# Research on the Evolution and Development of Chinese Gateball Competition Rules

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Abstract: This article combs the evolution and development status of China's gateball competition rules from the social background, equipment, venue facilities, and stage characteristics of the evolution of the gateball rules. The results show that the evolution and development of Chinese gateball competition rules have gone through the germination stage (1985-1990), the preliminary development stage (1991-1999), the gradual deepening stage (2000-2009), and the comprehensive development stage (2010-present). In the early stage, it was more influenced by the World Goal Federation, and the rules were mostly based on international rules. With the continuous development of China's goalball sport, it gradually leads the world's goalball development trend, and the competition system more highlights Chinese characteristics.

Keywords: gateball; competition rules; evolution; development

Since its introduction to my country in 1985, croquet has gradually become one of the most popular sports for the elderly. With the gradual improvement of the level of gateball skills and tactics in my country, and the younger generation of gateball participants, the rules of gateball competition have also changed adaptively. The rules of the gateball competition started from the trial draft of the Chinese gateball rules in 1985 and the first real "Chinese gateball competition rules" in 1987. After 10 rule revisions, the 2015 version was discussed in Beijing—Durbert experiment. After the amendment of Liyuan, the rule system of gateball competition has become more mature. Competition rules are a booster for the development of sports events, and the development of sports events will inevitably bring about adaptive changes in the rules.

## 1. The evolution of gateball competition rules

Table 1 Statistics of Chinese gateball competition rules

Version	Name	Writing location	Authoring unit	Features
1985	Gateball competition rules (trial	Shanghai	China Senior Sports	Suitable
1987	draft)	Harbin	Association	manuscript
1990	Gateball competition rules	Tangshan	China Senior Sports	First
1992	Gate kick rules and refereeing	Beijing	Association	implementation
1994	Gate kick rules. Refereeing	Chengdu	China Door	
1996	Gateball competition rules and	Beijing-Baoji	Association	
1999	refereeing	Luoyang	China Door	:
2004	Gate kick rules and refereeing	Langfang-Beijing	Association	
2007	Gate kick rules and refereeing	Zaozhuang	China Door	:
2009	Gateball competition rules.	Langfang-Jiaozuo	Association	booklet
2011	Refereeing	Shanghai	China Door	:
2015	Gateball competition rules and	Beijing-Dulbert-Liyuan	Association	
	refereeing		China Door	:
	Gateball competition rules and		Association	
	refereeing method		Croquet rules writing	;
	Gateball competition rules and		group	
	refereeing method		China Door	·
	Gateball competition rules and		Association	
	refereeing method		National Community	
			Center	
			China Door	·
			Association	
			China Door	•
			Association	

In 1985, with the promotion and development of gateball in the country, there was an urgent need to regulate and guide the game of gateball. Then a trial draft of Chinese gateball competition rules was

compiled according to the translation of international gateball rules, and the Chinese gateball competition rules came into being. In 2016, the gateball competition rules and refereeing rules, which have been revised 12 times by 2016, have undergone development and changes across the ages [1]. The gateball competition rules have undergone more than 30 years of development and changes from scratch. From the first booklet completely translated and adapted in accordance with foreign rules, to the "Gateball Competition Rules Judgment Law 2015" which has been revised 12 times [2] Was officially published and distributed in January 2016. The development of Chinese gateball competition rules has a direct relationship with the social background, national policies, economic level and people's living conditions at that time, and promotes the integration and development of Chinese gateball competition rules and world gateball rules.

## 2. Analysis on the Evolution Stage of the Rules of Gateball Competition

## 2.1 Germination stage (1985-1990)

From 1985 to the national goal kick rules, to 1990 the study and revision of the goal kick rules, which experienced three changes (85 rules, 87 rules, 90 rules), at this stage, the gate kick rules have a distinctive foreign approach. In particular, the "Gateball Referee Law" compiled in 1990 played a vital role in promoting the beginning of the game of gateball. The rules clearly set out the basic procedures and methods of refereeing for the goalball refereeing. The construction and development of the team and the organization and management of the referee team also played a positive role in guiding [3].

