

# Croquet Australia

## Handicapping Regulations (Association Croquet)

Revised July 2006

These handicapping regulations apply to all tournaments and competitions conducted in accordance with CROQUET AUSTRALIA Regulations for Tournaments.

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### Handicapping Regulations

These handicapping regulations apply to all tournaments/competitions conducted in accordance with Croquet Australia Regulations for Association Croquet Tournaments within Australia and all accredited international matches.

#### 1. Definitions:

- 1.1. **AHS Card** means the Automatic Handicapping System Card issued by Croquet Australia. The cards are available on the Croquet Australia website for printing as needed.
- 1.2. **A State, Club or Tournament Handicapper** is an Official Handicapper who has been elected or appointed to that position by the agreed procedures of the relevant State or Club, or by Croquet Australia.
- 1.3. **Association Croquet Players** in these Regulations are those who are affiliated (through their Club and State) to Croquet Australia and are herein referred to as Players.
- 1.4. **Competitive singles games** are those that comply with the general laws, advanced laws, laws covering handicap play and shortened games as set out in the Laws of Association Croquet including:
  - 1.4.1. Tournament games
  - 1.4.2. Interclub and interstate games; and
  - 1.4.3. Club competitions, which
  - 1.4.4. are played on standard lawns, or lawns which are at least 25 yards long, and which

- 1.4.5. if games are time-limited, allow a time for completion of at least 2 hours.
- 1.5. **Long-running competition** means a competition where individual games are played over a number of weeks or months (i.e. a competition not held over two or more consecutive days)
- 1.6. **Match Players** are those Players who enter singles competitions, at club, interclub, interstate or tournament level.
- 1.7. **Non-Match Players** are those who do not enter any singles competitions.
- 1.8. A **Rapid Improver** is a competitive player who, in the opinion of an Official Handicapper has the ability to play at a handicap of at least three steps below the currently assigned official handicap, and who enters a tournament to which these regulations apply.
- 1.9. A **Tournament** is any Event or series of Events played in accordance with the Tournament Regulations of Croquet Australia.

## 2. Handicaps:

- 2.1. These regulations govern the administration of Player handicaps under the Laws of Association Croquet.
- 2.2. Handicaps for Players shall be on a scale with a range from -3 to 24 with steps as set out in the AHS Card.
- 2.3. All Players shall have an official handicap determined as below.
- 2.4. Any Player wishing to enter singles competitions or play competitive singles matches shall be entitled to do so only if they comply with these Regulations.

## 3. Match Players shall:

- 3.1. complete an entry on an AHS Card for each **competitive singles game**.
- 3.2. maintain an accurate record on their AHS cards of all the **competitive singles games** they play and report their current Handicap and Index to Tournament or Competition Managers at the start of an Event.
- 3.3. if their handicap changes as a result of matches played in an Event, have the Tournament Handicapper sign their cards **before leaving the Event**.
- 3.4. if their handicap changes as a result of any game played in a **long-running** club or interclub competition, have the Tournament Handicapper sign their card before playing any other singles games.
- 3.5. immediately advise their Club Handicapper whenever their handicap changes.
- 3.6. show their official cards to Tournament Managers and all Handicappers on request.

### Note:

Should Match Players wish to keep a card of non-competitive games, they may do so, but this must be kept separate from the official card.

## 4. Non-Match Players shall:

- 4.1. not need to keep an official handicapping card.
- 4.2. refer any requests for a change in their handicap to the Club Handicapper.
- 4.3. have their Handicap changed by, and according to the judgement of, their Club Handicapper.

**Notes:**

- 1. Should any Non-Match Players enter any singles competition, they will then become Match Players and need to start an AHS card and comply with Regulation 3 above.
- 2. Non-Match Players should be encouraged by handicappers and clubs to keep cards of singles games for interest, and to assist their Club Handicapper assess their play.

