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### **Acknowledgement**

The following Regulations were developed first by the International Laws Committee [ILC] and adopted in 2010 by many of the major croquet nations for Association Croquet. The WCF GC Rules Committee then modified these regulations in 2011 so that they could also apply to Golf Croquet. The WCF AC Laws Committee, which replaced the ILC, now maintains them jointly with the WCF GC Rules Committee. The WCF is grateful to both these committees for their work.

### **Abbreviations**

In the following Regulations, the initials AC and GC refer to Association Croquet or Golf Croquet respectively. Where the text of a paragraph or sub-paragraph is prefaced by AC or GC, it applies only to that code. Otherwise, the Regulations apply equally to both codes.

### **R1 Definitions**

- R1.1 **Organising Body:** The body responsible for organising a tournament or event.
- R1.2 **Tournament Referee:** The official with responsibility for hearing appeals and nominating Authorised Referees and allocating them to act as a Referee on Request or Referee in Charge. The Tournament Referee is also an Authorised Referee.
- R1.3 **Qualified Referee:** A person on an official list of referees, but not necessarily an Authorised Referee for a tournament or event.
- R1.4 **Authorised Referee:** A Qualified Referee nominated or permitted under these Regulations to assist players by making decisions on Laws or Rules and facts. An Authorised Referee can perform one of the following roles:
  - R1.4.1 a **Referee on Request**, who generally may act only at the invitation of a player. A Referee on Request is said to be an **Inactive Referee** when first authorised. The referee becomes an **Active Referee** by



responding to a request by a player to exercise a power or a duty or, exceptionally, by intervening in a game under R4. An Active Referee becomes an Inactive Referee again on quitting the court believing that the powers and duties arising from the request have been discharged or, after intervening under R4, when all relevant matters have been settled.

- R1.4.2 a **Referee in Charge**, who is allocated to a game and is therefore always an Active Referee for that game and may intervene in it whenever the referee considers it necessary. A referee may be allocated as a Referee in Charge to more than one game at the same time and, under those circumstances, may be referred to as a **Supervising Referee**.

## **R2 Powers and duties of the Tournament Referee**

### **R2.1 Tournament Referee**

The Organising Body must arrange for the Tournament Referee to be appointed.

### **R2.2 Appointment of Deputy Tournament Referees**

- R2.2.1 The Tournament Referee must appoint a Deputy Tournament Referee whenever the Tournament Referee becomes unavailable.
- R2.2.2 If play occurs at more than one venue at the same time, a Deputy Tournament Referee must be appointed for each venue where the Tournament Referee is not present. As an alternative, the Tournament Referee may arrange for appeals to be made by telephone.
- R2.2.3 A Deputy Tournament Referee has the powers and duties of the Tournament Referee when the latter is not present.

### **R2.3 Nomination of referees**

The Tournament Referee has the power to nominate Authorised Referees from an official list of Qualified Referees and to nominate other suitable persons if there are not enough Qualified Referees available. These powers are subject to any conditions published by the Organising Body.

### **R2.4 Allocation of referees**

- R2.4.1 The Organising Body has power to direct whether Authorised Referees may act as Referees on Request or Referees in Charge.
- R2.4.2 Subject to any such direction, the Tournament Referee may allocate Authorised Referees to act as:
- R2.4.2.1 a Referee on Request either generally or for one or more specified games or courts; or
  - R2.4.2.2 a Referee in Charge for one or more specified games or courts.

The Tournament Referee may also carry out such duties.



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- R2.4.3 Irrespective of any such direction, the Tournament Referee has the power to act as a Referee in Charge of a game or allocate another Authorised Referee to do so.
- R2.4.4 The Tournament Referee must ensure that the players are told of any referee allocated to their game or court and whether that referee is a Referee on Request or Referee in Charge.
- R2.4.5 If no referee has been allocated to a game, any Authorised Referee may act as a Referee on Request for that game.

### R2.5 **Checking courts and equipment**

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

## **R3 Powers and duties of an Active Referee**

An Active Referee has the following powers and duties subject to the restrictions in R5 on using certain information.