Before 1985, due to the scarcity of gateball games, there was no unified gateball competition rules and implementation standards in China. At that time, not long after the central government promulgated the "Retirement System for Veteran Cadres", more and more retired cadres, especially veteran comrades who had retired from their leadership positions, joined the ranks of gateball [4], laying the political background for the beginning of gateball. At this time, croquet has also become a standard for retired veterans. Although the development of croquet in my country is limited to the elderly at this stage, the national policy of reform and opening up has brought opportunities for the promotion of croquet.

In 1986, the country's first croquet equipment company was established in Harbin. This stage belongs to the budding stage of croquet. The equipment is mostly wooden clubs and does not have flexibility. The height of the club and the geometry of the hammer are also fixed. The hammer is cylindrical and is at the midpoint of the handle. Set up a marking ring. When hitting the ball, the two-handed sticks must be above the center marking ring, otherwise it is a "foul hitting".

At this stage, the gateball field is small, only a flat field with a length of 20 meters and a width of 15 meters, and the field is extremely simple. During the competition, coaches are only allowed to direct in the restricted area, and they are not allowed to enter the field. If they step on the game line and touch the ball, a foul will be awarded. Players from both sides (except the batter) are not allowed to enter the restricted area. Stepping on the restricted line is a foul. The ground is also mainly an open-air sandy soil site, which has poor flatness, cumbersome site maintenance and maintenance, and is extremely vulnerable to weather.

Gateball matches at this stage are mostly regional invitational tournaments or exchange tournaments, and the tournaments are not authoritative. According to incomplete statistics, the number of people participating in gateball in my country was 200,000 in 1986, and it had grown to more than 500,000, and gateball competitions gradually increased by 1987. International exchanges have also kicked off. The many strong Japanese teams visiting China have promoted the improvement of China's gateball.

The "Chinese-style" straddling technique (the athlete straddles the striking direction line) has achieved very good competitive effects. In 1987, the rules of the World Gateball Competition stipulated that the ball is not allowed to straddle the direction of the hitting line. However, the Chinese gateball community insisted on fighting with the World Goal Federation. At the same time, on the basis of the "Chinese-style straddle", a slight change quickly formed its own "side-strike" method, forcing international rules to recognize the "Chinese style" Side play.

# 2.2 Initial development stage (1991-1999)

In 1987, the Chinese Gateball Association was formally established, marking the entry of a new historical era in Chinese gateball. In 1991, after hard work, he successfully joined the Asian Gateball Federation and the World Gateball Federation, which greatly enhanced the development momentum of

China's gateball. In order to comply with the development of Chinese gateball, four revisions and supplements (rules 92, 94, 96, 99) were mainly made at this stage [5]. The goal kick rules compiled in 1992 were an important turning point in the development of goal kick rules and promoted the discussion and modification of the 94 rule. The 94 gateball rules and refereeing law are the first relatively complete and comprehensive regulatory documents in the history of the development of gateball in my country, which have played a positive role in promoting the further development of gateball and the improvement of technical and tactical levels in China [6].

In 1991, the World Goal Federation will make major changes to the rules of the goalball competition. In accordance with the urgent needs of the development of goalball, the China Gateball Association urgently convened the 4th National Goalball Referees Conference, which involved the referee sanctions system for the first time. In 1995, the International Goal Federation formulated the "International Goalball Referee System" for the first time, and passed an explanation of the main points of amendments to the 1995 International Goalball Rules. The "96 Rule" is modified with reference to the "95 International Gateball Rules", which is to enrich and adjust the content of the "94 Rules and Judging Law". With the revision of the international gateball rules in 1998, this also forced the Chinese Gateball Association to formulate the "99 New Rules and Judging Law" to meet the needs of the current development of gateball [7].

With the further development of croquet, the level of skills and tactics continues to improve, putting forward higher requirements for the production of croquet companies, and some croquet equipment manufacturers such as Minghu croquet and Yunsong croquet have emerged. The texture of croquet equipment has also changed. The original fixed wooden hammer head has been improved to a retractable metal hammer head. The size of the hammer head can also be 18-24 cm, and the length of the hammer handle is more than 50 cm; The shape is cylindrical or similar, but the material is not limited.

