



CROQUET AUSTRALIA

Handicapping Information Sheet

What is the Aim of the Handicapping System?

The system is in place so that players of differing abilities are able to compete on an equal footing against each other.

What Games Do I Record?

All **singles** games that are a part of a club, inter-club, interstate, national or international competition are included on your handicapping Card.

Doubles games are not recorded or used in handicapping calculations.

When Can My Handicap Change?

➤ **Association Croquet – Automatic Changes**

If you are playing in an event that runs over one or more consecutive days your handicap may only change **at the end of the event**.

If you are playing in a **long-running event** (where individual games are played over a number of weeks or months) then it may change **after a single game**.

➤ **Golf Croquet – Automatic Changes**

Your handicap may change **at the end of a single game** whether in a long-running event or not.

➤ **Non-Automatic Changes**

In some situations the system is unable to respond quickly enough to changes in your ability. For example, if you play very few competitions or if your standard is changing quickly. In these cases Club and Tournament Handicappers are empowered to move you to a handicap so that you are able to compete effectively with other players.

Such non-automatic changes take effect **immediately**.

How Many Points Do I Gain/Lose?

When you win (or lose) a game you add (or subtract) a number of index points and end up with a new index.

In **Handicap** play you gain **10 points** when you win a game; and lose 10 when you lose.

In **Level** play the **number of points depends on the handicaps of you and your opponent**. If you defeat a stronger player you gain more than 10 points. If you lose to a stronger player you lose less than 10 points. Your opponent and you will always exchange the same number of index points in a game. Instructions and the number of points exchanged can be read off the table on your Card.

How Do I Know if My Handicap Should Change?

Look at your Card and see if you are on, or have passed, the **trigger point for a handicap different from your current one**. If you have then your handicap changes to that new one (see “*When Can My Handicap Change?*”) and you must have your Card checked and signed off by your Club or Tournament Handicapper.

Example: You are playing in a long-running Association Croquet event (so your handicap may change after each game)

Your handicap is 10, and your current index is 1297

You win a handicap game, and so gain 10 index points

Your index moves to 1307

You have passed the trigger point of 1300 and move to a new handicap of 9

The next week you play another handicap game but are defeated, and so lose 10 index points dropping back to 1297

Your handicap does not change back as you have not as yet reached the trigger point of 1250 which corresponds to a handicap of 10

Are There Limit to Handicaps?

➤ **Association Croquet**

Handicaps range from -3 to 24.

The highest handicap used in competitions is 20.

If you are on a handicap of 20 and your index falls to below 900 you stay on 20 and your index is reset to 900.

➤ **Golf Croquet**

Handicaps range from 0 to 12.

If you are on a handicap of 12 and your index falls below 0 your index is reset to 0.

I Think My Handicap is Wrong!

If you think there is a problem with your handicap talk with your Club Handicapper. They will look at your card to see if you are winning/losing large numbers of games, and by watching your play they will be able to compare your standard with other club members.

Remember we all have good days, and bad days, so think about your play over longer periods before concluding that your handicap is “wrong”.

How Can I Get More Information?

Your point of contact for all handicapping matters is your **Club Handicapper**. They will be able to help you with your Card, check it for you, and answer general questions about the system and handicapping in general. If they are unsure they will speak with their **State Handicapper** who may have more experience with handicapping. State Handicappers work closely with the Croquet Australia **National Handicapper**.

The Croquet Australia web site has copies of the Handicapping Regulations and the Cards available at: <http://www.croquet-australia.com.au/Handicapping/>