player of Yellow, you were observing closely to ensure that a striking fault did not occur. What are your options?

A2. You can, and must, insist that the stroke be played. The stroke may not be deemed to have been played, Rule 6(b), an "air swing" is not a stroke and Black is still the striker, Rule 6(c).

Q3. Blue has made Hoop 3 and is two to three inches through the hoop. At their next turn, Bab stands behind the hoop and plays through it. They make a clean stroke but in bringing their mallet back, and whilst still in their stance, they inadvertently hit the hoop upright and cause Black, which was resting against the other side of the hoop leg, to move. Is this a fault, and if so what type of fault and what is the penalty, if any.

A3. Yes, it is a fault.
At first glance, one would think it is a striking fault because *"A striking fault can only be committed from the time the striker's ball is struck by the mallet until the striker leaves the stance under control."* Rule 13(a). In this case the

striker's ball has been struck and the striker has not yet left his stance. However, the fault of moving a stationary ball which was resting against a hoop leg is not listed among the 14 items which make up the list of striking faults in this Rule.

Instead, it is very clearly and specifically, listed in Rule 12(a) as a non-striking fault: *"A non-striking fault is committed if....a player touches, moves or shakes a stationary ball, withthe...mallet....by hitting a hoop..."*

Therefore, as it is not a striking fault, the stroke on Blue is legal, and Blue and any other balls moved remain where they came to rest. (If Blue, or any other ball, ran Hoop 4, that hoop would count.)

However, for the non-striking fault, the opponent has the option of having Black returned to where it was before the stroke (against the leg of the hoop) or leaving it where it came to rest and the side that caused the non-striking fault loses its next turn, i.e. Black.

Q4 In the same scenario as above, Bab, in playing through the hoop, touches the leg of the hoop with the side of their mallet, causing Black to move, before Blue is struck. Is this a fault; if so, what type and what are the ramifications?

A4 This is a non-striking fault *"...a player...moves a stationary ball, with ...mallet....by hitting a hoop...."* Rule 12(a).

The non-striking fault occurred before Blue was struck and so the penalty of losing the next turn – Rule 12(c)(4) - applies to the turn on Blue. Blue, and any other balls moved, is/are replaced. For the non-striking fault, the opponent (Ray) has the option of leaving Black where it came to rest or having it replaced against the hoop leg. Bab loses their next turn, which is Blue (the stroke they just attempted to play but didn't, due to the non-striking fault).

Q5 The score is 5 all, and all balls are around hoop 11 and in a position to run it. Black successfully runs the hoop and Yellow, in the next turn, without contacting another ball, runs hoop 12, making the score 6 all. Blue then plays to hoop 13. What are Ray's options?

A5 Ray may require that the stroke on Blue be replayed after the provisions of Rule 10(c)(1) are applied. As Blue, Red and Black are all beyond the halfway line from hoop 11 to hoop 12 (which is the line D – E) and assuming that none came to their position as the result of contact with an opponent's ball or an opponent's stroke, they are all offside balls. Ray may now direct that Blue and Black be played from either penalty spot D or E (see Diagram 3 to the Rules) and Bab has lost the right to rule on Red - Rule 10(c)(2). However if, for example, Black in running hoop 11 had "gone in-off" from Red, both Red and Black would have "reached their position as a result of contact with an opponent's ball" and thus not be offside balls. In this case, Ray could direct that the stroke on Blue be replayed after it had been directed to either penalty spot D or E, or indeed, replayed from where it was previously played after Ray had directed that it could be played from where it lay (the latter is unlikely but some of us like to play mind games).