In order to improve the efficiency of the gateball field and the smooth progress of the game, some conditions have added shelters and added lighting facilities on the basis of the original outdoor venues, which is to a certain extent for the development and technology of gateball. The improvement of the company played a driving role. In addition, a free zone is added to the area two meters outside the limit line, and two "standby zones" are added to the free zone for the use of both teams; the goal line is clearly defined as a straight line connecting the back edges of the two goal posts.

The Chinese Gateball Association was established and joined an international organization. Chinese Gateball began to go abroad and into the world. As gateball skills and tactics continue to improve, the rational use of rules to achieve tactical goals is becoming more and more intense. From the late 1980s to the early 1990s, the Chinese invented "a tactic", which forced many coaches to follow suit and even spread it abroad. In the championship finals of the 6th World Gateball Championships in 1994, both sides insisted on playing the "one-door tactic", which made the world's highest level competition become tedious and hindered the development of gateball to a certain extent.

# 2.3 Gradually deepening stage (2000-2009)

Entering the 21st century, with the further expansion of gateball worldwide (the membership of the World Gateball Federation has changed from 6 to 17), it has provided more opportunities for communication and learning in Chinese gateball. Therefore, in order to fully implement the international rules of Chinese gateball, the Chinese Gateball Association made three amendments and supplements to the competition rules (04 rules, 07 rules, and 09 rules) at this stage [8]. The obvious change at this stage is that the China Gateball Association introduced the computer system to gateball. It held seminars attended by international referees and well-known coaches. Under the premise of referring to the content of the international rules, the rules and referee law were revised to make The development of the rules is more in line with the actual development of China's gateball.

In view of the World Goal Federation's amendments to the international rules in 2003 and the introduction of computer systems to the goalba.

At this stage, most international events use natural turf. However, due to the large number of people involved in gateball in China and the high cost of maintenance and maintenance of natural turf, it has not been widely promoted in China. Shenzhen Zhongti Sports Industry Development Co., Ltd. has developed a special artificial turf (Dragon) for gateball in combination with China's national conditions, which reduces the restricted area by 50 cm, saves 37 square meters per site, and saves social operating costs. Expanded the efficiency of the site.

Due to the increased exchanges of international events, domestic events have gradually spread. The most representative brand event is the annual Chinese Gateball Championship hosted by the China Gateball Association. It is also a high-level and high-level top competition for China's gateball. It is

quite large; in addition, the China Gateball Association also hosts individual events such as the National Gateball Championship, the National Gateball Championship for the Elderly, the National Gateball Youth Championship, the National Women's Gateball Open, and the National Children's Gateball Open. In the private sector (not sponsored by the China Gateball Association), there has also been a peak in hosting games. The most typical one is the "Ball King Championship" sponsored by Beijing Co-Creation Harmony Co., Ltd. which has been held for ten times. A large number of outstanding gateball players and referees.

At this stage, the game of gateball highlights the professionalism of gateball competition. The most notable feature is the translation of accurate international rules, and a reasonable combination of corresponding regulations with Chinese characteristics, clearly pointing out the style and discipline of the official gateball match. For example, the use of a reverse hammer head, a goal ball is not reset, not many people command, and random entry.

## 2.4 Comprehensive development stage (2010-present)

Chinese gateball has won a lot in the international arena. The top four in the 10th World Gateball Championships (2010), the second runner-up in the 2012 Asian Gateball Championships, the 11th World Gateball Championships, the 2016 Asian Gateball Championships Champion and runner-up. Promote the development of world gateball [10]. In September 2014, the World Gate Federation organized a rule revision meeting. In this revision meeting, several suggestions made by the Chinese representative were adopted and the 2015 International Rules were formulated [12]. At present, China's gateball population, number of gate courts, gateball events, and gateball skills and tactics have been developed globally. Chinese gateball has gradually become the forefront of the world and is leading the world in the development of gateball. Trend [12].

