

## The Role of the Tournament Referee

While a great deal has been written about the Rules and a fair amount about refereeing, little has been written about the specific role of the TR. The role of a normal active referee is different to that of a TR.

The first major difference at a major event, is that the TR needs to spend a lot of time watching the work of referees. Also, there is the opportunity for extended discussions about Rules and about refereeing techniques with other referees, which all prove most valuable.

The approach to refereeing is a little different in NZ and a great deal different in the UK and that we need to come to grips with what constitutes "World's Best Practice" which ought to be by adopting the best practices from each country and on this matter there is still a lot of work to be done.

At all levels communication is the most important element.

The 11th version of the TR's Opening Speech has been written – the early versions have been read by TR's and Deputy TR's before most ACA events over the last few years and have been of significant benefit in advising players what is expected of them relative to referees. Such a communication politely addresses and invites questions which prevent misunderstandings occurring and a more pleasant and expeditious tournament occurs.

This "Opening Speech" has caused some players to express surprise about some of their rights, privileges and obligations as there is still a surprisingly high number even top level players whose knowledge of the Rules is so poor that they sometimes forego a right or a privilege by not knowing.

A common misunderstanding is how players may apply the Rules (when a RiC or SuR is not present) and act as their own referees (see Section GC C2).

A lesser known function of a TR is to "protect" (as it were) the referee from the machinations of petulant players. Only occasionally, fortunately, a clash of personalities occurs and the TR is called (e.g. the players disagree with the referee's ruling about some decision and create a fuss). The TR should not conduct any of the tests but only determine if the test method used was valid.

The TR must never consider over-ruling the referee's decision on fact, mainly because a decision about "fact" cannot be overruled.

The TR should confidentially suggest to the referee that an alternative method be used to show that "justice is seen to be done". In this situation the TR's function is to fully support and protect the referee from the intimidation of overbearing players. **However, the TR must overrule an apparent 'decision about fact' if the referee has applied the GC Rules incorrectly.**

A subtle function at some later point is to drop a diplomatic hint to an unruly player, particularly, if they happen to be a referee themselves, that unbecoming conduct, as a player, is unacceptable. Such an action must be conducted with great diplomacy as a referee's (or TR's) term of responsibility expires when the game finishes – the game is over when the game is over, *Rule 1 (c)*.

*WCF Regulation 5(c)* specifies "... prepare and post a list of persons who, during a Tournament **may** be called on ..." (see the table below for a model list).

*WCF Regulation 5(d)* specifies that the TR is to "... *appoint referees to matches*" (a match is best of 1, 3 or 5 games) so when the last game of a match is finished the referee is no longer appointed to that match.

The worst example of poor behavior is of a player, (who themselves are qualified referees), saying: *"You are wrong! I am a referee so I know"*. The TR should gently remind the player who has transgressed in this way, that they bring no glory on themselves, the game or on refereeing in general by this type of behavior.

If unacceptable behavior continues, the application of *Rule 14* is appropriate. The TR is to notify the TM of any such situation as the TM may decide to take action as appropriate under *WCF Regulation 2(q)* or *ACA Regulation 12(d)(9)*.

*Example Only:*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Referees List.</b></p> <p><b>Event Name:</b> <i>ACA Golf Croquet Handicap Singles and Doubles Championships</i>  <b>Date:</b> <i>23-26 October 2007</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> <i>Deniliquin Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.</i>  The following are appointed as referees (of the event) and may be appointed as Referees in Charge or as Supervising Referees by the TR. They are therefore qualified to act "On Call", "On Appeal" or as "Spectator Referees". Spectators who are accredited Golf Croquet Referees are <b>not</b> Spectator Referees.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Tournament Referee:</b> <i>O Edwards</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Insert Referees names on this list and authorise by the TR signing.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>TR signature</i></p>