

Aussie Gateball

a great way to introduce Gateball to new players

You may have played Aussie Croquet, now try *Aussie Gateball*!

Aussie Gateball uses essentially the same rules as Aussie Croquet:

- No sparking (croquet strokes)
- After a touch (roquet), one continuation stroke
- After a gate (hoop), one continuation stroke
- No 'gate and touch' which give two continuation strokes.

All the other Gateball rules apply which are in summary:

- Make Gate 1 in a single stroke from the starting area (Gate 1 can be moved closer to the starting area if the players are new to mallet sports)
- An out-ball can only play into the court; it cannot touch another ball or make a gate
- Players play in order of numbered balls, strokes can take no longer than 10 seconds and the game's duration is 30 minutes.

Aussie Gateball is an excellent game when introducing players, especially children, to Gateball.

For new players, try the following programme:

- One ball break to the goal-pole (peg), counting the number of strokes (it's possible with 4 but a score of 5 is excellent and 6 is very good)
- Introduce and play *Aussie Gateball*
- Then allow players who touch a ball to place the touched ball wherever they would wish to place it using a spark. They should do this simply by lifting the touched ball and placing it in the desired position
- After the new players have completed a few games of *Aussie Gateball*, then introduce conventional sparking and complete Gateball.

New players generally respond to this more gradual introduction to Gateball.