In order to conform to the general direction of the development of international gateball, the China Gateball Association revised the "rule 09", which finally took shape after eight revisions. In July 2015, the China Gateball Association organized a 2015 rule revision seminar in Beijing. It clearly pointed out that under the premise of reflecting Chinese characteristics, it should be consistent with international rules as much as possible, and the first draft of the "15 rules" was formulated and During the national gateball competition rules and referee law training course held in Wuyuan County, Jiangxi Province in December 2015, relevant revised materials were printed and distributed. After serious and detailed discussion and research by all the trainees, the final draft was determined, and the final draft was finalized in January 2016. This month is officially published and distributed by People's Sports Publishing House [13].

With the improvement of gateball skills and tactics and the popularity of artificial turf gate courts, Chinese gateball equipment companies must become more diversified, professional and branded. Athletes have higher and higher requirements for clubs, sneakers, and sportswear. Goal cues (applicable to artificial turf) modified from golf clubs have appeared. The corresponding supporting facilities, including croquet tables, are also more professional. In accordance with the spirit of the 2015 international rules, the hammer head and shoe body must not be equipped with any accessories in order to obtain benefits when hitting the ball (such as the hammer head with a sight).

Gateball courts in most areas have become artificial turf. In some areas, there are also dedicated gateball sports centers, gateball sports parks, and gateball halls. For example, the Gaodong Gateball Sports Center in Pudong New Area, Shanghai has the world's superb natural turf gateball courts. Yubei District of Chongqing City has the most elegant croquet sports park, and Hangzhou City has the highest indoor croquet sports hall in the country. At the same time, the difference between the color of the artificial turf kick-off area and the playing field is strengthened, and the transparency is increased to facilitate identification and facilitate the referee's judgment.

At this stage, the event has highlighted the general trend of the development of gateball to a competitive type. The categories of national gateball games hosted by the China Gateball Association include: China Gateball Championship Finals, National Gateball Championships, China Gateball Open Series, National Gateball Games for Seniors, National Youth Gateball Championships, National Youth Gateball Championships, the National Women's Goalball Tournament, the National Rural Goalball Linkage, the National Minority Goalball Open, the Chinese Gateball League, etc.; there are also some regions that are relatively complete and systematized, and are obviously hierarchical, such as: North China Five Provincial Classic, Five Northwest Province Classic, Cross-Strait Open, Yellow River Nine Province Classic, etc.

The China Gateball Association actively explores, seeks social forces to participate in and support the game of gateball, and promotes the development of gateball in a competitive and market-oriented way. Through webcast of croquet events and mainstream media promotion, we will increase event

reforms, build a system of croquet events in China, and promote the competitive and market-oriented development of croquet. In order to standardize the development of the project, the Chinese Gateball Association has issued the "Management Measures for Referees of the Chinese Gateball Association", "Measures for the Selection of Referees for Gateball Competitions of the Chinese Gateball Association", and "The 13th Five-Year Development Plan for Gateball in China (2016-) 2020)", "National Gateball Township Naming Management Measures" and "Gateball Traditional School Naming Management Measures" and other gateball implementation management rules, further strengthen the basic norms of gateball [14].

## 3. Conclusion

Looking back at the development process of Chinese gateball over the past 30 years, it is not difficult to see that the development of gateball competition rules has obvious characteristics of time and stages, and each stage has obvious limitations and focuses.

Germination stage: translation of international rules and international rules for reference, and applied to the promotion and development of domestic gateball; initial development stage: further absorbing the essence of international rules and combining with China's actual conditions to develop competition rules with Chinese characteristics; gradually deepening Stage: Combining the implementation of international rules and finding your own advantages to form a gateball rule, technical and tactical system with Chinese characteristics; Comprehensive development stage: Adhere to people-oriented, give athletes and referees more potential, and promote the development of the game in the direction of legalization .

The development of any sports event is based on the formulation of rules. The rules are characterized by phases and instability. Every time a rule is modified, it is not a negation and abandonment of the previous, but inheritance and improvement. The competition rules serve the sport, and the referees are the executors of the competition rules. This also reflects the "people-oriented" idea of gateball.

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