



Under 21s  
Golf Croquet  
European  
Championship  
2023 | LATVIA

Under  
21s

Golf  
croquet

European  
Championship  
2023





The World Croquet Federation (WCF) is delighted to return to Latvia for this event. The Ikšķile Croquet Club was developed with the help of a grant from the WCF. Enabling events such as this to be held in new countries was a key objective of that investment. As well as the Ikšķile club we are also grateful to the Sigulda club for also allowing their lawn to be used for this event. I would like to thank the members of both clubs and

the Latvian Federation for their support and efforts to ensure that the event is a complete success.

This is the first European under 21 Championship and it is fantastic to see so many young players assembled from around Europe, particularly the large visiting group from Czechia. I hope that you all enjoy the Latvian hospitality, make many new friends, are encouraged to maintain your interest in the sport and that we will see you all at many more of our events in the future. It is sure to be a highly competitive event, I hope that you all play well.

However you are involved with the event I wish you an enjoyable four days. Enjoy the croquet!

Ian BurrIDGE  
President of the World Croquet Federation



Latvian Croquet Federation along with the two croquet clubs in Ikšķile and Sigulda are proud and excited to host the inaugural Under 21 European Championship. Financial contribution to this event by the Latvian government confirms that not only the big olympic sports deserve support. We believe this event will once again confirm Latvia firmly on the map of European croquet.

From the perspective of the European Regional Committee, one of its goals is to broaden and diversify the scope of international tournaments, so that the chance to play croquet internationally is not limited only to the top-level players of each country. To sustain and develop a sport, one needs to steadily attract and involve young people. The number of players at this Under 21 Championship confirms that future of croquet is in good hands. Latvia is among the countries in Europe that have a strong group of young croquet players, so it is only natural that the first European Under 21 event takes place in Latvia.

I wish everybody pleasant weather, exciting matches on the lawns, and lots of fun and new friends besides the lawns!

Roberts Stafeckis  
Chairman of the European Regional Committee of WCF  
President of the Latvian Croquet Federation

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## History of croquet in Latvia



Croquet development in Latvia started back in 2009 with the first public presentations and establishment of two croquet clubs. Soon after that, Latvia was accepted as a member of World Croquet Federation, and Stephen Mulliner visited Latvia with a coaching session in 2011. Already next year, Latvia put up a team to participate at the GC World Team Championship in 2012 in Cairo.

A 10 year old story about croquet in Latvia from the Croquetworld.com edition - this is how it all started.



Since 2012 every year the Latvian Federation has organised an international tournament - Golf Croquet Baltic Open. During the years, players from 12 different foreign countries have already enjoyed the hospitality of the Latvian hosts.

Nowadays there are around 70 players in Latvia that are included in the WCF Golf Croquet Grading System.

## More information about Latvia



Discover Latvia



An entertaining video about Riga - Rap guide from A to Z



Video about beautiful Latvia



Former world champion Stephen Mulliner from England also celebrated his birthday at the Baltic Open 10th anniversary tournament in 2022. Mulliner won the tournament, giving himself a great birthday present. Steve Leonard from England took 2nd place and Janis Steins from Latvia - 3rd place.





## Women's European Golf Croquet Championship

The first ever Women's European Golf Croquet Championship took place in Latvia at the beginning of July 2022. The games were played on a total of 4 croquet lawn in Ikšķīle croquet club (IKK) in Ikšķīle and SIG-LIG croquet club in Sigulda. 28 players of the championship represented 7 countries – England, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

In the 4-day tournament, Begoña Elzaburu from Spain became the first women's European champion in GC croquet. The Spaniard Paz Gonzalez De Aguilar won the 2nd place and the Latvian athlete Silvija Freimane won the 3rd place.

Another two young Latvian players, Sabine Martinsone and Tania Varsa, won the Shield and Plate trophies respectively, and the top seeded Jane Morrison, from Ireland, won the Bowl.





## Ikšķile Croquet Club

Ikšķile is a small suburban town 30 km eastwards from downtown Riga, on the shore of Daugava river.