### R3.1 **General powers and duties**

- R3.1.1 An Active Referee has power to decide all questions of fact and Law or Rule. However, a referee who is asked to rule on a matter for which the referee is insufficiently qualified should seek advice from or refer it to another Authorised Referee who is able to deal with the matter.
- R3.1.2 An Active Referee must try to ensure that a match is played in accordance with the Laws of Association Croquet or Rules of Golf Croquet as appropriate and any applicable regulations and tournament or event conditions.
- R3.1.3 An Active Referee should go onto or remain on the court only when necessary and should be mindful of any double-banked game.

### R3.2 **State of the game**

- R3.2.1 An Active Referee has the power to ask the players for information on the state of the game. The referee must do so when that information is required 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.
- R3.2.2 An Active Referee who has reason to think that there is any disagreement about the state of the game must investigate and settle the matter before play continues. This applies especially to a referee who is appointed to be a Referee in Charge for a game that is already in progress.



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R3.2.3 [AC: Subject to Law 23.3, an Active Referee must ask about any apparent discrepancy between the position of a clip and the course of play that the referee notices.]

### R3.3 Ruling on a past incident that is in dispute

The following regulations apply if an Active Referee is asked to rule on an incident that has already occurred.

R3.3.1 The Active Referee must tell the players anything that the referee has seen that may affect a decision. The referee must hear what both sides have to say and may question them. The referee has the discretion to hear other witnesses. The referee will then give a decision to the best of the referee's ability.

R3.3.2 The Active Referee may declare a fault only on the basis of:

R3.3.2.1 facts about the stroke agreed by the striker and the opponent;

R3.3.2.2 the evidence of the striker;

R3.3.2.3 the referee's own observations of the stroke, its effects and its outcome; or

R3.3.2.4 the evidence of well-placed neutral witnesses, excluding the opponent, whom the referee chooses to consult believing that they have sufficient understanding of relevant Laws or Rules. The referee may not declare a fault solely on the evidence of the opponent.

R3.3.3 As a last resort, the Active Referee may give a compromise decision. This may involve arbitrary adjustment of:

R3.3.3.1 the positions of the clips and balls.

R3.3.3.2 the number of [AC: bisques] [GC: extra strokes] outstanding.

R3.3.3.3 the amount of time remaining.

R3.3.3.4 the order of play.

Exceptionally, the referee may direct that the game is to be restarted.

### R3.4 Forestalling

R3.4.1 An Active Referee who observes or suspects that an error or interference is about to occur must forestall play subject to the conditions that apply to the opponent.

R3.4.2 [AC: under Law 23 – an Active Referee must not forestall play while Law 23.3 applies].

R3.4.3 [GC: an Active Referee:

R3.4.3.1 who believes that a hoop is about to be run out of order must not forestall play unless R3.4.1 applies; and

R3.4.3.2 must not draw attention to an offside ball.]



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R3.4.4 [GC: an Active Referee must forestall play after a hoop has been run out of order.]

### R3.5 Before watching a stroke

If about to watch a questionable stroke, an Active Referee has the power to:

- R3.5.1 ask the player what stroke the player intends to play. The player must answer the question.
- R3.5.2 choose the position from where to watch the stroke.
- R3.5.3 ask another Authorised Referee to watch the stroke from a different position and provide an opinion on the stroke to the Active Referee who remains responsible for judging the effect or fairness of the stroke.
- R3.5.4 tell the striker when the stroke may be played. If the striker plays before the Active Referee is ready, the referee may direct the stroke to be re-played.

### R3.6 Referee giving information to players

An Active Referee may give information to a player subject as follows.

- R3.6.1 An Active Referee who is asked about the state of the game at any time should tell the player what the referee knows [AC: subject to R3.7 below].
- R3.6.2 An Active Referee must state the Law or Rule on any matter if asked by a player and may choose to volunteer such information.
- R3.6.3 An Active Referee may choose to explain the reasons for a ruling, and must explain the reasons as fully as possible to a player who asks for an explanation.
- R3.6.4 An Active Referee may not otherwise give information or advice to a player. [AC: 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.]

