

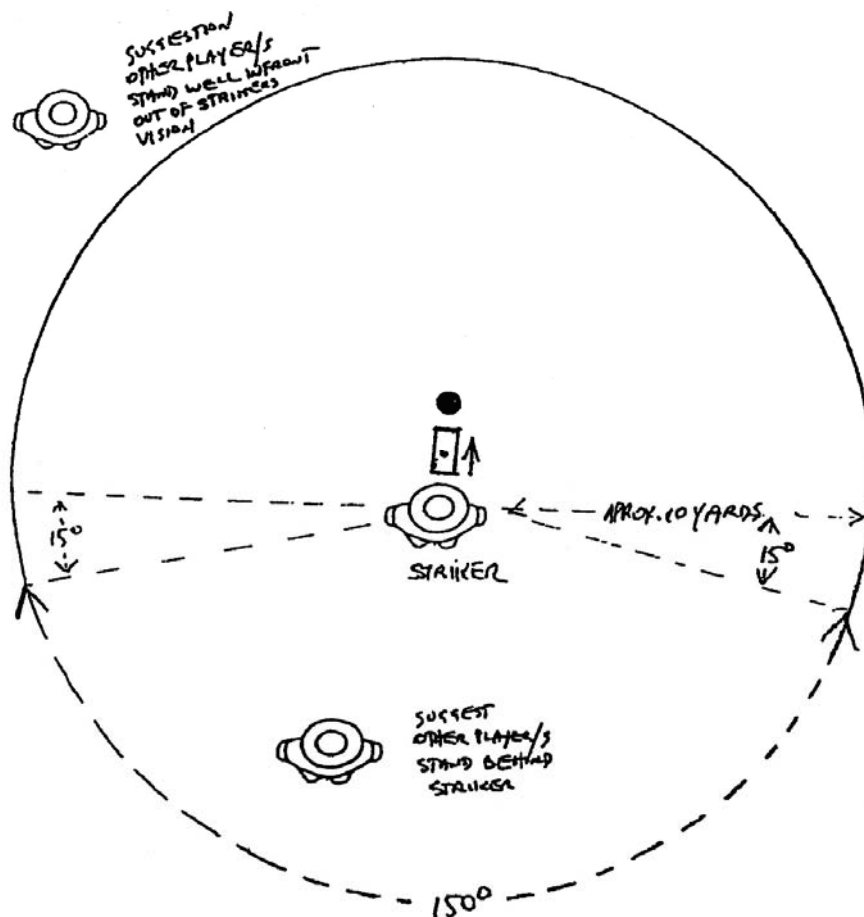
## Basic Courtesy - Golf Croquet Notes for Referees

Guidelines and suggestions of how a referee ought to judge actions of players particularly if there are complaints alleging lack of reasonable and thoughtful behaviour by the opponent.

Players ought to be aware of *Rule 14* (Etiquette) and the intent of the following guidelines (there is also a Players version of this document published). When necessary referees ought to draw players attention to breaches of this Rule and impose penalties where the Rules allow.

### A Referee ought to tell the players when necessary:

- 1 **While a striker is in their stance** (and perhaps casting) that the **non-striker** is to be:
  - **Stationary:** "Please keep still, don't swing your mallet and don't move about."
  - **Silent:** "Please do not talk to the partner, so loudly that you can be heard by the striker", if the striker can hear general comments it is distracting. . Referees ought to remind players about *Rule 14(b)* the first time an inconsiderate and thoughtless person breaches these simple codes of good and logical behaviour, a gentle warning is usually appropriate and effective the first time.
  - **Out of sight (in front of the striker):** That is, sufficiently far enough in front of the striker (say 10 or 11 yards minimum) so that the striker cannot see the non-striker when their head is down addressing the ball.
  - **Out of sight (behind the striker):** so as not to impinge on their **peripheral vision**. The non-striker is to be behind the peripheral vision of the striker (say at 15 degrees behind, in other words in the triangle of 150 degrees behind the striker).



- 2 **Time wasting ( particularly in Doubles): The major problem is thoughtlessness**  
**Example:** If the striker has missed a hit and the ball has travelled some considerable distance, the balls owner **ought** to walk to that distant ball immediately and **not** engage in a lengthy conversation with the partner, (unless there is a critical need to discuss strategy) but be conscious that waiting until their turn is due and only then walking to their distant ball is: thoughtless, time wasting, inconsiderate and boring. The referee may give a gentle warning perhaps?
- 3 **Don't walk across the line of play:** Sometimes when the striker has missed a shot they need to walk to that ball (maybe to bring it onto the boundary line). They ought not to trudge across the line that the opponent is about to shoot along or over. Sometimes heavy foot prints can leave impressions in a soft court that will alter the path of a soft delicate stroke. A gentle warning perhaps?
- 4 **Unsolicited Advice:** Some players don't seem to realise what a predicament the adversary (usually when they are about to strike) is placed in, when the opponent (often with the best of intentions) offers unsolicited advice? Can the striker accept it? There is no provision in the 2007 Rules that prevents the striker acting on any unsolicited advice from an opponent or a spectator. Many players may morally be unable to accept advice and play the shot. However the player ought **not** feel obliged to reject advice and so fail to take a course of action not to play a shot that they well might have discovered before playing that shot, otherwise the striker could be precluded from the opportunity of discovering the situation themselves.  
**Rule 8** specifies that a partner may offer advice to a partner.  
**Rule 14 (a)(12)** forbids the giving of wrong information. **Rule 14 (b)** specifies a warning to apply on the first occasion but the referee ought not hesitate to apply the 'loss of turn' penalty for the second breach.  
**Rule 14(a)(2)** forbids the giving of advice to the opponent. Referees usually (perhaps too often) ignore this breach. If the referee suspects that this is "gamesmanship" **Rule 14 (b)** needs to be applied.  
It is better for everybody for good manners and thoughtfulness to prevail.
- 5 **Double banked games:** Generally, the first game to commence on a court is given the courtesy of right of way. During double banked games players are to carry markers and observe the practice specified in **Rule 1(g)**:  
*"The position of balls from the other game may be marked (and lifted) with the permission from the participants of that game"*  
There may well be occasions where the referee will need to take control and 'mark-down' a slow double banked game that is preventing a faster game progressing.
- 6 **Stopping the Clock in a time limited game:** When a slow double banked game is preventing a faster game progressing, sometimes players become agitated and constantly stop the clock. The provision to allow or not allow this is usually in the Tournament Conditions or is announced before the event commences.  
If the referee is not the time keeper, the referee is to consult the TR who will consult the TM as to how to resolve this situation.
- 7 **Call the score:**  
**Refereed games:** Immediately a hoop is run, the Referee ought to call the score by first calling the colour of the ball that scored the hoop - **Rule 15(a)** (e.g. 'Red scores, 4 - 1' - this means Red scored the hoop and leads four to one).
- 8 **Handicaps: Extra Turns:** the number of extra turns available needs to be clearly understood before the game commences particularly in doubles. If the referee has to become involved because the players are confused, this technique helps: It is suggested that each player stand facing their opposite number when allocating the extra turns. Calculate the extra turns to be given by going through the calculation verbally, so there is no

