

Why do we bother to implement the Double Tap Rule? Why is it important?

The basic rule of so many other sports is that the striker is only allowed to use the implement (Club, Mallet, stick, etc.) and hit / strike / poke / prod / dong / bash the ball only ONCE.

Likewise the action is to be a clean clear contact and is not to be a “push” (the implement is not to maintain contact and push the ball). But to get back to the main basic subject.

When several balls are in close proximity to each other it is easy for a strong person to mindlessly bash the striker ball into some or all the other balls and scatter them to the far corners of the court.

Such a primitive action lacks skill and elegance.

“Croquet is intended to be a combination of decision making in conjunction with skill”

If Double Taps (DT's) were allowed the skill element is negated. [Actually, the DT's cause people to have little skill control at all. ☺]

One of the wonderful elements of Croquet is the opportunity for both men and women to compete equally, the only other sport that allows this is equestrian events.

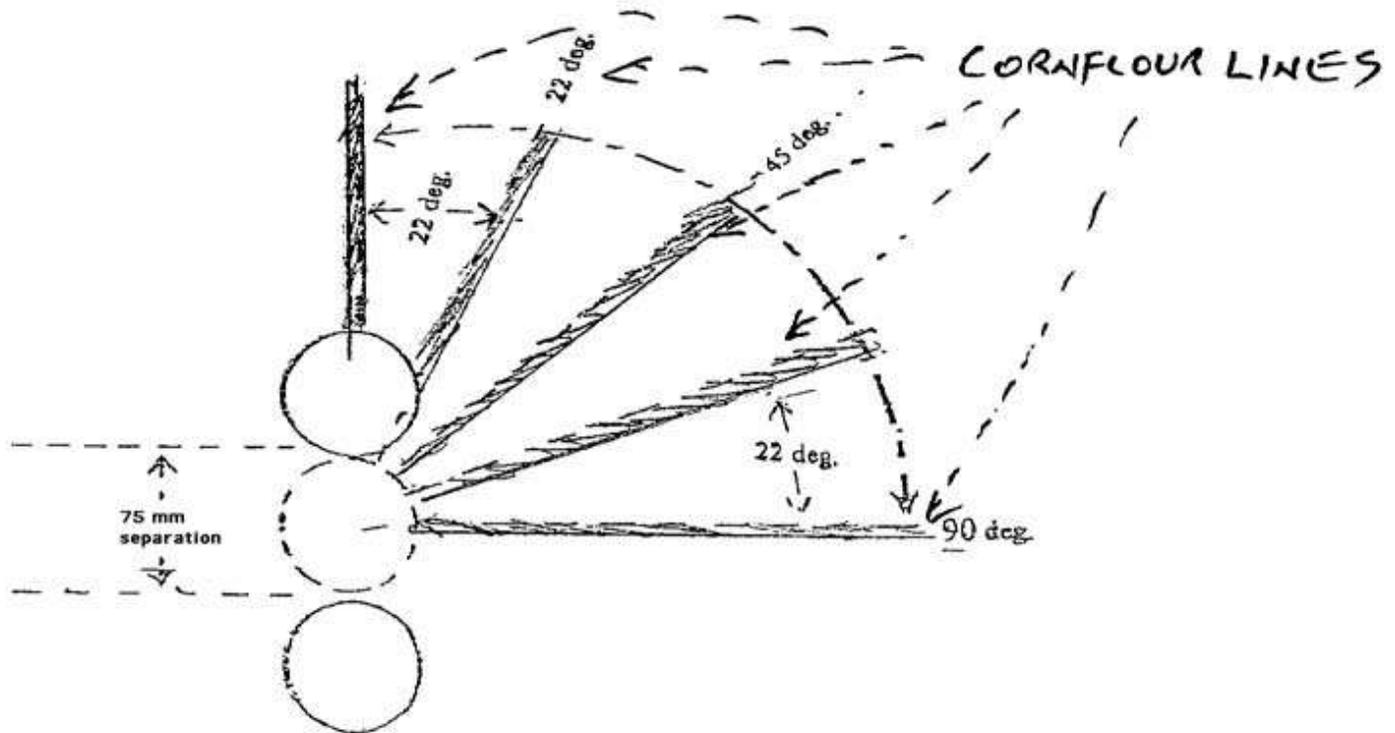
This is why making a DT a fault, requires otherwise strong humans to use their brains (not their brawn) to make decisions that results in the elegant and complex manoeuvres that make this game so interesting, enjoyable and skillful.

How can a player and referee perceive that a DT occurs?

Basically it requires a little training by a competent coach to explain the action/ reaction of the balls after the striker ball is struck. A reasonably skilled observer can detect a DT from observing the initial distance separating two balls and the angle of departure after the stroke.

Refer to the charts in the *Golf Croquet Referees Manual*, Section GC: B, Topic 9, Page 9, is a good example of a test method.

http://www.croquet-australia.com.au/Refereeing/GC_Ref_Manual/index.html



The basic solution how to avoid double tapping a close ball is to 'hit away' or strike your ball and faintly 'snick' the target ball. The observable result is the two balls departing at close to a 90 degree angle separation.

More on this in later issues