### R3.7 [AC: Testing for a wired ball

An Active Referee must be aware of the following Laws:

- R3.7.1 A decision whether one ball is wired from another may not be given unless the striker is claiming a wiring lift. The Active 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 16.5.2)
- R3.7.2 When judging whether one ball is wired from another, the benefit of any doubt is given to the claimant. (Law 16.5.3)]

### R3.8 Adjusting court settings or repairing damage

An Active Referee may arrange for the settings of the court to be adjusted or for special damage to be repaired, where the Laws or Rules permit it. In



doing so, the referee must:

- R3.8.1 consider the effect on any other game on the court.
- R3.8.2 [AC: act consistently with Law 4.5 (which forbids some types of adjustments), and Laws 5.1.4 and 5.2.3 (which place restrictions on adjusting a hoop or the peg).]
- R3.8.3 [GC: act consistently with Rule 2.5 (which permits adjustment of missing or misplaced equipment) and Rules 3.1.3 and 3.2.3 (which place restrictions on adjusting the peg or a hoop).]

## ***R4 Powers and duties of an Inactive Referee***

An Inactive Referee is permitted to intervene in a game without having been invited, and is required to do so, only in the following cases:

- R4.1 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 and no Active Referee is present. If an Active Referee is present, an Inactive Referee who has relevant evidence should volunteer to be a witness.
- R4.2 on hearing a player give erroneous information on the Laws or Rules to the opponent.
- R4.3 [AC: if a ball is pegged out in breach of Law 43.]
- R4.4 [GC: if personally watching the game, by forestalling play
  - R4.4.1 before a wrong ball is played; or
  - R4.4.2 immediately after a wrong ball has been played; or
  - R4.4.3 after a hoop has been run out of order.]

## ***R5 Restrictions on using information obtained earlier***

- R5.1 The following restrictions apply to an Active Referee who is a Referee on Request or a Referee in Charge who has been allocated to a game after it has started. They override the powers and duties specified in R3.
  - R5.1.1 A referee may not use, or draw attention to, knowledge about the state of the game the referee acquired while inactive.
  - R5.1.2 The same applies to knowledge acquired while the referee was an Active Referee on a previous occasion, but only if at least one stroke has been played since the referee acquired the information.
- R5.2 These restrictions do not apply to knowledge relating to an issue:
  - R5.2.1 to which a player has drawn attention; or
  - R5.2.2 for which an Inactive Referee could intervene under R4; or
  - R5.2.3 which would be apparent to a referee who had not previously seen the game.



## **R6 Appeals**

### **R6.1 Grounds for an appeal**

An appeal may be made by a player against a decision of a referee only in respect of:

- R6.1.1 a question concerning the interpretation or application of a Law/Rule, a regulation or a tournament or event condition; or
- R6.1.2 [AC: a ruling under Law 63; or]
- R6.1.3 [GC: a ruling under Rule 15.3; or]
- R6.1.4 a compromise decision under R3.3.3.

### **R6.2 Power to hear an appeal**

The Tournament Referee or a Deputy Tournament Referee has the sole power to hear and decide an appeal, except that if such an official is a party to an appeal, either as a player or referee, another referee must be appointed to do so.

### **R6.3 Appeals are final**

The decision on an appeal is final for the game.

### **R6.4 Limit of claims**

A player who has played a stroke after a ruling was given cannot appeal against that ruling. Likewise, a player cannot appeal after:

- R6.4.1 [GC: an opponent has played a stroke.].
- R6.4.2 [AC: the opposing side has played two strokes. However, in a singles game, if the player is absent and performing official duties, the player may appeal before the first stroke of the player's next turn.]

### **R6.5 Reporting of Appeals**

If a situation that is subject to appeal does not seem to be covered by the Laws or Rules or an official commentary, the Tournament Referee must report the facts and the decision to the appropriate national association for reference to whichever of the WCF AC Laws Committee and the WCF GC Rules Committee is appropriate.

## **R7 Players performing the functions of referees**

### **R7.1 Players who are Qualified Referees**

Unless the Tournament Referee or the Organising Body has directed otherwise, players competing in a tournament or event who are Qualified Referees may act as Referees on Request.

### **R7.2 Other players**

Unless the Tournament Referee has directed otherwise, all experienced players competing in a tournament or event may act as follows, but only if



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requested by the striker or the opponent:

R7.2.1 to watch a stroke to decide:

R7.2.1.1 where a ball crosses the boundary; or

R7.2.1.2 [AC: whether a ball hits the peg or another ball; or]

R7.2.1.3 [AC: whether a ball is moved or shaken, but only if specifically asked].

