



Stroke Play: Lesson Crib

Usage

Keep as a quick-reference in your pocket (and adapt to suit your style).

Roquets - Know What You Can Achieve

- Check stance, grip, swing.
- Importance of: stalking, swinging style, keeping head down, hitting ball in the middle.
- Practice:
 - Roquet balls close together - count percentage of hits per 10 attempts.
 - Move further apart - at what distance do you lose 100% hitting?
- Don't take short roquets for granted.

Drive

- Establish your personal ratio for drive shot.
- This is the basis of all croquet shots and the most frequently used because it's the most accurate.
- Place the striker's ball behind the croqueted ball the lines of centre pointing at the target. Hit as for a single ball.
- Practice in pairs measuring ratio over different strengths of hitting.
- Laws: 10, 11, 12, ball off court, replacing, etc.

Split Croquet Shots: Take Offs

- Each ball goes to a predetermined position.
- Set up balls so the 'arrow' points to the target.
- Practice in pairs for ease of ball retrieval - aiming at specific point e.g. H1.
- Usefulness of the thick take off.

Hoop Running

- Understand risk factors.
- Running a straight hoop:
 - Check stalking, aim, force of shot, angle of mallet.
- Running an angled hoop:
 - Check aim, range of possible angles, power, spin essential.
- Practice controlled hoop running.
- Know how well you can control straight and angled hoops.
- Laws: 28 (7/9) double-hit/"crush"/push, (note 4)

Rolls

- Full-Roll
 - Both balls should travel more or less equal distances.
 - Hands should be at the bottom of the shaft.
- Half-Roll
 - Striker's ball should travel half the distance of the croqueted ball (check).
 - The vertical angle at which the striker's ball is hit determines how far it goes.
 - Lower hand should be half-way down mallet shaft.
- Move feet forward, hands down the mallet shaft, tilting the mallet forward to the desired place.
- Practice rolling from H1 to H5.

Other Split Croquet Shots

- As for roll but the angle the mallet makes with the croqueted ball determines the direction of the striker's ball.
- Aim at a spot half way between where you want the two balls to go.
- Important: accuracy especially on longer shots.
- Choose distant aiming points.

- Note direction of movement of the croqueted ball and the distance it travels.
- Laws 28 (14) - failing to move croqueted ball.

Hoop Approaches

- Understand that split croquet strokes are inherently less accurate than a drive.
- Be capable of running a hoop from any pioneer position.
- Check line up for different pioneer positions.
- Get striker's ball 30 - 40 cm in front of hoop and croqueted ball 2m to the front and side - explain why.
- Practice at hoops trying simple shots first until confident.
- Law 28 - all faults.

- Guard against "shepherding" (27.7).
- Note effects of drive shots / wide angle, etc.
- Practice to specific points: At H4 go to H5 & H6; At H1 go to H2 & H3.

Straight Rush

- Promotes croqueted ball to more advantageous position - be able to rush ball to specific point.
- As for single ball shot - must strike the ball at the bottom of the swing or slightly on the way up so it skids along the ground.
- If struck on the way down it may jump.
- NB: we promote because striker's ball will be ball-in-hand - not to be used for shots that need accuracy, e.g. placing a pioneer.
- Practice opposite partner for ease of ball return.
- Balls 30cm apart.
- Rush to specific points at different lengths.

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