## **5. State Handicappers shall:**

- 5.1. provide advice and other assistance in the Handicapping of Non-Match Players, when this is requested by Club Handicappers.
- 5.2. assist Club Handicappers in understanding the handicapping system and these Regulations.
- 5.3. co-operate with Club Handicappers to identify any Rapid Improvers.
- 5.4. where operating as a Tournament Handicapper, check and initial cards of any Player who has a handicap change.

## **6. Club Handicappers shall:**

- 6.1. determine the handicaps of Non-Match Players within the club and notify the State Handicapper of the handicaps of these Players at least once a year.
- 6.2. sign cards of **Match Players** whose handicaps change as a result of games played in long-running competitions. These changes will be notified on the Handicap Changes Report Form (available on the Croquet Australia website) by the Club Handicapper to the State Handicapper **immediately they take place**.
- 6.3. watch play of Rapid Improvers during club or interclub competitions.
- 6.4. in club or interclub competitions have discretion to **make handicap reductions at the beginning of or during any Event** for any Player who has been identified as a Rapid Improver. Any such reduction(s) must be of at least 3 steps, and shall be effective immediately.
- 6.5. record, and initial, on a Rapid Improver's AHS card, all changes as they occur.
- 6.6. notify the State Handicapper of these changes on the Handicap Changes Report Form at the end of the Event.
- 6.7. provide a letter to accompany every Rapid Improver who is about to enter a Tournament/Competition, addressed to the Tournament Manager advising that the Player's handicap should be kept under review.
- 6.8. keep a record of current handicaps of **all Players** within their club and provide assistance for those Match Players requiring help in maintaining an accurate official AHS card.
- 6.9. assign Handicaps to New Players in accordance with paragraph 9. below.

### **Guidelines**

- *In determining the Handicaps for Non-Match Players, Club Handicappers are expected to use the Handicaps of Match Players with similar skills as a benchmark.*
- *Club Handicappers will not need to seek approval from elsewhere for any decisions they make about the Handicaps of Non-Match Players. However, advice may be sought from State Handicappers.*
- *Clubs may require that Handicaps of Non-Match Players be determined by committee and in this case the Club Handicapper shall comply with the committee's decisions.*
- *States may require Club Handicappers within their State to provide details of handicap changes of their Players to assist with selections and/or seeding of Players within State tournaments. How this is to be carried out is a matter for each State to determine.*

## **7. Tournament Managers shall:**

- 7.1. co-operate with the Tournament Handicapper to check that Players' handicaps are accurately recorded on tournament records at the time they commence play in the tournament.
- 7.2. at the end of the Tournament, record on the Handicap Changes Report Form, the details of any Player whose handicap has changed at the end of the tournament, **and** changes to the handicap of any Rapid Improver (as determined by the Tournament Handicapper.)
- 7.3. immediately forward that Form, together with the Tournament score sheets, to the State Handicapper.
- 7.4. delegate the duties of a Tournament Handicapper to Assistant Tournament Managers at the venues for which they are responsible.

## **8. Tournament Handicappers shall:**

- 8.1. at the start of the Tournament assist the Tournament Manager in the checking and accurate recording of Player's Handicaps.
- 8.2. be responsible for all Handicapping issues during a Tournament.
- 8.3. sign off AHS cards of all Players whose Handicaps have changed at the end of an Event.

### **Guideline:**

- *When signing off a card for a handicap change, a Tournament or Club Handicapper should check the calculations leading to the changes in handicap, and ensure that recent games have been properly entered on the card.*

- 8.4. watch play of Rapid Improvers during the Tournament.
- 8.5. in Tournaments or Events have discretion to **make handicap reductions at the beginning of or during the Event** for any Player who has arrived at the Event with a Rapid Improver's letter and who in the Handicapper's judgement should be on a handicap at least three steps lower than they are. Any such reduction(s) shall be effective immediately.
- 8.6. record and initial, on a Rapid Improver's card, all changes as they occur.

