

Gateball Doubles Rules

Gateball Doubles has become a very popular variation for an additional competition in Gateball tournaments. All Doubles games shall be played in accordance with these additional rules.

For players with a reasonable understanding of Gateball rules and strategies, the game of Doubles is fast moving and an opportunity to test strategies and to practice sparks and strokes.

In Doubles, the two players on each team play alternate balls during the game (including during a tiebreak). Either player may start their team. Alternate play continues irrespective of any Agari balls.

Players and substitution

A Doubles pairing shall consist of two players only. The Doubles pairing cannot be captained by a third person nor can it receive advice from spectators. Substitution is not permitted.

Playing out of sequence

If a player plays two consecutive balls (for example, 5 and 7), then this shall be declared a foul, the ball played as a foul (in this example, 7) and any other balls moved as result of the foul are placed where they were before the stroke, and that player loses the right as stroker. If, however, the foul is not discovered prior to the next ball being called (in this example, 8), the foul is ignored, and the new alternate sequence continues.

Reorders are encouraged to be particularly vigilant in monitoring the playing sequence.

The referee

For competitive games, a minimum requirement is a Chief Referee and Recorder.

Game scoring

For competitive play, a Recorder and scoreboard are essential. The Recorder should also time the match and call a time warning at 15, 10 and 5 minutes left to play.

For social games without a Referee or Recorder, to keep score, both players should wear wrist scoring-calculators.

Out-balls

If the game is being played without a Linesman, the waiting players are responsible for retrieving out-balls and placing them 10cm from the court boundary with the ball number facing towards the court.

Players on the court

Waiting players may walk onto or across the court provided that such action does not interfere with the stroker's play. Waiting players shall not enter the court to provide advice to the stroker (such as pointing to a spot on the court or guiding partner's aim for a spark).

Other Doubles rules

All other Gateball rules, as published in the current version of the 'Official Gateball Rules' by the World Gateball Union, apply to Doubles.