With the expanding interest in croquet, Ikšķile Croquet Club is a continuation of the Ogre Croquet Club, which has been operating since 2009, and was one of the founders of the Latvian Croquet Federation.

In 2020, Latvian Croquet Federation received a grant from the WCF to develop a new 3-lawn croquet facility in Ikšķile that was inaugurated in June 2021. The same year the Ikšķile Club hosted the traditional international croquet tournament Baltic Open with 24 players from 7 countries.

Since then anyone interested can try croquet on the top quality lawns with professional equipment.

The brand new Ikšķile Croquet Club offers:

- 3 very good full size lawns with croquet equipment,
- 2 club houses with all facilities for tournaments and corporate events,
- Beautiful landscape, a nearby hotel, several good restaurants.



More about Ikšķile Croquet Club



## Sigulda Croquet Club SIG-LIG

Sigulda town is one of the top tourist attractions in Latvia, famous for its beautiful scenery along Gauja river and old castles.



[tourism.sigulda.lv/en/](http://tourism.sigulda.lv/en/)

The croquet club SIG-LIG was founded in 2010 and is located in Sigulda, offering a play on one croquet lawn that meets all requirements. The international tournament "Baltic Open" took place on this lawn in 2019 – 2022, as well as 1st European women GC championship in 2022. Croquet club cooperates with Sigulda chess club and organizes "Sigulda Duel" – opponents play rapid chess game and 7-hoop GC game.

Players and fans can take a seat on the sunny terrace, play a chess game or rest in a cosy club venue on the 1st floor of the building.



More about Club SIG-LIG

## Programme of the U21 European GC Championship 2023

### 16th August:

3pm - 6pm

Practice at Ikšķīle Croquet Club

6pm

A formal opening ceremony and players briefing at Ikšķīle Croquet Club

### 17th August:

10am-...

Block Stage at Ikšķīle Croquet Club and Sigulda Croquet Club

### 18th August:

10am-...

Block Stage, Play-offs, Plate at Ikšķīle Croquet Club and Sigulda Croquet Club

### 19th August:

9am-...

KO Round 1, quarter-finals, Shield, Plate at Ikšķīle Croquet Club and Sigulda Croquet Club