- 8.7. Ensure that an Assistant Manager or other person is designated to perform the duties of a Tournament Handicapper at subsidiary tournament venues.

**Guidelines:**

- *Players who are Rapid Improvers may have their handicap reduced before a game at any time (and from time to time) during the Tournament by the Tournament Handicapper, if the Tournament Handicapper determines that the Player's handicap is too high by at least three steps.*
- *Players assessed as only two steps or less ahead of their current handicap, will be adjusted by the normal operation of the AHS.*

## **9. New Players:**

- 9.1. Club Handicappers shall assess new Players when they have joined the Club as affiliated Players and are admitted to general club play, and assign them handicaps from 20 to 24 based on the level at which they are best likely to compete.
- 9.2. If they have not previously used an AHS card, use their current Australian handicap to find their starting AHS index, and have the Tournament Handicapper sign the card before playing their first competitive singles games.

**Guidelines:**

- *To assist Club Handicappers in their assessment, they should encourage the use of AHS cards by new Players for friendly games before they begin competition.*
- *Full Bisque Play and Coaching:*  
*State Associations and Clubs should encourage the use of Full Bisque handicap play (see Appendix 3 on p. 47 of the Laws in the current Australian Laws Book) particularly for Players of handicap 10-24, in order to enable them to learn, and enjoy, the use of bisesques in competitive games.*

## **10. Handicap Limit:**

No Player shall be extended beyond a handicap of 20 or an index of 900.

## **11. Overseas Players:**

- 11.1. Overseas players belonging to an Association affiliated with the World Croquet Federation may be assigned an initial handicap based on the handicaps of Australian Players of similar World Ranking.
- 11.2. This shall be calculated and assigned by the Club Handicapper, or Tournament Handicapper of the first tournament they enter.
- 11.3. Following that assignment, they shall be treated as any Australian Player to whom the AHS applies.

## **12. Shortened Games:**

The provisions of these Regulations shall apply to shortened games (played under any of the official variations in Laws 44-66.)

## **FURTHER GUIDELINES.**

### **The official AHS card.**

- *Instructions for use of this card are printed on it.*
- *Handicap cards can be printed from the Croquet Australia website*

### **Aim of the system**

- *The aim of the Automatic Handicapping System is to ensure that two Players in a handicap game (or two Players on the same handicap in a championship game) have an equal chance of winning when they play each other.*
- *The Automatic Handicapping System does this by awarding points for games won, and removing points for games lost. These are called "index points."*

### **Index Points**

- *Each Match Player is required to maintain an AHS card, which records the result of every game played and the index points won or lost.*
- *Index points increase after each win and decrease after each loss. The winner adds the same number of points to his/her index that the loser subtracts from his/hers. The number of points depends on whether the game is played Handicap or Level (Championship).*
- *For Level (Championship) games the value of the points is higher or lower depending on the relative handicaps of the two Players.*

### **Handicap Changes**

- *Winning games and thus accumulating index points can result in a Player reaching or passing the "trigger point" for a handicap different from the player's current handicap, at which time their handicap will reduce.*
- *Losing games and thus losing index points can result in a Player reaching or passing the "trigger point" for a handicap different from the player's current handicap, at which time their handicap will increase.*
- *In Tournaments/competitions taking place on CONSECUTIVE days, handicaps will change:*
  1. *only if the index has reached or passed the trigger point for a handicap different from the player's current handicap at the end of the Event; or*
  2. *if, during the Event, the Tournament Handicapper changes the handicap of a Rapid Improver.*
- *In competitions taking place over a long period of time (such as interclub and club competitions), handicaps will change and be notified to, and signed by, the Club Handicapper as soon as the player's index reaches the trigger point for a handicap different from their present handicap. In this instance the handicap change takes place immediately, not at the end of the Event.*
- *Clubs and State Associations organising such competitions are responsible for clearly stating the rules for Players who wish to continue in the Event, but whose handicaps have changed during the competition in a way that takes their handicap outside the eligibility range.*