



Gateball Tactics

An Introduction

Süd-Eifel Krocket und Gateball Freunde
<http://johnswabey.wix.com/sued-eifel-schlaeger>

3 main phases of each game:

- The start (roughly, the first 2 rounds of play)
- Mid-phase
- End-phase (roughly, the final 5-10 minutes)

In all phases, it is vital to judge the speed of the court, to be able to position your ball well

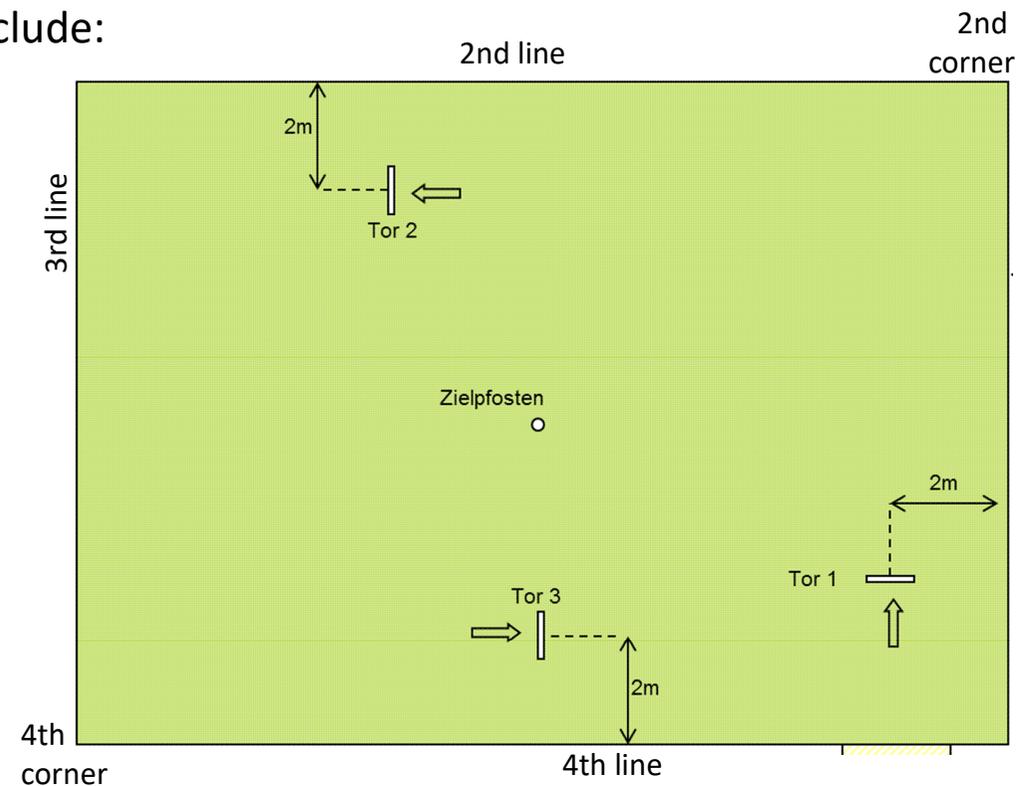
Suggested practice routines for judging distance / speed include:

Stroke:

- From the 4th line to the height of the Goalpole
- From the 4th line to the height of Gate 2
- From the 4th line to just stay inside the 2nd line
- From the 4th corner to the 2nd corner

Spark:

- All of the above, plus:
- From the 3rd line to in front of Gate 2
- From in front of any Gate to just stay inside the nearest line



Look for gaps in opponent's sequence

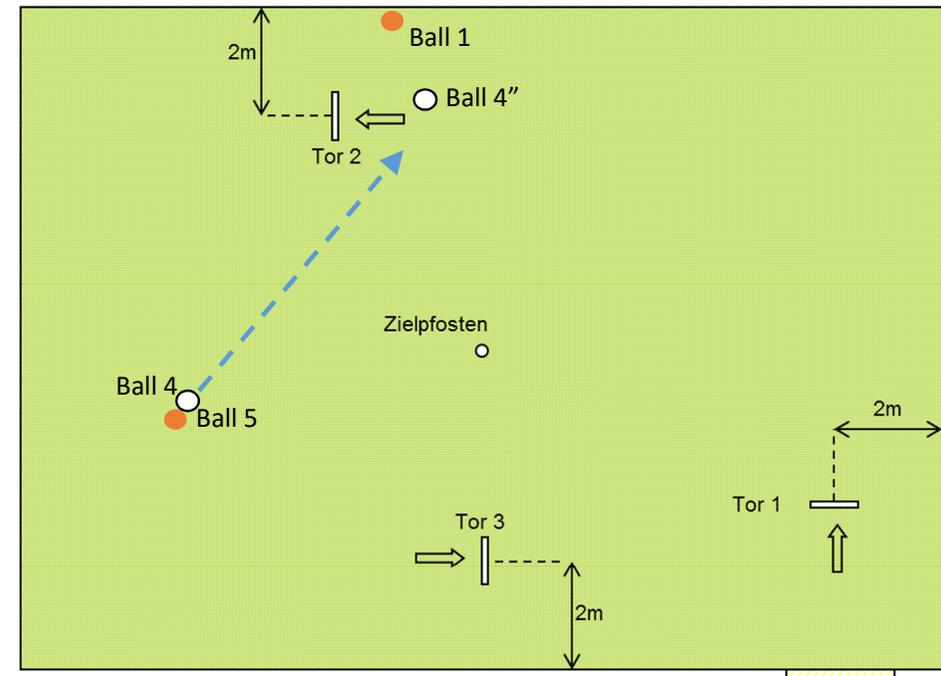
If all your Red balls have passed Gate 1, but White has only succeeded with 2, 6, 8 & 10, then ball 3 could spark 5 across to where 6 is waiting, as 5 plays before 6