7pm

Championship barbecue dinner at Ikšķīle Croquet Club

### 20th August:

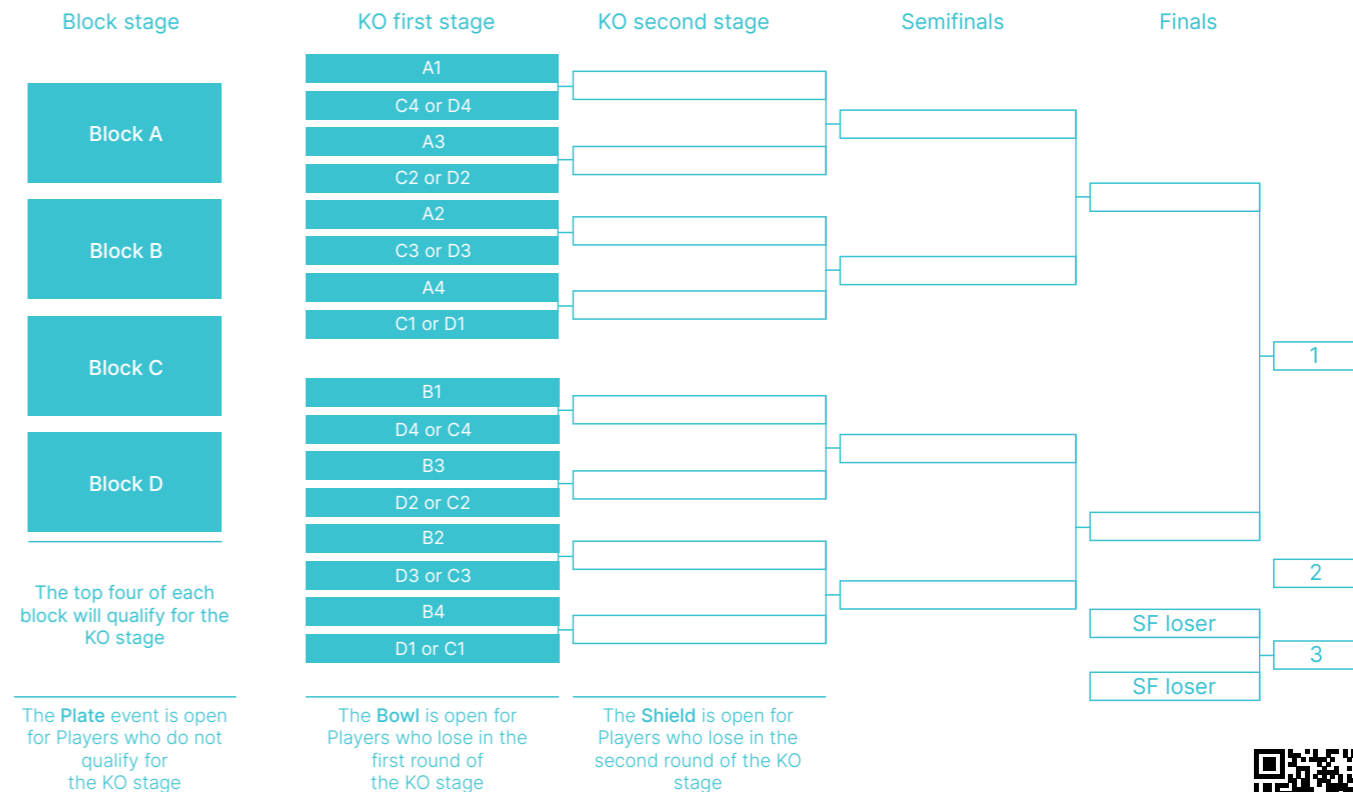
9am-...

Semi-finals, Finals, Bowl, Plate at Ikšķīle Croquet Club

After finals

Awards ceremony at Ikšķīle Croquet Club

## Championship stage



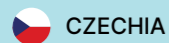
Results of the games will be available here in real time



## Participants



JAKUB PLACHY



CZECHIA

- How did you start playing croquet?
- What do you like to do in your free time apart from playing croquet?
- Name of a song that cheers you up?
- Who is your favourite character from the movies?
- Your favourite influencer?
- Your favourite cartoon from your childhood?

- With my parents and friends
- Playing the guitar and PC games
- Flyers - BRADIO
- Star Lord
- MenT
- Phenias a Ferb



JAN DOLEJS

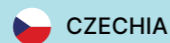


CZECHIA

- In School
- Basketball
- New Tank - Playboi Carti
- Optimus Prime
- Kyrie Irving
- Transformers



JAN HRUSKA

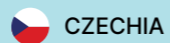


CZECHIA

- At school
- Golf, skying, cycling
- Hajný je lesa pán
- Horror
- Kovy
- SpongeBob SquarePants



JOSEF RAKOSNIK

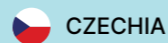


CZECHIA

- On the backyard of our school in Prague at age of 13 y.o. with my math teacher, who is now coming with me as a coach
- Playing badminton
- Sultans of swing - Dire Straits
- Hudson Hornet from Cars
- Dejwizak - follow us on youtube
- Cars



NICOLE KLOIBEROVA

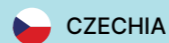


CZECHIA

- In the school
- Computers, coding
- Bohemian Rhapsody
- Vin Diesel
- None
- The Simpsons



ONDREJ SIMAICHL

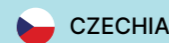


CZECHIA

- In the school
- Computers, coding
- Bohemian Rhapsody
- Vin Diesel
- None
- The Simpsons



VIKTOR KLOIBER

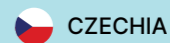


CZECHIA

- With elementary school team
- Other sports (athletics), playing video games
- Wake me up
- Spiderman
- Stejk (CZ)
- Avatar: The Last Airbender