misunderstanding. Pegs or clips ought to be used to indicate the extra turns. These may be attached to the centre peg extension or a suitable stick at courtside. The colour of the pegs or clips can match the colour of the ball of the receiver of extra turns. This technique is excellent for finals as it keeps the audience informed of the state of the game. Alternatively: Players may use clips to be carried by the extra turn receiver and passed as used to the extra turn giver.

- 9 **Fault - Jump Shot, etc:** When playing an unusual shot (jump shot, hammer shot, cricket/golf across the body shot), after breaking the ground it is not an acceptable form of behaviour to then stand on the divot. The referee or an opponent needs to see the divot to decide if it is a fault (made by the mallet) or not a fault (made by the ball). If a player stands on a suspected divot in a stealthy attempt to disguise this, it is an admission of guilt. The referee is not to hesitate to award a fault.
- 10 **Calling a Referee (when there is no Referee in Charge):** Players are to signal, in the accepted fashion, by raising the mallet (a gentle reminder is appropriate). If the striker (or the opponent) “stops play” and calls a referee, they are expected to wait until the referee has arrived. If they do not, ask them not to do so again and advise them that they have breached *Rule 14(a)(9)*. As the Referee you would be entitled (expected) to replace the ball, mark it and require the shot to be played, (not ‘replayed’, as a shot cannot be played during the time when play has been stopped). The striker is guilty of bad manners and of boorish behaviour, because; having “stopped play”, by calling a referee, all play is to cease until the referee restarts the game by being in position and has had the opportunity to mark the ball. In extreme cases of truculent players repeatedly ‘playing’ a ball during the period when ‘play has been stopped’, instead of proceeding by using *Rule 14 (Etiquette)* the referee would be entitled to award a fault under *Rule 14(a)(9)*.
- 11 **Attempted ‘Condoning’:** If the striker calls a referee to watch a shot (e.g., a close run hoop) and the opponent calls (with the best of intentions) “*Play on, don’t bother calling the referee- I trust you etc.*” (or similar) - this creates a difficult situation. The referee may be halfway there and be unsure what to do. The striker is to ignore the non-striker as play has been **stopped** by the strikers signal for a referee. The striker is to wait until the referee has come and performed the duty for which they have been called. The discourtesy of the non-striker is unfortunate as they have no authority to make such a suggestion. This is a thoughtless attempt to override the striker’s request to stop play no matter how well intended. The referee is to remind the non-striker of the appropriate etiquette.
- 12 **Shaking Hands:** While it is common practice in Australia to shake hands with the other side before and after a game, don’t be alarmed if an overseas visitor fails to do this before a game as it is not necessarily the practice in some overseas countries. Shaking hands between games of a “best-of-3 or -5” ought **not** be done as a handshake signifies the end of a match not end of a game. Shaking the hand of a referee at the end of a match is appropriate.
- 13 **Self Refereeing by players:** The presence of a referee does not relieve a player from the responsibility of announcing any fault that they commit.  
**Rule 15:** “*The players in all matches are responsible for the fair and correct application of these Rules...*”. After the ‘Introduction to the Rules’ there are ‘**Notes on the Changes**’. No. 11 reads: “*...is to place the first responsibility on the players.*”.  
**Rule 13(b)(1):** “*If the fault is noticed before the opponent has played...*”. In a non-refereed game the striker is only person who will be able, on most occasions, to notice faults. Therefore it is expected that the striker will announce them.  
**Rule 15:** “*The presence or absence of a referee does not change the obligation on a player to follow fair and correct play.*”.
- 14 **Conclusion: The spirit, the intent, the expectation.**  
 The game of Golf Croquet is intended to be a game that involves prompt interactive play incorporating active refereeing. Most of the changes to the Rules have been to facilitate

play and time wasting rules have either been removed or truncated. Etiquette is important. The rules require the non-striker to be discrete and to be silent, stationary and unnoticeable to the striker. The expectation is that play will be continuous with almost no time lapse between strokes. Time wasting discussions between strokes is discouraged and is to be penalised under the etiquette rule. It is intended that the game is to be played with a "Referee in Charge" who is an 'active participant', calling the score and keeping spectators informed by signalling when appropriate.

The following section ***B13(b)*** may be photocopied and issued to players.