May 24, 1932. W. C. FERRIS ET AL 1,860,088

GAME INDICATOR

Filed Dec. 10, 1930

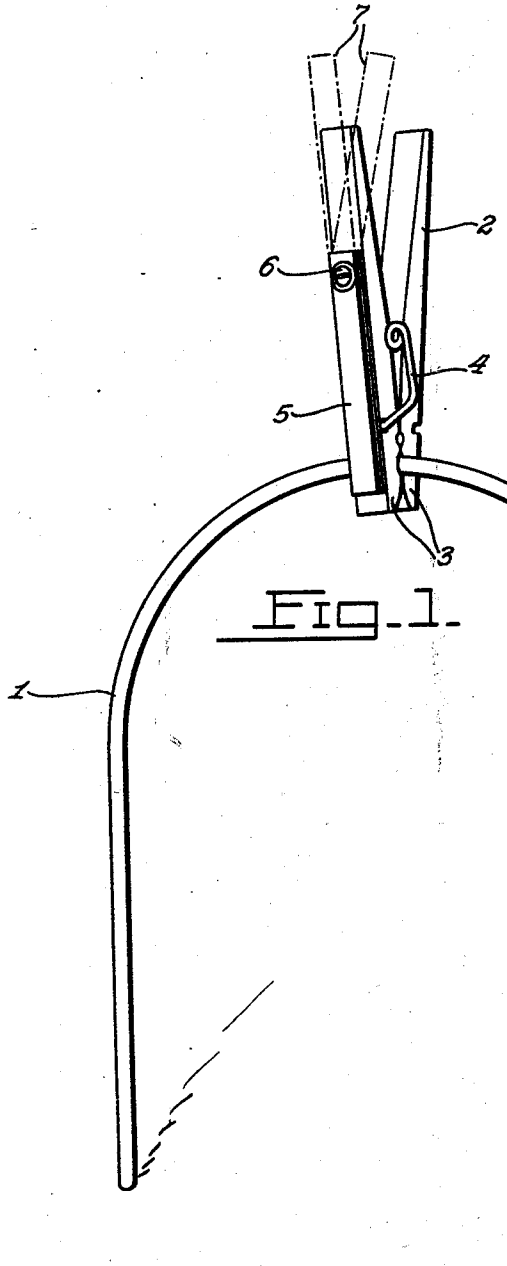


Fig. 1.

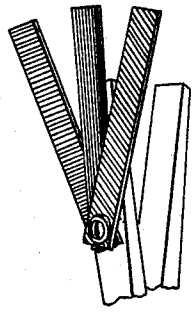


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GAME INDICATOR

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This invention pertains to indicators, such as are used in certain games to keep the players informed of the progress of the game.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide an indicator of simple design and construction which may be mounted in a conspicuous place and which may be adjusted to indicate at a glance certain features of the progress of the game.

Another object is to provide such a device which may be attached to a fixture used in the game such as a wicket used in croquet and which may be adjusted to indicate one or more items of information concerning the game.

Another object is to provide such an indicator which may be simple and inexpensive and which can be carried about by the player without inconvenience.

Further objects will appear from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein

Fig. 1 illustrates an indicator embodying this invention mounted on a croquet wicket, and

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view with the tabs separated disclosing that the tabs are of different colors.

In such games as croquet and roque a player is required to propel a ball thru a series of wickets. As a part of the contest a player may, under certain conditions, play an opponent's ball in such a way as to increase the opponent's difficulty in making progress in the game. Having once played an opponent's ball, a player is prohibited from again playing that same ball until he has advanced his own past another wicket. With a number of players in the game these rules may lead to a situation in which a player must remember which of several balls may be played and also which wicket must be passed next in order in his own play. The present invention provides a device for assisting a player to handle such a situation correctly by indicating to him the condition of the play.

Referring to the drawings, 1 indicates a game fixture, such as a croquet wicket. This is usually a simple wire arch fixed in the ground. Arranged to be removably mounted on or attached to the fixture 1 is a holder 2. This holder may be of any suitable form arranged for detachably mounting on the fixture 1. In the drawings it is illustrated in the form of the well known spring clothes pin, arranged so that its jaws 3 may be clamped upon the fixture 1 by the force of the spring 4.

A holder 2 may be provided for each player. In order to distinguish the holders belonging to different players, said holders may be colored to correspond with the player's ball or in other suitable manner to enable an individual player to recognize his own indicator. Mounted on the holder 2 is a series of tabs 5. In the device illustrated the tabs 5 are collectively pivoted at 6 on the holder 2. The arrangement is such that the tabs are movable individually on the pivot 6 to one or more display positions as indicated in dotted lines at 7. The tabs 5 may be of any desired form so as to provide symbols adapted to convey the desired information to the players. The different tabs 5 on any one holder may be differently colored (red, blue and green being indicated in the drawings although any other colors may be used as desired) or otherwise distinguished from one another so that a player may obtain from the particular tab which is placed in display position the desired information. In applying this device to the game of croquet the different tabs may be differently colored, each to correspond with the coloring of a ball other than the player's ball to whom this indicator belongs.

In the use of this device suppose a player is due to work his ball next past the wicket 1 during the progress of the game. He has played one or more of the balls of his opponents and is thereby prohibited from again playing these same balls. He thereupon attaches his indicator to the wicket 1 by clipping the holder 2 in place as shown in the figure, and turns up to display position such tabs 5 as are colored to correspond with the opponents' balls he has played. The device then is adapted to keep him completely informed as to his position in the game. The color of the holder 2 placed on a particular

wicket 1 indicates to him that he is next to play that wicket upon which his indicator is mounted. The tabs placed in display position indicate by their coloring which of the opponents' balls must not be played. He is, therefore, provided with information enabling him to play with certainty so as to avoid either playing in a wrong manner himself or playing an opponent's ball in an illegal manner. It will be noted that the tabs are formed and dimensioned so that when in assembled relation along the clip they conform to the shape of the clip so as to be inconspicuous. Only those tabs which are moved to display position distinguish themselves from the clip and attract attention. These tabs are moved to display position by simply swinging them on the pivot and are frictionally held in such adjusted position.

While the device has been described as applying to the game of croquet, it may, of course, be applied to other games in which a similar system of indication may be used. Instead of coloring any other kind of distinguishing indications may be applied to the tabs 5 or to the holder 2.

It will be seen, therefore, that this invention provides a simple and effective indicator which the player may carry about with him so that he may attach the same at any time to an appropriate fixture and which he may adjust so as to remind him just what the condition of his play was at the close of his last playing turn. With such an indicator in place other players in any number may take their turns and the first player is relieved of the necessity of carrying in his mind the details of the condition of his own play.

It is obvious that various changes may be made, within the scope of the appended claims, in the details of construction without departing from the spirit of this invention; it is to be understood, therefore, that this invention is not limited to the specific details shown and/or described.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A game indicator, comprising, a spring clip adapted for removably clamping to a game fixture, a plurality of elongated tabs shaped and dimensioned to conform to the shape of the clip, and means for collectively pivoting said tabs frictionally on said clip, adapted for assembled arrangement of said tabs along said clip and for individual movement to display position thereon to be frictionally retained in adjusted position by said pivot means.

2. A game indicator, comprising, a spring clip adapted for removably clamping to a game fixture, a plurality of differently colored indicators shaped and dimensioned to conform to the shape of said clip, and means for frictionally pivoting said tabs collectively on said clip, adapted for assembled arrangement of said tabs along said clip and for individual movement to display position thereon to be frictionally retained in such position by said pivot means.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures this 26th day of November, 1930.

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