VOJTCH DUSEK

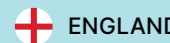


CZECHIA

- With elementary school team
- Other sports (athletics), playing video games
- Wake me up
- Spiderman
- Stejk (CZ)
- Avatar: The Last Airbender



ALBIE WILLETT

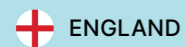


ENGLAND

- At school. Getting taught by Jarod Coutts
- I play for my local volleyball team
- Madness- baggy trousers
- Captain jack sparrow
- Cycling gk
- Simpsons



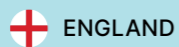
ASTON WADE



ENGLAND



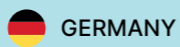
EDWARD PATEL



ENGLAND



MATHILDA SAEWERT



GERMANY



ALEKSANDRS ABOLINS



LATVIA



ENIJA USANE



LATVIA



IVO BOZEVNIEKS



LATVIA



KRISTERS RUDZITIS



LATVIA



MADARS REISNERS



LATVIA



MIKELIS LEIDUMS



LATVIA

- How did you start playing croquet?
- What do you like to do in your free time apart from playing croquet?
- Name of a song that cheers you up?
- Who is your favourite character from the movies?
- Your favourite influencer?
- Your favourite cartoon from your childhood?

- Association Croquet at the age of 13 during the first year at Winchester College, and Golf Croquet in the summer of 2020
- Playing squash, golf, snooker and chess
- Life is a Highway - Rascal Flatts
- Chuck Bass
- Greta Thunberg
- Scooby Doo

- Lots of people in my family play croquet
- Hockey, sailing, minecraft, cello, piano
- Rondo
- Bilbo Baggins
- SB737
- Danger Mouse

- My father has played croquet since I was 8 years old and my family and I have almost always accompanied him to his tournaments. And when I was bored I would take a mallet and play on a free lawn
- I like to watch tennis and listen to music
- Topline by Stray Kids, Tiger JK
- Captain Jack Sparrow from Pirates of the Caribbean
- Bianca Ingresso
- Tom and Jerry

- With family
- Golf and volleyball
- Elevate
- Captain Jack Sparrow
- None
- Ben10

- I started playing croquet, because all of my family plays it, and you could basically say I grew up on the croquet field
- I like to play a guitar and go out with my friends and make some good memories
- Danza Kuduro (From "Fast and Furious 5")
- Natasha Romanoff (Black Widow)
- None
- Cars

- I started by watching my parents play
- Reading books, learning new skills
- Jurmala - A-Eiropa
- Harvey Specter from "Suits"
- Iman Gadzhi
- Tom & Jerry

- I found out about the possibility of playing croquet and decided to give it a try
- I like playing in the theatre
- None
- None
- My family
- Teletubbies

- I liked watching others play
- Play basketball
- Push up
- Superman
- Mr.Beast
- Ben10

- When my grandfather bought a croquet play set
- Playing volleyball, chess, videogames
- Bermudu divsturis - Ballejam negulam
- Harry Potter
- Pipars
- Masha&Bear



NILS REISNERS



LATVIA



TOMS LEIDUMS



LATVIA



ALEXANDRE DENIZOT



SPAIN



ALFONSO MORALES



SPAIN



EDUARDO NUNEZ



SPAIN



INIGO MORENES



SPAIN

- How did you start playing croquet?
- What do you like to do in your free time apart from playing croquet?
- Name of a song that cheers you up?
- Who is your favourite character from the movies?
- Your favourite influencer?
- Your favourite cartoon from your childhood?