Similarly, look for which of your opponent's balls are currently Out and Spark to attack. For example, if 3 & 5 are together while 4 is Out, 3 could Spark 5 to an attacking position in the court without any fear of interference by 4.

Sparking opponent out ?

When you Touch an opponent's ball, you don't always need to Spark it out of court. It can be useful to one of your team-mates who is due to play just beforehand.

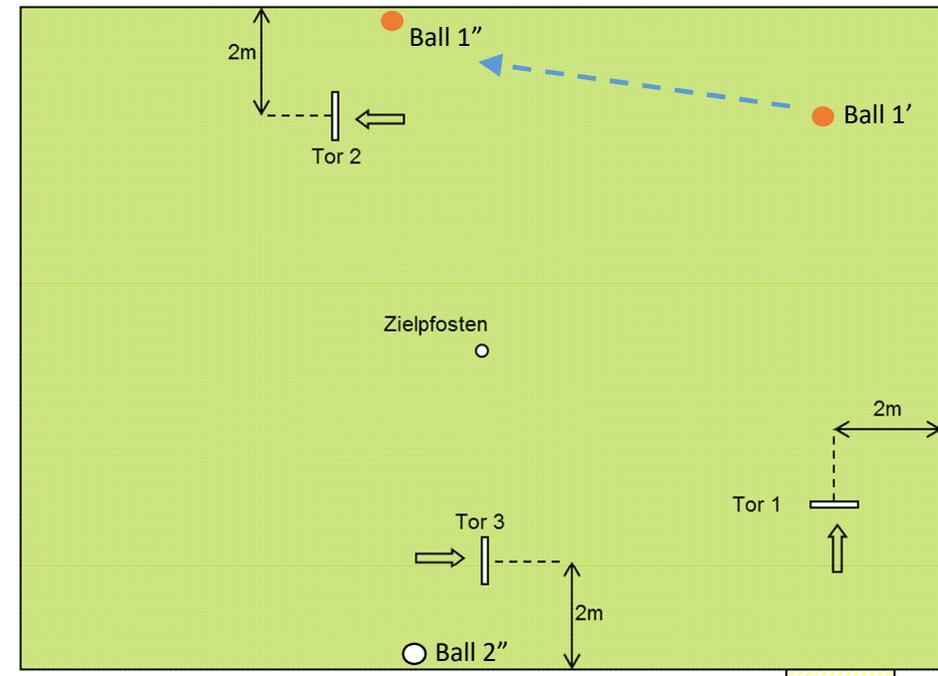
- Example here: Ball 5 Touches Ball 4 but, instead of sending 4 out of court, Ball 5 can Spark Ball 4 near to Gate 2, ready to help Ball 1 (who always plays before 4)



THE START

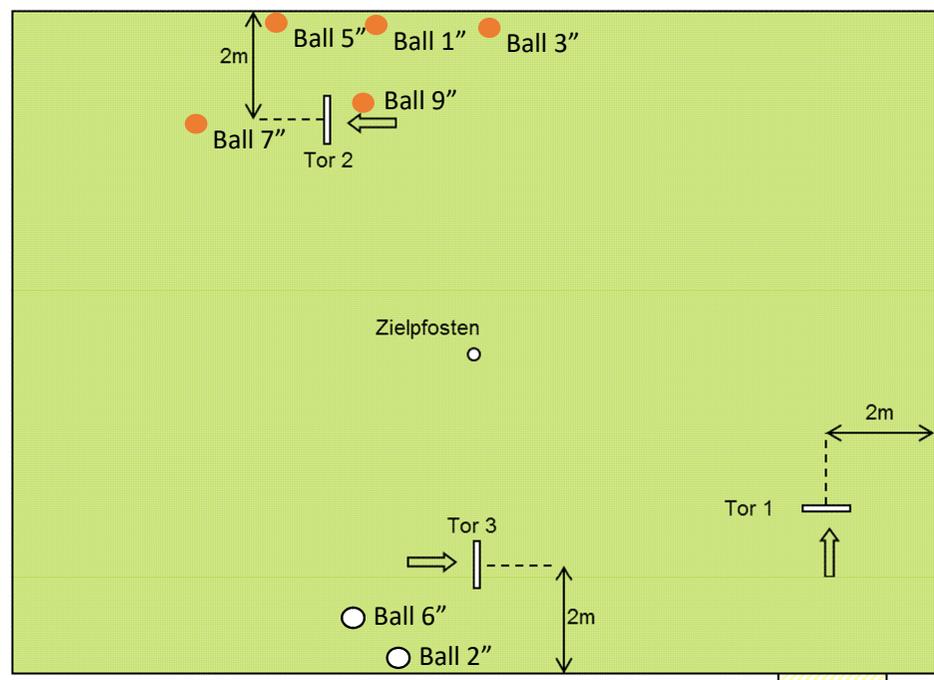
- The team winning the toss and choosing to play first will normally aim to approach and defend Gate 2
- Run Gate 1 as far as possible without going out, so as to make it easier to get close to the line beside Gate 2 without going out
 - It is hard to Touch another ball lying close to the line without one or other ball going out = end of turn

