



UNITED STATES CROQUET ASSOCIATION

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NINE-WICKET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HEADS NORTH

The USCA's Nine-Wicket National Championship moves to Harleysville, Pennsylvania after a four-year stint in the Midwest

The USCA successfully brought back the Nine-Wicket National Championship in 2008 with an event in Kansas City. Nine-Wicket Nationals enjoyed a four-year stay in the heart of the country and now the success of the backyard style version of the sport has led the USCA to rotate the event to Harleysville, Pennsylvania to attract the northeastern contingent of top croquet players looking to enjoy the original American game. It will be a three-day battle held June 1-3 at the Mennonite Heritage Center and is expected to host 25 to 30 players ranging from elite to beginner level in two different divisions.

The nine-wicket tournament offers rules similar to the family backyard game while playing on the old double-diamond layout that should be familiar to casual players. Along those lines, the USCA is offering a beginner's "first flight" division with a doubles and singles tournament that should appeal to novice and intermediate players.

The championship level division will attract six-wicket players that generally play croquet on lightning fast "putting green" style croquet courts, but many of these players seem to enjoy the annual competition for the "King of Backyard Croquet" title. **Two-time singles champion George Cochran** will be on hand looking to secure an unprecedented third title. Part of the appeal of the nine-wicket game lies in the unpredictable long grass surface which tends to produce more back and forth action and results in a more entertaining game for both players and fans.

The general format will be singles play on Friday, doubles play on Saturday and the doubles championship playoff on Sunday morning.

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Additional Resources:

USCA Website: www.croquetamerica.com

Nine-Wicket Website: www.9wicketcroquet.com

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