- My whole family started playing together when my uncle introduced us with croquet
- I quite like playing basketball and hanging out with friends, but when I am alone I mostly listen to music or watch some shows or movies
- Get shaky- KXXMA
- I don't have any
- There are a lot of favorites, but I am quite a fan of KSI
- I really can't choose, there were too many that I loved, so let's just say Tom & Jerry

- My grandfather got me into playing croquet in our backyard
- I go outside, socialize with people and hang out with friends at pubs
- Metro Boomin - Too Many Nights
- Walter White
- Joe Rogan
- Family guy

- My mother strated
- Playing different sports such as football, pin pong, padel and basketball
- A song from Bad Bunny
- Will Smith
- Cristiano Ronaldo
- Didn't watch cartoon when I was younger

- Because my parents play
- Sports: golf, hunting, skying, padle
- Viva la vida
- Antonio Recio
- xBuyer
- Mortadelo y Filemón

- My father plays
- Anything
- Viva La Vida - Coldplay
- Comedy
- YoSoyPlex
- Mickey Mouse

- By my mother
- Tourism in Riga
- These days
- El profesor (money heist)
- Ibai/Fabrizio Romano
- Spongebob

## The basics of golf croquet

Golf Croquet is the simpler form of croquet that forms the basis of many people's experience of the popular garden game.

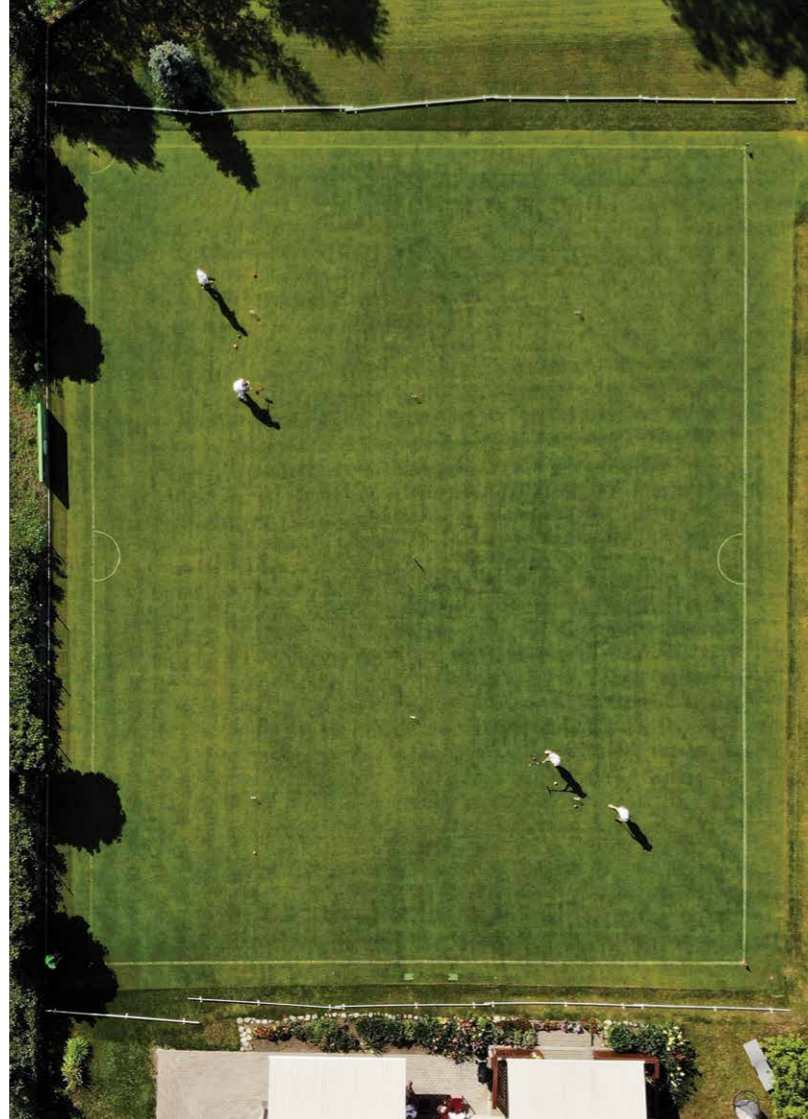
The two opposing sides each have two balls: Blue and Black against Red and Yellow. The sides may have one or two players (i. e. singles or doubles). Each side plays alternately in rotation: blue, red, black, yellow, as shown by the sequence of colours from the top of the centre peg and each tries to be the first to score the next hoop.

