

8. OFFSIDE BALLS

8.1 Halfway lines

8.1.1 The line between each hoop and the next [hoop in order](#) (see Rule [1.4](#)) is called a halfway line.

8.1.2 The halfway lines are shown in [Diagram 3](#) and are defined as follows:

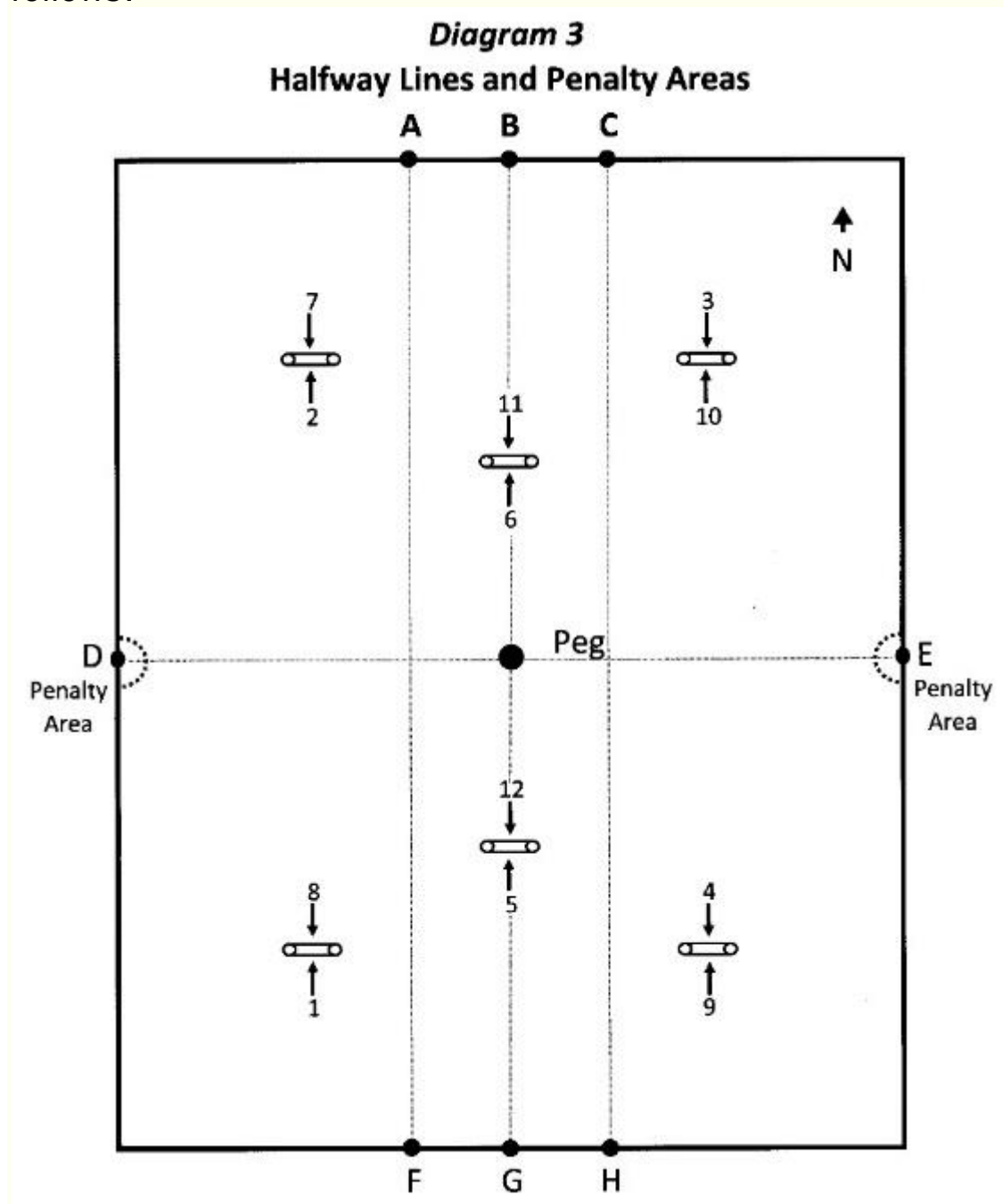
BG the line through the centres of 5 and 6

AF the line halfway between BG and the line through the centres of 1 and 2

CH the line halfway between BG and the line through the centres of 3 and 4

DE the line through the peg perpendicular to the East and West [boundaries](#).

