

Bevel Stroke Fault: Hampered Stroke

The so called “bevel” or “bevelled edge” fault is much discussed, but the word “bevel” only rates a passing reference. The term “bevel edge fault” is a colloquial term used for the fault in the *Rule 13 (a)(5)* which reads: “... strikes the striker’s ball with any part of the mallet other than an end-face, either (i) deliberately or (ii) accidentally in a stroke which requires special care because of the proximity of a hoop or the peg or another ball”. It is a fault under the Rules to deliberately play a stroke in which the mallet strikes the ball with other than the end-face but it is NOT a fault if the player accidentally does so in the open court.

However if the stroke is hampered by a hoop, peg or another ball and the striker contacts the ball with a part of the mallet other than “end-face”, it is a fault.

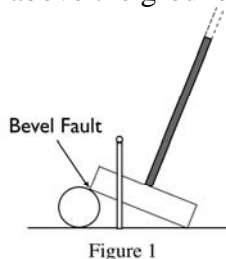
Scenario 1: The ball has just “staggered through the hoop” and has rolled slightly to one side so that the hoop leg makes the playing of the next stroke difficult. The striker is faced with the decision of how to legally play the hampered stroke.

Scenario 2: The striker ball is about 2 inches in front of hoop 12 but the opponent has jumped over it to level the score at 6 all. The striker has the unenviable task of attempting to strike through the hoop to get a good position behind Hoop 13. The referee is to mark the ball (using the ball marking technique described in *Section B3* of the *ACA GC Referees Manual*), and stand in the most appropriate position.

The referee is to stand close - the principle being “stand where you **can** see, not where you **cannot** see”, but not so close that there is a safety risk.

Probably the best place to stand is as close as comfortable to the right shoulder (of a RH player).

The referee ought to ask the striker how they are going to play the stroke (e.g. a hard or soft stroke) before they make test swings at the ball. The referee ought to locate their eyes at 90 degrees to where the mallet will contact the ball, if the striker intends to swing through (or alongside) the hoop, as illustrated in Figure 1, as a top bevel fault could occur. The referee needs to have their eyes at about 12 to 18 inches (300 to 450 mm) above the ground.



If the striker decides to play the stroke as in Figure 2 where a side bevel fault could occur, the referee is to stand at the striker’s right shoulder (assuming a right handed player) looking down to best observe a possible side bevel fault. A side bevel fault will be obvious if the ball travels at a different direction (B) from the swing and intended direction (A). This might be accompanied by a different impact sound to the sound expected when a clean hit occurs. But the referee ought to rely on the direction (direction A compared to direction B) angle of departure as the prime indicator of a bevel fault, as sound is not a good indicator.

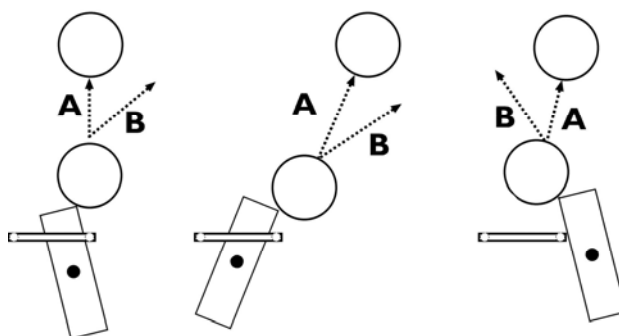


Figure 2

Locate the eye/s at 90 degrees to where the mallet will contact the ball, if the striker intends to swing through (or alongside) the hoop, as illustrated in Figure 3, as a side bevel fault could occur. The referee ought to have their eyes at about 12 to 18 inches (300 to 450 mm) above the ground or as low as possible. This is a situation where a bottom bevel could occur or a 'push' (maintenance of contact) or a 'double tap' can occur.

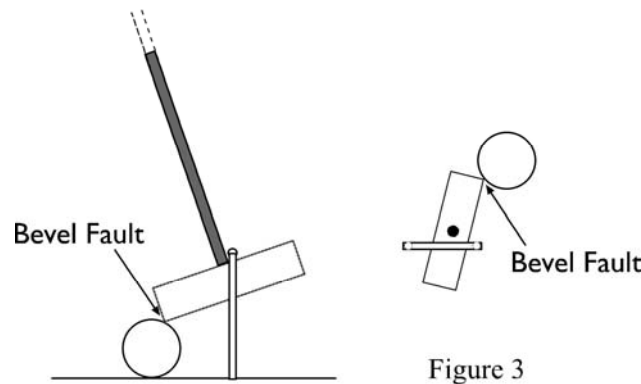


Figure 3

In some cases the referee ought to consider calling a second referee to watch, if a combination of one or the other faults could occur. The prime referee ought to ask the second referee to watch for one specific fault area and the prime referee, the other.

Referees need never be intimidated or fear scorn by calling a second referee to assist, as it is becoming a practice at world class events where calling a fault in these high level games is of such significance.

A second referee may be invited by the prime referee and is to offer confidential advice to the prime referee to assist the prime referee to **make and announce** the decision.

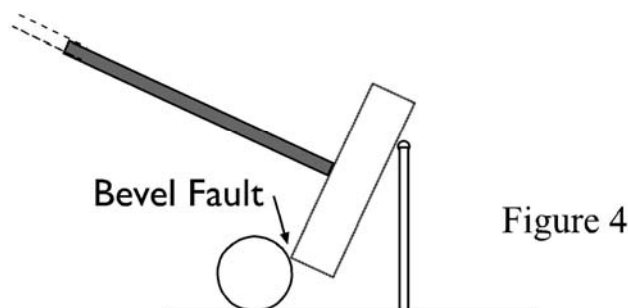


Figure 4

Locate the eyes at 90 degrees to where the mallet will contact the ball, if the striker intends to swing through (or alongside) the hoop, as illustrated in Figure 4 as a top bevel fault could occur. The referee needs to have their eyes at about 12 to 18 inches (300 to 450 mm) above the ground

Referees are to keep in mind that the sometimes practiced action of unscrupulous or arrogant players of calling a referee (a RoC) and then playing the stroke before the referee arrives is not to be tolerated. Calling a referee is "stopping play" If a striker (or opponent), having called a RoC, plays the stroke before the referee arrives, the referee ought to invoke *Rule 14(a)(9)*.