

Proposed regulations for referees of association croquet

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R1 Definitions

(a) Referee: A person appointed under these regulations to assist players by making decisions on laws and facts. There are two types of referee:

- (1) A **referee on request**, who generally may act only at the invitation of a player. A referee on request is said to be **inactive** when first appointed. He becomes **active** when he responds to a request by a player to exercise a power or a duty or, exceptionally, intervenes in a game. He becomes **inactive** again when he quits the court believing that his duties have been discharged.
- (2) A **supervising referee**, who may act on his own initiative and thus is always active for games he is supervising. A supervising referee who looks after only one game is also called a **referee in charge**.

(b) Tournament Referee: The official with responsibility for appointing and allocating referees, and hearing appeals. The tournament referee is also a referee.

R2 Powers and Duties of an Active Referee

The following powers and duties apply to both supervising referees and referees on request while active, subject to the restrictions in R4 on using certain information.

(a) General Powers and Duties

- (1) An active referee has power to decide all questions of fact and law. However if a referee is asked to rule on a matter for which he is not qualified, he should seek advice from or refer it to a referee qualified to deal with the matter.
- (2) An active referee must try to ensure that the match is played in accordance with the Laws and conditions for the event.

(b) State of the Game

- (1) An active referee has the power to ask the players for information on the state of the game. He must do so when he requires it to make a decision, but should otherwise avoid questions which might suggest a line of play. The players are obliged to answer to the best of their knowledge.
- (2) If an active referee has reason to think that there is any disagreement about the state of the game, he must investigate and settle the matter before play continues. This applies especially to a referee who is put in charge of a game that is already in progress.
- (3) Subject to Law 23(b), a referee must ask about any apparent discrepancy between the position of a clip and the course of play that he notices while he is active.

(c) Ruling on a Past Incident that is in Dispute

The following regulations apply if a referee is asked to rule on an incident that has already occurred:

- (1) The referee must tell the players anything he has seen that may affect his decision. He must hear what both sides have to say, and may question them. He has the discretion to hear other witnesses. He will then give a decision to the best of his ability.
- (2) The referee may declare a fault only on the basis of his own observations, the evidence of the striker, or, at his discretion, the evidence of well placed witnesses who have sufficient understanding of the laws. He may not do so solely on the evidence of the adversary.
- (3) As a last resort the referee may give a compromise decision. This may involve arbitrary adjustment of the positions of the clips and balls, the number of bisques outstanding or the amount of time remaining and the order of play or even restarting the game.

(d) Forestalling

An active referee who observes or suspects that an error or interference is about to occur must forestall subject to the conditions that apply to the adversary under Law 23. He must not forestall while Law 23(b) applies.

(e) Before Watching a Stroke

If about to watch a questionable stroke, an active referee has the power to:

- (1) ask the player what stroke he intends to play. The player must provide the referee with this information.
- (2) choose the position from where to watch the stroke.
- (3) ask another referee to watch the stroke from a different position and tell him what he observes.
- (4) tell the striker when he may play the stroke. If the striker asks the referee to watch a questionable stroke but plays before the referee is ready, the referee may order the stroke to be re-played.

(f) Referee Giving Information to Players

A referee may give information to a player subject to the following regulations:

- (1) If asked about the state of the game at any time, an active referee should do what he can to inform a player, subject to (g) below.
- (2) An active referee must state the law on any matter if asked by a player, and may volunteer it at his discretion.
- (3) A referee may explain the reasons for a ruling at his discretion, and must do his best to explain the reasons if a player asks him.
- (4) A referee may not otherwise give information or advice to a player. In particular, a referee must not state whether a ball has been moved or shaken when a wiring lift may ensue unless asked by a player or unless a fault has occurred.

(g) Testing for a Wired Ball

Referees are reminded of the following laws:

- (1) A decision whether one ball is wired from another may not be given unless the striker is claiming a wiring lift. The referee must confirm that the claimant has

not played a stroke in this turn and that the adversary is responsible for the position of the relevant ball. (Law 13(e)(1))

- (2) When judging whether one ball is wired from another, the benefit of any doubt is given to the claimant. (Law 13(e)(2))

(h) Adjusting Court Settings

An active referee may arrange for the settings of the court to be adjusted, where the laws permit it. In doing so, he must:

- (1) consider the effect on any other game on the court.
- (2) act consistently with Law 2(b)(5) (which forbids some types of adjustments), and Laws 3(a)(3) and 3(b)(3) (which place restrictions on adjusting a hoop or the peg).