Each turn consists of one stroke only. To start the game, a coin is tossed. The winner of the toss may choose the colour of the balls, and blue always starts. The opening strokes are played from within one yard of Corner IV (the corner nearest hoop 4).

To score a point, a ball must run completely through the hoop in the correct direction. It may run the hoop in more than one turn, or be knocked through by another ball. If a ball should go through two hoops in order in the same stroke, both points are scored.

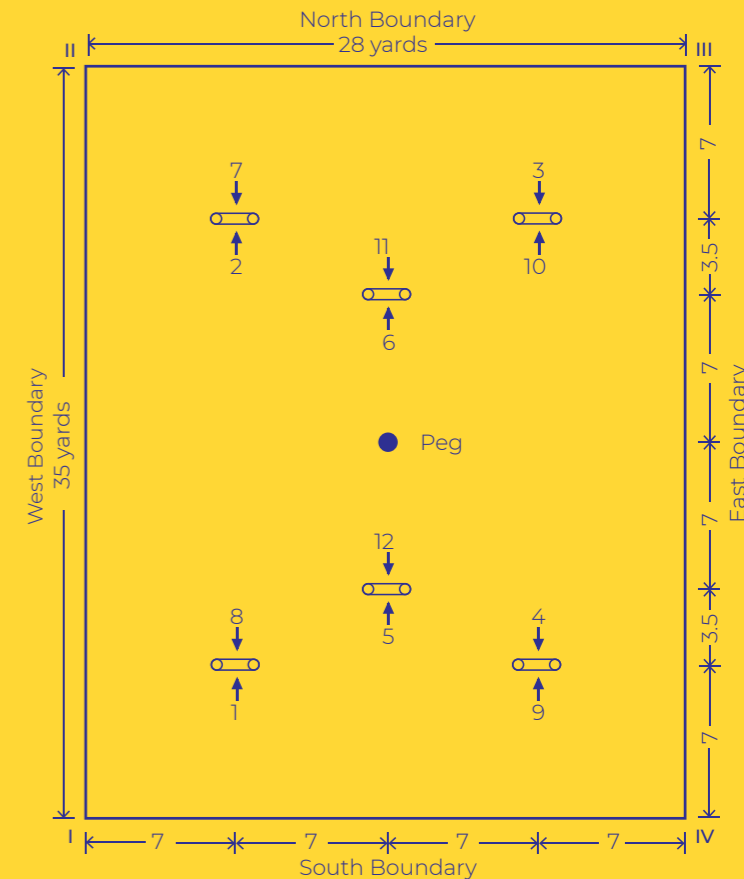
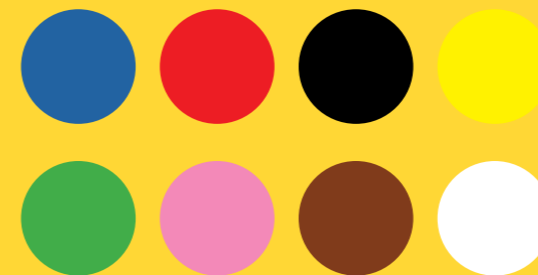
The side that first gets a ball through hoop 1 scores that point and then all balls go for the next hoop in order (i.e. hoop 2). All players always contest the same hoop. The hoops are run in order from 1 to 12.

The winner is the first to reach 7 points. A deciding hoop or "golden hoop" (hoop 3 again) is run if the scores are equal after 12 hoops, making 13 in all.




## The standard court

### Order of Play



The corners are depicted by Roman numerals.



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Izglītības un zinātnes  
ministrija



**Balcia**  
insurance

**LSFP**  
LATVIJAS SPORTA FEDERĀCIJU PADOME

**Saukalne S**  
MINERĀLIE MATERIĀLI

 **VIRŠI**

**VENDEN**

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