

GC Referees - How Appointed & Duties (ACA System)

Tournament Committee

The TM and the TR are appointed by the Committee of Management and both are members of the Tournament Committee (see *ACA Regulation 3* and *ACA handbook 27.2*) – while these are both vaguely written, below is what they seem to actually mean.

The TR and TM are members of the Tournament Committee (TC) and have equal authority within their areas of responsibility. **Note: Appeals Committee: WCF Regulation 6 specifies the composition of an Appeals Committee (Disputes Committee).**

Refereeing Officials

Other "Refereeing" officials are appointed by the TR under *WCF Regulation 5(c)* not *ACA Regulation 4 (b)(1)*.

This WCF Regulation ought to be read carefully as it reads:

"The duties of the TR include: prepare and post a list of persons who, during the tournament, may be called to be a Referee in Charge, a Referee on Call, a Referee on Appeal, or who may act as a Spectator Referee."

This gives the TR the opportunity to delete well intentioned but uninformed and unwanted persons who are qualified referees but are spectators and not officially appointed (and posted) referees of the tournament. The TR is required to prepare a list and post this list (on the venue notice board). The TR can delete the position of SpR and avoid the interference that can be caused by persons who assume that they can act as SpR's, but cannot, unless they are listed on the "Referees Notice".

- 1 The TR can appoint persons of the following categories:
Qualified ACA Golf Croquet Referees
Suitable Persons - obviously great discretion needs to be applied and a Suitable Person ought not to be appointed if qualified Referees are available
- 2 Such appointees automatically become "Referees" (Referees of the Tournament) for the duration of the tournament and have the powers and duties listed under *WCF Regulation 15* to act as Spectator Referees (SpR) when they are not "in charge" (RiC) or "on-call" (RoC) or "on-appeal"(RoA).
- 3 These "Referees" are often assigned by the TR, to a specific court or courts and become known as "Referees on Call" (RoC) but in fact their duties are as "Referees" until they are actually called.
- 4 However, such "Referees" are entitled to act as SpR in the appropriate circumstances under *Rule 15(a)(4)*.
- 5 When a "Referee" is called, they are in the RoC mode but when they actually walk onto the court they become a "Referee in Charge" (RiC) and continue to be a RiC until they quit the court at their discretion under *Rules 15(b)(2)* and (3).
- 6 The exception to this rule is where the TR specifically appoints a "Referee" to be a RiC for one court only.
- 7 It needs to be noted that qualified referees who are either players or spectators are **not** Spectator Referees for the purpose of this system.

Multiple Venues

The TR appoints a Deputy TR for each venue, who can act as the TR for that venue. However, as mobile phones are now readily available, it is expected that the TR will be consulted if a problem of importance arises.

Players as their own Referees (Rule 15)

15(a): “The players in all matches are responsible for the fair and correct application of these Rules... In the absence of a referee, if there is a difference of opinion on a matter of fact, the opinion of the player with the best view is to be preferred, but if two views are equal, the strikers opinion prevails”

“... if there is a difference of opinion on a matter of fact, the opinion of the player with the best view is to be preferred, but if two views are equal, the strikers opinion prevails”.

Sometimes a player may perceive that the striker is possibly/probably about to commit a fault – what is the appropriate procedure?

One of the basic principles of refereeing it that in order for a decision (any decision) to be made the referee is to be in a position where *“they can see – not where they cannot see (with safety)”*. If a player suspects that the striker is likely to commit a fault they ought to “stop play” and request that the striker call a referee.

If an independent referee is not available then courtesy requires that the striker call the opponent to referee. If the striker declines then the opponent may insist that the game is delayed until an independent referee is available. Play cannot continue if play has been “stopped”.

The striker is therefore honour bound to invite the opponent to be the referee for that stroke.

If the ugly situation occurs where the opponent claims a fault on the striker while standing several yards away (**without** having been appointed as the referee as above) such a claim is to be rejected on the following grounds:

- 1 A decision cannot be made if the opponent is not in a suitable position to make a decision. Being several yards away is a position where they cannot see or hear properly. Referees are to give very little credibility to the ‘sound’, as it is confusing and inaccurate.
- 2 If they have not formally been invited to be the referee (as above) they have no right to say anything.
- 3 Claiming faults on the opponent is completely inappropriate, particularly as:
“... if there is a difference of opinion on a matter of fact, the opinion of the player with the best view is to be preferred, but if two views are equal, the strikers opinion prevails”
- 4 If the TR is called to adjudicate on an appeal, as above, the TR is to rule as in point 3. The only possible appeal on any matter such as this is if a referee incorrectly applied the Rules.