- The following team either attack Gate 2 if it is poorly defended or play near to, and defend, Gate 3



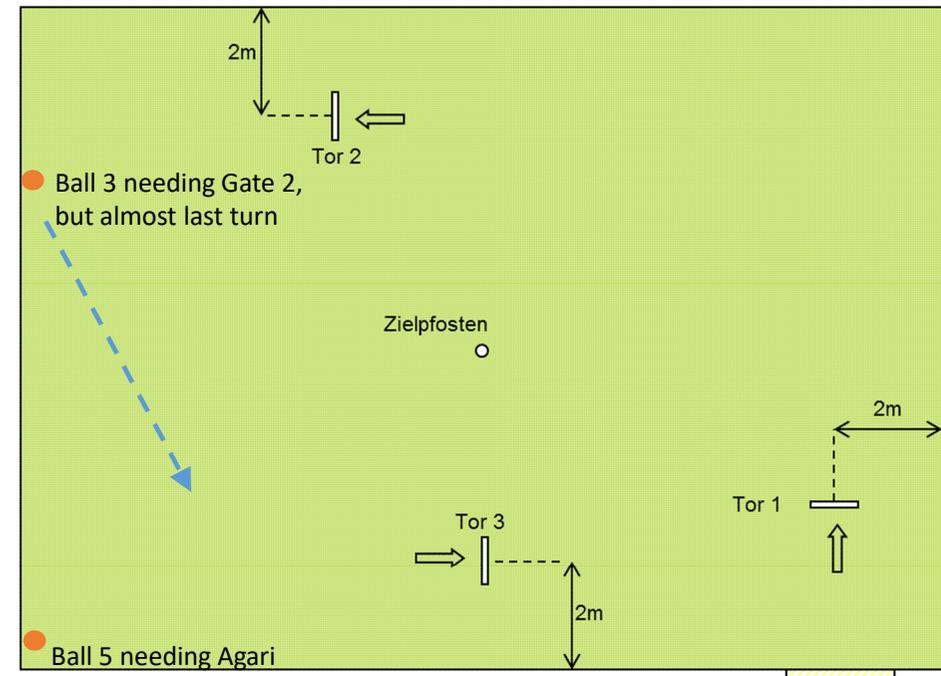
MID-PHASE

- The team controlling Gate 2 seek to position their balls to Pass/Touch (or Touch/Pass) at Gate 2
 - Passing a Gate and Touching another ball *in the same stroke* allows you to stroke 2x in succession after the Spark, so that you can go and attack the other team
- The first few balls of this team all go close to the line near Gate 2. The last one or two balls, knowing that there is maybe only 1 more ball of the opponent's team still to pass Gate 1, try to take position near Gate 2 (for Touch/Pass) or straight behind it (for Pass/Touch)
- The following team defending Gate 3 need to attack Gate 2
 - The first ball or two defending Gate 3 go close to the line. Subsequent team members (example here Ball 6) can try to stop a bit more into the court, to allow a Sliding Touch by Ball 2 (attack on the other team by approaching them via a ricochet), or for Ball 2 to spark say 4 across to where 5 is waiting
- Generally, think of attacking the opponent rather than always looking to pass Gates, even if your team has a clear lead. It can all change very quickly if you leave them the opportunity to attack you!



END PHASE

- Until now, team tactics are often more important than simply passing a Gate
- In the End-Phase however, scoring points becomes the top priority, and there is not much time left to prepare Touch/Pass or Pass/Touch.
- Balls that still need to pass Gate 2 had do better to place themselves in order to help team mates pass Gate 3 and/or get 2 points with Agari – that is assuming that they cannot damage the opposing team



ALWAYS try and keep track of where your own ball is, plus the 2 balls that will play after yours. You need to spark out, or avoid, the opponent ball next to play, but can help your team mate due to play after that.

MORE ?

- More advanced players will benefit from studying the tactical guidance provided by the Australian coach here:
http://gateball.com.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/8_Tactics.pdf
- And here: <http://gateball.com.au/?p=3014>