(i) Entering the Court

A referee should go onto the court only when necessary and should be mindful of any double banked game.

R3 Powers of an Inactive Referee

An inactive referee may intervene in a game on his own initiative only in the following three cases:

- (a) to ensure that play is lawfully continued after an error or interference is claimed or admitted, but only if the players appear unable to deal with the issue themselves.
- (b) on hearing a player give erroneous information on the Laws to his adversary.
- (c) if a ball is pegged out in breach of Law 38.

R4 Restrictions on Using Information Obtained Earlier

(a) The following restrictions apply only to an active referee on request and to a supervising referee who is allocated to a game after it has started. They override the powers and duties specified in R2.

- (1) A referee may not use, or draw attention to, knowledge about the state of the game that he acquired while he was inactive.
 - (2) The same applies to knowledge acquired while he was active on a previous occasion, but only if at least one stroke has been played since he acquired the information.
- (b) These restrictions do not apply to knowledge relating to an issue:
- (1) to which a player has drawn attention; or
 - (2) for which the referee has intervened under R3; or
 - (3) which would be apparent to a referee who had not previously seen the game.

R5 The tournament referee and his duties

(a) Tournament Referee

The organising body responsible for the tournament must arrange for the tournament referee to be appointed.

(b) Appointment of Deputy Tournament Referees

The Tournament Referee must appoint a deputy if he becomes unavailable at any time. If play occurs at more than one venue at the same time, he must appoint a deputy for each venue where he is not present or ensure that appeals can be made by telephone. Such a deputy has the powers and duties of the tournament referee while the latter is absent.

(c) Appointment of referees

The tournament referee has the power to nominate referees from an official list of referees. If there are not enough official referees available, he has the power to nominate other suitable persons. These powers are subject to any conditions made by the organising body responsible for the tournament.

(d) Allocation of Referees

- (1) The organising body responsible for the tournament has power to decide whether referees will be supervising or on request.
- (2) Subject to any such direction, the tournament referee may allocate himself or other referees to supervise or be available to act on request for one or more games or courts.
- (3) Irrespective of any such direction, the tournament referee has the power to nominate himself or another referee as a referee in charge of a game.
- (4) The tournament referee must ensure that the players are told of any referees allocated to their game or court and whether they are supervising or on request.
- (5) If no referee has been allocated to a game, any referee may act on request for it.

(e) Checking Courts and Equipment

The Tournament Referee must ensure that the courts and equipment are checked for conformity with the laws, regulations and advertised conditions. Hoop settings must be checked at the start of each day and may be checked between games.

R6 Appeals

(a) Grounds for Appeals

Appeals may be made by a player against a decision of a referee only on:

- (1) questions of law, regulations or tournament conditions; or
- (2) rulings under Law 55; or
- (3) compromise decisions under R2(c)(3).

(b) Power to Hear an Appeal

The tournament referee or a deputy tournament referee have the sole power to hear and decide appeals, except that if such an official is a party to the appeal, either as a player or referee, someone independent must be appointed to do so.

(c) Appeals are Final

The decision on an appeal is final for the game.

(d) Limit of Claims

A player cannot appeal if he has played a stroke after the ruling was given or if the opponent has played two strokes. However, in a singles game, if the adversary is absent and performing official duties, the adversary may appeal before the first stroke of his next turn.

(e) Reporting of Appeals

If a situation that is subject to appeal does not seem to be covered by the laws or commentary, the tournament referee must report the facts and the decision to the appropriate national association for reference to the International Laws Committee.

R7 Players Performing Functions of Referees

(a) Players who are Qualified Referees

Players who entered the tournament and who are qualified referees may act as referees on request, unless the tournament referee or the organising body responsible for the tournament direct otherwise.

(b) Other Players

Unless the tournament referee directs otherwise, all players in the event who have played in more than three previous tournaments may decide the following matters, but only if requested by the striker or his opponent:

(1) watch a stroke to decide:

(A) where a ball crosses the boundary.

(B) whether a ball hits the peg or another ball.

(C) whether a ball is moved or shaken, but only if specifically asked.

(2) decide whether a ball:

(A) is on or off the court.

(B) breaks the plane of a hoop.

R8 Other Regulations

(a) The presence of a referee does not relieve a player in a game of the duty to draw attention to an irregularity that he thinks the referee may have overlooked.

(b) The organising body of a tournament may modify these regulations in accordance with Law 54.

(c) Only a referee appointed or permitted to act by the tournament referee may intervene in a game. However, any qualified referee may report a problem to the tournament referee or his deputy.