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The **United States Croquet Association (USCA)** was formed in 1977 and pioneered the growth of the sport in America. It is the sport's official National Governing Body. The USCA is a founding member of the **World Croquet Federation (WCF)**, the governing body that establishes the rules and maintains croquet rankings for both Golf Croquet (GC) and Association Rules Croquet (AR), but sometimes referred to as International Rules). The USCA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that promotes the awareness, development and enjoyment of croquet in America. It provides resources and governance for the sport at all levels. It is a membership organization, with about 300 clubs and 4,000 members. It has an elected board of Officers and Directors (representative of the six regions).

The USCA stages National Championships in each version of the game and sanctions hundreds of tournaments (local, regional, national and international) each year. It provides handicapping, ranking services, instruction and referee certifications. Through its many volunteer committees, it provides assistance, guidance and resources for all facets of the sport.

In addition to managing all forms of the sport in the US, the USCA establishes the official rules for two of the four most popular forms of the sport: American 9-Wicket, sometimes referred to as backyard croquet, and American Six-Wicket Croquet, sometimes referred to as just 6-wicket and sometime abbreviated as AR-6W. It also collaborates with the WCF and other international governing bodies on changes and updates to Golf Croquet and Association Rules Croquet.

The Croquet Foundation of America (CFA), formed in 1979, is also a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit sports organization whose broad mission, like the USCA, is to promote and develop the sport – but in different ways. The CFA was

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originally formed as a fundraising arm of the USCA, as the USCA did not originally have not-for-profit status. The CFA originally paid for touring instructors, publications, and generally promoted the sport. The CFA's focus changed radically when it committed to build and operate the National Croquet Center (NCC) in about 1999.

The CFA is not a membership organization. It is managed by a self-electing Board and an Executive Committee. It owns and operates the NCC. The CFA rents court space at the NCC to the USCA; to other nearby clubs as overflow for their club tournaments; and to distant clubs who wish to come to the Center for an outing or school during the winter season. It also provides day rates for NCC's lawns (subject to availability) for individuals or groups who may wish to use the facilities during a short visit.

The CFA owns and operates the world's largest croquet **Pro Shop**. It manages the **US Croquet Hall of Fame Induction & Gala** and the **National Croquet Museum** at the NCC (soon to be online, as well).

The CFA runs three, open croquet tournaments for fundraising and promotion of the both the sport and the NCC: **The Steuber Classic** for American 6-Wicket & Golf Croquet; the "**Snowbirds versus Flamingos**" Golf Croquet challenge, and the Palm Beach County **Golf Croquet Summer League** for players from any club, as well as non-club members, and even non-croquet players, to introduce the local community to the sport. All of these are "open" tournaments. The CFA also provides free golf-croquet lessons and a game to the general public on Saturday mornings at 10:00, by appointment.

As a major factor in its role of promoting the sport, the NCC rents space to corporate, government, not-for-profit, and

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private individuals for any occasion, usually accompanied by instruction in playing “golf” croquet. Instruction is provided by volunteers from the resident National Croquet Club. This gives very broad, positive exposure and promotion to the sport. It often results in new players joining their local club, in addition to the revenue it provides to support the NCC.

In support of its community, the CFA rents event space to any not-for-profit organization at a substantial discount, including hosting some events for free. This also serves to broaden the exposure of the sport to the general public.

As another important part of its commitment to the community, the **CFA** sponsors numerous croquet-related charitable activities such as the **Palm Beach County Special Olympics Croquet Club** (exclusively at the NCC), **Boys & Girls Clubs, Florida Senior Games, Veterans programs, College programs, etc.**

The **CFA** shares its space, facilities and staff at the **NCC**, for a negotiated fee, with the **National Croquet Club** – the largest croquet club in the US, now approaching 500 members in various categories. **Please note: The National Croquet Club is not to be referred to as the NCC.**

During any major power-outage emergency, such as in the aftermath of a major hurricane, the **NCC and its caterer** act as a **Red Cross** feeding station.

Sandy James Fine Food and Productions, Inc. (“Sandy James”) leases space at the **NCC** for its operations. At the NCC, it provides exclusive, in-house catering for the **USCA, the National Croquet Club, the CFA**, and for all visitors and events on property. They are one of the highest-rated caterers in all of Palm Beach and nearby counties. James Bartle is its owner. The CFA receives a

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portion of all on-site food and beverage sales, including outside events, as part of its rent.

Relevant websites you should bookmark or add to your browser's reading list include: **www.NationalCroquetClub.com** (this website, belonging to the Club resident at the NCC); **www.CroquetAmerica.com** (USCA) for all things croquet; **www.CroquetNational.com** (CFA website – oriented toward the NCC's operations, its superb event capabilities, and the Pro Shop); **www.CFACroquet.org** (covers the croquet-related charitable activities of the CFA at the NCC, **www.SandyJames.net** (website of our excellent resident caterer), and coming soon, an exciting online **Croquet Museum** website.

Other useful websites of interest are **www.croquetscores.com** (the real-time results of US and all registered worldwide croquet matches); **www.CroquetWorld.com** (national and international croquet news); and **www.WorldCroquet.org** (Latest news – World Croquet Federation).

You're now an expert! Perhaps you should file this where you can send to others when they ask, "What's the difference between...?"

David McCoy, Chairman

Croquet Foundation of America, Inc.