R7.2.2 to decide whether a ball:

R7.2.2.1 is on or off the court; or

R7.2.2.2 protrudes out of or into the jaws of a hoop.

## R8 Other regulations

R8.1 The presence of a referee does not relieve a player in a game of the duty to draw attention to an irregularity that the player thinks the referee may have overlooked.

R8.2 [AC: The Organising Body may modify these Regulations in accordance with Law 62.]

R8.3 Only an Authorised Referee may intervene in a game under R4 (see R1.4.1). However, any Qualified Referee may report a problem to the Tournament Referee or a Deputy Tournament Referee.

## End of WCF Refereeing Regulations

## Revisions

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Version 1<br>20 April 2012     | Original  |
| Version 1.1<br>27 March 2015   | Minor amendment to Reg 3(d) (power of Inactive Referee to intervene in GC after a hoop is run out of order) to achieve consistency with 2013 GC Rules.                    |
| Version 1.2<br>21 July 2015    | Removal of reference to GC Rule 15 in Note on page 1 and addition of Appendix 1 (AC impasse resolution procedure) which has been transferred from the Sports Regulations. |
| Version 1.3<br>18 July 2016    | Non-substantive revision of Appendix 1 (AC impasse resolution procedure).   |
| Version 1.4<br>30 January 2019 | Amendments to Regulations R2(d) and R3(d) to reflect changes in the wrong ball rule in the 5 <sup>th</sup> Edition of the WCF Rules of Golf Croquet.                      |



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New numbering style adopted. Re-ordering of R2 to R5. AC: References updated to refer to 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of AC Laws and impasse resolution procedure removed to AC Laws Appendix 7. GC: amendment of R3.4 to prohibit forestalling play before a hoop is run out of order or drawing attention to an offside ball. Addition of requirement for Active Referee to forestall play after a hoop is run out of order.



## Changes log

1. Re-ordering of R2 to R5  
Powers and duties of the Tournament Referee have been moved from R5 to R2, and R2 to R4 have been renumbered R3 to R5, to provide a more logical arrangement.
2. R1.4.1  
Replacement of “inactive” by “an Inactive Referee” and “active” by “an Active Referee”. Use of more general language to define when an Active Referee returns to being an Inactive Referee to recognise that a referee may be called for one purpose and then find that other matters then arise. Addition of words at end to state how a referee who has become active through intervening under R4 ceases to be active.
3. R1.4.2  
Referee in Charge replaces Supervising Referee as the formal alternative to a Referee on Request. However, the term Supervising Referee is acknowledged as a Referee in Charge who is allocated to more than one game or court at the same time.
4. R3.1.3  
New and more visible location for R3.9 direction that referees should only go onto court and remain there if necessary and should have regard to double-bankers.
5. R3.2.3  
Restricted to AC to recognise the different role of clips in AC and GC.
6. R3.3.2  
Incorporation of wording of Law 55.4.3 to specify when a referee can award a fault.
7. R3.4.3.1  
GC: Insertion of prohibition against forestalling before a hoop is run out of order with an exception if R3.4.1 applies (e.g. an Inactive Referee should forestall play if they see a player about to play a wrong ball even if they appear to be attempting to run a hoop out of order in the same stroke).
8. R3.4.3.2  
GC: Addition of prohibition against drawing attention to an offside ball.
9. R3.4.4  
GC: Addition of express statement that an Active Referee must forestall play after a hoop has been run out of order (to mirror R4.4.3).
10. R4  
Title amended to include “and duties” and first sentence amended to state that an Inactive Referee who sees a reason why they could intervene in a game is obliged to do so.
11. R4.4  
GC: Replacement of a single paragraph with a numbered list.



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12. R5.2.2  
Wording amended from “for which they have intervened under R[4]” to “ for which an Inactive Referee could intervene under R4” to remove any doubt in GC that an Active Referee can forestall play after a hoop is run out of order even if their knowledge was gained when inactive and they did not intervene as an Inactive Referee (e.g. they were called to watch a player play a questionable stroke in which they were trying to run a hoop that the Active Referee knows is a hoop out of order).
  
13. R6.4.2  
“Opponent” amended to “opposing side” to accommodate Alternate Stroke Doubles and “adversary” in version 1.4 R6(d) replaced by “player” (instead of “opponent” as in original version of version 1.5).