8.1.3 The halfway lines apply as follows:



Hoop in order Halfway line

7 or 17 AF

3, 9 or 15 BG

5 or 11 CH

7th hoop in a 7 point game DE

13th hoop in a 13 point game DE

19th hoop in a 19 point game DE

All others DE

8.2 When a ball is an offside ball

8.2.1 Subject to Rules 8.2.3 and 8.3, a ball becomes an [offside ball](#) if all of it is clearly beyond the halfway line for the [hoop in order](#) at the end of a turn in which a point is scored. If a ball has left the court but has not yet been replaced under Rule [6.6](#), its position for this purpose is the point where it left the court.

8.2.2 A ball ceases to be an [offside ball](#):

(a) when it is subject to an [offside direction](#); or,

(b) if no [offside direction](#) is given, when an [offside opponent](#) plays a stroke.

8.2.3 If a stationary ball is subject to [interference](#) by the opposing side or an [outside agency](#) when there is reasonable doubt about its position relative to the halfway line for the next [hoop in order](#), it is [replaced](#) under Rule [9.2.2](#) but it is not to be treated as an [offside ball](#) in relation to that hoop if a point is scored before it is next played.

8.3 Exemptions

8.3.1 A ball is not an [offside ball](#) if it is already subject to an [offside direction](#) or, subject to Rule [8.3.2](#), if it reached its final position by:

(a) the stroke just played; or

(b) a stroke played by the opposing side; or

(c) subject to Rule [8.3.3](#), contact with an opponent ball at any time in the last turn in which the ball moved or was played.

8.3.2 The exemptions in Rule [8.3.1](#) do not apply to a ball whose owner has:

(a) declared a stroke to have been played with it since it reached its final position; or

(b) committed a fault in the last stroke in which the ball moved or was played.

8.3.3 The exemption in Rule [8.3.1\(c\)](#) does not apply if:

(a) the only contact with an opponent ball was one from which the ball started in contact; and

(b) the opponent ball did not move or shake when the ball moved or was played.

8.4 Offside direction

8.4.1 An [offside opponent](#) may give an [offside direction](#) until it plays a stroke.

8.4.2 Before an [offside owner](#) plays a stroke, it may ask the [offside opponent](#) to decide if it wishes to give an [offside direction](#). The [offside opponent](#) is to announce its decision promptly (see Rule [16.2.8](#)) and may not change that decision.

8.4.3 A ball subject to an [offside direction](#) immediately becomes an [outside agency](#) (see Rule [6.4.2\(b\)](#)) and cannot become an [offside ball](#) again until after it is next played. However, a ball that ceases to be an [offside ball](#) under Rule [8.2.2\(b\)](#) may become an [offside ball](#) again if another point is scored before it is next played.

8.4.4 If, before an [offside opponent](#) plays a stroke, an [offside owner](#) plays a stroke with an [offside ball](#) either:

(a) before the [offside opponent](#) has given an [offside direction](#); or

(b) after failing to act on an [offside direction](#) which was given in a manner that could reasonably be expected to convey the [offside direction](#) to those to whom it was addressed,

the [offside opponent](#) may give or repeat an [offside direction](#) after all balls moved by the stroke are [replaced](#) and any points scored by the stroke are cancelled.

8.4.5 An [offside owner](#) required to replay a stroke under Rule [8.4.4](#) may not give an [offside direction](#) until another point is scored.